National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2008

Revised: 4/2025



Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars

Cape Cod National Seashore

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 650111

Parent Landscape: 650111

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Cape Cod National Seashore

Alpha Code: CACO

Park Organization Code: 1730

Park District: CACO

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Located on the outer tip of the Lower Cape, along the back shore of Provincetown and Truro in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, the landscape of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District encompasses approximately 1,500 acres and contains nineteen dune shacks, eighteen of which are owned and managed by the National Park Service. The property is significant for its association with the historic development of American art, literature, and theater; for its representation of a rare, fragile property type; and for its historical associations with the productive life of poet Harry Kemp. The rustic dune shacks are situated within a rolling windswept landscape that remains mostly devoid of forest cover, allowing for uninterrupted views to the Atlantic Ocean, Race Point Coast Guard Station, and the Provincetown Monument. In addition to the small shacks, the district includes a network of vehicle trails, footpaths, outhouses, outdoor seating areas, clotheslines, erosion control features, well pipes and water pumps, signs, flagpoles, birdhouses, and found object artwork.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Across its history, the landscape of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District has been recognized as both unique and fragile. Native Americans used the back shore and the lands of the existing district as a place to hunt and collect berries but did not actively cultivate its thin layer of fertile topsoil. One of the first Governors of Plymouth Colony, Thomas Prence, laid aside the Province Lands as an area for public use and put a tax on the fish caught there. Soon local fishermen were regularly using the back shore to dry their large catches of fish, which swiftly began depleting the dunes of their meager vegetation. Based on erosion concerns, the Town of Truro instituted measures against public grazing of animals and required annual planting of vegetation in the dunes. Despite the efforts to preserve the landscape, the region's soil continued to decline and disappear. By 1820, the towns of Truro and Provincetown were cleared of their woodlands (Cultural Landscape Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars, hereafter CLR, 2008: 4-5).

With the construction of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station and other stations after 1872, the empty reaches of the Peaked Hill Bars area became an established site for human habitation. The keepers and surfmen were mostly local men who from August to June spent all but one day a week living and working at the station. Ancillary structures

surrounded the station, including a boat house, chicken coop and some of the earliest dune shacks, as surfmen were joined by their families, casual hunters, and fishermen. Beginning in the early twentieth century, shack occupants included artists and others seeking the creative pursuit of survival and contentment typical of the Outer Cape more broadly (CLR, 2008: 5).

In 1915 life-saving operations were integrated into the U.S. Coast Guard and a new Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was build nearby. When the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was closed in 1918, the following year playwright Eugene O'Neill adopted it as a summer residence, having previously lived in a grass hut on the dunes. Each summer until 1924, O'Neill drew and increasing number of enthusiastic followers to the dune landscape for artistic inspiration. In the first few decades of the twentieth century, tourism thrived in the United States, and Cape Cod became a destination for people from around the world. With the completion of U.S. Route 6 in 1926, automobiles poured into Provincetown to absorb the quaint atmosphere of a fishing town with an unusual wealth of cultural activity. Among those drawn to the dunes during this time, were famous artists, writers, and thinkers including Harry Kemp, John Reed, Mabel Dodge, Susan Glaspell, and Mary Heaton Vorse. Even as the local population dwindled with the fading maritime industry in Provincetown, tourism and art flourished.

From the early twentieth century onward, a landscape recognized for centuries as desolate and fragile also became loved for its distinct character. Windswept structures popped up in the once deserted sands behind the barrier dune of the back shore, at first in association with the Lifesaving and Coast Guard Stations and later independently. Throughout the twentieth century, these buildings have struggled against the relentless movement of the dunes. The dune shacks themselves, many of which have been moved and many of which were built to sustain relocation, are in many ways a product of this harsh and dynamic environment (CLR, 2008: 5-6).

From these shacks dune dwellers could enjoy views of the ocean or the Provincetown Monument, or simply absorb the soft, uniquely rolling shapes of the surrounding dunes. They took advantage of foraging opportunities on the back shore by collecting berries from the bogs and natural curiosities from the beach. Some grew their own small gardens or built playground areas for their children, while others wandered the dunes, reveling in the surprisingly diverse array of wildlife found there. Many used their time in the dunes for contemplation, creative work, or simple relaxation (CLR, 2008: 6).

Those fascinated by the dunes of Provincetown and Truro in the 1920s and afterwards ultimately helped draw public attention to this unique landscape. In the mid-twentieth century, many of those who were attracted to the dunes supported the effort to establish Cape Cod National Seashore as a means to protect the Outer Cape from over-development. Since the establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961, dune dwellers and non-profit arts organizations have negotiated leases and other agreements with the National Park Service for use of the shacks and with some guidance continue to maintain the structures and their surrounding environment as they have for decades (CLR, 2008: 6).

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is nationally significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C within the areas of American art, literature, theater, and architecture. It also derives national significance under Criterion B for its association with poet, Harry Kemp. The district meets Criterion Consideration B, as it contains buildings that have been moved from their original locations but retain their architectural value and association with the development of art, literature, and theater. The period of significance for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is ca. 1920 to 1961. The ca. 1920 date is consistent with the 1989 National Register Determination of Eligibility Notification (DOE) and was confirmed by National Register staff in 2008. The DOE states, "Although it may not be possible to document direct association of well-known figures with each individual shack, sources do document the long association of the artistic community with the district and with the dune shacks from [Eugene] O'Neill's occupation to the present." The period of significance, as determined in the DOE, extends to 1960, the year Cape Cod National Seashore was created, and the year poet Harry Kemp died. However, as the park was actually authorized in 1961, the end date of significance should be extended to that year.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY

Despite modifications and the loss of some buildings since the historic period, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District retains its open, wind-swept character, far removed from the densely developed community of Provincetown. The most important landscape characteristics are natural features and topography (dune hollows and

parabolic dunes), circulation (inner and outer dune routes, Snail Road, High Head Road, driveways, and footpaths), vegetation (scrub pine, red maple, wild cherry, beach plum, bayberry, bog areas, beach grass dune areas, planted areas, and salt spray rose), buildings and structures (eighteen dunes shacks), and views (views to the Atlantic Ocean, Race Point Coast Guard Station, and the Provincetown Monument). The cultural landscape within the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The landscape found within the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is considered to be in good condition. While continual wind and wave erosion may necessitate the relocation of shacks in the future, shifting sands contribute to the character of the dune landscape. As a result, cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. There are no immediate corrective actions required to maintain its current condition. However, erosion and accretion of sand should be monitored and eventual relocations should be evaluated.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is one of eighteen cultural landscapes that have been identified within Cape Cod National Seashore. The additional landscapes include Atwood Higgins, Doane Homestead, Fort Hill, Truro Highlands, Fresh Brook Village, Great Island, Hollows, Long Point, Nauset Light Area, North Beach, North Truro Air Force Station, Pamet Cranberry Bog, Penniman House, Race Point, Salt Pond Visitor Center, Small Pox Cemetery, and Wellfleet Ponds.

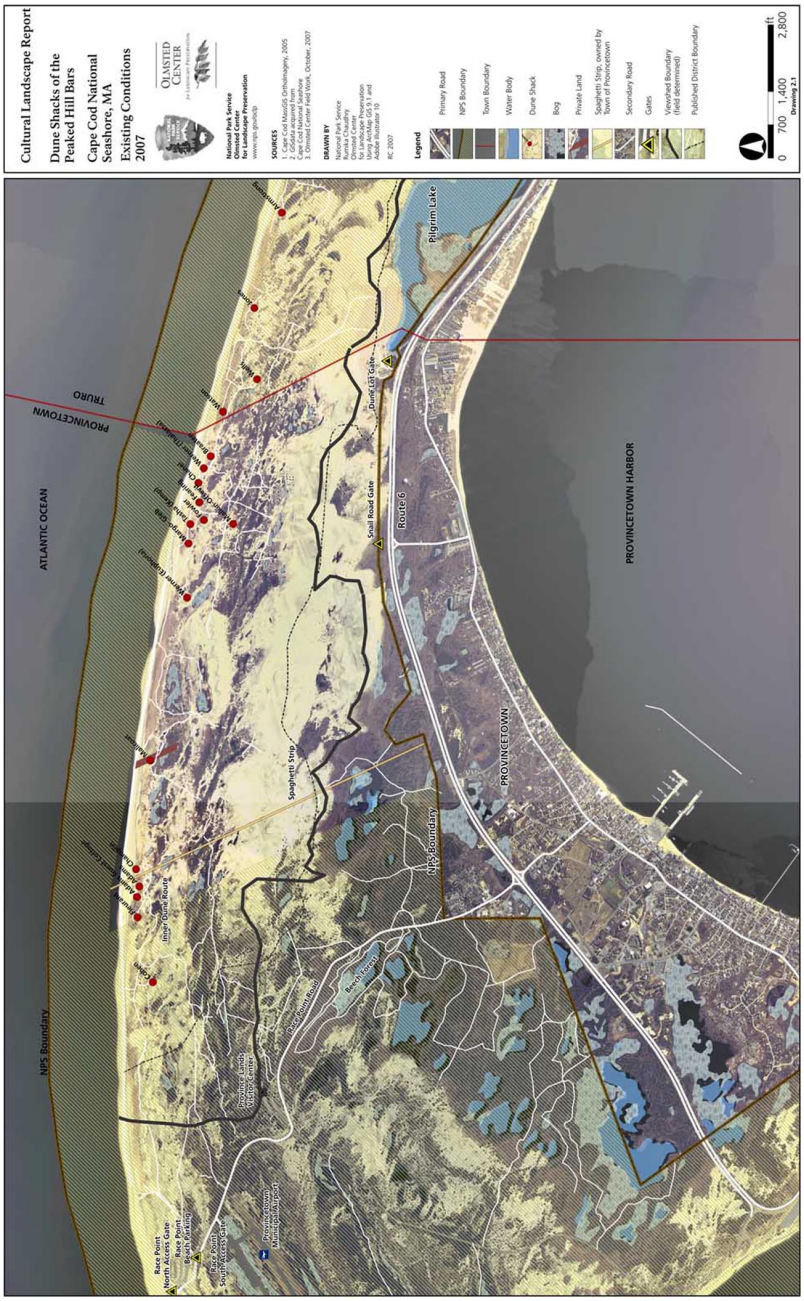
Landscape Type:

Historic Vernacular Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Province Lands	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	The Peaked Hills	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District	**Other Name Type:**	Current

Site Plan



Existing Conditions Plan of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, hereafter OCLP, 2008).

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/05/2008

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A preliminary list of cultural landscapes was agreed on by Cape Cod National Seashore staff and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation CLI team at a site meeting on August 16, 2000. The working list yet needs to be reviewed further and submitted to the Superintendent for approval. The Dune Shacks were identified as one landscape.

A team of landscape architects, architects, and historians from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation documented the existing conditions of the cultural landscape of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District at Cape Cod National Seashore during three site visits on June 5-6, 2006, October 16, 2006, and October 31, 2007. The park contact for the Cultural Landscape Inventory is Bill Burke, Cultural Resources Program Manager. He can be reached by telephone at (508) 255-3421 or by email at Bill_Burke@nps.gov.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 23, 2008

Jeff Killion
CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
15 State Street
6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

RE: Dune Shacks of Peaked Hill Bars Cultural Landscape Inventory

Dear Mr. Killion:

I am writing in response to the recent letter of Dennis Reidenbach seeking Massachusetts Historical Commission concurrence with the contributing status of resources identified in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Dune Shacks of Peaked Hill Bars Historic District. MHC staff has reviewed the CLI report and we concur with the National Park Service categorization of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District landscape resources and features as contributing, noncontributing, or undetermined.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Dennis Reidenbach, Regional Director, Northeast Region
George Price, Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

SHPO concurrence letter, September 23, 2008 (6 pages).

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars
Cape Cod National Seashore
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
August 2008

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Features marked with an * are identified on the 1989 Determination of Eligibility. Features marked with a + have been evaluated through the NPS List of Classified Structures program.

Natural Systems and Topography
- Dune hollows and barrier dunes
- Parabolic Dunes

Circulation
- Inner Dune route
- Outer Dune route
- Snail Road
- High Head Road
- Driveways
- Footpaths between shacks
- Footpaths to ocean
- Footpaths to sites of habitual use

Vegetation
- Wooded inner dunes areas (including scrub pine, red maple, wild cherry, beach plum, and bayberry)
- Planted areas (including beach grass, beach plum, scotch broom, buckwheat, inkberry, shadblow, and arrowwood)
- Bog areas
- Salt spray rose

Buildings and Structures
- *+ Cohen (C-Scape) Shack (LCS #040397)
- *+ Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack (LCS #040394)
- + Adams-Guest Cottage (LCS #040392)
- *+ Adams Shack (LCS #040391)
- *+ Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack (LCS #040395)
- *+ Werner (Euphoria) Shack (LCS #040403)
- *+ Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack (LCS #040393)
- *+ Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack (LCS #040399)
- *+ Fowler Shack (LCS #040400)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
U. S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

In Reply Refer To:

H30 (NER-RS&S OCLP)

AUG 2 5 2008

Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Ms. Simon:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District landscape located within Cape Cod National Seashore. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI previously unevaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one

component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District was determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register on May 19, 1989. As stated in the 1989 Determination of Eligibility (DOE), "The dune shacks and the dune landscape surrounding them are eligible for the National Register as a historic district under criteria A and C because of their exceptionally significant associations with the historic development of American art, literature, and theater; for their representation of a rare, fragile property type. Additionally, the Tasha Cottage and the district are significant for historic associations with the productive life of poet Harry Kemp under criterion B." Seventeen of the shacks are enumerated and mapped in the 1989 DOE, sixteen of which survive today. The Malkin-Ofsevit Shack burned to the ground and was rebuilt in 1991. The CLI identifies two buildings not included in the 1989 DOE. The Adams Shed, now known as the Adams-Guest Cottage, was likely not included because of its size and proximity to the Adams Cottage, now known as the Adams Shack. The Malicoat Shack was likely not included because it was privately owned. Both shacks should be included as part of the district. However, the Malicoat Shack is not included in this CLI because the NPS does not have a management interest in the building.

The CLI supports the findings of the 1989 DOE and clarifies the period of significance. The beginning date is not explicitly stated in the DOE. The period of significance for the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is ca.1920 to 1961. The ca.1920 date is consistent with the 1989 DOE and was confirmed by National Register staff in 2008. The DOE states, "Although it may not be possible to document direct association of well-known figures with each individual shack, sources do document the long association of the artistic community with the district and with the dune shacks from [Eugene] O'Neill's occupation to the present." In addition, the period of significance, as determined in the DOE, extends to 1960, the year Cape Cod National Seashore was created, and the year poet Harry Kemp died. However, as the park was actually authorized in 1961, the end date of significance should be extended to that year.

The CLI fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the overall the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District landscape retains integrity to the areas of art, literature, theater, and architecture. The landscape characteristics and features that date to the period of significance should be preserved since they contribute to the historic character of the property. There are forty-four resources and features related to natural systems and topography, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeology that also contribute to the significance and historic character of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information and the statement of significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

If you concur with our categorization of the landscape resources and features within the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District at Cape Cod National Seashore, as contributing and non-contributing enumerated on the attached list, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109). We would appreciate your response within thirty days. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

cc:
Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore

I concur with the National Park Service categorization of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District landscape resources and features at Cape Cod National Seashore, as contributing, non-contributing, or undetermined.

_____ _____
Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer Date

*+ Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack (LCS #040401)
*+ Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) Shack (LCS #040402)
*+ Werner (Thalassa) Shack (LCS #040398)
* Braaten Shack
*+ Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack (LCS #040408)
*+ Wells Shack (LCS #040407)
*+ Jones (Dunn) Shack (LCS #040405)
*+ Armstrong Shack (LCS #040406)

Views and Vistas
View west of the open inner dunes
View south of the Pilgrim Monument
View northwest of the former Race Point Coast Guard Station
View east of the Atlantic Ocean

Small-scale Features
Erosion control features (wood slat fencing)
Water pumps and wells
Outdoor seating areas
Bird houses
Swing sets
Clothesline
Found artwork
Flagpoles

Archeological Sites
Sites of former buildings

Non-Contributing Features
Vegetation
Japanese knotweed

Building and Structures
* Malkin-Ofsevit Shack

Small-scale Features
Erosion control fencing (plastic fencing)
Solar panels
Wind turbines

Undetermined Features
Building and Structures
Foundation of the Peaked Hill Coast Guard Station

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars
Cape Cod National Seashore

Cape Cod National Seashore concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Should Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars is hereby approved and accepted.



8/5/08

Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore — Date

Park concurrence form, August 5, 2008.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025

Cape Cod National Seashore
Atwood-Higgins Historic District, Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars,
Fort Hill Historic District, Truro Highlands Historic District

Cape Cod National Seashore concurs with the updates for the following CLIs, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:
Fair – Atwood-Higgins Historic District
Good – Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars
Good – Fort Hill Historic District
Good – Truro Highlands Historic District

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI Updates at Cape Cod National Seashore are hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore — April 8, 2025 — Date

Park concurrence form, April 8, 2025

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	04/08/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County

Size (Acres): 1500

Land Tract Number(s)

Land tract numbers include 04-1005, 04-1006, 04-1040, 04-1051, 04-1053, 04-8618, 08-1040, 04-8713, 08-1041, 08-1042, 08-1043, 08-1044, 08-1045, 08-1047, 08-1049, 08-1050, 08-8644, 08-8647, 08-8653, 08-8654, and 08-8655.

Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District are described in the 1989 Determination of Eligibility as follows:
"The boundary for the Dune Shacks at Peaked Hill Bars Historic District encompasses approximately 1,500 acres and is described as: the shoreline to the north, the crest of the second dune line away from the shore south of the second jeep trail delineated on the accompanying USGS map, the viewshed line of the cluster of shacks F, A, I, and D on the west, and the crest of the first dune ridge to the east of shack B."
"This boundary encompasses all of the dune shacks and the area incorporating the entirety of the historically significant cultural landscape and associated important viewsheds as seen from the dune shacks. This boundary is supported by the written documentation and by the attached Geographic Information Systems viewshed analysis. We recognize the shifting characteristics of the dune landscape; for this reason, this boundary is a close approximation. In light of dune movement, the boundary may move in some locations some degree, but the basic principles underlying its justification shall remain constant. Allowing for this movement, the boundary shall continue to include the dune shacks and the extant of the landscape to the crest of the second dune ridge, wherever that may occur."

This boundary was further defined in the field in October of 2007 and mapped using Global Positioning System technology. Based on field documentation, the boundary was extended further west to the Province Lands Visitor Center; farther north in an area northeast of the Beech Forest, narrowing the width of the district area; and farther south to the east of the Spaghetti Strip and west of Snail Road, widening the district at its center. The shifting characteristics of the dune landscape may require the redefinition of the boundary in the future (Existing Conditions Plan).

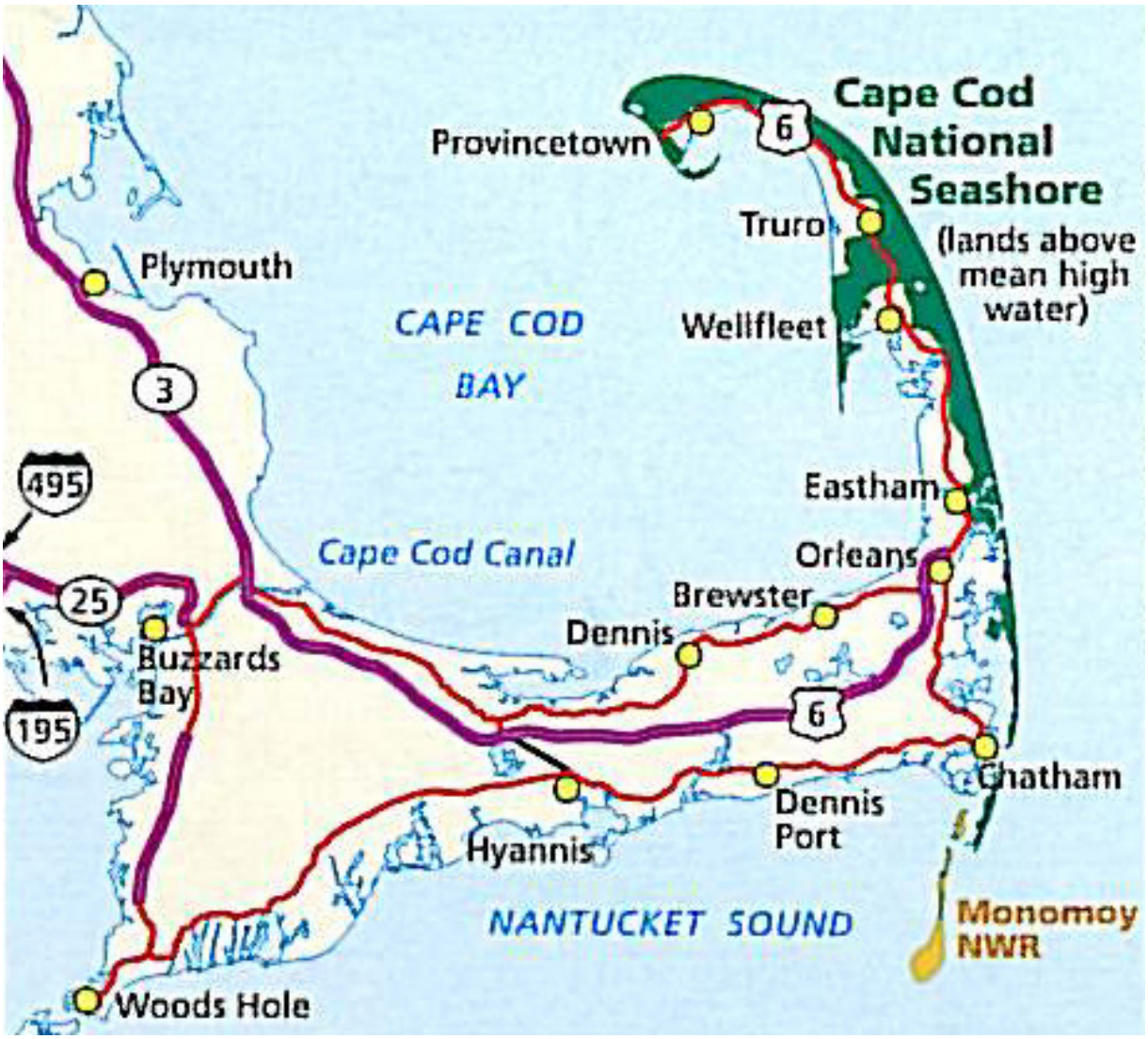
Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.2088013304494	42.0821210610179	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.2058171643798	42.0739296728358	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.189239427531	42.0749853015673	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.1892095798911	42.0701491999867	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.1811109433123	42.0708092506144	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.166376364645	42.0675375467019	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.1653891656404	42.0697361235033	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.1493254846632	42.0677726343828	
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	-70.145718812983	42.0661695407402	

Location Map:



General area of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District (Cape Cod NS brochure).



Location of Cape Cod National Seashore (Cape Cod National Seashore, hereafter NS, brochure).

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/05/2008

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

As identified in the 1998 General Management Plan, the landscape of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District meets all of the requirements of the "Should be Preserved and Maintained" category. The district meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C as significant for its role in the historical development of American art, literature, and theater; for its association with the life of American poet Harry Kemp, and for its architecture. It also meets Criterion Consideration B, as it contains buildings that have been moved from their original locations but retain their architectural value and association with the development of art, literature, and theater. The district is compatible with the park's enabling legislation that states, "to preserve the nationally significant and special cultural and natural features, distinctive patterns of human activity, and ambience that characterize the Outer Cape, along with the associated scenic, cultural, historic, scientific, and recreational values."

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District includes nineteen extant dune shacks, eighteen of which are owned by the National Park Service. They are utilized by various individuals and groups through a mix of management tools, such as historic property leases, annual special use permits, cooperative agreements, general agreements, historic lease concessions, and reservations of use and occupancy. Several reservations are for the life of the reservation holder.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: With exception to the Malicoat shack and a strip of land approximately 100 feet in width, referred to as the Spaghetti Strip, the National Park Service owns all the Dune Shacks and surrounding land within the historic district.

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District includes nineteen dune shacks, eighteen of which are managed by the National Park Service. Located within the district, the Malicoat shack is privately owned.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Keeper Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Located within Cape Cod National Seashore, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District meets the definition of “Keeper-Inadequately Documented” because it is within the boundaries of a property determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register, but is not adequately documented in accordance with the findings of the CLI.

Based on the May 1989 Determination of Eligibility Notification (DOE), dated May 12, 1989, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District was determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register pursuant to 36 CFR § 63.2 (Determination of Eligibility) on May 19, 1989. Prior to its determination, the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Officer differed as to whether or not the district met National Register eligibility. As stated in the DOE, “The dune shacks and the dune landscape surrounding them are eligible for the National Register as a historic district under criteria A and C because of their exceptionally significant associations with the historic development of American art, literature, and theater; for their representation of a rare, fragile property type. Additionally, the Tasha Cottage and the district are significant for historic associations with the productive life of poet Harry Kemp under criterion B.” Seventeen of the shacks are enumerated and mapped in the 1989 DOE, sixteen of which survive today. The Malkin-Ofsevit Shack burned to the ground and was rebuilt in 1991. The CLI identifies two buildings not included in the 1989 DOE. The Adams Shed, now known as the Adams-Guest Cottage, was likely not included because of its size and proximity to the Adams Cottage, now known as the Adams Shack. The Malicoat Shack was likely not included because it was privately owned. Both shacks should be included as part of the district. However, the Malicoat Shack is not included in this CLI because the NPS does not have a managed interest.

Recently, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District was evaluated to establish whether the District was significant as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). On May 24, 2007, the district was determined ineligible as a TCP by the Keeper of the National Register pursuant to 36 CFR § 63.2 (Determination of Eligibility).

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/23/2008

Concurrence Narrative:

On September 23, 2008, the Massachusetts Historical Commission concurred with the National Park Service’s categorizations of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District resources and features as contributing, noncontributing, and undetermined.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is nationally significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C within the areas of American art, literature, theater, and architecture. It also derives national significance under Criterion B for its association with poet, Harry Kemp. The district meets Criterion Consideration B, as it contains buildings that have been moved from their original locations but retain their architectural value and association with the development of art, literature, and theater. The period of significance for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is ca. 1920 to 1961. The ca. 1920 date is consistent with the 1989 National Register Determination of Eligibility Notification (DOE) and was confirmed by National Register staff in 2008. The DOE states, "Although it may not be possible to document direct association of well-known figures with each individual shack, sources do document the long association of the artistic community with the district and with the dune shacks from [Eugene] O'Neill's occupation to the present." The period of significance, as determined in the DOE, extends to 1960, the year Cape Cod National Seashore was created, and the year poet Harry Kemp died. The park was actually authorized in 1961. Therefore, the end date of significance should be extended to that year.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION A (AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE-AMERICAN ART, LITERATURE, THEATER)

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is nationally significant for its association with American art, literature, and theater in the twentieth century. A pulsing community of artists, actors, writers, socialite, and bohemians was centered in Provincetown during the 1920s and came to be identified with the neighboring dunes. The isolated dune landscape became home to new trends and ideologies (CLR, 2008: 344).

Since the early twentieth century, the solitude of the dune environment provided isolation for not only individuals but small groups in need of a place to gather beyond the reach of society. Artists have in many cases been among the most prominent of these, as they gleaned inspiration from the dunes. A few mentioned in the chronicles of critic Edmund Wilson in the 1930s are John Dos Passos and his wife, Katy; founders of the Provincetown Players George Cram Cook and Susan Glaspell; artist Niles Spencer; watercolorists William and Lucy L'Engle; writer Mary Heaton Vorse; and local bookseller and publisher Frank Shay. Russian sculptor Peter Blume, engraver Claire Leighton, and Loren McIver and her husband Lloyd Frankenberg also spent time living in the dunes. Surrealist Marcia Marcus and abstract expressionists John Grillo and Jan Muller spent time living and painting in the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack, which was also used by painter and muralist Jean Cohen. Surrealist and abstract painters Boris Margo and Jan Gelb lived seasonally in the Werner (Euphoria) and Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) shacks for over thirty years. Painters Philip Malicoat, known for his seascapes, and his wife Barbara Brown Malicoat also lived in the Malicoat shack almost every year throughout the latter half of the twentieth century (CLR, 2008: 344-345).

After about 1920 Hazel Hawthorne Werner was part of a circle of well-known artists and writers in Provincetown, many of whom she welcomed to one of her two dune shacks. Among these were the realist painter Edwin Dickinson, abstract impressionist painter Franz Kline, and the writer and Provincetown resident Norman Mailer. Various artists who frequented the dunes also convened at such places as the Beachcombers Club and the Sixes and Sevens Coffeehouse to discuss art, life, and politics in the 1920s and 1930s. Many members of the same circle also performed regularly with the Provincetown Players, a group founded in 1915 by Eugene O'Neill, Susan Glaspell, and others that later became a Broadway theater company (CLR, 2008: 345).

Actor and playwright Eugene O'Neill was an early twentieth century fixture of the dunes who lived in a grass hut on the back shore before taking up residence in the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in 1919. While there he wrote such works as "Anna Christie" (1920), "The Emperor Jones" (1920), "Diff'rent" (1920), "The Fountain" (1921), "The Hairy Ape" (1921), "Marco Millions" (1923), and "All God's Chillun Got Wings" (1923). Long after his departure from the dunes the trend of living and writing in the dune shacks continued. American literary icon Jack Kerouac spent time at the Werner (Euphoria) shack in 1950, and there is said to have composed part of his famous novel, "On the Road" (1957). Around the same time

famous playwright Tennessee Williams also wrote part of his play “A Streetcar Named Desire” (1951) while living in the dunes.

The atmosphere of the dunes themselves has also been an subject of artistic creation over the years. The utilitarian attitude of many dune dwellers today reflects a feeling first described by Henry David Thoreau’s “Cape Cod” (1865) and Henry Beston’s “The Outermost House” (1928). Since then both Hazel Hawthorne Werner and Cynthia Huntington have written about life in the Werner (Euphoria) shack on the back shore, in “Salt House” (1929) and “The Salt House: A Summer on the Dunes of Cape Cod” (1999), respectively. Josephine Del Deo’s “Compass Grass Anthology: A Collection of Provincetown Portraits” (1983) and Edmund Wilson’s “The Thirties” feature some of the dune dwellers, and once more touch on the artistic inspiration found there (CLR, 2008: 345).

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION B (AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE-ASSOCIATION WITH POET, HARRY KEMP)

Under Criterion B, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is nationally significant for its association with Harry Kemp, a poet and writer who lived on the Outer Cape. Kemp resided in the Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack year round for over thirty years, beginning sometime in the 1930s. A prolific writer, he composed a myriad of works including plays, poetry, autobiographies, and fiction; and published more than twenty volumes between 1913 and 1954. In his biography of Kemp, entitled “Harry Kemp: The Last Bohemian” (1986), William Brevda depicts the personal connection the poet cultivated between himself and the dune landscape. This link is evident throughout Kemp’s writings, which included “Love Among the Cape Enders,” “Tramping on Life,” “More Miles,” “Great Night,” “Poet’s Song,” “Aurian Dunes,” “Dune-Revenant,” and the collection “Poet of the Dunes: Songs of the Dunes and the Outer Shore, with Others in Varying Modes and Moods.” Half of the poet’s ashes were spread across the back shore upon his death in 1960 (CLR, 2008: 356).

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION C (AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE-ARCHITECTURE)

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion C for their spartan, utilitarian form, and their unique relationship with the harsh dune environment. Lacking high artistic values, craftsmanship, or design, the dune shacks exemplify a vernacular architectural style that has evolved in response to environmental conditons. Through the use of reused and salvaged materials, the simple rustic form and function of the dune shacks are directly related to survival in the harsh and changing natural barrier dune environment. In response to shifting sands, the shacks are built on pilings and lack hardened infrastructures, which enable them to be relocated when necessary (Wolfe, 2005: 18).

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B

Located in a remote and everchanging environment, the historic district was found to meet Criteria Consideration B, which recognizes that the district contains buildings and structures that have been moved from their original locations but retain their architectural value and association with the development of art, literature, and theater, and early tourism. As stated in the 1989 National Register Determination of Eligibility, “Due to continuous shifting conditions of the dunes and the problem of erosion, some of the dune shacks have been moved short distances to ensure their preservation. Because the shacks are part of a district and because of the expected impact of the harsh dune environment, their movement within the same general environment is acceptable and does not detract from the district’s eligibility” (CLR, 2008: 341).

National Register Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

B -- A building or structure removed from its original location

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1920 - CE 1961

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Vernacular Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Literature	Fiction	
Expressing Cultural Values	Literature	Novel	
Expressing Cultural Values	Literature	Poetry	
Expressing Cultural Values	Painting and Sculpture	American Impressionism 1876-1920	
Expressing Cultural Values	Painting and Sculpture	Art Colonies 1915-1930	
Expressing Cultural Values	Painting and Sculpture	Regionalism 1915-1935	
Expressing Cultural Values	Painting and Sculpture	The New Realism 1900-1926	
Expressing Cultural Values	Theater	Performance	
Expressing Cultural Values	Theater	Playwriting	
Expressing Cultural Values	Theater	Producing Theater	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Art

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Literature

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category:

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE *	Established	Hills and hollows of the Lower Cape are formed by streams of melt-water draining westward into Glacial Lake Cape Cod. Outwash plains of Cape Cod are formed by rising sea levels and marine erosion.
BCE * - 8000	Inhabited	Paleoindians are present on Cape Cod.
BCE 7000	Established	Cape Cod landscape is vegetated by red maple, tupelo, black gum and other shrubs.
CE 1602 - 1605	Explored	A European, Bartholomew Gosnold, encounters a Native American in the Provincetown harbor, and Samuel de Champlain visits the area.
CE 1620	Colonized	The Pilgrims anchor the Mayflower in the harbor at Provincetown, their first landfall in the New World and the location where the Mayflower Compact is signed.
CE 1629 - 1630	Land Transfer	Plymouth Colony is granted jurisdiction over all of the Cape Cod coast, from Cohasset to Narragansett Bay, by a British royal patent. This land is later deeded out to establish different towns, with the exception of the very tip.
CE 1654	Land Transfer	Thomas Prence, Governor of Plymouth Colony, purchases a deed for an area including the dunes outside Provincetown from a Native American named Sampson.
CE 1654	Farmed/Harvested	Outer Cape Cod is nearly deforested as a result of intensive agricultural activities.
CE 1650	Preserved	The Province Lands are set side by the Plymouth Colony as a fishing reserve.
CE 1714 - 1786	Preserved	As early as 1714, Provincetown enacts laws to prevent deforestation of the landscape, in response to the realization that deforestation would lead to instability of the dune landscape. However, deforestation continues.
CE 1727	Established	By 1727, the “Kings Highway”/”County Road” extends all the way to Provincetown.
CE 1739	Preserved	The Massachusetts General Court passes an act forbidding the grazing of animals in areas affected by erosion, and requires residents to plant beach grass each April as well as Scotch broom, native pines, bayberries, and buckwheat in an effort to control the drifting sand dunes.
CE 1786	Established	Massachusetts Humane Society is founded, representing the first attempt to organize relief for the shipwrecked seafarers in the U.S. and Cape Cod.
CE 1797	Land Transfer	To the south of the Province Lands, the Town of Truro sells a tract of land to the U.S. Government on which the Highland Light is built.
CE 1840	Expanded	The Massachusetts Humane Society is awarded $500 by the state legislature, which it uses to purchase 11 lifesaving boats. Their amount of funding is more than doubled by the state the subsequent year.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1847	Established	The federal government begins its own program of building lifesaving boats and stations, along the sea coasts, as well as the shores of the Great Lakes. Crews are at first made up entirely of volunteers.
CE 1849	Explored	Henry David Thoreau first visits Cape Cod.
CE 1872	Developed	Congress authorizes the U.S. Life-Saving Service and nine lifesaving stations on Cape Cod, including those at Race Point and Peaked Hill Bars in Provincetown.
CE 1872 - 1916	Built	Under the U.S. Lifesaving Service, the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station and associated huts and stations are constructed.
CE 1873	Built	The Old Colony Railroad is extended from Wellfleet to Provincetown.
CE 1899	Established	Cape Cod School of Art is established in Provincetown by Charles Hawthorne.
CE 1900	Established	The Summer School of Painting is established in Provincetown by Ambrose Webster.
CE 1900	Altered	By the 1900s fisheries are declining, and a counterculture emerges which includes new traditions in art and literature amongst academics and bohemians.
CE 1915	Established	The U.S. Coast Guard is established and the Lifesaving stations on Cape Cod are incorporated into this institution.
CE 1915	Established	The Provincetown Players are established, a group which would become highly influential in American theater history.
CE 1916	Built	The Cape Cod Canal is completed.
CE 1916	Established	The Beachcombers Club is established, a favorite hangout of Provincetown locals and some dune dwellers.
CE 1918	Built	The Peaked Hill Bars U.S. Coast Guard Station is built.
CE 1918	Abandoned	The Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station ceases activities in 1918.
CE 1919 - 1924	Inhabited	Eugene O'Neill uses the Peaked Hill Life-Saving Station as a summer cottage.
CE 1919 - 1930	Built	Demand in dune rentals prompt the Coast Guardsman to build new shacks or renovate old Life-Saving station buildings, including the Malkin-Ofsevit and Tasha (Harry Kemp) shacks.
CE 1920 - 1931	Built	Between 1920 and 1931, the Armstrong, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) shack, Werner (Thalassa), Bratten, Watson (Isaacson-Schecter), and Werner (Euphoria) shacks are built.
CE 1926	Expanded	U.S. Route 6 is extended to Provincetown.
CE 1931	Destroyed	The Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station falls into the ocean in January.
CE 1931	Moved	The Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station is relocated 660 feet inland.
CE 1931 - 1940	Moved	As a result of erosion, the Malkin-Ofsevit, and Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) dune shacks are forced to relocate.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1935 - 1950	Built	Adams-Guest Cottage, Adams, Cohen (C-Scape), Champlin (Mission Bell), Fleurant (Beebe-Simon), Wells, Fowler, Malicoat, Jones, and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnel), and Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) shacks are built.
CE 1935	Built	A new bridge is built across the Cape Cod Canal.
CE 1938	Abandoned	The Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station is discontinued.
CE 1938	Inhabited	The U.S. government uses the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station as a lookout and the Braaten Shack as a mine testing station during World War II.
CE 1946	Memorialized	Art's Dune Tours becomes a formal tour service of the back shore.
CE 1958	Destroyed	The Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station is destroyed by arson.
CE 1958	Moved	Malkin-Ofsevit shack is relocated.
CE 1960	Memorialized	Prominent dune shack literary figure Harry Kemp dies.
CE 1960 - 1961	Built	Fire destroys Malicoat Shack in 1960. It is rebuilt in 1961.
CE 1961	Planned	President Kennedy signs the National Seashore Act, which creates more than 26,000 acres of protected land encompassing six Cape Cod towns. The Province Lands become part of Cape Cod National Seashore, and the dune shacks are deeded for life tenancy or twenty-five year agreements to residents.
CE 1961	Established	Cape Cod National Seashore is authorized
CE 1962	Established	The Great Beach Cottage Owners'Association is established to protect the shack way of life on the dunes.
CE 1962 - 1980	Purchased/Sold	A series of lawsuits against the National Park Service begin in the 1960s and continue into the 1980s over land ownership and rights of use. In the end, all but one dune shack (Malicoat Shack) is aquired by the National Park Service, and leases are negotiated with residence owners.
CE 1963 - 1966	Stabilized	The National Park Service launches a series of dune stabilization efforts by installing sand fencing and planting beach grass.
CE 1964	Established	The Provincetown Group Gallery is established.
CE 1966	Established	Cape Cod National Seashore is officially established on June 1, 1966.
CE 1967	Built	Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack is rebuilt.
CE 1973 - 1982	Moved	The Adams-Guest Cottage, Cohen (C-Scape) shack, Fleurant (Beebe-Simon), Jones, Armstrong, and Adams shacks are relocated.
CE 1976	Built	Chanel (Del Deo and Schnel) Shack is rebuilt on top of former shack.
CE 1986	Established	The Peaked Hill Trust is established to protect the dune shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars.
CE 1989	Preserved	The Dune Shack of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is determined eligible as a historic district.
CE 1990	Established	The Cape Cod Commission is formed to regulate land use planning throughout Barnstable County.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1990	Destroyed	The Malkin-Ofsevit Shack burns to the ground.
CE 1992	Moved	The Adams-Guest Cottage and Adams Shack are relocated.
CE 1991	Built	The Malkin-Ofsevit Shack is rebuilt in 1991.
CE 1995	Planned	A dune shack advocacy group proposes to allow public access to the dune shacks, which is supported by legislators.
CE 1998	Planned	Cape Cod National Seashore General Management Plan is completed.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The history of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is detailed in the “Cultural Landscape Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars” (2008) by Emily Donaldson, Gretchen Hilyard, and Margie Coffin Brown. The following overview is extracted from the Cultural Landscape Report.

CONTACT PERIOD (PRE-1620)

Geological History:
Encompassing the area from Orleans to Provincetown, the Outer Cape was formed by streams of melt-water that drained westward from the South Channel Lobe into Glacial Lake Cape Cod, some 23,000 years ago. This strip of land is a late Wisconsin glacial landform and a surviving fragment of the last great ice age, currently resting on Precambrian and Paleozoic crystalline basement rocks 50 to 275 meters below sea level. As sea levels rose about 15,000 years ago, marine erosion escalated and the area was gradually transformed into outwash plains composed almost entirely of rocky continental debris (Cultural Landscape Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars, hereafter CLR, 2008: 12).

As the glacier retreated, it left the shifting sands of Provincetown behind, an undulating expanse that would remain devoid of any substantial soil buildup or vegetation for thousands of years. Even while the rest of the Cape stabilized under a cover of boreal forest, eroded sediments from the glacial drift traveled northward to create the Province Lands Hook around 6,000 years ago. This area included the land north of High Head and was made up of sandy marine deposits covered with unstabilized dune sands. In a process replicated throughout the back shore, the outer reaches of the arm of Cape Cod developed (CLR, 2008: 12-13).

These dunes existed not only in the Province Lands but also to the east and south, in the Peaked Hill Bars area. Giant parabolic mounds of sand continue to be formed and reformed endlessly by the wind, and can grow to almost 100 feet in height. Indeed, in the shore zones such as the Peaked Hill Bars, ocean waves and currents, wind, and sea level rise have been the major agents of change. Although this area cannot be said to have cliffs, the same process of wear and movement can be witnessed today. Barrier foredunes shelter inner dunes where sediment deposits collect and foster stunted patches of vegetation, which strive for some stability in the ever-shifting sand (CLR, 2008: 12 -13).

The aeolian and marine deposits and other glacial drift material make the dunes highly permeable. Precipitation thus soaks easily through the soil to the water table, which stands just above sea level. The soils of Provincetown and North Truro are classified as Carver coarse sand, loamy sand, or loamy coarse sand, which is deep, excessively drained and acidic (CLR, 2008: 13).

Native Americans on the Back Shore:
It is likely that even as the land continued to form, it was exploited and inhabited by humans. The presence of Paleoindians on Cape Cod dates to between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago. Though rising sea levels and severe land erosion has probably destroyed much of the physical evidence for these early inhabitants, the local population appears to have increased during the Early and Middle Archaic Periods, around 6,000 to 8,000 years ago. The oldest pottery and arrowhead remains found on the Cape date to around this period, some 7,700 years ago. From the subsequent Late Archaic Period, or between 3,000 and 6,000 years ago, two burial sites from the culturally distinct Susquehanna Tradition were found in Eastham and Orleans. Prehistoric sites have also been found in the nearby Province Lands (CLR, 2008: 14).

The Outer Cape was historically inhabited by a branch of the Wampanoag federation of tribes known as the Pamets. The word “pamet” also referred to the local valleys that extend all the way from the ocean to Cape Cod Bay, whose more fertile soil and shelter from the wind proved optimal for early human settlement. In areas with soil fit for cultivation the Pamets planted corn (Zea mays), squash (Cucurbita, sp.), beans (Phaseolus vulgaris) and tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum), which could then be used for consumption as well as trade goods. The same inland regions also likely harbored game such as deer, rabbit, and fox, while the shoreline was used for clamming, fishing, and drift whaling. The shoreline teamed seasonally with plovers, sand pipers, gulls, terns, herons, loons, grebes, cormorants, geese, and ducks (CLR, 2008: 14-15).

In the deepest, most sheltered valleys of the dunes the water table is high enough to create small bogs with low nitrogen levels where cranberries (Vaccinium macrocarpon), club-mosses (Lycopodium

sp.), and insect-eating sundews (Drosera sp.) grow. The Pamets made their pemmican, a food staple high in energy and easy to store, from a combination of dried cranberries, salted venison, and melted fat. Cranberries were also used by the Native Americans as a food, fabric dye and healing agent (CLR, 2008: 15).

Aside from berry picking, it is unlikely that the Peaked Hill Bars area ever had much potential for the agricultural practices typical of the Pamets, due to the shallow, exceedingly fragile soil and shifting sand. In many areas of the Outer Cape, Native Americans periodically burned the understory vegetation in order to facilitate agriculture. This practice probably contributed to the establishment and enduring presence of the hardy pitch pine (Pinus rigida) throughout the region (CLR, 2008: 15-16).

European Exploration:
In 1602, British explorer Bartholomew Gosnold named the area Cape Cod, after observing an abundance of these fish in its cold waters. He also had one of the earliest encounters with a Native American in Provincetown Harbor, crossing paths with a young man who wore disks of copper in his ears and may have been staying there only seasonally. Visiting the area in 1605, French explorer Samuel de Champlain became one of the first navigators from across the Atlantic to be frustrated by the perilous waters of the Cape's outer shore, which he appropriately named "Mallebarre." Archaeological evidence found in nearby Truro indicates intensive settlement of the area around this time, particularly along the shores of Cape Cod bay. Visiting the area in 1614, Captain John Smith was the first to make an accurate and detailed map of Cape Cod. The same map later guided the Pilgrims in their investigation of the area (CLR, 2008: 16).

Overall, little is known of how the landscape of the Peaked Hill Bars may have changed during the contact period. The area's geological formation and constant exposure to the elements imply that the back shore may have begun as a sandy, lightly wooded area. As the first waves of human settlement reached the Outer Cape, it was likely visited and used for its natural resources, though material evidence for these activities has never been confirmed. As for the more vegetated landscape, today's old growth in the region is similar to the red maple, tupelo, black gum and other shrubs that characterized the Outer Cape 7,000 years ago. A few species which seem particularly well suited to growing in the loamy sands between the dunes, and still exist there today, are pitch pine (Pinus rigida), red maple (Acer rubrum), scrub oak (Quercus ilicifolia), wild cherry (Prunus serotina), beach plum (Prunus maritima), and bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica). In later years, different pieces of land on the Outer Cape were cleared and cultivated on a rotating basis, which created a landscape of relatively open areas offset by others with more dense vegetation. The diversity of the local environment lent itself to fishing, hunting, and gathering by the Pamets as well as Paleoindians. Those nearby structures, which may have existed during this period, were probably temporary and akin to the Wampanoag "wigwams" described by the Pilgrims in 1620 (CLR, 2008: 16-17).

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT, COLONIAL, AND FEDERAL PERIODS (1620 TO 1830)

First Encounter and Colonial Settlement:
The dunes of Provincetown and North Truro were likely one of the first landforms spotted by the Pilgrims when they reached Cape Cod in 1620. Their initial encounter with Native Americans, and the same spot where the "Mayflower Compact" was signed, took place on land that would afterwards compose a portion of Provincetown. The Pilgrims found the area fit for fishing mackerel, bass, and cod, but chose to settle across the bay, at Plymouth. Upon exploring the nearby Truro area, they found fields cleared by the Wampanoag and a cache of corn around the spot later dubbed Corn Hill (CLR, 2008: 20).

In 1629, a British royal patent granted the Plymouth Colony jurisdiction over the land from Cohasset to Narragansett Bay, including all of Cape Cod. Before long this area was platted into towns, as settlers in the 1640s spread to the Outer Cape in search of new land for farming. In 1654, the Governor of Plymouth Colony, Thomas Prence, bought a deed for an area including the dunes outside Provincetown from a Native American named Sampson, who claimed ownership of the parcel. Thus with the arrival of permanent inhabitants on the Outer Cape, a landscape originally carpeted with a forest of diverse trees and shrubs rapidly gave way to open fields filled with corn and other crops, where the soil could provide the proper support. The strident clearing methods and intensive agricultural activities required to maintain this new life on the Cape nearly deforested the entire region, causing the limited fertility of its sandy soils to be all but lost (CLR, 2008: 20).

In response to the clearly fragile state of the area's natural resources, the Plymouth Colony established the Province Lands area as a fishing reserve, or common public lands for so-called "fishing improvements," in 1654. Though the logging of the land itself did not cease until the dunes were entirely deforested, the Province Lands represent the first public lands of the United States. Activities therein were thus regulated by Governor Prence, whose laws aimed to benefit the local community (CLR, 2008: 20-21).

The first settlement of the Provincetown area took place in 1680, not far from the spot of the Pilgrim's first landing. In 1684, the colonists of Eastham purchased much of what would become the town of Truro from the Pamets, though Europeans did not begin living there until 1700. With the merging of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies in 1692, Cape Cod became part of the new Province of Massachusetts, and the public lands protected by Governor Prence were officially named the Province Lands. By 1705, about 130 settlers inhabited the harbor area of the future town of Provincetown. For the incorporation of Truro in 1709, the new Province Lands were used as a boundary reference (CLR, 2008: 21-22).

The northern portion of so-called "Truroe" was in 1714 identified as the Cape Cod Precinct. Settlements were established at High Head and East Harbor, and before long had spread to Pond Village, Great Hollow, Truro Village, and South Truro. Quickly recognizing the correlation between tree loss and dune destabilization, Truro's first laws from the same year mentioned the need to prevent further deforestation. Evidently, the popularity of the back shore among fishermen for drying fish had caused the destruction of substantial amounts of dune grass and shrubs in the area, thus contributing to the issue of blowing sand. Inhabitants of the dunes outside Provincetown and Truro were initially assigned to this jurisdiction under Truro management, but this arrangement lasted only a short time. In 1727 the Cape Cod Precinct, which included those settlers living in the dunes, was incorporated as Provincetown. Yet oddly enough, the Act of Incorporation for the town did not relinquish rights of land ownership. Thus, the land on which Provincetown currently stands remained under the jurisdiction of the Province and later the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Province Lands until 1893, when the town finally established ownership of that portion of state land (CLR, 2008: 21-22).

Meanwhile the colonists were working to extend King's Highway, also known as County Road, out to the tip of Cape Cod. In 1720, it reached Truro, and only seven years later arrived at newly established Provincetown. For over a century King's Highway was traveled by the Provincetown stagecoach, which stubbornly traversed a stretch of back shore along the north and east shore of

what is now Pilgrim Lake but was then a harbor. The unpredictable nature of the surrounding dunes made this section of road perilously vulnerable to burial by displaced sand (CLR, 2008: 22).

The same soil erosion issues, which aggravated land transport, also buried local agricultural fields. The town meadows of Truro and Provincetown fell victim to the onslaught of sand in the 1730s, and threatened to disappear altogether. An act passed by the Massachusetts General Court in 1739 attempted to curb this trend by forbidding the grazing of animals on any effected areas. It also required residents to plant beach grass (Ammophila breviligulata) each year. Other vegetation planted in an effort to control the moving sand included Scotch broom (Cytisus acoparius), native pines (Pinus sp.), bayberries (Myrica pensylvanica) and buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum) (CLR, 2008: 22-23).

In view of the land's limited production capacity, the early economies of Truro and Provincetown were driven to develop joint maritime and agricultural industries in order to survive. Whaling in particular became hugely popular as the common pilot whales, or blackfish, were highly valued for their blubber, bone, teeth, and oil. What began as a tradition of driving stray blackfish aground in the shallow waters of Cape Cod Bay swiftly grew into a full-blown industry, and when whales could no longer be found close at hand, Provincetown residents ventured out to sea in pursuit (CLR, 2008: 23).

The fragile nature of Provincetown's fisheries and local environment influenced the economic security of its inhabitants, and in 1748, the town's population numbered only two or three families. Without any viable alternatives such as agriculture or animal husbandry, local residents relied heavily upon their continued success in the fluctuating industries of fishing and whaling. In 1755, Provincetown had three solitary homes, which failed to appear in the Provincial Census of 1765. Still, renewed maritime pursuits soon drew a fresh wave of residents to the small settlement. By 1775, the number of houses in Provincetown had increased to twenty, with a total population of 205. The inhabitants of the nearby town of Truro had similarly swelled by 33 percent from 1765 to 1776, when the population hit a high of 1,227. Here residents built whaling vessels in the Pamet River, while several wharves were established at Indian Neck and elsewhere for fishing and coastal trade (CLR, 2008: 23).

Revolutionary War:
After fifteen years of escalating tensions between the colonies and Great Britain the Revolutionary War finally erupted in 1775. As a solitary colonial outpost sticking out into the Atlantic, Cape Cod became particularly vulnerable to manipulation and attack. Thus, no sooner had local fisheries finally begun to prosper, they were met with the obstacles of war. Nautical activities of every kind were severely curbed by the powerful and unyielding barricades of the British fleet, while fishing and deep-sea whaling throughout the Outer Cape came to an abrupt halt. Due to the persistence of British raids during the war, the outpost of Provincetown was temporarily abandoned and other towns along the Outer Cape were thrown into various states of desperation. Many local fishermen found themselves forced to farm, smuggle, or privateer in order to support their families (CLR, 2008: 24).

Post-War Recovery and Growth:
Shipwrecks along the back shore provided a valuable source of income for the struggling communities of the Outer Cape, particularly after the Revolutionary War. It was so profitable that when the construction of the Nauset Light Station was proposed, it was met with resistance, as it would hurt the wrecking business. "Wreckers" or "beachcombers" are those who scour beaches for treasures. In spite of this almost barbaric attitude, wreckers can be counted among the first lifesavers on the Cape, as they occasionally found themselves drawn away from pillage to save imperiled human lives. In 1786, the Massachusetts Humane Society was founded, representing the first attempt to organize relief for the shipwrecked seafarers in the U.S. and Cape Cod (CLR, 2008: 25).

Meanwhile, even with help from the profits of beachcombing, inhabitants of the Outer Cape took a slow road to recovery following the Revolutionary War. Relations with Great Britain remained strained for some years, and in 1783 all fish caught by Americans was prohibited from entering the West Indies. In an effort to stimulate the nation's ailing commercial fisheries, the federal government granted bounties in 1789 and 1792. Gradually maritime pursuits began to pick up again, and in 1797, the federal government built the first lighthouse on Cape Cod, named the Highland Light, not far from

the village of Truro. In Provincetown, the renewed success of the fishing industry once again prompted local growth, and by 1800, the town had 144 dwellings, 90 stores, five shops, ten saltworks, and five herring smokehouses (CLR, 2008: 26-27).

Fishermen on Cape Cod also benefited from their location, as they were able to manage short voyages out to George's Bank despite the tight political circumstances. After a brief lag in growth during the War of 1812, both Truro and Provincetown thrived. By 1820, Truro had cleared all available woodlands, and was being forced to import wood for fuel and ship construction. While some residents of the town produced salt, most foodstuffs were brought in from other towns. In Provincetown, the fishing fleet increased from 20 ships in 1790 to 98 in 1837, and merchants maintained a healthy trade exporting cod to Europe (CLR, 2008: 26).

Over the course of the European settlement of Cape Cod and the subsequent Colonial and Federal Periods, the cultural landscape of the Provincetown and Truro areas changed dramatically. Though natural systems and features remained largely the same, the once densely wooded areas of the Outer Cape had by the nineteenth century fallen victim to blowing sands and human exploitation. Whereas woodlands covered much of the region when it was first settled, before long Truro and Provincetown were characterized by sweeping vistas only occasionally dotted with stunted vegetation. By the end of the eighteenth century, the settlements of nearby Provincetown and Truro included private homes, wharves, some salt works, and even a lighthouse. European settlements clustered around the ocean, which had become the livelihood of their inhabitants, but avoided the harsh exposure of the back shore. Despite the construction of the Cape's first highway, circulation thus continued to be limited not only by the region's sandy soils but by residents' lack of interest in the land (CLR, 2008: 26-27).

In the relative absence of any direct documentation of the Peaked Hill Bars during these years, a fairly consistent pattern of dune destabilization due to clearing can be surmised. Persisting attempts to cultivate crops and clear land, driven in many cases by desperation, quickly exhausted the limited productivity offered by the shallow topsoil throughout the Outer Cape. The area meanwhile continued to be utilized for other natural resources including cranberries, beach plum and bayberry as well as whatever wildlife may have lived there (CLR, 2008: 27-28).

INDUSTRIAL PERIOD AND LIFE-SAVING ON THE DUNES (1830 TO 1919)

Industry and Civil War:
As the nineteenth century began, industry took a brief, limited hold in the towns of the Outer Cape. Truro's salt production peaked in 1831 with 39 salt works, before fishing became paramount and the town turned to importing salt from neighboring towns. The industry's decline was so swift that by 1865 Truro did not have a single surviving salt works. Agricultural practices had also disappeared from the region by this time, replaced by flourishing mackerel and cod fisheries. In 1837, Truro's catch was valued as second only to that of Provincetown. Between that year and the peak of the fishing industry in 1851, fifteen brigs and schooners were constructed on the Pamet River. Despite some small fluctuations in growth, the maritime industries of nearby Provincetown were similarly booming. When Truro's residents failed to save Pamet Harbor from silting over in the 1850s, the ensuing slack in the fishing market was smoothly assumed by Provincetown's fishermen. Though the size of its fleet had recently shrunk by half, Truro's harbor was restored in 1855 to its former might, or some 100 vessels (CLR, 2008: 31).

With the onslaught of the Civil War in 1861, the demand for fish and other supplies escalated, even as raids of the area by Confederate privateers increased. Once again Cape Cod was a location vulnerable to attack, but also proved to be a productive resource for the Union throughout the war. Funding for new, larger ships equipped with steel hulls poured into the town. In 1865, a full 36 percent of Provincetown's population worked in fishing, while still others engaged in the revived whaling industry. Other local industries associated with maritime pursuits thrived as well. Although ship construction peaked in 1845, Provincetown also manufactured blocks, pumps, anchors, and chains. The town's sail makers were moreover known as the premier manufacturers of sails on the Outer Cape. As in earlier years the back shore was a mere periphery to these industrial developments, though it showed certain evidence of the increased human habitation and transportation in the area (CLR, 2008: 31-32).

Early Lifesaving:
A benchmark in the prevention of these maritime disasters was the establishment of the first lifesaving stations along the beaches of the Outer Cape, in 1840. That year the state legislature recognized the danger of this area, as well as the need for some organized method of safe-guarding human life, by awarding the Massachusetts Humane Society $500 to purchase eleven lifeboats. These vessels were housed in the earliest lifesaving stations, which were hardy little shacks measuring 20 by 18.5 feet, each manned by ten men. With the help of an additional $1,350 awarded in 1841, the society established such stations at Race Point, Chatham, Nantucket, and the Boston Harbor area (CLR, 2008: 32).

Meanwhile, casualties on the back shore would continue, drawing the attention of the United States government. Although it continued to fund the Humane Society until 1870, the government began building its own lifesaving stations in 1847. At first, these establishments were managed entirely by volunteer crews. By 1869, all United States government station crew members were awarded full salaries, and the old Humane Society buildings were already beginning to fall out of use. Although the society managed to maintain some of its old refuge huts into the twentieth century, by the late nineteenth century the government had taken primary responsibility for disasters on the back shore (CLR, 2008: 32).

Establishment of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in 1872:
The United States Life-Saving Service (USLSS) was created as a branch of the Marine Revenue Service in 1872. In order to maintain its new outposts, the USLSS began offering near full-time, paid employment to crew members. Keepers and surfmen were mostly local men with long maritime histories, including a number of Portuguese immigrants. From August to June these men spent all but one day a week living and working at the stations, taking on the additional responsibility of protecting any lost or wrecked property from the "wreckers" or "beachcombers." Walking beach patrols were set in place to locate new shipwrecks and people in distress, a measure that had the added benefit of discouraging smuggling (CLR, 2008: 34).

The Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was one of nine USLSS installations constructed the year it was established in 1872, and quickly became known as one of the most dangerous (Figure 1). The new building looked out over a treacherous strip of coast where two lines of sand bars, or the Peaked Hill Bars, stretch beneath the surface of the water and run parallel to the shore for almost six miles. In general the inner bars sit somewhere around six hundred yards from the beach, while the outer bars are roughly fourteen hundred yards out. However, the magnitude of their peril is largely owed to their constantly shifting nature and the unpredictable depths of the water covering them. The surfmen of the Peaked Hill Bars station patrolled roughly two miles up and down this coast, walking the windswept beach in every kind of weather. Their knowledge of the sea was thoroughly tested through years of experience, and their fearlessness in venturing out into the dangerous surf inspired decades of stories to enrich local lore. A total of 500 shipwrecks were officially recorded along the Cape shore from Monomoy to Race Point between 1843 and 1859; 540 more were noted from 1880 to 1903; and 156 were recorded between 1910 and 1917. With an average of at least 23 shipwrecks a year, this coastline was known as the graveyard of the Atlantic (CLR, 2008: 34).

By 1902, the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was equipped with two surf boats, two sets of beach apparatus, breeches-buoys, guns, and a practice boat. Over the course of roughly twenty-five years in the first half of the twentieth century, surfmen rescued an estimated one thousand people along the Peaked Hill Bars. The number of losses along the back shore over the years was further aggravated by the severity and frequency of New England storms. In addition, these giant storms were simple punctuation marks in the unrelenting wear that battered the dunes of the back shore. For instance, when the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was first built it had a clear view down to the sea. Yet by the turn of the century, the dunes had moved to block this path, and a view of the shore could only be gained from the station's lookout tower. A small ancillary building was soon constructed on the bluff overlooking the ocean as both a lookout and a spot for leisure activities, sometime before 1902. The struggle to maintain water access for the station's boat houses while simultaneously avoiding their destruction by the ever-changing landscape was ongoing. Other buildings were also present in the vicinity during this period, as evidenced by a historic map from 1880 showing a group of fishing houses standing to the north of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. The structures illustrated here likely included some of the original dune shacks, among them the Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack (CLR, 2008: 36).

Meanwhile, other evidence of the changing dune landscape was continually manifested at nearby Pilgrim Lake, where open water had once marked Provincetown's East Harbor. During its first years of existence the town could only be accessed by traversing the thin, sandy inner edge of this harbor, then called Beach Point. Over time, as the trees on the so-called "back side" were cut down for fuel and ship-building, the destabilized dunes began to move with the prevailing wind, hence the term "walking dunes." These sands moved west into East Harbor and soon blew through the inlet to Provincetown Harbor, where they began to threaten the use of the entire area by increasingly sizeable ships in the mid-nineteenth century. In an effort to stem the flow of sand the town constructed a bridge across the inlet between the two harbors in 1855. Yet storms swiftly ravaged this frail structure, and in 1858 Provincetown made a second attempt to save its harbor by building a solid dike alongside the old bridge, thus forming Pilgrim Lake. The 1,600 foot opening was traversed a second time in 1873, by a causeway which carried the Old Colony Railroad and later U.S. Route 6 (CLR, 2008: 36).

Even as access to Provincetown became increasingly secure and its population grew, life on the back shore remained fairly constant. The only way to visit the dunes was by horse and wagon, requiring a laborious trek over miles of loose, sandy trails (Figure 2). In the early years of the twentieth century, Captain and Mrs. Ambrose Cook spent their nights at the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, from July to August. Their horse, Daisy, wandered the dunes around the station, alternately charming and alarming visitors, and helping herself to generous drinks from the fire buckets. The station also kept a hen coop, and other associated structures soon sprang up nearby. Although no photographs of this arrangement exist, the Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack is thought to have once served as a hen house, and similar establishments out in the dunes are known to have consisted of building clusters. For example, a chicken house in the style of other dune shacks can be seen standing next to the Race Point Light, in a photo from 1901 or 1902 (CLR, 2008: 37).

Shipwrecks along the back shore not only influenced human activity in the Peaked Hill Bars, but they contributed to the area's biological diversity. The various materials that washed ashore also brought change, in particular certain hardy seeds, which managed to take root in the sandy soil and eventually spread. Rumored to have come from the wreck of a Chinese bark, Japanese roses appeared across the dunes and around town, as Coast Guardsmen transplanted them to the gardens of their family homes (CLR, 2008: 38).

Early Tourism, Artists, and Automobiles:
The early 1900s brought a massive transformation to the United States, in terms of both development and attitude. Alexander Graham Bell had no sooner created the telephone than the American Telephone and Telegraph Company had wired the world. South of Provincetown, in Wellfleet, the radio towers of Guglielmo Marconi dispatched the first two-way transatlantic wireless message from America to England in 1902. These very towers allowed the U.S. Navy to retire its homing pigeons, and made possible swift communication of the news of the "Titanic" sinking in 1912. Living spaces and architecture were meanwhile revolutionized by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The appearance of Ford automobiles in mass numbers, and at more affordable prices, changed the way people perceived physical space and travel.

Most importantly, this development finally changed the perceived isolation of Provincetown. Indeed, one of the early and leading agents of change on the Outer Cape was transportation. In 1873, the Cape Cod Railroad reached Provincetown for the first time and introduced the convenience of shipping fresh fish directly to distant markets. Truro opened several facilities to help accommodate this capability and the shift away from the old tradition of salting fish, including a fish canning plant and a freezing plant in 1893. The new methods for shipment and storage opened up the fishing industry, allowing the sale of many fish that had previously spoiled too quickly for transportation. Eels in particular became an important component of the Boston market, while weir fishing for herring, cod, whiting, mackerel, flounder and squid rapidly rose in popularity during the 1870s and afterwards. In 1893, Provincetown was highly prosperous and finally obtained from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a title to the portion of the Province Lands where it stands, despite the fact that it had been incorporated as a town back in 1727. The division between town and state lands became roughly defined by the path of U.S. Route 6, in later years. Despite Provincetown's success, many towns of the Outer Cape saw their prosperity flag and populations drop, in the final years of the nineteenth century. For example, between 1870 and 1910 Truro's numbers decreased by 48 percent, from 1,269 to a mere 655. Yet Provincetown managed to avoid a similar decline in its numbers and instead saw an increase, from 3,865 in 1870 to 4,369 in 1910. The town's continued success and immunity to the Depression felt elsewhere on the Cape can be attributed largely to its burgeoning Portuguese immigrant population (CLR, 2008: 39).

Along the waterfront and on the back shore, fishermen used little sheds or "stores" as workshops to knot fishing nets, make small equipment repairs, and keep their gear dry. They also camped and built their own temporary structures in areas like Bill's Camp, which was located between the Malicoat shack and the site of the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. Already equipped with a rich knowledge of the ocean and its restless company, many Portuguese immigrants likely felt comfortable living off the unruly waters of the Peaked Hill Bars. Some built fishing shacks there along with other Provincetown residents, not only for work and storage but also for entertainment. Shacks toward the northwest end of the back shore in particular were used for fishing purposes as well as surf casting from the beach, which was popular at the time. The back shore also proved optimal for bird hunting. Thus, some shacks were employed by hunters in search of birds or other game in the dunes (CLR, 2008: 40).

By the late nineteenth century, the scenic, the peaceful landscape of the dunes was beginning to attract curious visitors. With the area's rising population, law enforcement increased, and over time, the surfmen's patrols of the back shore became a form of policing, in addition to lifesaving. In 1915, the USLSS was integrated into the U.S. Coast Guard, and a new Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was built along the shore nearby in 1918. The station was a large three-story building with a viewing tower. To the west, a collection of small one-story cottages were clustered together not far from the beach (Figure 3) (CLR, 2008: 40-41).

Given the Cape's strategic location on the cusp of the Atlantic, both the Life-Saving and Coast Guard Stations were used for military purposes during World War I. Throughout the war, the population of Provincetown diversified still further as immigrants and refugees fled Europe. The town was even compared to an unspoiled European fishing village, with still only a small number of visitors and a wealth of inexpensive places for students to stay. Paris in particular contributed to an influx of artists, due in part to local Provincetown resident Charles Hawthorne's visit to that city in 1914 (CLR, 2008: 41).

Many of the tourists drawn to Provincetown were artists who found the natural environment of the dunes particularly alluring. Painters began summering there in the 1890s, and in 1899 Charles Hawthorne founded the Cape Cod School of Art with a focus on the varying effects of the Cape's brilliant natural light. Ambrose Webster, a pioneer of Modernism, began his own Summer School of Painting in the town only a year later. In response to the rapidly growing art community, the Provincetown Art Association was founded in 1914 with a hefty 147 members in its first year. By 1916, Provincetown hosted five summer art schools and was attracting a variety of poets, novelists, journalists, and playwrights in addition to radicals, socialites, critics, and bohemians, many of whom came from Greenwich Village in New York City. Provincetown's art colony was recognized as far superior to any other during the first half of the twentieth century. The Provincetown Players, established in 1915 by Susan Glaspell, Eugene O'Neill, and other Provincetown residents, quickly became a focus for the creative energy of countless locals. In addition, the Beachcombers Club, founded a year later, and the Sixes and Sevens Coffeehouse that opened in 1920, served as popular hangouts (CLR, 2008: 42).

Among those who enjoyed the town theatrical performances were local artists, fishermen, and sailors, as well as a rising number of tourists. During the late 1910s, waves of outsiders began making the overland trek to visit the Cape's tip. Even as World War I raged overseas and Cape Cod underwent thorough fortifications against attack, Provincetown seemed to have a life of its own. Naval ships anchored in Cape Cod Bay. The Cape Cod Canal, completed in 1916, provided a safer alternative to navigating the Peaked Hill Bars and the potential threat of German U-boats along the outer coast. Yet all the while Provincetown was a kind of foil to the troubled world, representing a lively contradiction to the rest of the country's apprehensions about the political turmoil in Europe. Out on the back shore, the Peaked Hill Bars Life Saving Station quietly ceased its activities in 1918, at the end of World War I (CLR, 2008: 44).

The discovery of Provincetown as a tourist destination was a final step in a process that had first attracted visitors to the Outer Cape in the 1830s. Despite its isolation, the Peaked Hill Bars area was heavily influenced by these developments. For the first time in recorded history, people took up seasonal residence on the dunes as either lifesavers or seekers of leisure. Hunting, fishing, and living in the dunes became a matter of pleasure and entertainment, rather than survival. Even as the walking dunes continued to change the sandy landscape around them, structures in the dunes were maintained for the first time, and went on to endure with constancy only human care could provide. Small clusters sprang up around the Race Point and Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Stations, as well as other spots along the back shore. Many of these structures, and those that followed, were built close to the shore but behind the barrier dune, to increase their protection from the elements (CLR, 2008: 44).

Nestled in a desert-like landscape scattered with only sparse vegetation, some surfmen and other dune inhabitants kept small gardens, chickens, or horses. They also likely gathered beach plums and cranberries from the bog areas of the dunes, as the Pamets had done before them. Similar to the roads used to reach the back shore by horse and cart, the views enjoyed by these dune dwellers were persistently altered by the winds, weather, and storms of each year. With the diking of old East Harbor and the creation of Pilgrim Lake, Provincetown became accessible by rail and road for the first time. Before long the value of the dunes had shifted from lifesaving to inspiration and personal growth, a movement driven not only by an emergent artistic community but also by the boom of American tourism (CLR, 2008: 44).



Figure 1: Photograph of the Peaked Hill Bars Life Saving Station, c.1900s (Courtesy James W Claflin Collection).



Figure 2: A horse and wagon crossing the dunes on the way to the Peaked Hill Bars Life Saving Station, sometime near the end of the nineteenth century. Note the lack of vegetation (Dalton, 1902, 74).



Figure 3: Tourists in the dunes with the Pilgrim Monument in the distance, 1914 (Photo album, Olmsted Center).

DUNE SHACK HABITATION (1919 TO 1960)

Dune Shacks and Dune Dwellers:
In 1919, Eugene O'Neill took up summer residence in the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, having previously lived in a grass hut on the dunes. Each summer from that year until 1924, he helped to muster increasing enthusiasm for the unusual atmosphere and artistic value of the dune landscape. O'Neill's many visitors appreciated the wonders of this natural landscape, and envied his home. As it grew in fame, rising numbers of artists and other creative minds from Provincetown, New York, and elsewhere were drawn to the distinctive dune landscape.

Tourism served as one of the most powerful catalysts for Provincetown's heightened influence on the back shore. While some shacks had originally been built specifically for use by their families, the demand for dune rentals was prompting the Coast Guardsmen to build new shacks or renovate old Life-Saving Station buildings, including the Malkin-Ofsevit (ca.1917) and Tasha (Harry Kemp) (ca.1900s) shacks. Between 1920 and 1931, other shacks were constructed: the Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) (ca.1920), Armstrong (ca.1926), Werner (Thalassa) (ca.1931), Braaten (ca.1931), Werner (Euphoria) (1930), and Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) (ca.1931) shacks (CLR, 2008: 61).

A notable benchmark in the development of tourism throughout the Outer Cape was the extension of U.S. Route 6 to Provincetown in 1926, bringing drastic improvements to land transportation in the age of the automobile. Following its construction, collections of summer cottages sprang up at Pilgrim Beach, North Truro, Pilgrim Heights, and Great Hollow. During the 1930s, the area continued to greet an unprecedented volume of visitors, further encouraged by the installation of a paved loop road through the Province Lands and an air strip at Race Point. Rental properties became increasingly common as artists flooded the town's fish houses, sail lofts, and barns. Social and economic activity in the region underwent a substantial shift, as industrial and fishing pursuits faltered and the region's population of permanent residents plummeted. Notwithstanding, the local economy still clung for a while to marine-related activities such as fish freezing, canning, and oil processing. As tourism proceeded to thrive throughout succeeding decades, the permanent population of neighboring Truro dipped to a low of 513 in 1930 (CLR, 2008: 61-62).

Out in the dunes, a devoted following had formed through the collection of buildings surrounding the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station in the 1920s and 1930s. When some of the original dune

shacks and the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station itself were swept into the sea by erosion in a winter storm in 1931, dune dwellers were inspired to build a collection of new structures to replace those that were lost (Figure 4). That same year the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was forced to relocate away from the ocean to safety, to a location about 660 feet inland near the Malkin-Ofsevit shack. Upon reconstruction, the building was placed on a concrete foundation, which remains at the site today. Some time soon after, the Coast Guard constructed a new metal watchtower along the coast between the current locations of the Werner (Thalassa) and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shack in order provide access to a sea view (CLR, 2008: 62).

Not only did the coastline witness extensive erosion in the early 1930s, the inner dune landscape was almost devoid of vegetation, due in part to the increase use of the area. Some of the structures relocated during the 1930s included the Braaten and Werner (Thalassa) shacks. Before long local Provincetown residents had caught on to the trend and were building additional shacks for family use and entertainment, and once again, the back shore was transformed into a cradle for creative production. Constructed from the late 1930s to 1950s were the Wells (ca. 1935), Adams-Guest Cottage (ca.1935) and the Adams (ca.1935), Fleurant (ca.1935-1936), Jones (ca.1935-1936), Champlin (Mission Bell) (ca.1936), Cohen (C-Scape) (ca. 1940), Fowler (ca. 1947), and Malicoat (ca. 1948-1949) shacks. A few other structures, which stood in the 1940s, were later remodeled or rebuilt due to sand and erosion, including the Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (c.1942) and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnel) (c.1940-1942) shacks. In many cases, those who originally rented structures from Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guardsmen eventually became their primary caretakers. Otherwise, most structures were transferred through family lines, by way of close relatives, while some buildings constructed in the 1930s came to be cared for by close friends of the original users, as in the cases of Harry Kemp, Ray Wells, and Hazel Hawthorne Werner (CLR, 2008: 63).

Many of the shacks stood on a single 251-acre parcel of land in Provincetown, or Tract 08-1036, which was originally owned by E. Bennett Beede. Among these were the Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Malkin-Ofsevit, Fowler, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Tasha (Harry Kemp), Chanel, (Del-Deo-Schnel), Werner (Thalassa) and former Ford shacks. For many years, Beede allowed shack users to squat on his land, but began charging them rent when his taxes rose around 1947. Another privately owned parcel of land squatted upon by dune dwellers were that of Edwin J. and Junia M. Hannah, in Truro. The Hannahs had inherited this portion of the back shore, which was originally awarded to the family through a royal grant from the British Crown back in the eighteenth century. Residents of Sandwich, Massachusetts, they negotiated with the users of the Jones and Armstrong shacks for taxes and lease fees during the 1950s but apparently did not collect from the three additional buildings on their property, the Watson, Wells, and former Schmid shacks (CLR, 2008: 63-64).

During World War II, the Peaked Hill Bars area once again served as a strategic location for use by the military. The recently decommissioned Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was reclaimed by the Coast Guard to be used as a lookout, while the Braaten family leased the Braaten shack to the United States government for use as a mine testing station. Yet even as it acted like a shield for the safe passage of vessels through the Cape Cod Canal and Cape Cod Bay, the tip of the Cape remained relatively immune to the coastal fortification and industrial development witnessed elsewhere during these years. U.S. Geological Survey maps from 1944 shows the shacks as dots, almost evenly spaced, along the outer beach. Following the war, the area's focus on tourism intensified and Provincetown's artist population steadily grew. The Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was destroyed by arson in 1958. As the popularity of automobiles soared, railroad service to the Outer Cape declined and finally went out of service the following year, in 1959. Industrial activities also dwindled in favor of roadside shops, motels, and restaurants (CLR, 2008: 69).

During these years, the back shore thus continued to be a kind of foil to Provincetown, and a strong contributing force to the town's growth and success. Thanks largely to the landscape and natural beauty represented by the nearby dunes, the town rose to become a leading icon of American art. The boom of tourism throughout the nation during the early twentieth century meant that Cape Cod's Great Beach, or the roughly thirty miles of shoreline along the Cape's outer arm, had by the 1950s become one of the East Coast's last untouched beach areas. During the preceding few decades, "almost every attractive seashore area" along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts had been "pre-empted for

commercial or private development. The Outer Cape remained a final New England outpost of the "outstanding values desirable and suitable for extensive seashore recreation" (CLR, 2008: 69).

Between 1931 and 1960, the number of structures in the Peaked Hill Bars area remained constant. However, as evidenced by the loss of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station and some associated structures in the winter storm of 1931, the dune shacks have been forced to move with the dunes or risk falling into the ocean (Figure 5) (CLR, 2008: 69).



Figure 4: (Top and Middle) View of the Peaked Hill Bars Life Saving Station falling into the ocean after a storm in 1931; (Bottom) View looking west after the Peaked Hill Bars Life Saving Station fell into the ocean in 1931 (Pilgrim Monument archives).

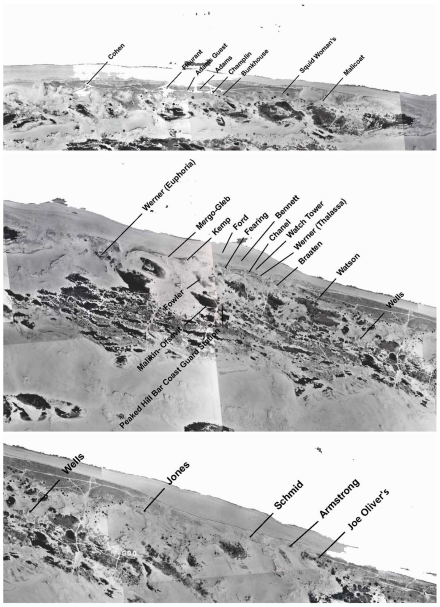


Figure 5: 1960 Aerial photographs showing the western, central, and eastern clusters of dune shacks along the Outer Beach (Cape Cod National Seashore, hereafter Cape Cod NS, map collection).

ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE (1961 TO PRESENT)

Management of the Dunes by the National Park Service:
As a result of increased tourism and commercial development, a growing interest in preserving the Outer Cape as a national treasure resulted in the authorization of Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961. President John F. Kennedy officially signed Cape Cod National Seashore into law on August 7, 1961, as Public Law 87-126 (CLR, 2008: 78).

The Province Lands of Provincetown and Pilgrim Springs State Park in Truro were authorized to be conveyed to the United States by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1962, and the actual title to the Province Lands was conveyed on April 2, 1963. Only the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack is currently located in the Province Lands, but the Watson, Wells, Jones, Armstrong, and former Schmid shacks all once stood in Pilgrim Springs State Park. The land for this park had been acquired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from Edwin J. and Junia M. Hannah back in 1955, pursuant to Chapter 523 of the Acts of 1955. Upon transfer no specifications were made as to structures on the property, as only the land itself was acquired by the state. This parcel was not officially transferred from the state to the United States government until 1966 (CLR, 2008: 78).

At the time Cape Cod National Seashore was authorized, the landscape in the Peaked Hill Bars area was suffering from a relatively high level of human use and abuse. Beach buggies and other vehicles swarmed over pristine sands, destroying trails and generating an endless maze of new dune routes. All nineteen existing dune shacks, in addition to at least three former structures, had by at this time been established along the barrier dune facing the Peaked Hill Bars, straggling along the coast in a line nearly six miles long (CLR, 2008: 78).

Although public use of the dune landscape was wildly popular from the very beginning, it took the National Park Service several years before any attempt was made to address treatment and use of the dune shacks. Discussion among dune dwellers over the transfer of the back shore to Cape Cod National Seashore management thus did not pick up until the late 1960s. Almost immediately it was a contentious issue, in no small part because of a general discontent among many Cape Cod residents about the extensive development of local beach areas in the form of cottage colonies at this time. Established to preserve the natural landscape for public recreation and use, the National Seashore had a difficult time dealing with private ownership of buildings. In particular, the park did not at first recognize any remarkable difference between the shacks in the dunes of Provincetown and Truro and the countless other clusters of commercial cottages springing up by the dozens along the Cape Cod coast (CLR, 2008: 79).

Discussions of Ownership:
A series of lawsuits against the National Park Service began in the late 1960s and continued through the 1970s and even into the 1980s. Many of the most serious issues surrounding the shacks stemmed from land ownership and rights of use. A small portion of the land on which the shacks were built fell within the boundaries of the Province Lands formerly owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and set aside for public use since European settlement. While the four current Truro structures were located within the Pilgrim Springs State Park, the rest of the land was mostly privately owned. Yet, as illustrated by early fishing shacks as well as the cases of the Beede and Hannah tracts, squatting here has long been a common practice. In contrast to previous owners, the National Park Service took a much more proactive approach to the use of its land (CLR, 2008: 79).

In the course of the subsequent six years, land, which had been consolidated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for inclusion in Pilgrim Springs State Park, instead became a contribution to the emergent Cape Cod National Seashore. The squatter spirit was strong along the back shore, however, and dune dwellers fought back with enthusiasm. In 1962, the Great Beach Cottage Owners' Association was founded with the goal of preventing the federal government's acquisition of the dune shacks along the back shore. Despite their love of the isolation offered by the dunes, inhabitants quickly united behind this common cause, determined to work together in order to affirm their right to be alone. Pleas came from all directions, and in a cacophony of diverse voices, to defend the value of the shacks in the Peaked Hill Bars area (CLR, 2008: 80).

Yet as unique and essential as they were, the dune shacks and the lifestyle associated with them proved difficult to fit into the vision of Cape Cod National Seashore. In a 1967 National Park Service

appraisal, no less than twelve squatters were found living on the acres contained within the Beede tract. None of the shacks being used by them achieved the status of "improved property" because they failed to meet the existing habitation guidelines, meaning that they had no running water, plumbing, indoor bathroom, electricity or insulation. Civil Action CA 67-988-N of 1967 was completed for all land tracts tied to dune shacks, and the appraised values for each shack were set while dune dwellers' cases were settled. In the end, each situation was unique, as users strove with varying determination to provide the necessary ownership documentation. Overall, most dune dwellers settled quickly with whatever use and occupancy reservation the government offered. In the end, the Malicoat family was the only case to successfully prove ownership. The National Park Service allowed them to retain a deed for their shack and the surrounding three acres of land, in addition to Snail Road access rights, in 1971. The Malicoats also sold an additional seventeen acres of land near the Malicoat shack to the Cape Cod National Seashore that same year. Today this building is the only surviving dune shack within the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District that continues to stand on private land (CLR, 2008: 81).

Preservation and Use of the Dune Shacks and Surrounding Landscape:
The charming dune landscape and the buildings in it were put to many uses over the years, from revelry to solitude and artistic inspiration. The large number of famous American artists and creative thinkers who have visited the Peaked Hill Bars area over the years stands as a testament to the unique nature of this environment. Other regular dune dwellers also had their own particular patterns for using the same landscape around them. Cranberry bogs, tucked between the dunes, were regularly picked by shack users, an enterprise often led by so-called "Colonel Corn," or Leo Fleurant, who for a long time kept a horse on the dunes. Locals also picked the beach plums growing along the back shore, went fishing and hunting, and collected sea clams from the ocean. For others, the simple act of wandering the dunes was the most meaningful part of their life in the dunes (CLR, 2008: 81).

However, it was not long before the natural elements and increased levels of human use and traffic on the back shore began making a mark on the landscape, causing the loss of natural features and the relocation of various dune shacks. The Peaked Hill, after which the area and its coastal sandbars were named, was itself gradually eroded away to nothing as a result of human use. Once the area's tallest barrier dune, which towered over the Tasha (Harry Kemp) and Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) shacks, this mass of sand was split in two by a single footpath sometime in the 1960s. As this track deepened the dune on either side eroded away, until the hill disappeared. In the process, sand blown from its peak and sides buried a nearby wetland (CLR, 2008: 82).

Tourists, Beach Buggies, and Landscape Maintenance:
Amplified levels of foot traffic were not only due to the rising number of dune dwellers but to the continued escalation in tourist and automobile use of the back shore. It began with Art's Dune Tours, an establishment founded as a taxi service by local Ford dealership employee Art Costa, back in the 1940s. Costa's service was at first a modest enterprise, and he became good friends with many of the dune dwellers he helped transport, along with other visitors. Yet as the tourist boom hit in the 1950s, demand soared and Costa expanded his business accordingly. Before long, he was buying more automobiles and hiring additional drivers, and at one point even had his tours featured on national television. By the 1990s a single taxi or two had been replaced by six 4 x 4 vehicles carrying out multiple dune trips per day, and bringing thousands of tourists to appreciate the natural beauty of the back shore each month (CLR, 2008: 84-85).

In the 1950s, individuals were inspired and able to take cars out onto the dunes, for the first time. A large dune near the Dune Lot Entrance Gate, which leads to a parking lot to the back shore from Route 6, was a particularly popular spot for families to visit, around mid-century. Easily accessible from the main highway, the giant hill of sand provided hours of entertainment to a generation of children who slid down its side on jackets and sleds, only to clamber up to the top for yet another go. This spot came to be known as the Sand Bowl, and was closed to the public sometime in the 1960s when the National Park Service launched a series of dune preservation efforts. Starting in 1963, they purchased 30,000 linear feet of sand fence, and installed 7,000 linear feet in the nearby Province Lands "for dune building." Ten acres of beach grass were also planted by hand, and damaged dunes were repaired "by bulldozing sand fill approximately 500 cubic yards" (Figure 6). In October of 1964,

the dunes of Race Point were sown with about 650 plants, consisting primarily of salt spray rose (Rosa rugosa) and beach plum as well as some inkberry (Ilex glabra), blueberry (Vaccinium angustifolium), arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum) and shadbush. From 1964 to 1966, the National Park Service continued to plant American beach grass, install fencing, and repair dunes in Provincetown and Truro. Although the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack is the only Peaked Hill Bars dune shack that stands within this precise portion of the Cape Cod National Seashore, these planting activities manifest a general shift in attitude on the back shore, toward active stabilization of the dunes (CLR, 2008: 85-86).

Among dune dwellers, the ongoing maintenance of buildings was meanwhile a familiar refrain, necessitated by the ever-shifting sands and constant exposure to weather. Many shack users employed innovative techniques to monitor sand erosion. The creative initiatives of dune dwellers often complemented ongoing efforts by the National Park Service, who by 1965 was training employees from around the country on the maintenance of sand dune landscapes. One such "Dune Stabilization Session" was held in Georgetown, Delaware in September 1966. The dedication of the new Province Lands Visitor Center near Race Point took place on May 25, 1969, before an audience of some 500 people. The center helped draw additional attention to the dunes and their fragile ecosystem, educating the public about the natural landscape and its history. It also raised awareness of back shore wildlife, including sea birds, ducks, coyotes, rabbits, and deer (CLR, 2008: 86).

The surge of tourists to the back shore was facilitated by cars and beach buggies, whose tires coursed through miles of dune area previously navigated exclusively by foot, horse, or wagon. From January 1968 through September of that year, the National Park Service recorded a full 15 percent increase in visitors to Cape Cod National Seashore, or 3,194,600 people. These unfamiliar numbers resulted in an over-taxation of park resources such as transportation routes and parking areas. Recognizing these effects, a 1968 letter to dune dwellers from National Park Service Superintendent Stanley C. Joseph addressed concerns about the preservation of the delicate dune landscape by outlining new regulations for navigating the area. Not only was an Over-Sand Vehicle Permit now required of all vehicle operators, but only certain mapped routes of access were allowed (Figure 7). With all automobile traffic in the dunes restricted to permit use only, Art's Dune Tours and Drifting Sands Dune Tours became the only way for tourists to visit the Peaked Hill Bars area by car (CLR, 2008: 86-87).

Law Enforcement and Dune Shack Management:
Increased public use of the back shore caused several dune shacks to become targets for break-ins and vandalism, starting in the 1960s. Indicative of efforts to protect the dunes and heighten security along the back shore, mounted National Park Service Rangers or "mounties" began patrolling the area in the late 1960s, to reach the more remote locations inaccessible to dune buggies (CLR, 2008: 88-89).

In the 1980s, the National Park Service finally settled the last use agreements with dune dwellers, thus establishing management guidelines for use and maintenance of the buildings. Some dune dwellers found this process to be straightforward, while others became involved in serious debates over ownership with the National Park Service (CLR, 2008: 89).

Local support for the preservation of the shacks as a group did not gather strength until the mid-1980s, when it was triggered by the destruction of the Schmid shack by the National Park Service after dune dweller Charlie Schmid's death in 1984. This development proved to be the catalyst needed to unite shack users behind a common cause, and in 1986, the Peaked Hill Trust was founded with the express purpose of protecting the remaining shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars. The Trust was composed of a core twelve member board and soon managed the use of several shacks, including the two Werner shacks and the Malkin-Ofsevit shack. By the 1990s, the Provincetown Community Compact (PCC) was managing the Cohen (C-Scape) shack, as well. Founded in 1993 by Jay Critchley, the mission of the Compact was to "advance the cultural well-being of Provincetown, its people, and the natural environment of the Lower Cape, and to act as a catalyst for collaborative projects." A third organization with a similar purpose was the Outer Cape Artist in Residency Consortium (OCARC), which was founded in 1995 and recognized the enduring artistic value of the dunes by establishing a formal artist-in-residency program in the dune shacks of

Cape Cod National Seashore. The Consortium formed an agreement with the National Park Service specifically to manage the use of the Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) shack. It consists of four local groups including the Center for the Arts at Castle Hill in Truro, the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and the Peaked Hill Trust, which is its managing body (CLR, 2008: 89).

The earliest efforts of the Peaked Hill Trust can be largely credited with encouraging the first concrete step in the protection of the dune shacks, in 1989. In May of that year the eighteen existing park-owned structures as well as the privately owned Malicoat shack were determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, having qualified under Criteria A, B and C. The involvement of dune shack users in this process played a fundamental role in convincing the park and others that the structures should be preserved and in their eventual recognition as historically significant buildings. The same individuals were also strong advocates for the dune landscape, which continued to be a topic of interest. Persistent issues with blowing sand and the near burial of Route 6 in the 1980s prompted the National Park Service to continue its stabilization efforts by planting large areas of the Peaked Hill Bars vicinity and the dunes around Pilgrim Lake with beach grass (CLR, 2008: 89).

Thus, over the course of the twentieth century the dune landscape changed to reflect human intentions and use, a process, which eventually brought its condition as well as that of the dune shacks to assume new importance. Although the tourists who flocked to the area throughout this period had a much different vision for use of the dunes than earlier settlers and surfmen, the wear caused by their zealous cars and feet attacked the dunes in the same way that European axes had the local woodlands. While the Outer Cape's traditional fishing industries declined over the course of this century the permanent population of Provincetown also dropped, from 4,246 in 1920 to 3,536 in 1980 (CLR, 2008: 90).

The sandy, shifting landscape of the dunes was particularly vulnerable to change in the 1950s and 1960s, when concerns about preservation had not yet caught up to the rising levels of use. In these years the ongoing formation of the curved parabolic dunes that characterized the back shore was for the first time interrupted by human admiration, prompting extensive planting efforts later launched by the National Park Service. In the final decades of the century, scattered patches of beach grass once again marked these mountains of sand, along with stretches of fencing. Nonetheless, the struggle against erosion continues today (CLR, 2008: 90).

On average, the shoreline of the back shore outside Truro and Provincetown has meanwhile grown over the last century, meaning that some structures built close to the ocean now sit further inland. Most dune shacks are located between belts, or lines, of sand dunes, where dune dwellers fend off the danger of a sand burial in exchange for protection from the relentless wind. As a result, it is difficult to see more than three or four shacks in any view looking up or down the coast, and these are frequently visible only as roof gables poking over the distant hills of sand. Some of the highest points in the dunes, such as the Peaked Hill, have meanwhile disappeared and thus altered lower bog areas in their surroundings with greater sand movement and even burial (CLR, 2008: 91).



Figure 6: Section of dunes on the back shore recently planted with beach grass, likely sometime in the 1960s (Pilgrim Monument archives).

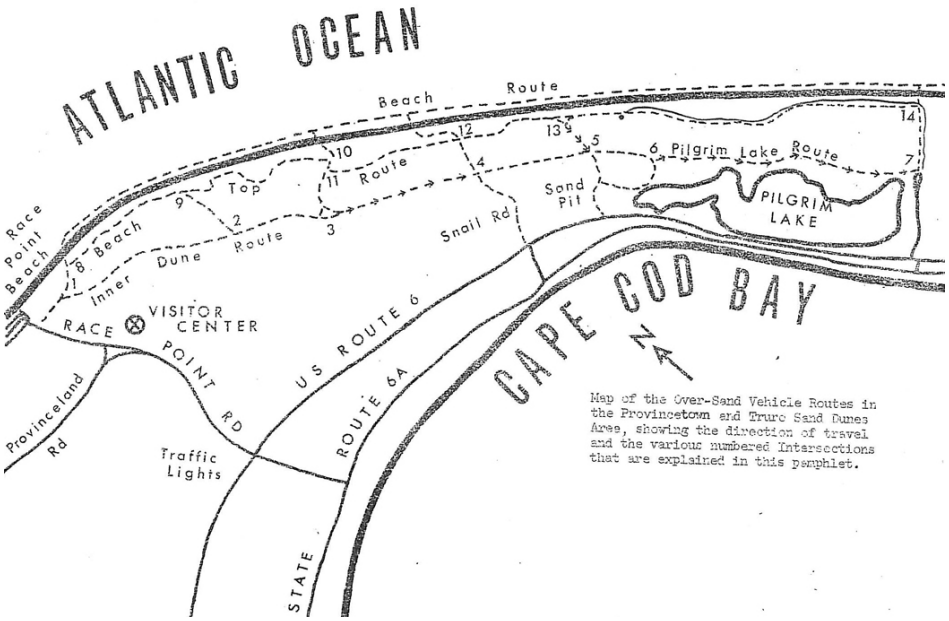


Figure 7: Map of the "Over-Sand Vehicle Routes" described in a 1968 pamphlet of the Cape Cod National Seashore (Provincetown Heritage Museum archives).

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Domestic (Residential)	Domestic (Residential)-Other	Domestic (Residential)-Other	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Natural Area	Dune	No	Yes	Yes
Landscape	Natural Area	Dune	Yes	No	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

Recently, the National Park Service evaluated the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District to establish whether the District was significant as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). On May 24, 2007, the district was determined ineligible as a TCP by the Keeper of the National Register pursuant to 36 CFR § 63.2 (Determination of Eligibility).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The physical integrity of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (ca.1920-1961) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics identified for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District are natural features, topography, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Of these, the most important landscape characteristics identified are natural features, topography, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and views and vistas.

Despite modifications and the loss of some buildings, the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District has remained relatively intact since the historic period. The natural systems and topography that define the landscape are essentially unchanged. The dune shacks are located in the heart of the harsh, wind-swept dune landscape, far removed from the densely developed community of Provincetown. Unprotected from the natural elements, particularly wind and sun, the shacks retain their physical relationship of small clusters and isolated outposts, set at distance of 200 feet or more from each other, predominantly one-story in height and located on the sides and hollows of the dunes. The design, materials, and workmanship of the shacks are simple and vernacular, reflecting a close relationship with the surrounding landscape. Most shacks have decks, outdoor seating areas, and outhouses; utilize a network of footpaths; use recycled or found materials; and rely ingenious and simple strategies managing the movement of sand, water, waste, heat, and electricity. The landscape remains devoid of forest cover, allowing for uninterrupted views to the Atlantic Ocean, Race Point Coast Guard Station, and the Provincetown Monument. However, National Park Service stabilization efforts and a reduction in the road and trail network in the dunes have resulted in an increase in woody vegetation. Vegetation found within the district includes scrub pine, wild cherry, beach plum, bayberry, beach grass, scotch broom, buckwheat, and salt spray rose. Through the efforts of the Peaked Hill Trust, Provincetown Community Compact, and Outer Cape Artist in Residency Consortium, there remains a strong association with artists, writers, and the Provincetown community.

ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

The National Register identifies seven aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Retention of these qualities is essential for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven qualities of integrity need to be present to suggest a sense of past time and place. The cultural landscape of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Location:
Although the exact location of eleven out of the eighteen shacks has changed, their position in the heart of the dune landscape and their physical relation to each other has stayed relatively intact since their construction. Resting on wooden pilings or piers, the dune shacks are designed to be moved if necessary. The shifting of these structures strengthens their integrity to the surrounding landscape, as each relocation has been necessitated by the endlessly changing sand and erosion natural to the barren back shore. The National Register Determination of Eligibility for the Dune Shacks of Peaked Hill Bars Historic District states, “Because of the continuous shifting conditions of the dunes and the problem of erosion, some of the dune shacks have been moved short distances to ensure their preservation. Because the shacks are part of a district and because of the expected impact of the harsh dune environment, their movement within the same general environment is acceptable and does not detract from the district’s eligibility” (CLR, 2008: 347).

Design:
The design associated with the dune shacks has centered on the practical aspects of dune stability. Shacks have been constructed in at least partially sheltered spots, or relocated in cases where the sand has eroded out from beneath them. The close proximity of cranberry bogs and clusters of beach plum to many of the shacks is an additional feature of the landscape that remains unchanged today. Eleven of the eighteen dune shacks were built by Peaked Hill Bars surfmen or Coast Guardsmen. They exhibit a design typical of local building tradition, characterized by simple gable forms, often with small shed roof extensions. Most of the renovations and other

repairs made to the structures have followed the original designs, often reusing materials or salvaging items from the beach to use for improvements. When new materials have been introduced, they are typically simple and functional. According to historic documentation, thirteen out of the eighteen dune shacks have been expanded from their original form. The great majority of these additions have reflected the evolving use of the structures, such as decks and indoor bathrooms. Other alterations have been required by the surrounding environment, such as repairs to windows, roofs, and support beams (CLR, 2008: 347-348).

Although Snail Road is now closed to public automobile traffic and little of the outer dune route remains, the majority of circulation patterns found within the historic remain since the historic period. The inner dune route acts as the primary vehicular route to the dune shacks and High Head Road continues to connect the eastern end of the district to Route 6 and the outer world. Similar to the historic period, a network of footpaths link dune shacks with outdoor seating areas, associated outhouses, and other shacks (CLR, 2008: 362-365).

Setting:
Over the course of their existence the setting for the dune shacks has remained largely unchanged. Built long after the back shore had been deforested by European settlement, these structures have always been fully exposed to the unforgiving elements of the dunes. Construction of the shacks in small hollows or more often on the sides of dune faces has provided minimal shelter, frequently at the expense of a nice ocean view. The immediate surrounding of each shack typically contains elements that reflect the ongoing use of the shacks, which include birdhouses and outhouses (CLR, 2008: 348).

Materials:
Since the historic period, open areas have acquired more vegetation. However, the plant material found within the district has remained relatively the same. The wooded inner dune areas consist of scrub pine, red maples, wild cherry, beach plum, and bayberry. The planted areas include beach grass, beach plum, scotch broom, buckwheat, inkberry, shadblow, and arrowwood. Bog areas contain similar plants to the ones that existed in the past and clumps of salt spray rose and Japanese knotwood are found throughout (CLR, 2008: 349).

Integrity of dune shack material is a difficult aspect to maintain out on the back shore. During the historic period, as well as today, there has been a strong preference for found and recycled materials, with attention to functionality as well as simplicity. Many of the shacks have integrated pieces of other structures or similar salvaged materials from the beach into their composition. Although new materials have been introduced, collectively the duneshacks retain their original materials (CLR, 2008: 349).

Workmanship:
The isolated location of the Peaked Hill Bars has contributed to a certain consistency in the workmanship of the structures and landscape, and helped to ensure its integrity in this respect. Most of the shacks were constructed by one or two individuals using simple materials and utilitarian techniques meant to endure the passage of years in a harsh environment. A few of the buildings were constructed by the same people, such as the Cohen and Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) shacks or the Adams and Champlin (Mission Bell) shacks. More recently many of the structures have been repaired with assistance or guidance from the Peaked Hill Trust. Yet the lack of ornamentation and simple layout are characteristics shared among all the structures. Similarly, the physical evidence of efforts to retain stability in the shifting sands of the dunes is a common trend among shack areas. Wood-slat sand fencing is a regular sight in the vicinity of structures to hold or trap shifting sand. Installation of slatted wooden fences has continued by the National Park Service in more recent years, both in order to control erosion and to dictate human use of the dunes, and in adjacent beach areas to fence off piping plover nesting areas.

Feeling:
The landscape within the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District still retains the feeling it possessed historically. Lonely sand drives lead out to what are still small structures clinging to the side of a dune or nestled in a valley. Some, like the Tasha (Harry Kemp) and Champlin shacks, continue to peak over the barrier dune at the ocean, as did the buildings of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in the final years of the nineteenth century. The Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack is also the last shack to maintain an open-door policy, a remnant from the days of the old half-way houses once spread along the back shore to shelter the shipwrecked.

Views looking out across the open dunes, off toward neighboring shacks, or to the distant Provincetown

Monument for the most part remain unchanged from the time when the majority of the shacks were constructed in the first half of the twentieth century. Perhaps more importantly, the salty wind still whips with the same voracious force over the dune tops, blowing sand in relentless pursuit of the lowest point. It is difficult to reach the shacks, whether by car or foot, without being stung by this onslaught or blinded by the glaring sun's reflection off the pale sand. Indeed, to visit the dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars today is to taste the environment that inspired Henry David Thoreau and Henry Beston to write their famous accounts of Cape Cod's back shore. The difficult task of maintaining this feeling without actively deforesting the dunes is a delicate one, requiring careful consideration of historic character. If forest and heath areas were to continue growing and trees revegetate the open dunes, the character of the historic district would be severely compromised. Those narrow corridors of sand dunes which might survive in this case would provide but a feeble glimmer of the landscape that once awed and inspired so many past visitors to the back shore (CLR, 2008: 351).

Association:
The cultural landscape of the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District retains its integrity of association through its continual use by artists, writers, and tourists. The shacks still serve as places of solitude and artistic inspiration. The Provincetown Community Compact, Peaked Hill Trust, Outer Cape Artist in Residency Consortium, and several dune dwellers not associated with the arts organizations, have made substantial contributions to this effort as well as to the ongoing maintenance of shacks for habitation. The Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack remains much as Harry Kemp found it back in the 1930s, the door open with a few necessary items waiting on the shelf.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features - Natural Systems and Topography

Historic Condition:
Following the deforestation of the back shore in the eighteenth century, all that remained was the barrier dune and dune hollows. On one side of the foredune, inner dune, and other barrier dunes there is always a hollow where the wind scoops out the sand. The edges of these hollows have historically been a popular place to build dune shacks, while the hollow bottoms have frequently been used for trails and later dune vehicular routes. Due to the shelter provided by the neighboring barrier dune, these hollows are among the more stable locations in the dunes, though even the tallest dunes can disappear with time. The Peaked Hill was once the tallest barrier dune in the area, but sometime after 1950 it eroded away into nothing, due to increased foot traffic over its crest. A neighboring lowland, or wetland, was filled in by the sand blown from the Peaked Hill as it disappeared (CLR, 2008: 354).

The largest lowlands of the dunes have often been those areas close to the biggest barrier dunes where some moisture is allowed to collect. These have sheltered beach plums and cranberries, as recounted by dune dwellers' stories. The dunes on either side also sheltered these hollows from much of the wind and blowing sand, making them hospitable to scrub pine and other stunted trees (CLR, 2008: 354).

Some of the larger dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars have been named parabolic dunes due to the shapes they are constantly carved into by the wind. The prevailing northwest wind of the back shore scoops out rows of curved dunes that are maintained by a balance between two sides. The lee slope or slip face is the side away from the wind. It collects sand blown from the windward slope, which faces the wind and shelters a fairly flat sand area that is gradually blown back in the direction of the wind. For centuries the back shore has been known for these walking mountains of sand, whose movements have in the past been known to both swallow and expose dune shacks and vehicular routes. As a result, the topographic changes caused by the gradual movement of the parabolic dunes has in some cases dictated the removal, reconstruction, or raising of dune shacks, and the relocation of dune routes. Parabolic dune movement has also changed the views from and between dune shacks (CLR, 2008: 355).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
The dune hollows and barrier dunes within the district have changed little since the historic period. In fact, they are more stabilized today by the increased vegetation in the lowlands and beach grass in exposed areas. The National Park Service's fencing and planting efforts of the 1960s have helped to minimize dune movement, as have other efforts such as the decrease in vehicular traffic. Many of the dune shacks also have extensive sand fencing around them to help anchor the surrounding sand, such as can be found at the Adams-Guest Cottage, Wells, and Armstrong shacks (CLR, 2008:355).

The parabolic dunes have remained a fixed feature of the back shore since the period of significance. They continue to move, though perhaps have been slowed as a result of National Park Service stabilization efforts, including beach grass plantings, sand fencing and reduced traffic levels. These dunes are roughly arranged into two lines, one composing the barrier dune, or foredune, along the beach on the north side of the back shore, and the other slightly inland, or what can be interpreted as the second barrier dune or inner dune. Between these two lines is a band of lowlands that provide shelter to a considerable amount of vegetation. The persistence of erosion issues at many of the shacks today including the Adams-Guest Cottage and the Wells, Champlin and Armstrong shacks betray the ongoing, stubborn walk of the back shore parabolic dunes (CLR, 2008: 356).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Dune hollows and barrier dunes	133150	Contributing					No
Parabolic dunes	133152	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Spatial Organization - Spatial Org./Cluster Arr.**

Historic Condition:
The original clustering of dune shacks on the back shore was associated with the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, and later the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station. Patterns of grouping, such as the common views of the ocean or the nestling of shacks against the back side of the barrier dune, can be traced back to the easy sea access needed by some station buildings. The proximity of these buildings to each other in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was a matter of necessity for the functional capacity of the stations. In subsequent years it became either a social convenience or a nuisance, depending on the dune dweller. Dune shack clusters sometimes housed friends who came to the back shore together, as was the case with the Adams and Champlin families. Likewise, associated yet sizeable structures like the Adams-Guest Cottage or the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station spare boat house were used to host friends of the Adams and Malkin-Ofsevit families, respectively.

Throughout much of the twentieth century there were three primary clusters of dune shacks, or what have been generally called the east, central and west clusters. For the purpose of this cultural landscape inventory, the west cluster is interpreted as the Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack, Adams-Guest Cottage, Adams and Champlin (Mission Bell) Shacks. All four of these shacks are hunched by the crest of the barrier dune at the east end of the Peaked Hill Bars, arranged in a linear pattern with ocean views. The central cluster includes the Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Tasha (Harry Kemp), Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Fowler, and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shacks. The hollow, which contains the Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) and Fowler shacks, not only shelters but naturally groups these two structures, while from here the Margo-Gelb and Tasha (Harry Kemp) shacks are clearly visible to the west, arranged on the barrier dune in a linear pattern looking out over the ocean. The east-central cluster includes the Werner (Thalassa) and Braaten shacks, both of which similarly perch by the crest of the barrier dune and look out over the ocean.

After the late 1940s the Jones (Dunn) shack stood in a cluster with the Quonset shack, which later disappeared. The Armstrong shack once stood in an east cluster of shacks including the Schmid, Vevers-Pfeiffer-Geise, Joe Oliver's, Concrete, and Stanard shacks. It is difficult to determine exactly how these structures were arranged in relation to each other, but it is known that the Armstrongs shared a well with Joe Oliver's shack when they first visited the dunes in 1948 (CLR, 2008: 351).

Structures historically built in isolation from other dune shacks include the Cohen, Malicoat, Malkin-Ofsevit, Watson, and Wells shacks. These were built after 1930 and were therefore associated with use of the dunes as a place of escape, artistic creation, and leisure. According to historic evidence, the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack has been relocated twice and once stood closer to Race Point than it does today. The Malicoat shack was moved once in the past, to where it currently stands around 600 feet from its original location. However, historic documentation indicates that both of these shacks have stood in relative isolation throughout their existence. Judging from historic photographs, the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack has continued to stand in a more rolling, open location in the dune landscape. The Malkin-Ofsevit shack historically stood in a south-central cluster including the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station spare boat house and the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station, sheltered in a hollow behind what is now the second barrier dune. The Werner (Euphoria), Watson, and Wells shacks were originally built in the same locations where they currently stand, each hugging the side of a barrier dune (CLR, 2008:352-353) .

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Today the same clusters of shacks which existed during the period of significance in the west and central portions of the district remain in the same location. As a result, the Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack, Adams-Guest Cottage, Adams shack and Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack are still a cluster; the Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Tasha (Harry Kemp), Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Fowler, and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shacks are another cluster; and the Werner (Thalassa) and Braaten shacks are still a paired cluster (CLR, 2008:352). The shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars which stand in isolation today include the Cohen, Malicoat, Werner (Euphoria), Malkin-Ofsevit, Watson, Wells, Jones and Armstrong shacks (CLR, 2008: 353).

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use - Land Use/Cultural Traditions

Historic Condition:
Development of the arts has been a strong cultural tradition and land use pattern in the dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars since the last decade of the nineteenth century. Beginning with Charles Hawthorne's Cape Cod School of Art in 1899, the effect of natural light on the dunes outside Provincetown became an increasingly popular subject for painters and other artists. By 1916 the town was home to no less than five summer art schools, and a crowd of socialites and writers were flocking to the tip of the Cape from such places as Paris, France, and Greenwich, New York. This circle of artists associated themselves strongly with the dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars, where Mabel Dodge, Eugene O'Neill, and Hazel Hawthorne Werner began using dune shacks in the 1920. Other writers and artists soon sought the solitude and inspiration offered by the dunes, and the creative legacy of the dune shacks endured throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Harry Kemp, Jan Gelb, Boris Margo, and Philip Malicoat were a few long-term dune dwellers while visitors also included Tennessee Williams, Jack Kerouac, and Norman Mailer (CLR, 2008: 356).

The use of the Peaked Hill Bars area as a destination for recreation and leisure roughly correlates with the establishment of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in 1872. Surfmen and later Coast Guardsmen began building small structures to house their visiting wives and families, or simply used one of the various buildings associated with the station. Furthermore, the establishment of a small hunting camp in the 1900s by the DePass family at nearby Race Point indicates that similar activities may have simultaneously been taking place just south, by the Peaked Hill Bars. Use of the dunes on the back shore was closely tied to the development of Provincetown. By the late 1910s and 1920s the town was becoming an increasingly popular destination for people seeking an escape from the lives they led elsewhere. As the culture of tourism grew throughout the United States, U.S. Route 6 provided reliable road access to the tip of Cape Cod for the first time ever, starting in 1926. Automobiles began pouring down the newly paved road to Provincetown, and Art's Dune Taxi gave its first rides in the 1940s to dune dwellers and other visitors. As tourism escalated in the nearby town, foot traffic on the back shore also increased, and before long beach buggies could be seen coasting down the sandy shore and across the dunes (CLR, 2008: 356-357).

Fishing has long been a tradition within the Peaked Hill Bars area starting with the collection of beached whales by Native Americans, and the early settlers' use of the dunes to dry fish in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. In its early days of settlement, Provincetown itself was described simply as a huddle of fishing shacks. The close proximity of the back shore to the open Atlantic Ocean made it a convenient spot to store fishing gear, while Portuguese newcomers to the area found it easy to establish a spot for themselves among the dunes (CLR, 2008: 358).

It is likely that for as long as humans have frequented the dunes of the back shore, the area has been used for foraging purposes. During the period of significance certain dune dwellers were well known for leading expeditions down into nearby cranberry bogs during the autumn season. The Champlin family recalled that foraging for various sea treasures, sea clams, and other items along the beach was a common practice which began with the earliest of Cape Cod's wreckers, in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (CLR, 2008: 359).

Lifesaving practices among the dunes date back to the wrecks of early vessels along the windswept beach, in the late eighteenth century. With the vote of the state legislature to award $500 to the Massachusetts Humane Society, the region's first eleven lifesaving boats were put into action along the back shore in 1840, and construction of several stations followed. Yet it was not until 1872 that surfmen came to live further down the back shore, where the United States Life-Saving Service established lifesaving stations at the Peaked Hill Bars in addition to Highlands, and Pamet River in Truro. Eleven out of the eighteen dune shacks standing today derived in some respect or another from the historic lifesaving activities that took place on the back shore. Some, like the Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack and possibly others, originally stood among the cluster of buildings composing the old

Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. A number of additional shacks were later constructed by Coast Guardsmen, such as the Adams, Champlin, Werner (Euphoria), Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, Watson, Wells, and Jones (Dunn) shacks (CLR, 2008: 359).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District remains a place of isolation and peace, separated from the rest of the world and Provincetown by the rolling hills of sand. The Peaked Hill Trust, Provincetown Community Compact, and Outer Cape Artist in Residency Consortium help to continue the legacy of artists in the dunes through their artist-in-residency program, while other shacks are still used by families such as the Malicoats and Tashas. Paintings and other media portraying the dunes can easily be found throughout Provincetown today, in art galleries and elsewhere, helping to celebrate this unique feature of the Lower Cape (CLR, 2008: 356).

A visit to the Provincetown dunes is one of the great tourist attractions of the area, a novel experience that exposes another world just outside the swarming streets of town. Beach buggy access has been carefully restricted by the National Park Service in order to preserve the dunes, while the once popular Sand Lot, or old parking lot directly off of Route 6, has long since been closed to the public. The only way for visitors to gain access to this area and the back shore itself is either by foot, or by way of the dune tour concession. Fishing is allowed on the back shore by the Peaked Hill Bars under the discretionary authority of the park's enabling legislation. The dunes are still used for foraging purposes such as collecting cranberries and beach plums. Dune shack users also regularly collect items from the beach and surrounding dunes. These found objects are often incorporated into artwork, such as the tree trunk which stands outside the Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack or the lobster buoys that ornament the Jones (Dunn) shack (CLR, 2008:359).

The tradition of lifesaving on the dunes died out with the technological advances made in transportation, detection, and navigation over the course of the twentieth century. Use of the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station to save imperiled lives on the back shore ended in 1938. Only the foundation of the station remains. However, the Tasha (Harry Kemp) and Watson shacks still have an open-door policy for marooned sailors (CLR, 2008:360).

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

The following are brief summaries and evaluations for each shack. More details on their history and existing conditions can be found in the Cultural Landscape Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars by Emily Donaldson, Gretchen Hilyard, and Margie Coffin Brown and the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic Structure Report by Judith Sullivan.

Historic Condition:

The first Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was one of nine station built in 1872 and eventually included a cluster of associated small buildings, which likely included some of the original dune shacks. In 1915 the United States Life-Saving Service was integrated into the U.S. Coast Guard and a new Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was built nearby in 1918. After a severe winter storm in 1931, the station was moved inland to its present location. In the late 1950s, the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station was destroyed by arson (CLR, 2008: 371).

Cohen (C-Scape) Shack:
The Cohen (C-Scape) shack was initially constructed in 1940 by brothers Edward A. and Albert Nunes, with the permission of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Originally it stood in the vicinity of Race Point and was used as a summer camp by Edward Nunes and his wife, Mary. This was accomplished through a permit with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who also collected annual rent. During these early years the shack acquired its nickname, C-Scape. Since then it has been relocated twice, although it has always remained within the boundaries of the

former Province Lands (Figure 8) (CLR, 2008: 372).

Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack:
Locals Eddie and Albert Nunes as well as Coast Guardsman Edward “Jake” Loring constructed the Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack as a fishing camp sometime between 1935 and 1938. The shack was used by the Lewis family in 1951 and known as “Lewis Camp.” (CLR, 2008: 373).

Adams-Guest Cottage:
The Adams-Guest Cottage was likely constructed as an outbuilding between 1930 and 1935, around the same time as the Adams Shack. The outbuilding was relocated by 1950 to the southwest of the Adams Shack. No record exists of any land transfer between 1930 and 1967 at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (CLR, 2008: 374).

Adams Shack:
Coast Guardsman Edward “Jake” Loring and Dominic Avila possibly constructed the Adams Shack in 1935 for use as a summer retreat and fishing camp. After falling into disrepair, the Adamses acquired the shack in 1953 and repaired the roof, windows, flooring and chimney and installed a stove, refrigerator and hand pump for the sink. No record exists of any land transfer between 1930 and 1967 at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (Figure 9) (CLR, 2008: 374).

Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack:
Coast Guardsman Dominic Avila and his brother Joseph Avila constructed the Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack between 1934 and 1938 using boards from a barn dismantled in Provincetown. At this time the shack was equipped with electricity, and plumbing and running water in the kitchen and bathroom. The building fell into disrepair in the late 1940s and was acquired by the Champlins in 1953 and repaired. The Champlins replaced the damaged floor in 1957 with boards salvaged from the beach and built an outhouse to the southeast of the shack, which was also a storage shed and later a one-story bunkhouse. The shack has never been moved. A title search conducted by the Chicago Title Insurance Company in 1967 indicated that the shack stood on land formerly owned by Shorb Floyd-Jones, known as Tract 04-1012, but now titled Tract 04-1053 (CLR, 2008: 375).

Werner (Euphoria) Shack:
Coast Guardsman Louis “Spucky” Silva built the original Werner (Euphoria) Shack in around 1930 to house his wife during the summer. Hazel Hawthorne Werner, who had spent her formative years in the dunes with her father, Charles Hawthorne, acquired the shack in 1946. The shack has never been moved. The building stands on Tract 04-1042, a roughly one acre portion of the 251-acre parcel formerly owned by E. Bennett Beede et al. as Tract 08-1036. No record exists of any land transfer between 1930 and 1967 at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (CLR, 2008: 377).

Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack:
Painters Boris Margo and Jan Gelb constructed the Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack in 1942 in approximately the same location as the eroded Peaked Hill and near the site of the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. The original shack fell into the ocean, was rebuilt and fell into the ocean again. The shack was rebuilt a third time, but was subsequently damaged by dune erosion. No record exists of any land transfer between 1930 and 1967 at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (CLR, 2008: 377).

Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack:
Coast Guardsman and surfman Frank Henderson from the Peaked Hill Life-Saving Station possibly constructed the Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack as a hen house in 1900 in association with the station. Henderson, as well as Coast Guardsman Cadose, are said to have used the shack as a cottage in the 1920s and early 1930s. In the mid 1930s Henderson transferred the care of the building to poet Harry Kemp, who began coming to the dunes in 1930 until his death in 1960. Upon his death, care of the shack was transferred to Rose Tasha. The building is set on railroad ties to facilitate moving, though there is no record of the structure having been moved. It stands on the one-acre Tract 08-1043, which was a portion of the former 251-acre property of E. Bennett Beede et al. or Tract 08-1036. No record exists of any land transfer between 1930 and 1967 at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (Figure 10) (CLR, 2008: 377).

Fowler Shack:
Stanley and Laura Fowler built the original Fowler Shack in 1947. The shack has never been moved but the landscape around the shack has changed significantly. The shack originally looked over a pond to the north with a view of the ocean. Subsequent dune movement filled the pond and obstructed the ocean. The building stands on Tract 08-1044, a roughly one acre portion of the land formerly owned by E. Bennett Beede et al. as Tract 08-1036. Though a purchase agreement was drawn up, Jeff Beede, Sr. died before signing the agreement (CLR, 2008: 379).

Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack:
Raymond Brown possibly built the Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack in the late 1920s or two coast guardsmen built the shack in the 1930s with the intention of renting it. The shack has never been moved but the landscape around the shack has changed significantly. The shack originally looked over a pond to the west. Subsequent dune movement filled the pond and has partially obstructed views to the ocean. The structure stands on Tract 08-1045, a roughly one acre portion of the 251-acre parcel formerly owned by E. Bennett Beede et al. as Tract 08-1036. A deed for the shack was registered in 1952 but in a subsequent legal debate, the National Park Service maintained that the structure was not “improved property” (CLR, 2008: 379).

Chanel (Del Deo Schnell) Shack:
Jeanne “Frenchie” Chanel built the Chanel (Del Deo Schnell) shack between 1940 and 1942 using driftwood and materials salvaged from the Coast Guard Station that stood from 1918 to 1931. Frenchie invited her friends, Josephine and Salvatore Del Deo to use the shack in the mid-1940s and they have continued to use it ever since (CLR, 2008: 380).

Werner (Thalassa) Shack:
Coast Guardsman Louis “Spucky” Silva probably built the original Werner (Thalassa) Shack in around 1931 from salvaged materials. Its windows came from the ruins of the old Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. A coastal storm cut away the dune under the structure in the 1930s but the structure was dragged inland before it was lost. Hazel Hawthorne Werner, who had spent her formative years in the dunes with her father, Charles Hawthorne, acquired the shack for fifty dollars from Silva and named it “Thalassa.” The structure stands on the roughly one-acre Tract 08-1036, which was a portion of the former 251-acre property of E. Bennett Beede et al. or Tract 08-1036 (Figure 11) (CLR, 2008: 372).

Braaten Shack:
Coast Guardsman P. C. Cook and Joe Medeiros constructed the Braaten Shack in 1931 and transferred the care of the shack to Theodore and Eunice Braaten in 1934. During World War II the United States Government leased the structure and used it as a mine testing station, added a kitchen wing, electricity and enclosed the porch. The shack stands on Tract 08-8655, also titled Tract 08-1037 (CLR, 2008: 372).

Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack:
Coast Guardsman Philip S. Packett and Morris Worth constructed the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack in 1931 or 1932 and rented the shack for five dollars a week while paying two dollars a year to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for squatters rights. In 1934 Packett and Worth transferred the care of the shack to Norman Lowenstein for $180. Lowenstein kept horses in several nearby stables that were built from telephone poles and driftwood in 1931 and 1932. Sometime before 1939, Lowenstein transferred care of the shack to Margaret Watson, who used the shack annually until her death in 1972. The shack stands on Tract 08-8654 in Truro, a parcel originally owned by Edwin J. and Junia M. Hannah that was in 1955 acquired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of Pilgrim Springs State Park (CLR, 2008: 382).

Wells Shack:
Coast Guardsman Bunny Ellis built the Wells Shack in 1935 or 1936 and transferred the care of the shack to Nicholas and Ray Wells in 1937. The shack has been occupied by them since this time and never moved. The shack stands on Tract 08-8653 in Truro and was likely owned by the Hannah sisters before passing to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1955 to become part of

Pilgrim Springs State Park (Figure 12) (CLR, 2008: 372).

Jones (Dunn) Shack:
Provincetown resident Jesse Meade possibly constructed the Jones (Dunn) Shack in 1935 for Lorraine Catheron of Boston. The shack stands on the site of one of the back shore's old halfway houses, roughly equidistant from the old High Head and Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard stations and was possibly a modification of the earlier structure. Frank Henderson used the shack in the 1930s and in 1938 Catheron transferred the care of the shack to Nathan Sharfman of Boston, who subsequently conveyed the shack to their friends Randolph and Annabelle Jones, also from Boston. The shack stands on Tract 08-8644 in Truro and was leased from the Hannah sisters in 1953 for $25 a year before the land passed to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1955 to become part of Pilgrim Springs State Park (CLR, 2008: 382).

Armstrong Shack:
Provincetown entrepreneur Pat Patrick possibly built the Armstrong shack in 1926 as a fishing shack. By the late 1940s the structure was abandoned and in disrepair. The Armstrongs discovered the shack and repaired it using materials salvaged from the beach. The Armstrong shared a nearby well with Joe Oliver's shack, which is no longer extant. The shack formerly stood on Tract 08-8647 in Truro and was leased from the Hannah sisters beginning in 1948 (CLR, 2008: 383).

Malkin-Ofsevit Shack:
Provincetown resident Charles Rogers built the Malkin-Ofsevit shack in 1917 on a bluff near the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, not far from where the Peaked Hill once stood. The shack was moved away from the ocean twice in the 1930s when coastal erosion threatened to destroy the shack. The shack was moved a third time around 1958, farther inland to the vicinity of its present location. The structure stands on the 1.4-acre Tract 09-1041, which was a portion of the former 251-acre property of E. Bennett Beede et al. or Tract 08-1036. In 1929, the shack was transferred from the care of Charles Rogers to Alice Malkin, along with a 600 foot lot on which the shack stood at that time (Figure 13) (CLR, 2008: 378).

Malicoat Shack:
Philip Malicoat constructed the Malicoat shack in 1948 or 1949 on land that he purchased from Frederick Hammott, Sherman Loud and his sister, who were the heirs of Archibald and Eva Turnbull. The original shack burned in 1960 and was subsequently rebuilt. The Malicoats retained three acres of land surrounding the shack and sold seventeen acres to Cape Cod National Seashore. The Malicoats retain access rights to their shack from Snail Road. The shack stands on Tract 04-8618, formerly titled Tract 04-1029 (CLR, 2008: 376). (Note: This shack is privately-owned but is included here as contextual information.)

Post Historic and Existing Conditions:

All that remains of the Peaked Hills Bars Coast Guard Station is the concrete foundation walls and floors. It still remains in the same location after it was moved in 1931 (Figure 14).

Cohen (C-Scape) Shack:
In 1978, the Cohen (C-Scape) Shack was acquired by the National Park Service as part of Cape Cod National Seashore. Since its original construction the building has undergone a succession of repairs in order to maintain it against the wearing environment of the dunes, including wind damage and erosion. The shack is currently located on Tract 04-8713 and is equipped with a composting toilet, solar shower, propane refrigerator and stove. The Provincetown Community Compact, through an on-going Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service, manages its use (Figure 15) (CLR, 2008: 372).

Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack:
In 1963, Leo Fleurant assumed care of the Fleurant Shack. Changes made in the 1960s by Fleurant included the replacement of an external outhouse with an indoor bathroom, the addition of a brick chimney, and a wooden deck and railing on the west side of the shack. The building was

moved inland to its present location during the winter of 1978, just prior to the Blizzard of 1978. A title search conducted by the Chicago Title Insurance Company in 1967 indicated that the shack stood on land formerly owned by the Susan Dyer heirs, or Tract 04-1070, but that there was no record of land transfer between 1930 and 1967, when the land became part of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Currently, the Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack is equipped with an indoor toilet, appears to pump water from a well to the south into the structure, has a brick chimney as well as a metal stove pipe vent, and has decks on the east and west sides of the structure. An outdoor seating area is situated north of the shack on a break in the foredune, which is especially pronounced and lined with sand fencing. Leo Fleurant signed a lifetime use permit for the shack with the National Park Service in 1971. Leo Fleurant passed away in 1984 and the shack was passed to the National Park Service. In 1994 Emily Beebe and Evelyn Simon were awarded a 25-year lease and began a series of rehabilitation projects including repairs to the flooring, roof, windows, doors, as well as new pilings and decks. During the 1990s, an associated garage that had fallen into disrepair was removed (Figure 16) (CLR, 2008: 372).

Adams-Guest Cottage:
By the early 1960s, the Adamses had transformed the Adams-Guest Cottage into a habitable building with a bedroom and bathroom. The Blizzard of 1978 washed away much of the foredune and the structure was moved inland in the early 1980s and again in 1992. The Adams-Guest Cottage is equipped with indoor plumbing and electrical wiring and shares a well with the Adams shack. A set of photovoltaic panels mounted on a car trailer provides power for the shack (Figure 17) (CLR, 2008: 374).

Adams Shack:
In response to the Blizzard of 1978, the Adams shack was relocated inland. It was moved again in 1992 to its present location. The structure stands on Tract 04-1006, which was determined to be the former property of William D. Preston, Jr. The Adams shack is equipped with indoor plumbing and electrical wiring and shares a well with the Adams-Guest Cottage. A set of photovoltaic panels mounted on the roof as well as on a car trailer provides power for the shack (see Figure 17) (CLR, 2008: 374).

Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack:
The Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack is equipped with indoor plumbing and electrical wiring and well with an electric pump. Despite the loss of beach sand during the Blizzard of 1978 and Hurricane Bob in 1991, the shack sits in the northern lip of the foredune very close to the beach, and is surrounded by extensive sand fencing. The associated one-story bunk house is gone. Nathaniel and Mildred Champlin have a reservation of use and occupancy agreement for life from the National Park Service (Figure 18) (CLR, 2008: 375).

Werner (Euphoria) Shack:
The Werner (Euphoria) Shack is a small shack exposed on all sides to high winds and susceptible to erosion. The shack has woodstove, an outhouse and no running water. Water is carried from a nearby well. The shack has an outdoor seating and cooking area and is surrounded by sand fencing. Hazel Hawthorne Werner passed away in 2000, ending her life tenancy agreement with the National Park Service. The shack is now managed by the Peaked Hill Trust through an annual special use permit from the National Park Service. The Trust manages an artist-in residency program for the shack (Figure 19) (CLR, 2008: 376).

Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack:
The Margo and Gelb (Zimiles) Shack was rebuilt reusing salvaged materials in 1967, not far from its original site. The shack is equipped with a gas stove and refrigerator but no indoor plumbing. An outhouse stands to the southeast of the shack and a well to the north. The shack is now cared for by the Outer Cape Artist in Residency Consortium under a renwable cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. The Peaked Hill Trust has assisted with upkeep including the replacement of windows, cedar shingles, and some of the deteriorated structural framing in the 1990s. The Consortium manages an artist-in residency program for the shack as a contributing resource (Figure 20) (CLR, 2008: 377).

Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack:
Upon the death of Harry Kemp in 1960, care of the Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack was transferred to Rose Tasha. Currently, the structure stands on the one-acre Tract 08-1043, which was a portion of the former 251-acre property of E. Bennett Beede et al. or Tract 08-1036. The smallest, most rustic shack, has a disconnected stove, no indoor plumbing, outhouse or well, and has a very simple outdoor seating area. The Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack is the only remaining shack with an open door policy and is customarily left unlocked with basic supplies. The estate of Rose Tasha through an annual special use permit from the National Park Servicecurrently manages the shack (Figure 21) (CLR, 2008: 377).

Fowler Shack:
The Fowler Shack is one of the largest shacks. Enlarged over time, the shack has multiple sections and formerly had indoor plumbing. The shack now has an outhouse and well and no indoor plumbing. The shack is currently managed by the Provincetown Community Compact through a two year Memorandum of Agreement from the National Park Service. The Compact holds a public lottery for use of the shack (Figure 22) (CLR, 2008: 379).

Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack:
The Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack is equipped with indoor plumbing though an outdoor shower and a well located to the east of the shack. A 25-year reservation of use and occupancy agreement between Marianne Benson and Peter Clemons and National Park Service expires in 2016 (see Figure 22) (CLR, 2008: 380).

Chanel (Del Deo- Schnell) Shack:
The Chanel (Del Deo- Schnell) Shack structure fell into disrepair in the late 1960s and was almost buried with sand by 1976. In 1977, the Del Deos reconstructed the shack on the same site and added an ocean facing porch. Hence, though the shack has never been moved, it has been totallty reconstructed. The building has an outhouse and nearby well, but no indoor plumbing. Accumulation of sand is still an issue to the south and east of the shack. The Del Deo family continues to use the shack and Shatzi Chanel has a reservation of use and occupancy agreement for life from the National Park Service. The Chanel (Del Deo- Schnell) Shack stands on the roughly one-acre Tract 08-1036, which was a portion of the former 251-acre property of E.Bennet Beede (Figure 23) (CLR, 2008: 380).

Werner (Thalassa) Shack:
The Werner (Thalassa) Shack has an outhouse and nearby well, but no indoor plumbing. The Peaked Hill Trust manages the shack through an annual special use permit from the National Park Service (Figure 24) (CLR, 2008: 381).

Braaten Shack:
In 1967 the United States government acquired the property from the Whitehead Brothers, Co. and Eunice Braaten. Its current occupant, Lawrence Schuster, who manages the shack through an annual special use permit from the National Park Service, has winterized the Braaten Shack within the past ten years (Figure 25) (CLR, 2008: 381).

Watson (Isaacson-Schecter):
In 1968, the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack was transferred to the United States government as part of Cape Cod National Seashore. The shack is equipped with a stove, an outhouse and well pump situated on the deck next to an outdoor shower. In 1993 Gary Isaacson and Laurie Schecter were awarded a long term lease and began a series of projects including repairs to the flooring, roof, windows, doors, as well as new pilings and decks. During the 1990s, the nearby Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station spare boat house was to be burned by the National Park Service. Prior to its demise, Isaacson and Schecter salvaged materials for improvements to the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) shack and outhouse, most notably mahogany floor boards were used for repairs to the outhouse (Figure 26) (CLR, 2008: 382).

Wells Shack:
In 1968, the Wells Shack was transferred to the United States government as part of Cape Cod

National Seashore. Maintenance of the shack is now carried out by the Peaked Hill Trust. Recent improvements have included the addition of tall pilings and cross bracing to stabilize the building, fencing to retain the surrounding dune sand, and the addition of an interior composting toilet in the shed on the structure's south side. The structure has indoor plumbing, though a dilapidated outhouse is still standing. Nicholas passed away in the 1980s and Ray Wells has a reservation of use and occupancy agreement for life from the National Park Service (Figure 27) (CLR, 2008: 382).

Jones (Dunn) Shack:
The land encompassing the Jones (Dunn) Shack was transferred to the United States government as part of Cape Cod National Seashore in 1968. The shack was moved between 1973 and 1974 from its original location on the front of the foredune, close to the beach to its present location on the back of the foredune. The Jones (Dunn) Shack has a relatively new roof, no indoor plumbing, a nearby outhouse to the east, and well to the north. In 1993, Scott and Marsha Dunn became its caretakers and signed a 25-year lease with the National Park Service which expires in 2009 (Figure 28) (CLR, 2008: 383).

Armstrong Shack:
In 1963, the Hannah sisters had planned to sell the land encompassing the Armstrong Shack to a hotel developer, but instead sold the land to the United States government as part of Cape Cod National Seashore. Severe storms in 1982 and 1983 washed away the cliff in front of the Armstrong's shack, As a result, three quarters of the original shack was moved 300 feet inland to its present location high on the inner dune ridge. The remaining quarter was left behind and later demolished. Currently, extensive sand fencing, hay bales and wooden pallets have been installed to halt sand erosion on the north and east sides of the Armstrong Shack. The shack has indoor plumbing, a rainwater collection system, gravity-fed toilet, and septic system. Formerly part of a cluster of shacks that included the Joe Oliver, Concrete, Stanard, and Red shacks, the Armstrong Shack now stands in relative isolation. David Armstrong has a reservation of use and occupancy agreement for life from the National Park Service (Figure 29) (CLR, 2008: 384).

Malkin-Ofsevit Shack:
The Malkin-Ofsevit Shack burned to the ground in 1990 and was entirely rebuilt in 1991 by the Peaked Hill Trust. While the shack does not meet National Register guidelines for reconstruction, the design is compatible with the character of the historic district. The Massachusetts Historical Commission, in a June 3, 1991 letter, stated that the proposed design of the replacement shack, would be similar in size and materials to the original, and concurred with the NPS finding of no adverse effect on the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District. The Malkin-Ofsevit shack has a central stove, an outhouse and well and no indoor plumbing. The National Park Service through an annual special use permit with Zara Malkin-Ofsevit Jackson currently manages the shack (Figure 30) (CLR, 2008: 378).

Malicoat Shack:
Because the Malicoat Shack is on privately-owned property, the existing conditions of the shack were not documented as part of this study.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cohen (C-Scape) Shack [Cohen Shack]	133180	Contributing	40397		Location	41048	Yes
Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack [Fleurant Shack]	133182	Contributing	40394		Location	41044	Yes
Adams-Guest Cottage	133184	Contributing	40392		Location	41046	Yes
Adams Shack	133186	Contributing	40391		Location	41045	Yes
Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack [Champlin Shack]	133188	Contributing	40395		Location	41047	Yes
Werner (Euphoria) Shack	133190	Contributing	40403		Location	41054	Yes
Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack [Margo-Gelb Shack]	133192	Contributing	40393		Location	41049	Yes
Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack	133194	Contributing	40399		Location	41056	Yes
Fowler Shack	133196	Contributing	40400		Location	41051	Yes
Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) Shack [Fearing Shack]	133198	Contributing	40401		Location	41052	Yes
Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) Shack [Chanel Shack]	133200	Contributing	40402		Location	41053	Yes
Werner (Thalassa) Shack	133202	Contributing	40398		Location	41050	Yes
Braaten Shack	133204	Contributing					No
Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack [Watson Shack]	133206	Contributing	40408		Location	41057	Yes
Wells Shack	133208	Contributing	40407		Location	41055	Yes
Jones (Dunn) Shack [Jones Shack]	133210	Contributing	40405		Location	46364	Yes
Armstrong Shack	133212	Contributing	40406		Location	43942	Yes
Malkin-Ofsevit Shack	133214	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Foundation of the Peaked Hill Coast Guard Station	133216	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

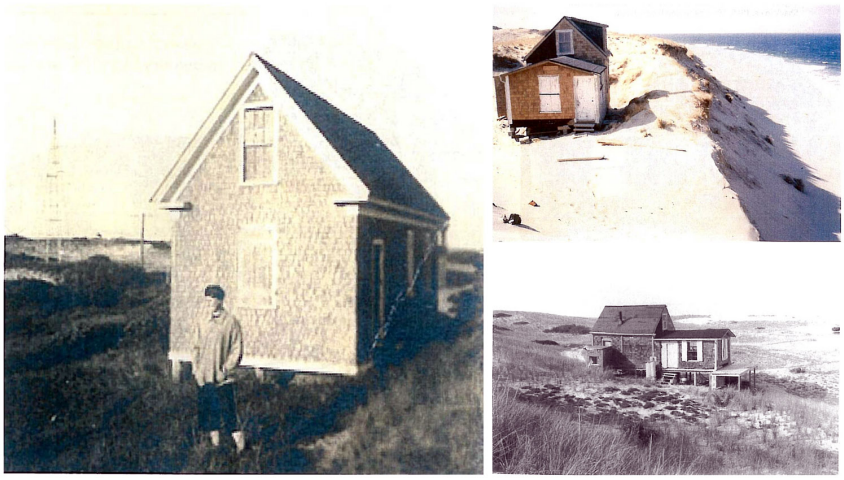


Figure 8: (Left) View of the original Cohen Shack, ca.1945 (Cape Cod NS archives); (Upper right) View of the shack in its second location, in 1978; (Lower right) The Cohen Shack in its new and present location, in 1978 (Champlin family photos).



Figure 9: Looking west at the Adams Shack immediately after the Blizzard of 1978 (Champlin family photos).

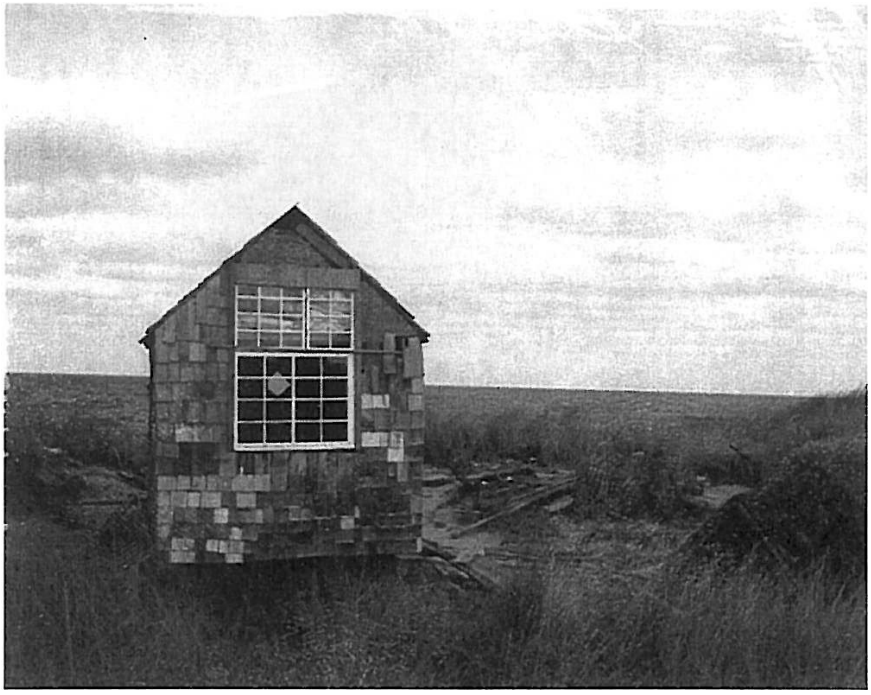


Figure 10: Looking north at the Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack in 1966 (Cape Cod NS archives).



Figure 11: (Upper left) Werner (Thalassa) Shack in 1966; (Lower left) Werner (Thalassa) Shack in 1976; (Right) Werner (Thalassa) Shack in 1989 with a dune forming in front of the shack (Cape Cod NS archives).



Figure 12: (Top) Wells Shack around 1960. Note the various places for outdoor seating;(Bottom) Wells Shack in 1976. Note the advanced erosion in the foreground and the exposed nature of the shack, in comparison to the 1960 photo (Cape Cod NS archives).

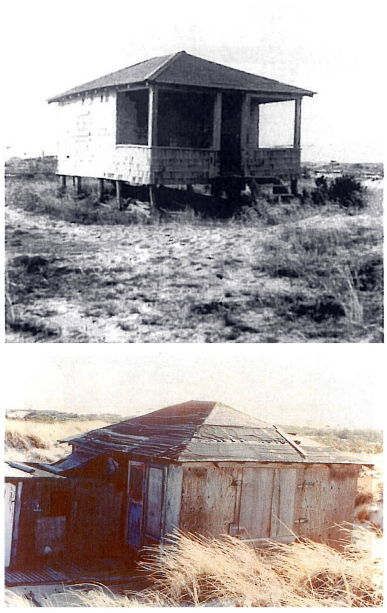


Figure 13: (Top) Looking east at the Malkin-Ofsevit Shack in its original location, c.1930s; (Bottom) Looking south at the Malkin-Ofsevit Shack in its current location, in 1976 (Cape Cod NS archives).



Figure 14: Ruins of the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station, 2006 (OCLP).



Figure 15: (Left) Existing conditions map of Cohen (C-Scape) Shack; (Upper right) West and south elevations of Cohen Shack; (Lower right) North elevation of Cohen Shack from circular driveway and well (OCLP, 2007).

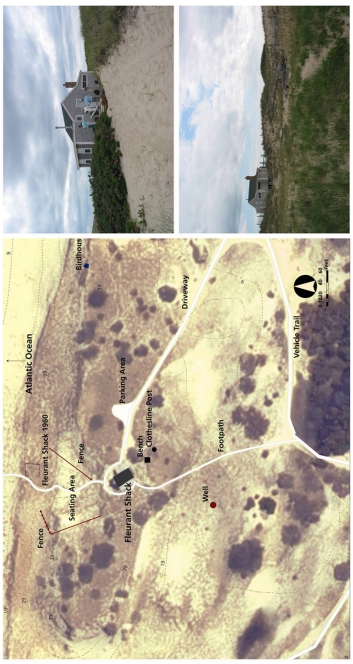


Figure 16: (Left) Existing conditions map of Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack; (Upper right) View from Fleurant drive looking northwest; (Lower right) East and north elevations of shack, outdoor seating area, and sand fence, looking south (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 17: (Left) Existing conditions map of Adams-Guest Cottage and Adams Shack; (Upper right) View of Adams-Guest Cottage looking west; (Lower right) View looking southeast at drive, past the Adams Shack, and on to the Adams-Guest Cottage (OCLP, 2007).

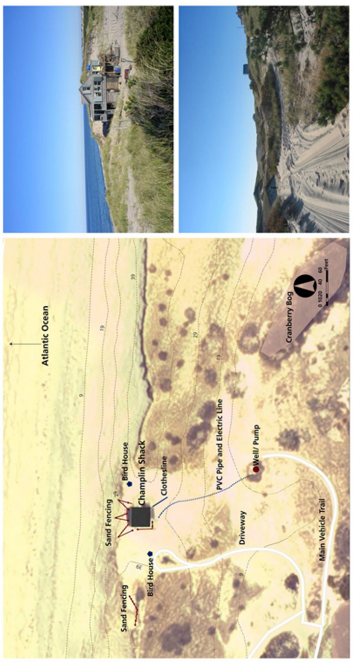


Figure 18: (Left) Existing conditions map of Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack; (Upper right) West side of the Champlin Shack; (Lower right) View west along the main vehicle trail to south of Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 19: (Left) Existing conditions map of Werner (Euphoria) Shack; (Upper right) View northwest of Werner (Euphoria) Shack and parking area; (Lower right) View of footpath from Werner (Euphoria) over the foredune to the ocean (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 20: (Left) Existing conditions map of Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack; (Upper right) Northwest view of Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack and outhouse with salt spray roses around the shack; (Lower right) View east from Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack (OCLP, 2007).

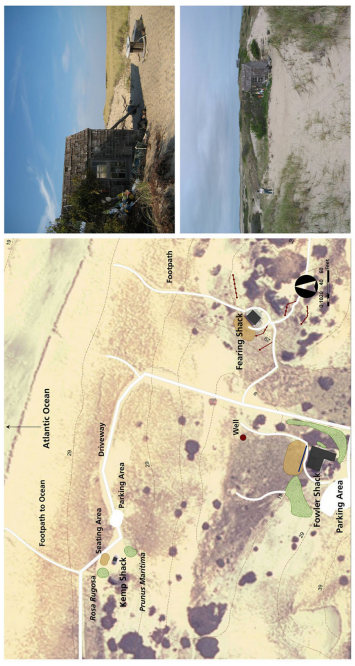


Figure 21: (Left) Existing conditions map of Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack; (Upper right) East elevation of shack; (Lower right) Terminus of vehicle trail at Tasha (Harry Kemp) Shack, note Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack in the distance (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 22: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Fowler and Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) shacks; (Upper right) View of Fowler Shack to the north and neighboring Fearing Shack; (Lower right) View of the Fearing Shack and nearby Fowler Shack (OCLP, 2007).

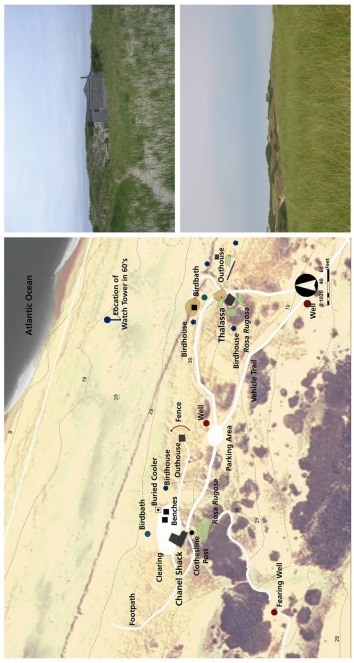


Figure 23: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Chanel (Del Deo-Schnel) Shack; (Upper right) North side of Chanel Shack; (Lower right) View west from Chanel Shack to Tasha (Harry Kemp) at right and Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) Shack on horizon (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 24: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Werner (Thalassa) Shack; (Upper right) View of the north and west sides of the Werner (Thalassa) Shack; (Lower right) View looking east of the steep foredune and Werner (Thalassa) outhouse (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 25: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Braaten Shack; (Upper right) View south at the north and west sides of the shack with a seat on the roof facing the ocean; (Lower right) Outdoor seating area to the northeast of the shack (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 26: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) Shack; (Upper right) Watson Shack and outhouse looking south; (Lower right) The north side of the Watson Shack along the footpath between the parking area and shack (OCLP, 2007).

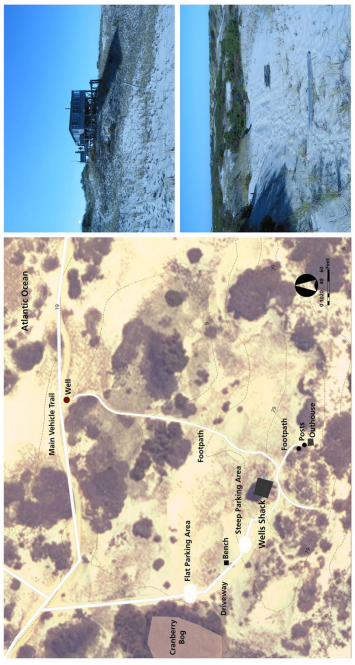


Figure 27: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Wells Shack; (Upper right) View from the inner valley looking south at north elevation of the Wells Shack; (Lower right) View looking northwest down the Wells Shack driveway (OCLP, 2007).

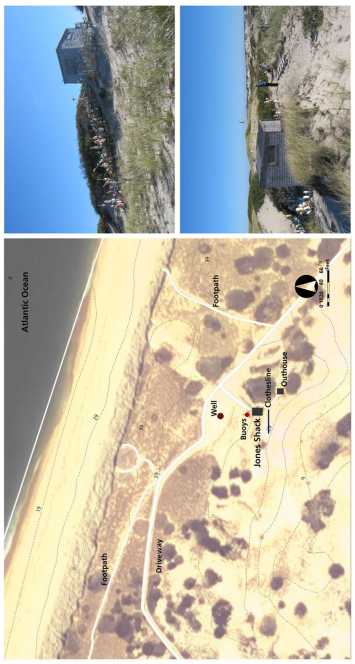


Figure 28: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Jones (Dunn) Watson Shack; (Upper right) View of the shack and footpath up sloped lined with lobster buoys; (Lower right) View of Jones Shack with upper seating area to the right of the shack (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 29: (Left) Existing conditions map of the Armstrong Shack; (Upper right) Northwest view of the Armstrong Shack, deck, stairs, and sand fencing; (Lower right) View of the Armstrong Shack looking southwest from foredune (OCLP, 2007).



Figure 30: (Left) Existing conditions map of Malkin-Ofsevit Shack; (Upper right) North and west sides of East elevation Malkin-Ofsevit Shack; (Lower right) Outhouse to the southeast of the Malkin-Ofsevit shack (OCLP, 2007).

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition:
Due to the forever changing dune landscape, historic routes are difficult to trace. It is likely that the most common route of circulation during the early years of the period of significance was along the beach, where the surfmen walked their patrols. Before the days of dune buggies and tourism, a well-traveled route through the inner dunes most probably did not exist. With the rise in popularity of the dunes during the first decades of the twentieth century, a scattering of dune shacks soon sprang up in the 1930s and early 1940s. Transportation between shacks would have involved traveling perpendicular to the shore and somewhere inside the first barrier dune, either by horse and wagon or in Art's Dune Taxi after he started his service in the 1940s. In subsequent years, the routes increasingly established by wheels were also traversed by ever greater numbers on foot. Artists and writers coming out to the dune shacks from town or Route 6 would use these paths just as Harry Kemp, Hazel Hawthorne Werner, and other dune dwellers regularly used them to run errands. The outer dune route, or what is known as the "Beach Top Route" in the National Park Service dune route pamphlet from 1968, likely developed and was used in a very similar manner to the inner dune route (CLR, 2008: 362-363).

Snail Road has provided access to the dunes for almost a century and a half, or since the construction of the first permanent structures as part of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in 1872. As shown in historic maps from 1880, Snail Road leads from King's Highway out to the back shore and the station. With the construction of U.S. Route 6 in 1926, visitors could easily turn off the highway onto Snail Road and, if they were driving a properly equipped vehicle, head straight out to the dune shacks and Peaked Hill. This road across the dunes provided a direct link from nearby Provincetown to the central cluster of dune shacks on the back shore, offering the first quick and easy alternative to the longer inner and outer dune routes leading east along the dunes from Race Point (CLR, 2008: 362).

High Head Road was constructed at approximately the same time as Snail Road. It served as an established path out to the High Head Life-Saving Station constructed in 1872. Over the years this road provided the same ease of access to the east cluster of dune shacks as did Snail Road to the north, leading toward the back shore from Route 6. This proved convenient for dune dwellers in that it facilitated transport to the dune shacks, but also made the structures more vulnerable to vandalism in later years. During the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, vandals visited a number of shacks in the east cluster including the Jones, Armstrong, Quonset, and Red shacks as well as the Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard Station (CLR, 2008: 363).

It is likely that when many of the dune shacks were first constructed, they were reached from the inner or outer dune routes by mere footpaths leading through the sand. The presence of driveways arose with the introduction of automobiles and beach buggies to the back shore, around the mid-twentieth century (CLR, 2008: 365).

With exception to the footpath between the Champlin (Mission Bell), Adams-Guest Cottage, and Adams shacks, which has likely been present since their original construction, various footpaths leading between shacks have existed at different times over the years but have rarely been documented. Footpaths to the ocean were a part of the back shore beginning with the earliest human inhabitants of the area. The Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station and later Coast Guard Station required immediate access to the water not only to keep watch for shipwrecks but so that surfmen and Coast Guardsmen could conduct their ongoing patrols along the beach, and launch their boats quickly in times of need. Paths up from the beach would also have been necessary for the early half-way houses established by the Massachusetts Humane Society earlier in the nineteenth century. The open Atlantic was an important resource for artists, writers, and other dune dwellers not only as a source of inspiration but of adventure and excitement. A number of historic dune shack users were avid beach collectors, including Leo Fleurant, Charlie Schmid, Annabelle Jones, and Nathaniel Champlin. Heading out to the beach was also a popular activity for tourists (CLR, 2008: 366).

Footpaths leading to sites of habitual use on the back shore have existed for as long as humans have inhabited the dunes. The surfmen and Coast Guardsmen of the Peaked Hill Bars and other stations along the Outer Cape wore paths into the beach, keeping watch for shipwrecks. Footpaths were established between the various buildings of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, and later the Coast Guard Station. Similar paths lead from shacks to wells and outhouses almost as soon as the dune shacks were built, representing the needs of their human users. Dune shack wells were usually situated in a low area close to the structure, where water could be found close to the surface of the sand. Footpaths to outdoor seating areas also probably arose with the construction of individual shacks, as the leisure habits of individual dune dwellers made a mark on the surrounding landscape. Routes to popular cranberry bogs or exceptional viewpoints accounted for another type of footpath among the dunes. These paths likely arose over time, as rising numbers of dune shacks and dune dwellers appeared on the back shore to take advantage of its unique beauty (CLR, 2008: 367).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Today the inner dune route, also referred to as the main vehicle trail, has come to refer to the entire system of trails leading down the back shore from Race Point through the Historic District. Use of the inner dune route by off-road vehicles was restricted to a permit-only policy by the National Park Service in the 1970s and continues to be restricted due to stabilization concerns. It provides an access path to most of the dune shack driveways, stretching from the Race Point south access gate to the High Head gate in Truro at the terminus of High Head Road. The sandy route primarily follows dune hollows but also traverses their crests on occasion, following a roughly parallel line to the shore. Most of the shacks stand to the north of the inner dune route, a rule broken only by the Malkin-Ofsevit, Wells, and Armstrong shacks which are located to the south. Very little of the outer dune route still exists today, as it was heavily damaged by the Blizzard of 1978. Portions of the route that remain have been integrated into the inner dune route as side tracks or alternative paths to reach the same points (see Figure 18) (CLR, 2008: 361-362).

Snail Road is closed to public automobile traffic today with a locked gate, though the Armstrong

family retains the right to use it as an access route to their shack. As a well-used path, the road remains the easiest way to reach the central cluster of dune shacks on foot. High Head Road continues to connect the east end of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District to Route 6 and the outer world. The gated, locked inner dune route opens onto a parking lot, where visitors can still park their cars and walk out into the dunes (CLR, 2008: 363).

Most of the dune shacks currently have driveways whose lengths vary depending on the proximity of the inner dune route. Some structures, like the Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) and Fowler shacks have rather long, winding drives that separate them entirely from the dune route. Others, like the Malkin-Ofsevit shack, have only a short pull-off or a mere parking space for an automobile, with the building itself visible from the dune route. Dune shack driveways often pitch steeply and end before reaching structures, perhaps in part due to the constant disturbance and erosion caused by vehicle use (see Figures 17, 18, and 27) (CLR, 2008: 364-365).

A well-worn footpath still links the Adams-Guest Cottage, Adams shack, and Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack, leading along the crest of the first barrier dune to the north of the buildings. Current footpaths also connect the Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) and Tasha (Harry Kemp) shacks, the Werner (Euphoria), Tasha (Harry Kemp), and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shacks. These paths often follow the route of least resistance by skirting along the crest of the first barrier dune parallel to the beach, so as to avoid having to go up and down through nearby dune hollows. All of the dune shacks have footpaths leading to the ocean today. In some instances, paths spring from a dune shack driveway, as in the case of the drive between the Fowler and Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) shacks and the drive which continues past the Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shack. It is likely that in these instances vehicles were once allowed to access the beach at the point where the footpath currently leads out to the ocean. Some footpaths to the ocean and other paths among the dunes have been fenced off or restricted in recent years, as a result of overuse and erosion (CLR, 2008: 365-367).

All of the dune shacks except for the Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack currently have their own footpaths to low spots in the nearby dunes, where associated wells are located. Footpaths also still connect some shacks to outdoor seating areas, which often boast ocean views. These paths frequently become footpaths to the ocean, after reaching the seating area. The outdoor seating areas associated with the Fleurant, Adams, Werner (Euphoria), Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, and Jones (Dunn) shacks are a few examples of this arrangement. In those cases where an indoor bathroom has not been installed, footpaths continue to link dune shacks with associated outhouses. The Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Malkin-Ofsevit, Chanel, Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, Watson, Wells, and Jones (Dunn) shacks are all examples of this arrangement. Some dune shacks, such as the Armstrong shack, continue to have footpaths leading to cranberry bog areas, which are typically located in nearby dune hollows (see Figures 19, 20 and 26) (CLR, 2008: 365-367).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Inner Dune route	133154	Contributing					No
Outer Dune route	133156	Contributing					No
Snail Road	133158	Contributing					No
High Head Road	133160	Contributing					No
Driveways	133162	Contributing					No
Footpaths between shacks	133164	Contributing					No
Footpaths to ocean	133166	Contributing					No
Footpaths to sites of habitual use	133168	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition:
Prior to European settlement, much of the back shore was heavily wooded. Eventually the land was cleared, leaving the area bare of most trees and shrubs by the nineteenth century. Succession would later occur during the beginning of the period of significance. For example, Thoreau describes buried trees and beach grass. Trees and shrubs have also provided shelter to the various forms of wildlife found on the back shore throughout the twentieth century, such as rabbit, deer and various birds (CLR, 2008: 368-369).

Beach grass likely began spreading across the back shore following the area's deforestation in the eighteenth century. The first plantings in the area were instituted under an act of the Massachusetts General Court, in 1739. These required that the grazing of animals be prevented in any areas falling victim to erosion, and called upon residents to plant beach grass annually. Scotch broom, native pines, bayberries, and buckwheat were also planted as part of this earliest effort to stabilize the dunes. During the period of significance, little effort was made to control dune movement by planting vegetation, though many dune dwellers used sand fencing, hay, and other methods to pursue the same end (CLR, 2008: 369).

Bog areas historically existed in the hollows, or low protected areas, of the dunes. Their close proximity to the water table provided a kind of low-lying wetland, fostering cranberry and blueberry plants that later became popular among Native Americans and dune dwellers alike (CLR, 2008: 367).

Salt spray rose was likely introduced to Cape Cod's back shore sometime in the nineteenth century, after its seeds were perhaps washed ashore from an Asian shipwreck. According to Mary Heaton Vorse, a clump of the flowers grew to the northeast of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, along with some bayberry. Coast Guardsmen transplanted also the roses to their families' gardens. Since then, the low and tangled plant has spread across the dunes, easily taking to the harsh environment of its surroundings. There is no historic evidence for the presence of Japanese knotweed among the dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars. Similar to salt spray rose, it could possibly have washed up onto the shore from the ocean, or may have been brought onto the back shore with imported soil (CLR, 2008: 370-371).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
The hollows of the dunes are today thickly wooded in spots. Some of the more open areas have acquired more vegetation in recent years, a likely result of the National Park Service's proactive planting efforts during the 1960s. The wooded inner dune areas provide a solid contrast to the open sand of the dune faces. The wooded areas include scrub pine, red maple, wild cherry, beach plum, and bayberry.

During the 1960s the National Park Service undertook a considerable amount of planting to stabilize the dunes of the Province Lands and Race Point, seeding whole acres with beach grass, beach plum, inkberry, blueberry, arrowwood, shadblow, and in some cases salt spray rose. More recently the National Park Service again planted large areas with beach grass, this time in the vicinity of the Peaked Hill Bars and around Pilgrim Lake, in order to keep Route 6 from being buried by blowing sand. Some dune dwellers have contributed to this trend by planting beach grass, salt spray rose, and other vegetation to help stabilize the dunes. These plants are characteristically found in exposed areas close to the first barrier dune or foredune, along the edge of the beach (CLR, 2008: 379).

The dunes of the Peaked Hill Bars continue to shelter bog areas today which contain similar plants to the ones that existed in the past. As with so many other elements of the back shore, these low, wet areas manage to move with the dunes. While one bog area may be buried by the sand of a walking dune, another is frequently born in the newly created lowland nearby (CLR, 2008: 368).

Clumps of salt spray rose and Japanese knotwood can be found throughout the dunes. Nestled into the sides of sand slopes and spreading across their crests with increasing frequency, salt spray rose has small pink or white flower and has become a common sight, commonly glimpsed from dune routes or the windows of dune shacks. Pink or white varieties were specifically noted in the immediate vicinity of thirteen out of the eighteen shacks including the Cohen, Adams-Guest Cottage, Adams, Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Fowler, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Chanel, Werner (Thalassa), Watson, Wells, Jones, and Armstrong shacks. In the 1960s, salt spray roses were used by the National Park Service to encourage dune stabilization. A clump of Japanese knotweed stands about thirty feet to the southeast of the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) shack. The plant seems to do well in the windy, inhospitable conditions of the Outer Cape and can also be found at the Race Point Beach and Provincetown's Old Dump (see Figures 15, 16, 20) (CLR, 2008: 370-371).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Wooded inner dunes areas (including scrub pine, red maple, wild cherry, beach plum, and bayberry)	133170	Contributing					No
Planted areas (including beach grass, beach plum, scotch broom, buckwheat, inkberry, shadblow, and arrowwood)	133172	Contributing					No
Bog areas	133174	Contributing					No
Salt spray rose	133176	Contributing					No
Japanese knotweed	133178	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition:
The view looking west from the back shore out over the open inner dunes has been an ongoing and vital piece of the dune landscape throughout the period of significance. Starting with the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station in 1872, structures built in this area have always owed their isolation largely to the existence of this gaping expanse of sand, which has proven difficult to traverse whether traveling by horse, car, or foot (CLR, 2008: 384-386).

Construction of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown began in 1892 to celebrate the Mayflower's first landfall in the town almost three hundred years before. Its distinctive outline has marked the tip of Cape Cod ever since, an unmistakable shape visible from both land and sea in all directions (CLR, 2008: 386).

The view looking northwest from the historic district toward the former Race Point Coast Guard Station has been an important part of the dune landscape throughout the period of significance. Built in 1872, the Race Point Life-Saving Station was likely visible from high points in the historic district as well as from the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. The Race Point Light also may have been within sight of this area, particularly at night (CLR, 2008: 386-387).

The view looking east over the ocean was an enduring component of the back shore long before the period of significance, which gained importance as humans began taking up residence in the dunes. The Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station was required to keep the sea within sight in order to fulfill its purpose of saving the shipwrecked. Dune shack construction later followed this lead as shacks were built either close to or upon the foredune in order to afford at best an unobstructed view, and at worst a short walk to enjoy the same (CLR, 2008: 386-387).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
The view west looking out over the open dunes from the Peaked Hill Bars area has undergone minimal change since the period of significance. The Pilgrim Monument continues to distinguish the southern horizon visible from the dunes, like a compass point to guide dune wanderers. Views of this landmark can be easily attained from dune shack surroundings, if not from the windows or roofs of the structures themselves. Also visible on the southern horizon from the dunes today is the giant water tower for this portion of Cape Cod, an ongoing reminder of the nearby density of human habitation (CLR, 2008: 385).

Both the Race Point Ranger Station, housed in the former Race Point Coast Guard Station, and the roof of the Province Lands Visitor Center built in 1969 can still be seen from most high points toward the western end of the historic district. From some of the most western points the Race Point Light is also visible (CLR, 2008: 385).

The view east of the ocean exists much the same today as it did during the period of significance. Most of the shacks still have a view to the ocean with the exception of a few. The sea was likely once visible from the Fowler, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Jones, and Adams shacks, but this view is now blocked by the foredune. The sea was also visible from the Malkin-Ofsevit shack before it was relocated away from the foredune in 1933. Similarly for the relocated Cohen (C-Scape) Shack, the ocean is now well out of view (see Figures 15-30) (CLR, 2008: 386).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View west of the open inner dunes	133218	Contributing					No
View south of the Pilgrim Monument	133220	Contributing					No
View northwest of the former Race Point Coast Guard Station	133222	Contributing					No
View east of the Atlantic Ocean	133224	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition:
Prior to the introduction of dune shacks, there is minimal documentation on erosion control features in the dunes. However, throughout the mid-twentieth century dune dwellers were encouraged to take ongoing measures to protect structures from the perils of the shifting sand around them. Starting in the 1950s and 1960s the Champlin family installed wood-slat sand fencing and planted beach grass to help control their shack and surrounding small features from being buried by sand. The same wood-slat sand fencing was also historically documented in the vicinity of the Malkin-Ofsevit, Werner (Thalassa), Wells, and Armstrong shacks (CLR, 2008: 386-387).

Over the years, human habitation out on the dunes has necessitated the use of wells. Thanks in part to the close proximity to the water table, well digging has been a relatively simple task. Though absent from historic documentation, the earliest wells must have been excavated to service the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, sometime around 1872. Since then almost all of the dune shacks have had wells, most of which date from the time of shack construction. Some shacks have historically shared associated wells, such as the Armstrong, Fowler, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), and Adams shacks. Wells were customarily dug in a nearby lowland, and in addition to regular pumps many dune dwellers devised various methods for transporting water to the structures over the years (CLR, 2008: 388).

The establishment of outdoor seating areas in the dunes dates back to the early days of the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station, in the late nineteenth century. Rather than simple decks, these were typically places to sit at a small distance from the structures in the dunes. In similar fashion, many of the dune shacks which sprang up among the dunes during those years and afterwards provided spots for outdoor seating. These small collections of chairs or tables were desirable not only for the improved view which they often provided relative to the shacks themselves but also as an alternative gathering space, nested still more closely in the surrounding landscape of the dunes (CLR, 2008: 389).

Birdhouses have likely been associated with many of the dune shacks since their construction. Over the years birds of land and sea caught the attention of Henry Beston, Henry David Thoreau, Charlie Schmid, Frenchie Chanel ,and countless others out in the barren and otherwise largely lifeless dune landscape. Their society provided endless joy and entertainment to Charlie Schmid in particular, who maintained a bird colony near the Schmid shack for many years (CLR, 2008: 392).

Although no historic documentation has been found supporting the presence of clotheslines during

the historic period, it can be assumed that they existed, beginning with the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station. This would have represented the only way for surfmen, Coast Guardsmen, and their families to dry their laundry and were likely erected not far from shacks at the same time the buildings themselves were constructed.

During the historic period, the Peaked Hill Bars Life-Saving Station and the Coast Guard Station had associated flagpoles due to their strong links to the United States government, as well as the nautical world (CLR, 2008: 393).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
There is extensive evidence of erosion control techniques used by dune dwellers today. One of the most common method continues to be the same wood-slat sand fencing used since the 1960s by the National Park Service and others. The flat wooden slats are meant to catch and stabilize the sand, and are sometimes stacked in rows toward the achievement of this aim. Wood-slat sand fences have been recently used to stabilize dunes around the Champlin, Wells, Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, Fleurant, Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Jones, Armstrong , and Chanel (Del Deo-Schnell) shacks. Worn portions of wooden fence are present in spots around the Malkin-Ofsevit and Armstrong shacks. Besides wooden slat fencing, other creative methods for combatting the erosion include black plastic mesh, orange plastic fencing, fish netting, hay bales, and wooden palettes (see Figures 16, 17, and 29) (CLR, 2008: 387).

Today all of the shacks except the Tasha (Harry Kemp) shack are associated with nearby wells, which on average are located between 100 to 300 feet away from the structures. Exceptions are the Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) shack, which has a well pump installed directly in its south deck, and the Jones (Dunn) shack whose well is only thirty-five feet north of the building. The Adams-Guest Cottage and Adams shack share a well, while the well and pump associated with the Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack are located in the same dune hollow. The Fearing (Bessay-Fuller) shack well is located over a dune crest some distance to the east, which has meant that the users of this shack continue to share a well the Fowler shack. The Fleurant (Beebe-Simon) Shack well had the appearance of being abandoned when it was visited in 2007 (CLR, 2008: 387).

Several dune dwellers have installed solar panels on dune shacks in recent years, including the Adams shack and guest cottage, Watson, Braaten, and Champlin (Mission Bell) Shacks. Additionally, the Braaten shack has a small wind turbine (see Figure 25) (CLR, 2008: 390).

Eleven of the eighteen dune shacks have associated outdoor seating areas today, including the Fleurant, Adams, Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Tasha (Harry Kemp), Malkin-Ofsevit, Fowler, Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, Watson, and Jones (Dunn) shacks. All are simple arrangements, sometimes assembled using wood and other objects salvaged from the beach (see Figures 16, 21, 22, 25, and 26) (CLR, 2008: 391).

Structures with birdhouses include the Adams-Guest Cottage and the Cohen, Adams, Champlin, Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Malkin-Ofsevit, Fowler, Chanel, Werner (Thalassa), Braaten and Watson (Isaacson-Schecter) shacks. These occur in clusters or can be scattered around the buildings, and in some cases stand in close proximity to outdoor seating areas (see Figures 18 and 20) (CLR, 2008: 391-392).

In part due to the continued scarcity of electrical appliances in the dunes, many shacks still have associated clotheslines including the Adams-Guest Cottage and the Adams, Fleurant, Champlin, Werner (Euphoria), Margo-Gelb (Zimiles), Malkin-Ofsevit, Fowler, Fearing (Bessay-Fuller), Chanel, Werner (Thalassa), Braaten, and Jones (Dunn) shacks (see Figure 24) (CLR, 2008: 392-393).

Various pieces of found object artwork stand near many of the shacks today, including a pyramid sculpture at the Jones (Dunn) shack and a unique piece of beach wood created from a tree trunk, outside the Champlin (Mission Bell) Shack. A birdbath sculpture stands outside the Werner (Thalassa) shack, constructed from stones found on the beach, while other pieces of found object artwork or art made from found items exist near the Cohen and Margo-Gelb (Zimiles) shacks (CLR, 2008: 393).

Currently, the Adams shack is the only structure in the dunes with an associated flagpole. It stands on top of the foredune to the north of the building, fully exposed to the whipping winds of the ocean as well as the dunes (CLR, 2008: 392).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Erosion control features (wood slat fencing)	133226	Contributing					No
Water pumps and wells	133228	Contributing					No
Outdoor seating areas	133230	Contributing					No
Bird houses	133232	Contributing					No
Swing sets	133234	Contributing					No
Clothesline	133236	Contributing					No
Found artwork	133238	Contributing					No
Flagpoles	133240	Contributing					No
Erosion control fencing (plastic fencing)	133242	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Solar panels	133244	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Wind turbines	133246	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Archeological Sites**

Historic Condition:
The history of the back shore is full of discoveries laid bare by the sand, particularly along the beach where the ancient hulls of shipwrecks have been known to surface periodically. However, there is little historic documentation of the remains of structures being discovered during the period of significance.

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Today the ruins of the Concrete Shack, the Schmid Shack and Charlie Schmid's car are apparently buried near the Armstrong Shack (CLR, 2008: 394).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Sites of former buildings	133248	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 9

Next Assessment Due Date: 04/08/2034

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 04/08/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/17/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/05/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District is considered to be in good condition. While continual wind and wave erosion may necessitate the relocation of shacks in the future, shifting sands contribute to the character of the dune landscape. As a result, cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. There are no immediate corrective actions required to maintain its current condition. However, erosion and accretion of sand should be monitored and eventual relocations should be evaluated.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: Wind and wave action along the Outer Beach continues to alter the dune landscape. Although a challenge to manage, the shifting sands contribute to the character of the area and to the setting and feeling within the historic district. This erosive action is particularly apparent near Fleurant, Adams Guest-Cottage, Adams, Thalassa, Champlin (Mission Bell) Shacks, which are near the shoreline and the Wells, Jones, and Armstrong shacks that are inland but susceptible to wind erosion. Relocation of shacks may be necessary in the future (CLR, 2008: 411).

Date Identified: 09/18/2008

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Although a small number of shacks with solar panels exist within the district, the installation of additional solar panels should be monitored and evaluated.

Date Identified: 04/08/2025

Type of Impact: Inundation/Sea Level Rise

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: If sea levels continue to rise, deterioration from ocean water and/or tides covering coastal or estuarine land may occur.

Date Identified: 04/08/2025

Type of Impact: Inundation/Storm Surge

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Ocean water temporarily covering land along the coast as a result of amplified tides during severe low pressure weather systems may occur.

Date Identified: 04/08/2025

Type of Impact: Wind

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: The dynamic processes of wind-blown sand continues to affect the dune landscape and the dune shacks.

Date Identified: 04/08/2025

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Leases

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Over the last 2 years, all of the privately held leases have been rewritten and advertised and 10 year leases have been awarded. The non profit shacks are also in the same process. The leases describe the significant landscape features and reinforce the importance of these resources. The new leases take a more proactive approach with lease holders and requires them to carefully consult with NPS to review any landscape modification projects proposed (like moving, removal of sand, etc).

Date Identified: 04/08/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1998-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

As stated in the 1998 General Management Plan, Cape Cod National Seashore should “identify, manage, and maintain cultural landscapes that are on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.” While the plan does not specifically state a treatment approach for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars, the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars (2008) identifies rehabilitation as the preferred treatment.

The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars was prepared to thoroughly examine and document the physical development of the landscape associated with the historic district and to assist the National Park Service with the long term stewardship, management, and interpretation of the landscape associated with the dune shacks. The CLR includes a site history, existing conditions, and analysis of the significance of landscape characteristics and features, as well as recommendations for treatment and future action which are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (1992).

Guidance on the long-term management of the cultural landscape is intended to be both broad, encompassing the overall character of the landscape, as well as specific, relating to individual features. Treatment principles and recommendations to preserve the character of the historic district were developed through the use of the park’s General Management Plan completed in 1998, an ethnographic study “Dwelling in the Dunes” (2005), and the “Historic Structures Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars.” Rehabilitation as the preferred treatment allows the park to perpetuate the dune shack’s use as a remote, inspirational retreat while managing the shacks and circulation system in a harsh and ever changing environment. The treatment principles focus on the preservation of the existing shacks in isolated settings or cluster arrangements, of use and access, and of natural systems. Specific treatment recommendations respond to existing or potential threats to the historic integrity of the district, including the ongoing management of sand, the protection of viewsheds, the removal of non-native invasive vegetation, the use of wood and native natural materials rather than plastic for erosion control, and the preservation of small-scale landscape features associated with the domestic setting of each shack (CLR, 2008: 400).

Approved Treatment Costs

Estimate Level: Similar Facilities

Estimator: Park

Cost Narrative:

PMIS #129267, Rehabilitate Cape Cod National Seashore Trails, Dunes, and Beaches ($202,000).

Treatment Type:	Bulk Import TBD
Treatment Completed:	No
Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	2011-01-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Dune Shacks of Peaked Hill Bars Historic District
IRMA Link:	https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2257525
Narrative:	

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Donaldson, Emily, Gretchen Hilyard, and Margie Coffin Brown.	“Cultural Landscape Report for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars (Draft).”	2008	Boston, MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service.			
National Park Service.	“General Management Plan: Cape Cod National Seashore.”	1998	Barnstable County, MA: Department of the Interior.			
National Register of Historic Places.	“Determination of Eligibility Notification: Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District.”	1989	Washington, D.C: National Park Service.			
National Register of Historic Places.	“National Register Information System Database.”	2008	Washington, D.C: National Park Service.			
Quarles, Hillary.	“Cultural Landscape Inventory Summary Report Province Lands Dune Shacks.”	1995	Boston, MA: National Park Service.			
Sullivan, Judith Q.	“Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic Structure Report (Draft).”	2007	Wellfleet MA: Cape Cod National Seashore, National Park Service.			
U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.	“List of Classified Structures.”	2008	Washington, D.C: National Park Service.			

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
CACO_Atwood Higgins-Dune Shacks-Fort Hill-Truro Hisglands_CLI Update Notes_2025.pdf		

Source