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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

6/68



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-HHA

AUG 1 1968

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
801 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

NORTHEAST REGION		Initials and Date
	AUG 2 1968	
Reg. Director		
Asso. Reg. Director		
☒ Hist. Pres.		mf
Public Affairs		
Prog. Coord.		
Asst. RD. Admin.		
Personnel		
Property		
Finance		
Asst. RD. Operations		
Interp. & VS		
Maintenance		
Res. Manag. & VP		
Civ. Cons. Corps.		
Archaeological Research		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Clarence H. Rowell House, Cape Cod NS

The subject report has been reviewed in this office and we concur with the recommendations given. I have approved the report this date.

We note that the Clarence H. Rowell House has not been entered on the Historic Structure Inventory. We suggest that the structures at Cape Cod having historical or cultural significance be added to the inventory.

Ernest Allen Connally
Ernest Allen Connally

Forwarded to <i>Supt. Cape Cod</i>
from <i>Regional Office</i>
for <i>Information</i>
By: <i>mf</i> Date <i>8-5-68</i>

JUL 17 1968

H30
NER

Nelligan
7/16

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Clarence H. Rowell House,
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Enclosed are two copies of the subject report. We recommend it to your approval.

[Sgd] Lemuel A. Garrison

Lemuel A. Garrison

Enclosures

cc:

Supt. Cape Cod

General /

Daily

Area

MHNelligan/mrf 7/17/68

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Part 1

CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE

(Bldg. No. 19-69)

Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Approved by: (Sgd) Stanley C. Joseph Date: JUN 14 1968

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cape Cod
National Seashore, South Wellfleet, Massachusetts

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Part 1

CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE

Wellfleet, Massachusetts

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SECTION

1. Clarence H. Rowell House, Building Number 19-69, located 1.2 miles East of Mid-Cape Highway 6.
2. It is proposed that this house be rehabilitated (improve the structure's condition with no radical change nor attempt to return to any one period).

There is no mention of this structure or any interpretive potential in the Master Plan except for the numbering of it on Map G-23 as "Unidentified"---the number was given by Dr. E. A. Connally, and the structure identified when it was purchased by the government.

There is no mention of this house, or any potential use, in the Interpretive Prospectus for the Seashore.
3. It is recommended that this house be rehabilitated and used for staff housing, or if improved sufficiently, be used for interpretive purposes; a last resort would be to sell and move the structure from the Seashore.

Structural changes tending strongly toward the modern make the house unsuitable for interpretive purposes without major rehabilitation.
4. Rehabilitation of the structure would require at least the following repairs: (Recommended by Mr. F. Cliff Pearce, Resident Architect):

Administrative Data Section. Clarence H. Rowell House

4.

- a. Exterior repairs: The following repairs are suggested to preserve the structure from damage due to weathering.
- (1) Remove present worn wooden shingles at South gable, also all walls of the kitchen ell and small leanto, and replace with Canadian "Extra" white cedar shingles, 16" long, laid not over 5" to weather, on 15 lb. asphalt impregnated building felt.
 - (2) Remove present worn red cedar clapboards on South and West walls and replace with similar white cedar shingles.
 - (3) Replace present front door with similar stock fir door, cut down to fit present frame. Paint both sides 3 coats.
 - (4) Remove shrubs close to house, which retain moisture and accelerate wet rot.
 - (5) Remove present rotted wood shingles on East side of main roof and replace with asphalt strip shingles over 15 lb. asphalt impregnated building felt. Color same as asphalt shingles on West side of roof.
 - (6) Re-putty all window glass where putty has become loose.
 - (7) Scrape off loose paint and apply prime coat and two additional coats of exterior House Paint on all exterior wooden surfaces.
 - (8) Remove the chicken house, as this is in very poor condition.
- b. Interior repairs: Repair plaster where necessary, re-paper likewise, and repaint.
5. Cost of repairs, preliminary estimate: A minimum of \$20,000 should be spent in order to bring this house up to reasonably good standard. A great deal more money would be required to restore the house to its 19th century appearance, internally and externally.

Administrative Data Section. Clarence H. Rowell House

6. Photograph, exterior of house.



7. There is no PCP on this structure.

Signed:

Stanley C. Joseph
Cape Cod National Seashore
June 1968

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Part 1

CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE

Wellfleet, Massachusetts

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

By

Edison P. Lohr

Park Historian

June, 1968

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Cape Cod National Seashore

The Clarence H. Rowell House, Wellfleet, Massachusetts

A. Architect, Designer and Builder.

The Architect and/or Builder of this much modified 19th century Cape Cod house, built perhaps as early as 1800, is unknown. Like most of the some seventy structures within the Seashore boundaries, listed by Dr. E. A. Connally, the Rowell house is historic only in the sense of the "way-of-life" it represents---no nationally known historic event or historic personality is associated with this home. Clarence H. Rowell acquired the house from relatives in 1954. Land area at the site is represented by 5.7 acres, some of which borders Gull Pond. It is a beautiful site.

B. Local tradition regarding the structure.

The house is historical, then, largely from an architectural point of view. Many families have lived in this home over the years; the place was successively inherited, sold, rebuilt and altered as need arose. At this time, any other than purely local history is unknown.

C. Successive structural changes

This house, parts of which could date as early as 1800, has been much modified as the structure required repairs. The roof is certainly not the original, the modern windows have replaced the old double hung type, the chimney is modern, and ^rintentially, the original stairs are gone.

D. Closing historical statement

This is a "way-of-life", Class C structure whose "pure" Cape Cod house characteristics have been much modified by time and use. It has no known history of national or state significance. There has not been to date any intent to use this house as an exhibit because the cost of restoring it to its 19th century condition would be very high. Its use in the future

Historical Data Section. Clarence H. Rowell House

depends on rehabilitation necessary to make the structure liveable for staff members, or it could be sold and removed from Park land.

Another alternative, brought to our attention recently, would be to lease it to someone with sufficient means to restore it, live in it, and perhaps be in a position to exhibit to National Park Service tour groups.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Part 1

CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE

Wellfleet, Massachusetts

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

By

F. Cliff Pearce

(Resident Architect)

June 1968

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cape Cod
National Seashore

The Clarence H. Rowell House, Wellfleet, Massachusetts

A. Structural and Architectural Design

1. External: The Clarence H. Rowell House is a Cape Cod double house with a kitchen ell. There is a central door. The window sash is modern. The red cedar clapboard is modern. Roof: Front half is asphalt shingled; remainder is wooden shingles. There are new gutters--the moulding under the overhang is new. Sides: Red Cedar clapboard at same height as in front, but gable ends are shingled. The foundation is brick. The kitchen ell has modern wooden shingles, with red cedar clapboard. The woodshed (chicken house) is separate, wooden shingled. Basement: circular, 10 foot under north-east corner of the dwelling, has brick walls and is modernized.
2. Internal: The kitchen is modern. The dining room has papered plaster walls, wide pine board flooring, plaster ceiling. The living room has wood panelling to approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet with papered plaster above. Wide board flooring. Painted plaster has been patched and replastered. Fireplace with wood panelled mantel--the wall on the fireplace side of this room is panelled to the ceiling. There is a closet next to the fireplace. The bedroom is panelled and plastered. The Den: Floor is wide plank, fair to poor condition, with papered and plaster wall; some wood panelling and plastered ceiling. The fireplace has a dutch oven.

On the second floor: The stairway is not original. The upstairs ceilings are 6 feet high. Two bedrooms, 8x12, slanted ceilings, gable roof with one master bedroom on south side. The walls are dry, the ceilings are plastered and painted. The floors are wood and are linoleum covered.

Architectural Data Section. Clarence H. Rowell House

B. Principal Construction Materials.

Wooden frame house, brick foundation, vertical plank exterior walls, plaster interior with wood panelling.

C. Special features

1. External: This house differs in outward appearance from most Cape Cod houses in that the red cedar clapboard (modern) front and side replace the usual gray shingles which undoubtedly were there in times past.
2. Internal: Finely detailed panelling on the fireplace walls of the two front rooms are characteristic of good residential construction of the period when this house was built, which I estimate to be around 1800, or perhaps a decade or so earlier. Details of the framing also indicate construction during this period. The original double-hung windows, with their heavy plank frames and thin sash have been replaced within the past fifty years or so with modern windows, but the heavy timbered framework of the house, the slight bow to the main roof, the exterior walls planked vertically all indicate early construction of the main house. The chimney is not the original, and the stairs to the second floor replace the original stairs; otherwise, the principal parts of the main house are as originally constructed.

HSR, PT. I, CLARENCE H. ROWELL HOUSE, CAPE COD NS
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