

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 26 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**

1 NAMEHISTORIC *Beuport* (also "Little Beauport")

AND/OR COMMON

Beuport

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Eastern Point Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester *msc*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET & NUMBER

141 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02114

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex (South) Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

294 Washington Street, Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Beauport, an imaginative, whimsical dwelling containing nearly fifty rooms, was one man's creation. Begun as architect-interior decorator Henry Davis Sleeper's three-room summer cottage in 1907, Beauport was enlarged over the next twenty-five years to house his growing collections of early American objects and furnishings, both of native craftsmanship and of European origin imported to America for the colonists' use in their homes. The appearance of this estate has not been substantially altered since Sleeper's death in 1934. There was some interior redecoration by the subsequent owner, Helena Woolworth McCann, notably in the Chinese Room. However, her own particular inspiration, "This house and collection must be preserved," insured the survival of Sleeper's vision. Her heirs turned this assemblage over to its present owner, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, for preservation in 1942.

Essentially a two-story structure, Beauport rises from a granite ledge looking west over the entrance to Gloucester Harbor. From the land side, Beauport is partially concealed by a small wooded part with terraced lawns and informally laid out paths and garden areas. Stylistically, the exterior of Beauport is best described as "eclectic." A complex composition, it uses the irregular massing of the shingle style in combination with romantic borrowings of Tudor and Franco-Norman design elements. The multi-gabled, picturesque, free-flowing contours resulted from Sleeper's primary requirement that the exterior design not dictate the interior arrangement of rooms. This scheme enabled Beauport to grow in all directions for a quarter of a century while retaining a strong stylistic coherence.

The exterior walls of Beauport consist largely of irregularly alternating fieldstone and brick planes at ground level, and of brown shingles on the upper floors. Additional surface texture is present in buff-colored half-timbering set in brick and in hewn brackets and beams found mainly in the entrance courtyard. Many of the wooden corbels and carvings set in exterior niches at Beauport were salvaged after World War I from bombed-out French churches. Casement windows are used throughout and show great variety of pane and mullion arrangements. Some of the windows have buff shutters. The pointed arch is used in many windows, most noticeably in the stone tower, and Gothic-arched supports are employed in several entrance porticos.

The house is surmounted by a steep-sloping, many-gabled brown shingle roof, punctuated at irregular intervals by dormers, turrets and parapets. The numerous chimneys are tall and generally made of brick. The most fanciful of these consists of a cluster of four spiral brick shafts next to the belfry tower at the northeast corner of the entrance courtyard.

The balconied entrance courtyard, enclosed at each end by a stone tower, is the major feature of the northeast facade; the more expansive northwestern elevation of Beauport is marked by numerous windows and three balustraded piazzas at different levels, all designed to take advantage of the spectacular harbor view. The high stone foundation is visible at this point.

Although the interior of Beauport has numerous rooms, many of these are quite tiny. Cozy nooks and narrow passageways abound. The room with the grandest proportions is the Chinese room, called the China Trade room by Sleeper, which was redecorated into a formal Chinese Chippendale drawing room by Mrs. McCann. Its scenic wallpaper,

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

2

#7:

ordered from China by Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was rediscovered by Sleeper and is now one of Beauport's glories.

Many rooms at Beauport contain significant architectural elements of pre-Revolutionary origin moved from New England sites and incorporated in the structure. The original three-room core of the house contains paneling from the 1728 Choate House in Essex, Massachusetts; a pedimented doorway from Providence is in the North Gallery; dark wooden paneling from a 1673 house in Linebrook Parish (Ipswich, Massachusetts) covers the wall in the Jacobean room; and the Pine Kitchen, "Sleeper's favorite room," uses the doors from his ancestors' house in Pembroke, Massachusetts, as paneling, as well as preserving its ceiling beams and chimney. The floor boards in this room were salvaged from the Dillaway House in Boston's North End when that building was demolished in 1917.

For the most part, the walls and backgrounds of the rooms are of dark or neutral color, with brighter colors used in the accessories. Color and lighting create specific moods in each room; illusion and the element of surprise are ever-present. A sense of drama prevails, making the interior arrangement of rooms seem like a series of stage sets.

It can be said of Beauport that its collections contain the very soul of the house. Henry Sleeper's pleasure in accumulating and then arranging his wide variety of antiques, both the utilitarian and the purely decorative, is evident in the unusual and often amusing juxtapositions he created. And in the end, it is these carefully chosen furnishings which embody Sleeper's intention that Beauport record the spirit of life in early America through the means of interior design.

A partial listing of some of the outstanding collections follows: European and Chinese Export porcelain; period furniture; clocks; flags; ceramics; glass; heating stoves; hooked rugs; lighting devices; pewter; plaster medallions; quill work; scrimshaw; shipcarving; silhouettes; textiles; tin and tole ware; tools; toys; wall coverings; wood carvings; wooden ware; wrought iron.

Other buildings on the property include a garage and a shingled gatehouse with a cupola and Federal-era detail connected to one another by a brick wall, marking each corner of the street side or southeastern boundary of the original property. A brightly-painted sheet-iron Indian, once a weathervane, points to the gatehouse door. A tool shed is situated to the southwest of the garage. These three buildings, the gatehouse, garage, and tool shed, were all constructed under Sleeper's direction. In 1956 the Society added a fourth structure, a four-room caretaker's cottage, located to the immediate northwest of the garage. A sapling fence runs along the southwestern side of the yard and a high stone wall follows the north-eastern boundary. Across the street is a parcel of undeveloped land that Sleeper acquired in 1929, presently lawn and a small wood.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (interior design)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907 - c.1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Davis Sleeper

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beauport comprises an important early collection of American and European antiques housed within a unique architectural setting. Created over the first three decades of the 20th century, the property represents one of the earliest attempts in America to rescue architectural fragments and install them in new surroundings. It played a key role in the establishment of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum and of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum. Owner-architect Henry Davis Sleeper has been recognized as a genius of American interior design and his influence on taste is felt even today. Beauport became his design showcase and Sleeper enjoyed using it as a summer center for his rather Bohemian social set, which included numerous celebrated personages. At the outbreak of war in France in 1914, Sleeper and his Eastern Point neighbor and friend, A. Piatt Andrew, organized, then staffed and supplied the American Field Service, an ambulance corps working behind French front lines. For this work Sleeper was awarded the ribbon of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

Early in 1907 Sleeper purchased land and began to erect a small cottage on foundations blasted out of a ledge overlooking Gloucester Harbor. At first he called the place "Little Beauport," for the harbor itself had been termed "le Beau Port" by Samuel de Champlain when he charted it in 1606. Later that summer Sleeper acquired woodwork, windows and furniture from the about-to-be demolished Choate House, built in 1728 by William Cogswell in the nearby village of Essex. These materials were moved to Gloucester and installed in the new cottage, creating Cogswell Hall, the Central Hall and the Green Dining Room from the paneling. Thus began the imaginative scheme that Sleeper expanded over the next 25 years.

Construction on Beauport continued apace and by 1909 the house had 26 rooms. In 1911 he purchased a narrow strip of land abutting the property to the northeast, enabling him to add on the "Golden Step" Room, the Pine Kitchen and the Benjamin Franklin Room, among others. Upon his return home from Europe in 1919 he quickly established a reputation as a respected interior decorator. His commissions included neighboring houses on Eastern Point.

His work also took him to Newport, Rhode Island, and as far west as Hollywood, California, where he spent a great deal of time near the end of his life as a favorite designer of the filmmaking colony. This occupation provided him with revenue needed for new additions and antique furnishings for Beauport.

During the 1920's and 1930's the house and its contents were well publicized by articles in magazines such as Country Life, The Architect, and House Beautiful. Popular enthusiasm for America's "Colonial" past ran high at this time; however,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Blanford, William B. and Elizabeth Clay. Beauport Impressions. Boston: SPNEA, 1965.
Bohdan, Carol. "Beauport in Gloucester, Massachusetts," Antiques (March 1973).
Chamberlain, Samuel and Paul Hollister. Beauport at Gloucester. New York: Hastings House, 1951.
Garland, Joseph E. Eastern Point. Peterborough, NH: Noone House, 1971.
Certificate of Title no. 14401, registered December 21, 1942 by SPNEA: Southern Registry District of Essex County, Land Court Case no. 1498.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres
UTM REFERENCES

A 19 363740 4716530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor and Andrea K. Calfee for SPNEA

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE
February 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE
617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 3/22/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/26/96

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4.23.76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 2

#8:

Sleeper, through Beauport, was able to evince a more scholarly interest in early decorative arts. After seeing the house, Henry Francis du Pont was inspired to build "an American house" at Southampton, Long Island, the predecessor to Winterthur.¹ While planning the American Wing, experts from the Metropolitan Museum spent several weeks at Beauport.

Only a few documents relating to Beauport's construction have survived and little is known today about Henry Davis Sleeper himself. He was born about 1873 to a wealthy Boston family. His grandfather, Jacob Sleeper, was a founder of Boston University, and his father was Major J. Henry Sleeper, Commander of "Sleeper's Battery" of Civil War fame. Young Henry studied architecture at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 1890's, but returned to Boston to enter a career in publishing. Beauport intervened and he was able to begin a new career by combining his architectural training with his special talent for interior composition.

Sleeper thought of Beauport as a showplace in which to receive such illustrious visitors as King Gustave of Sweden, Eleanor Roosevelt, Isabella Stewart Gardner of Boston, and a whole array of literary, artistic and theatre personalities. Helen Hayes, Ethel Barrymore, Stephen Vincent Benet, F. Scott Fitzgerald were all entertained here. In addition, Sleeper invited the renowned interior decorators of the day, such as Elsie de Wolfe, Dorothy Draper, Hobe Erwin and others.

After Sleeper's death in 1934, the house and its collections were kept together by virtue of its purchase as an entity by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. F. McCann. Mrs. McCann proved to be a sympathetic owner who understood and shared Sleeper's vision for Beauport. In June, 1942, in accordance with Mrs. McCann's wishes, her children presented Beauport to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

¹

Joseph Downs, American Furniture, Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods, New York 1952, p. v.

Beaumont

DB# 76 000246

Property

State Mass

Working Number 4.1.76.2939

Essex

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 7

Maps 1

2 Cont. sheets

OK ^{CM} 4.2.76

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

4-5-76

Note national significance.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

Labovitch

4.7.76

Although the nomination stresses the importance of the critiques, I don't see a problem because Sleeper was important as architect/collector/interior decorator and the house + collection reflect the fashions of the time. 1955 galet house

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

very interesting

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

4/20/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Signature]

4.23.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 26 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-75)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Beauport ("Little Beauport")

AND/OR COMMON

Beauport

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Mardges Bacon DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT SPNEA, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1 of 7

Northwest (seaside) elevation.

PROPER

NPS

Titl

Loc.



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Beauport

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Gloucester

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Samuel Chamberlain

DATE OF PHOTO

1951

NEGATIVE FILED AT

SPNEA, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Northwest (seaside) elevation.

PHOTO NO

2 of 7



W
E

Admission 50c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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1 NAME

HISTORIC Beauport ("Little Beauport")

AND/OR COMMON
Beauport

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Thomas Marr DATE OF PHOTO 1943

NEGATIVE FILED AT SPNEA Library, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Southeast elevation.

PHOTO NO 3 4/7

PROPI

NPS

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347

3



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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Samuel Chamberlain DATE OF PHOTO 1951

NEGATIVE FILED AT SPNEA Library, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Interior: Pine Kitchen (Pembroke Room)

PHOTO NO

4 47



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Samuel Chamberlain DATE OF PHOTO 1951

NEGATIVE FILED AT SPNEA Library, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Interior: Chinese Room.

PHOTO NO 5 of 7



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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Unknown DATE OF PHOTO 1951

NEGATIVE FILED AT SPNEA Library, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO 647

Interior: backlight window -- Butler's Pantry off the Octagon Room.

off the Octagon Room
647



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PHOTO CREDIT Mardges Bacon

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West elevation.

PHOTO NO. 7 47

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

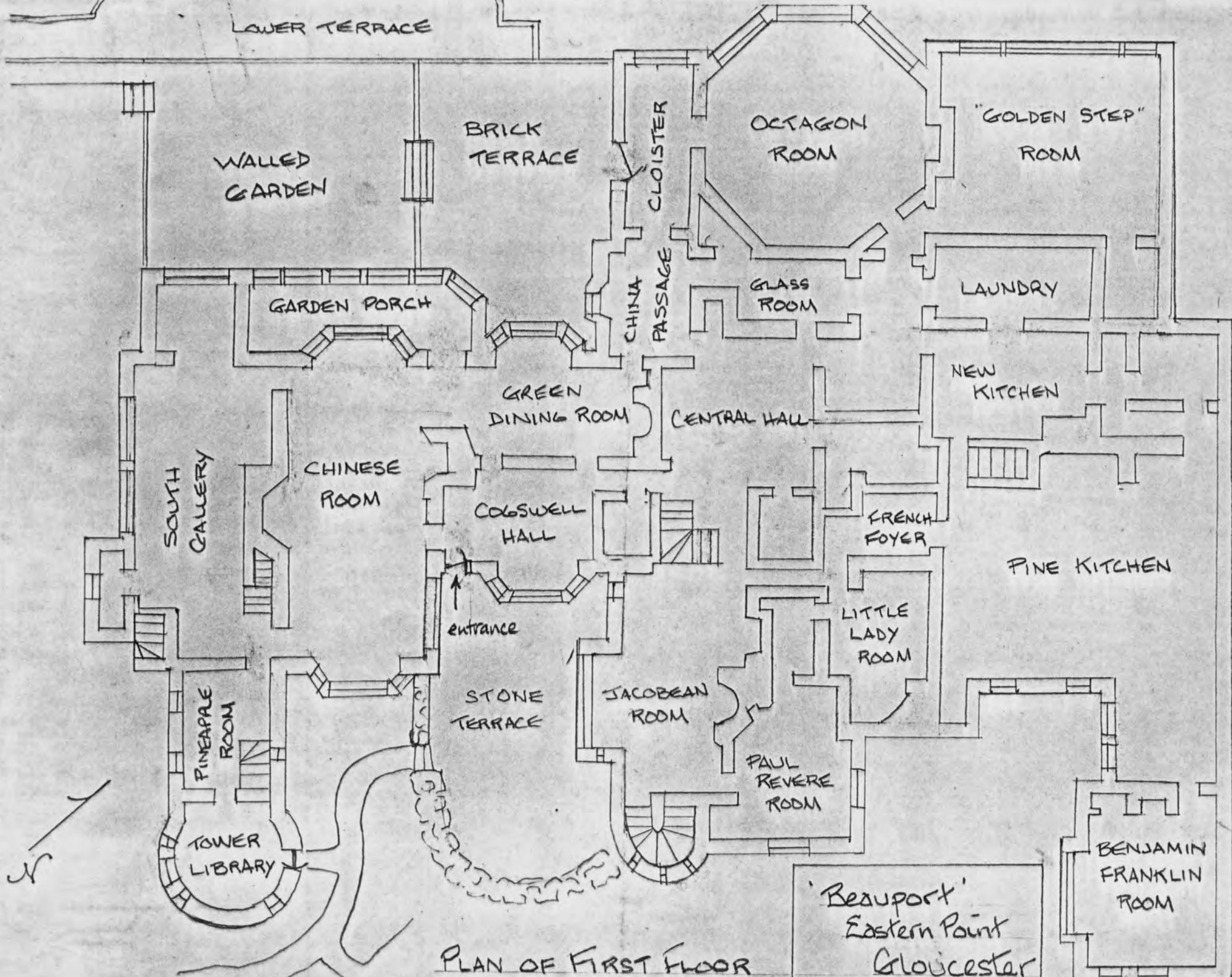
SOURCE Samuel Chamberlain and Paul Hollister, Beauport at Gloucester

SCALE not to scale DATE 1951

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR
 (NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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AND/OR COMMON
Beauport

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Andrea Calfee, draftsman

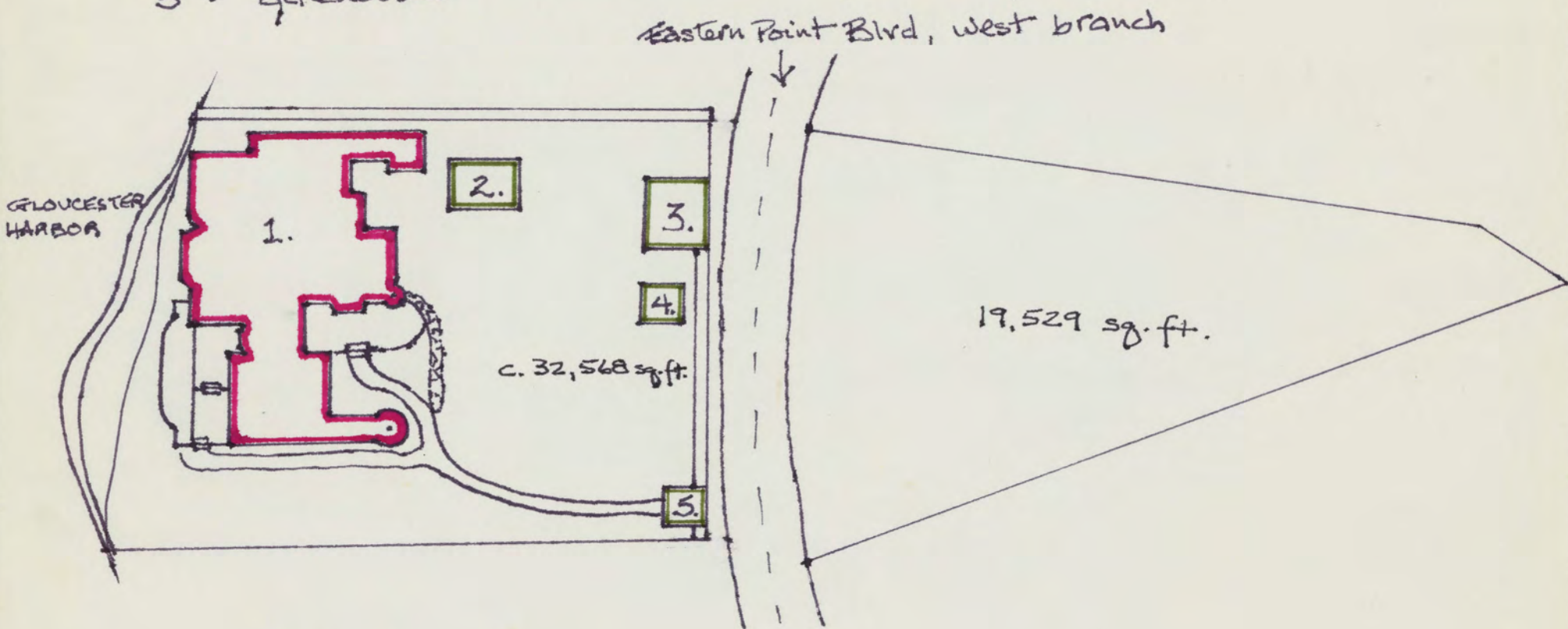
SCALE 1" = 50' DATE October 1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

- 1 - Beauport - main house
- 2 - caretakers' cottage
- 3 - garage
- 4 - toolshed
- 5 - gatehouse



SCALE 1" = 50' (BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE)

Beauport
Eastern Point
Gloucester

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Beauport

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Gloucester Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1960

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Gloucester: Beaufort
UTM Reference:
19J363740/4716530

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1960
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 243 (1959)
and 1206 (1960). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:24000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 8.6 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route
GLOUCESTER, MASS.
N4233.75—W7037.5/8x7.5
1960



~~SECRET~~

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 26 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Seaport	Gloucester Vicinity Essex County
Maple-Union Corners	Springfield Hampden County
Sanderson House and Manroa Tavern	Lexington Middlesex County
Spurr, John House	Charlton Worcester County
McKnight District	Springfield Hampden County
Burt, Elijah House	East Longmeadow Hampden County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Edward P. Boland
Hon. Paul Tsongas

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amador
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region
PR:M Mott:coc 4/29/76

Eclectic with Shingle Style, Tudor and Franco-Norman elements.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Chateausque - Tudor Franco-Norman elements

architect/m.builder: Henry Davis Sleeper = designer architect, owner

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Helena Woolworth McCann - A 1934 - B 1942 owner

events

institutional William Cogswell House - portion installed

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1907^N - 1934

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1907 - 1934

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 1.5 acres

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 story, random fieldstone, irregularly shaped, hipped roof, gable on hip, Shingle roof. Turrets, parapets, dormers. Numerous chimneys. Almost unique assemblage of rooms to make single dwelling.

See Attached

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Beaumont represents one of the earliest attempts in America to rescue architectural fragments and install them in new surroundings. It is the work of ^{owner,} designer, architect, and Legion of Honor winner, Henry Davis Sleeper.

✓
Random fieldstone, brick, shingling, half-timbering;
2 stories, irregular shape; intersecting steeply
hipped and gabled roof sections with dormers,
turrets, and parapets; numerous tall interior
chimneys, entrance courtyard, balustraded
rear terraces; Eclectic with Shingle style,

Tudor and Franco-Norman elements. Built by
designer, architect and Legion of Honor winner
Henry Davis Sleeper; represents one of the
earliest attempts in ^{U.S.} America to rescue
architectural fragments and install them in new
surroundings.

INSIDE

; 1930s; China Trade Room redecorated
into formal Chinese Chippendale by
Helena Woolworth McCann, 1930's

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **Beauport** 2 OTHER NAMES: 3 date of entry: **4-26-76** 4 county code: **009**

5 LOCATION street & number: **Eastern Point Blvd.** city / town: **Glouster** vicinity of: **Glouster** state: **MA** county: **Essex** 6 NPS REGION: **North Atlantic**

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR: **Judy D. Dolber**

9 EXISTING SURVEYS NABS NAER NHL 10 FUNDED: YES NO 11 CONGRESS DISTRICT: **6th** 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: **X** NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: **X** NO 15 ACREAGE: **1.5** if state who prepared form? **Judy D. Dolber**

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated 17 features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONMENT SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-8

18 ACCESS YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 AGRICULTURE-3 ARCHITECTURE-4 ART-5 ENGINEERING-11 ENTERTAINMENT-26 EXPLORATION-12 HEALTH-27 INDUSTRY-13 EDUCATION-10 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16 LITERATURE-17 MILITARY-18 MUSIC-19 PHILOSOPHY-20 POLITICS / GOV.-21 RELIGION-22 SCIENCE-23 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25 RECREATION-28 SETTLEMENT-29 URBAN PLANNING-31 OTHER (SPECIFY) 22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' 'oldest' 'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **House** CURRENTLY: **Museum** 24 dates of initial construction: **1907-c.1929** major alterations: **1907-c.1929** historic events: 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: **--**

26 architectural style(s): **Eclectic with Shingle and Jacobethan elements** 27 architect: **Henry Davis Sleeper** 28 master builder: **--** 29 engineer: **--**

30 landscape architect / garden designer: **--** 31 interior decorator: **Henry Davis Sleeper** 32 artist: **--** 33 artisan: **--** 34 builder/contractor: **--**

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: **Henry Davis Sleeper, noted interior designer-architect who designed and furnished the house**

EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP **Fieldstone, brick, frame, shingling; 2 1/2 stories, irregular, hipped, gabled, clipped gabled roof sections; interior exterior chimneys with clustered pots, variety of entrances and fenestration, round corner turret. With low conical roof, domed octagonal bell tower, with open belfry, small crutchwork porch; lavish 50-room interior featuring period rooms; built in stages, 1907-1929, minor alterations. Eclectic with shingle jacobethan elements.**

Designed by noted architect-interior designer Henry Davis Sleeper to house his important collections of early American objects and furnishings; represents one of the earliest attempts in ^{U.S.} America to rescue architectural fragments and install them in new surroundings.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION <i>Leave Blank</i>		a. NUMBER		3. SYSTEM APPLICATION IDENTIFIER		a. NUMBER 76060709	
1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION <small>(Mark appropriate box)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt.) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION				b. DATE Year month day 19 77 04 25				b. DATE ASSIGNED Year month day 19 76 07 20	
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT						5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 046-002-284			
a. Applicant Name : Massachusetts Historical Commission b. Organization Unit : c. Street/P.O. Box : 294 Washington Street d. City : Boston e. County : Suffolk f. State : Massachusetts g. ZIP Code : 02108 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Elizabeth Reed Amadon, S.H.P.O. (617) 727-8470						6. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog)		a. NUMBER 1 5 9 0 4 b. TITLE Historic Preservation	
7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT Essex County Beauport Development Project, Gloucester						8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT			
"Conserve the building by painting its exterior, and by replacing broken and missing sash." Source of nonfederal match is the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.						A-State H-Community Action Agency B-Interstate I-Higher Educational Institution C-Substate J-Indian Tribe D-County K-Other (Specify): E-City F-School District G-Special Purpose District Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A			
						9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE			
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.) Commonwealth of Massachusetts						11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING 5,689,170		12. TYPE OF APPLICATION	
13. PROPOSED FUNDING						14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:		15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 1st or 1st)	
a. FEDERAL \$ 5,000.00		b. APPLICANT 7,482.00		c. APPLICANT 9		b. PROJECT 6		A-Increase Dollars F-Other (Specify): B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. STATE .00		d. LOCAL .00		e. OTHER .00		f. TOTAL \$ 12,482.00		16. PROJECT START DATE Year, month day see #34	
17. PROJECT DURATION 36 Months						18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY Year month day 19 77 04 25		19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 25-77-00827-00	
20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code) National Park Service, Washington D.C. 20240								21. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT		a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, etc. in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.				b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:			
		(1) Office of State Planning				No response <input type="checkbox"/> Response attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
		(2)				<input type="checkbox"/>			
		(3)				<input type="checkbox"/>			
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE		a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE Elizabeth Reed Amadon, Exec. Dir. and S.H.P.O.				b. SIGNATURE <i>Eliz. Reed Amadon</i>			
						c. DATE SIGNED Year month day 19 77 04 25			
24. AGENCY NAME Department of the Interior								25. APPLICATION RECEIVED Year month day 19 77 5 4	
25. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT National Park Service						27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Grants Administration Div.		26. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION	
29. ADDRESS 18th & C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240								30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION 25-77-00827-00	
31. ACTION TAKEN		32. FUNDING				33. ACTION DATE Year month day 19 77 06 06			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED		a. FEDERAL \$ 5,000.00		b. APPLICANT 7,482.00		c. STATE .00		34. STARTING DATE Year month day 19 77 06 06	
<input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED		d. OTHER		f. TOTAL \$ 12,482.00		35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) (202) 523-5472		36. ENDING DATE Year month day 19 80 06 05	
<input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR								<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED									
<input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN									
33. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION						a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.			
						b. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.) same as #35			

SECTION I—APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

SECTION II—CERTIFICATION

SECTION III—FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

SECTION IV

MAY 12 1976

New
England
Newspaper

Beauport museum named historic site

Beauport on Eastern Point Boulevard was accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission this month.

State Secretary Paul Guzzi, chairman of the commission, made the announcement.

Guzzi's announcement:

"Beauport comprises an important early collection of American and European antiques housed within a unique architectural setting. Created over the first three decades of the 20th century, the property represents one of the earliest attempts in America to rescue architectural fragments and install them in new surroundings. Owner-architect Henry Davis Sleeper entertained some of the most glamorous and famous personalities at Beauport including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eleanor Roosevelt, Stephen Vincent Benet, Helen Hayes, Isabella Steward Gardner, interior decorators Elsie de Wolfe, Dorothy Draper, Hobe Erwin, the King of Sweden and many more.

"Essentially a two-story structure, Beauport rises from a granite ledge looking west over the entrance to

Gloucester harbor. From a land site, the house is partially concealed by a small wooded part with terraced lawns and informally laid out paths and garden areas. Stylistically, the exterior of Beauport is best described as "eclectic." Although the interior has numerous rooms, many of these are quite tiny. Cozy nooks and narrow passageways abound.

"The room with the grandest proportions is the Chinese room called the China Trade Room by Sleeper, which was redecorated into a formal Chinese Chippendale drawing room by Helena Woolworth McCann, who took possession of the house after Sleeper died in 1934. Its scenic wallpaper, ordered from China by Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was rediscovered by Sleeper and is now one of Beauport's glories.

"Only a few documents relating to the construction of Beauport have survived and little is known today about Henry Davis Sleeper himself. He was born about 1873 to a wealthy Boston family. His grandfather, Jacob Sleeper, was a founder of Boston University, and his father,

Major J. Henry Sleeper, commanded "Sleepers Battery" in the War Between the States. Young Henry studied architecture at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 1890s, but returned to Boston to enter a career in publishing. Beauport intervened and he was able to begin a new career by combining his architectural training with his special talent for interior composition.

"Sleeper thought of Beauport as a showplace in which to receive his illustrious visitors including foreign nobility and a whole array of literary, artistic and theatrical personalities. After seeing the house, Henry Francis du Pont was inspired to build an "American house" at Southampton, Long Island, the predecessor to Winterthur. While planning the American Wing, experts from the Metropolitan Museum spent several weeks at Beauport.

"At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Sleeper and his Eastern Point neighbor and friend, A. Platt Andrew (later a congressman), organized, then staffed and supplied the American Field Service, an ambulance corps working behind French

front lines. For this work Sleeper was awarded the ribbon of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

"The name derived from the fact that Gloucester harbor had been called 'le Beau Port' by Samuel de Champlain when he charted it in 1606. By 1909, Beauport had 26 rooms but Sleeper later added on the Golden Step Room, the Pine Kitchen and the Benjamin Franklin room. His interior decorating commissions took him to Newport, R.I., and Hollywood, Calif., and he became an idol of the Bohemian set."

"The collection inside the home includes: European and Chinese export porcelain, period furniture, clocks, flags, ceramics, glass, heating stoves, hooked rugs, lighting devices, pewter, plaster medallions, quill work, scrimshaw, shipcarving, silhouettes, textiles, tin and tole ware, tools, toys, wall coverings, wood carvings, wooden ware and wrought iron.

"Other buildings on the property include a garage and a shingled gatehouse with a cupola and Federal-era detail connected to one another by a brick wall, marking each corner of

the street side or s boundary of the original brightly painted sheet once a weathervane, gatehouse door."

After Sleeper's death house and its collection together by virtue of its an entity by Mr. and Mrs. F. McCann. Mrs. McCann



RECEIVED

MAY 19 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

... named historic site

... a land site,
... concealed by a
... with terraced
... laid out paths
... tistically, the
... best described
... in the interior
... many of these
... icks and narrow

... the grandest
... Chinese room
... ade Room by
... decorated into a
... andale drawing
... wortā McCann,
... the house after
... 4. Its scenic
... rom China by
... signer of the
... pendence, was
... per and is now
... ries.

... ents relating to
... Beauport have
... s known today
... Sleeper himself.
... 73 to a wealthy
... grandfather,
... a founder of
... and his father.

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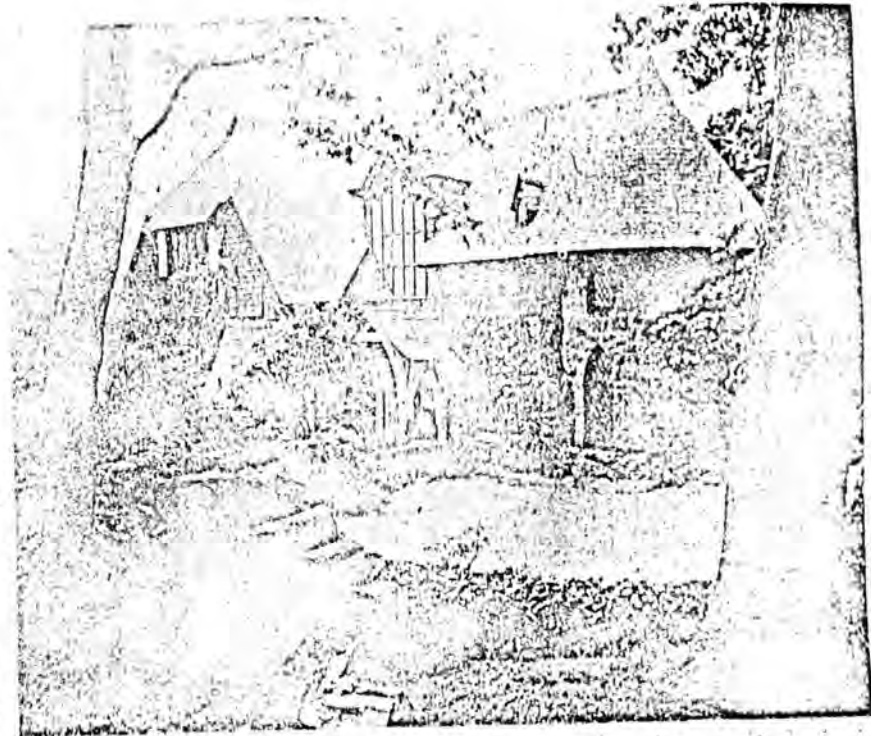
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"Other buildings on the property include a garage and a shingled gatehouse with a cupola and Federal-era detail connected to one another by a brick wall, marking each corner of



Beauport museum

the street side or southeastern boundary of the original property. A brightly painted sheet-iron Indian, once a weathervane, points to the gatehouse door."

After Sleeper's death in 1934, the house and its collections were kept together by virtue of its purchase as an entity by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. F. McCann. Mrs. McCann understood

and shared Sleeper's vision for Beauport. In June, 1942, in accordance with Mrs. McCann's wishes, her children presented Beauport to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Beauport may be the only home in America to grow from an original three-room summer cottage to a dwelling containing nearly 50 rooms.

Beaumont

(Resource Name)

Essex

(County)

76000246/03000641

(Reference Number[s])

MA

(State)

04 / 06 / 2016

(Date form completed)

WACL

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING 2. REMOVED/DEMOLISHED 3. NHL 4. TR 5. MRA 6. OVER-SIZED 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION 9. RESTRICTED

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Removed)

3. Beaumont (NHL Ref: 03000641)
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

05 / 27 / 2003
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

_____/_____/_____
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Found/Replaced)