

PH0005801 HS No 474

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Dorset BARNSTABLE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
French Cable Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION Congressional District 12

STREET AND NUMBER:
corner Cove Road and Route 28 (southeast corner)

CITY OR TOWN:
Orleans

STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Barnstable	CODE 001
------------------------	-------------	-----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
French Cable Station in Orleans, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
corner Cove Road and Route 28 (southeast corner)

CITY OR TOWN:
Orleans

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Barnstable County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Barnstable

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Archives Museum, Statehouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.	COUNTY: Barnstable	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The French Cable Station in Orleans appears to be a typical small house of the late nineteenth century. The 1½ story building is frame covered with clapboard on a brick foundation. The main portion of the building was constructed in 1891; at a later date, a one-bay ell with a pitched roof was added to the south side of the building. The gable end of the building faces west toward the street and forms the main facade. On this facade, the double-doored entrance is centered beneath the wide gable. In the gable, the cornices are boxed with returns. One story bay windows with 2/2 sashes are located on either side of the double door. Each of the bays and the entrance carry a wide blank frieze and a cornice similar in design to that in the gable.

The floor plan of the cable station is that of a center hall with three small rooms opening off it on the left (north) side. These rooms housed the equipment necessary for the operation of the station, including the "Wheatstone Bridge" and the "Artificial Line", and the repair shop. The added ell and most of the original building to the right (south) of the door form the large transmitting room, behind which is a small office. The cables enter the building through the rear (east) wall of the basement and feed through the floor to the transmitting room.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1891, 1897

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The French Cable Station in Orleans is one of the most remarkably complete historical documents to come to light in Massachusetts for some time. This building, which appears to be a typical small house of the late nineteenth century, was the American terminus of the first direct Atlantic cable. Inside is much of the original equipment and some of the company's records, exactly as they were left when the station was closed down.

The first French cable to America was completed by La Compagnie Française du Télégraphe de Paris à New York in 1879. The line ran from Brest, France, by way of St. Pierre (an island off the southern coast of Newfoundland) to Eastham, Massachusetts. Because of the isolation of the Eastham Station and of difficulty in keeping it supplied and staffed for 24-hour daily service, it was decided to move the cable terminus to Orleans. By 1891, the new building had been constructed, all equipment had been transferred from Eastham and full operations were being carried on from the Orleans station.

In 1895, La Compagnie du Télégraphe merged with La Participation des Câbles des Antilles (operating in the Caribbean) to form La Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques. The new company embarked on an expansion program and, in 1897, began work on the first direct Atlantic cable. This was also the world's longest cable, running 3173 nautical miles, from Brest to Orleans. This line was extended from Orleans to New York (324 nautical miles) in 1898.

Messages were received at the station in French and translated by the Orleans operators before being relayed. The French cables were originally operated with manual keying and handcopying at relay points and terminals but the processes later were mechanized. The test room at the Orleans station operated with a "Wheatstone Bridge," an apparatus designed to locate breaks in the cable by measuring the resistance to outgoing signals. Another room at the station housed the "Artificial Line" which duplexed the direct cable. By duplicating the resistance, capacity and other electrical characteristics of the cable, this equipment made it possible simultaneously to send and receive signals on the same line. Both the "Wheatstone Bridge" and the "Artificial Line" remain in place.

A number of major news items reached America through the French Cable Station, among them the wreck of the Portland in 1898, the sinking of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnard, R. L. "The Orleans Cable Station." Orleans, 1971

Curry, Field. "Synopsis of French Atlantic Cable History." Washington, 1971.

Notes prepared by James Wilson, last superintendent of the French Cable Station.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 : "	0 : "		41° 47' 16"	70° 59' 17"	
NE	0 : "	0 : "				
SE	0 : "	0 : "				
SW	0 : "	0 : "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 2/28/72

STREET AND NUMBER: Archives Museum, Statehouse

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 Title: John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth,
Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: March 2, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert G. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/72

ATTEST:
William H. Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 1 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Barnstable	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1972

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Lusitania and Lindbergh's safe arrival in Paris. During the 1938 hurricane, when Cape Cod was cut off from all other means of communication, the French cable proved invaluable. The cable system was inactive during the German occupation of France in World War II and was abandoned completely in 1959.

A group of interested citizens has now purchased the station and is negotiating for the return of the equipment removed when it was closed. This group, assisted by the staff of the Smithsonian Institution, is making plans to restore the building and reopen it as the French Cable Station Museum.



PROPERTY

French Cable

Barnstable

STATE

MASS

DATE OF RECEIPT

3/16/72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

STATION

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

3/16/72

RESUBMIT



REVIEW

*Tech de 9-22-71 jlj
good photo for publication*

*OK Means
3/24/72*

HISTORIAN

*Subs
3/28/72*

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

Most interesting!

*OK Chabry
3-29-72*

ASST. KEEPER

*OK Muller
3/31/72*

KEEPER

OK [initials]

WRITER/EDITOR

*OK Marusio
3/30/72*

DIRECTOR, OAHP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry

5-2-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

APR 11 1972

Card

APR 11 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

3.16.72.382

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:



Orleans, Mass.

French Cable Station

? Rte 28 near Rte 6 (per RWH)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Barnstable	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1972	DATE

NPS Number

Title:

Log. X

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: French Cable Station			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: corner Cove Road and Route 28 (southeast corner)			
CITY OR TOWN: Orleans			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Barnstable	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: William H. Pierson			
DATE OF PHOTO: November, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: William H. Pierson, 50 South Street, Williamstown, Massachusetts, 01267			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. west (front) and south facades			

STER



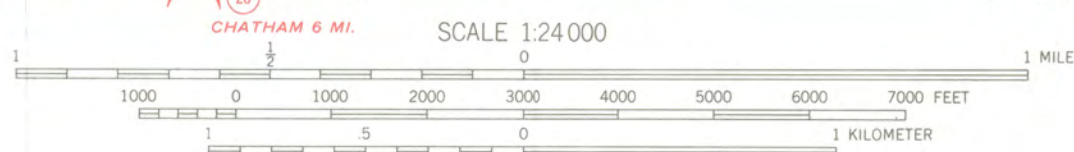
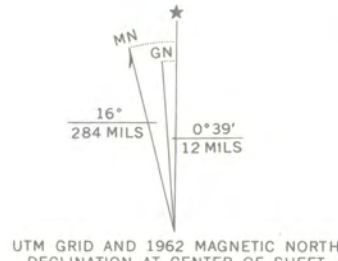
WITHOUT PERMISSION

WITH PERMISSION



19/417 910
4624 470
60

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised 1962
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 270 (1962),
581 (1960), and 1208 (1959). 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
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works



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 10 FEET IN
CAPE COD BAY AND 6 FEET IN ATLANTIC OCEAN

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

ORLEANS, MASS.
N4145—W6955/7.5

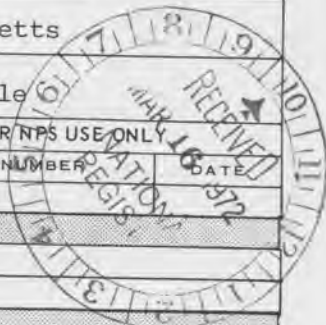
1962

AMS 6967 1 SE—SERIES V814

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Massachusetts
COUNTY	Barnstable
FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATE
ENTRY NUMBER	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: French Cable Station
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
corner Cove Road and Route 28 (southeast corner)
CITY OR TOWN:
Orleans

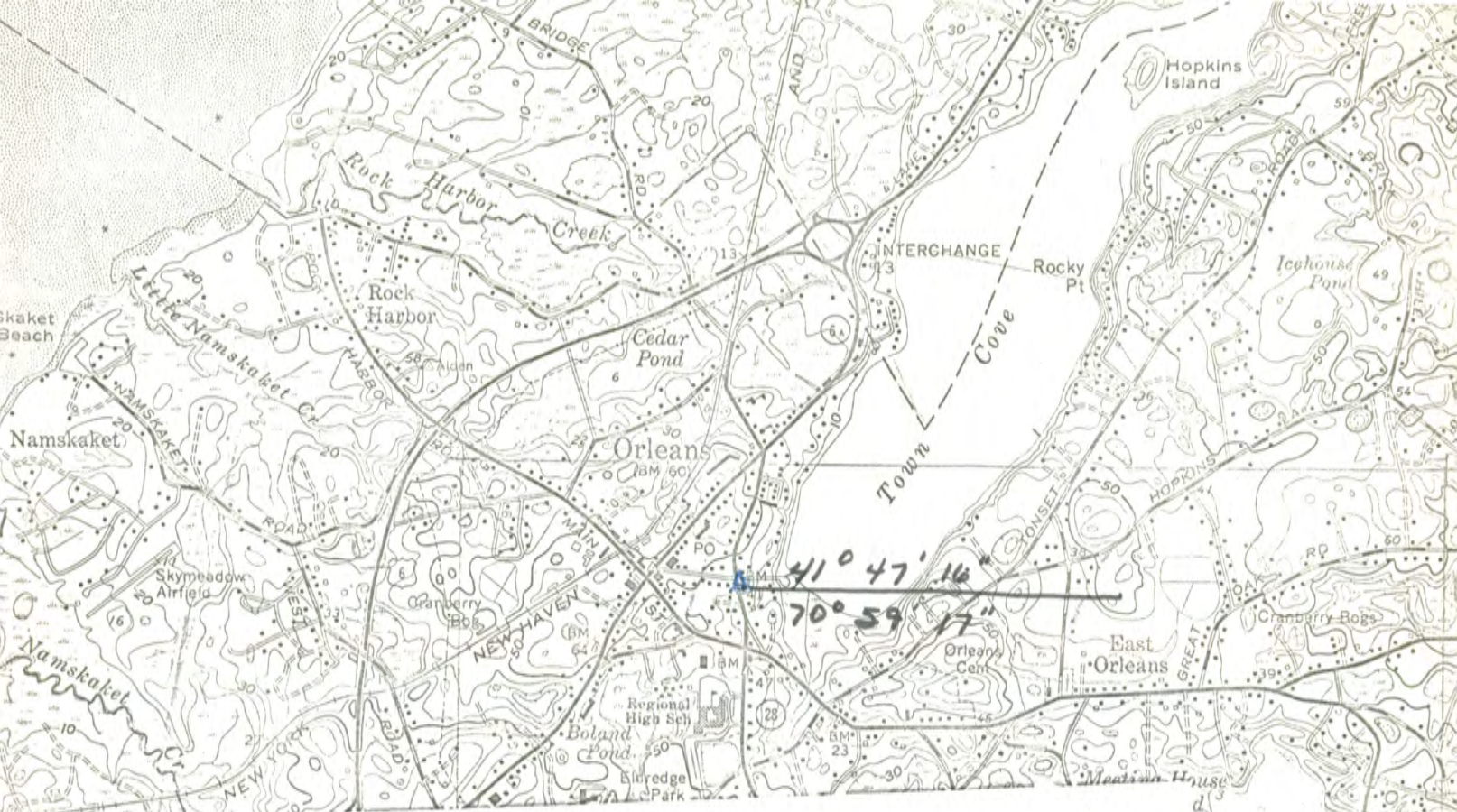
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Barnstable	001

3. MAP REFERENCE

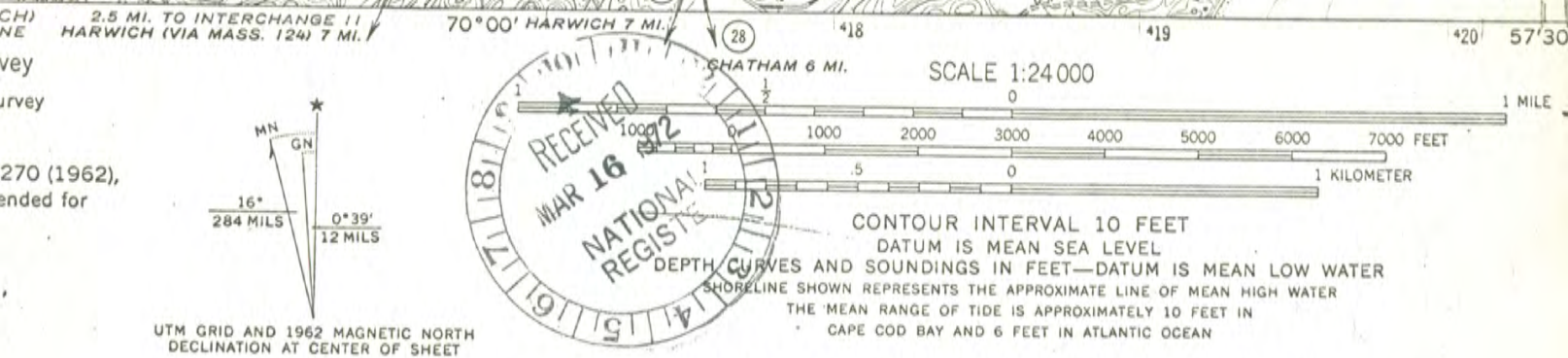
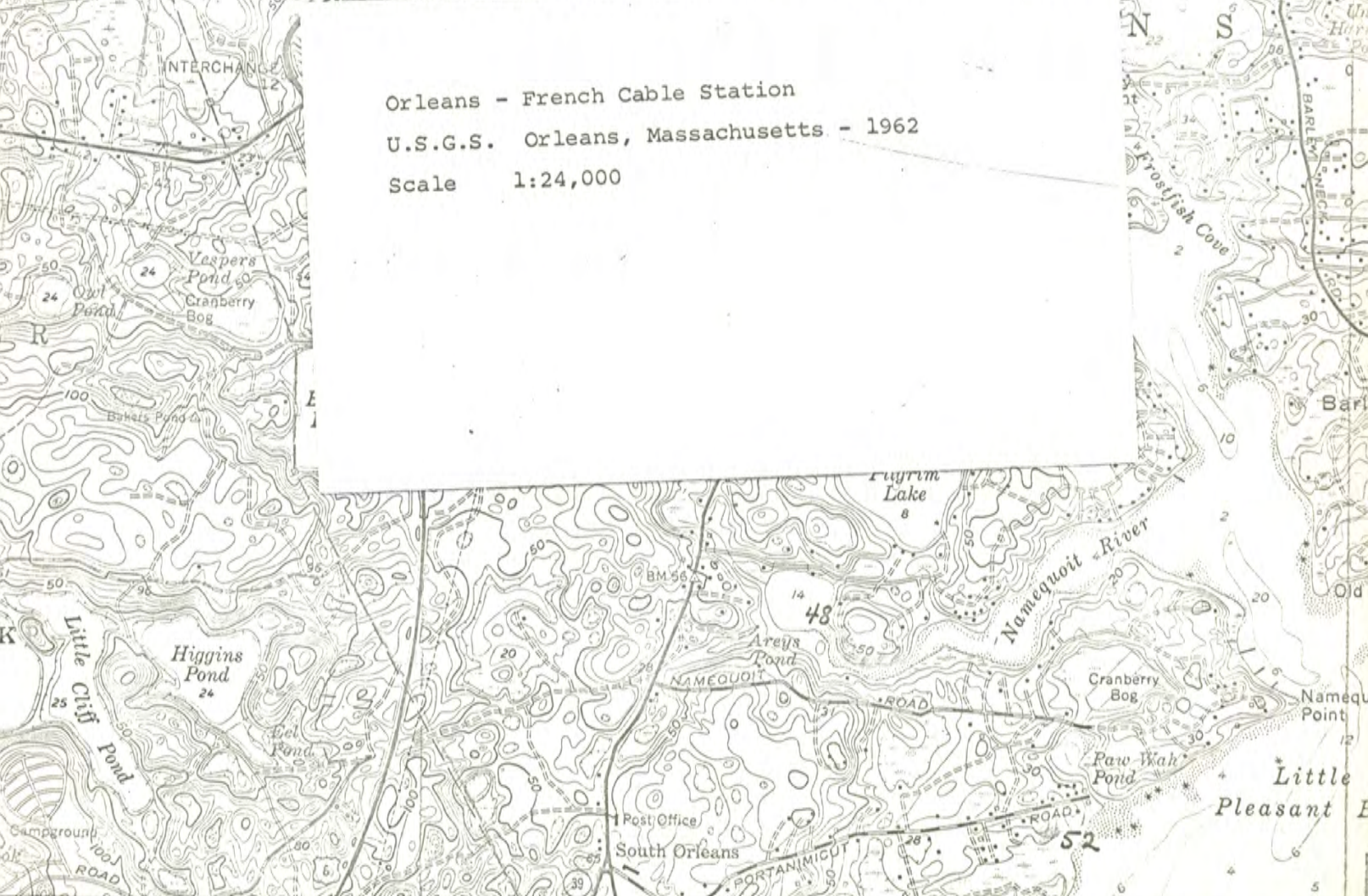
SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. Orkeans, Massachusetts
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1962

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



Orleans - French Cable Station
 U.S.G.S. Orleans, Massachusetts - 1962
 Scale 1:24,000



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





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

March 6, 1972

Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
National Park Service
801 Nineteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

CERTIFIED MAIL



Attention: Miss Mary Means

Enclosed is a National Register submission for:

1. French Cable Station, Orleans, Massachusetts

It has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/akc
enclosures

*It may deserve a grant
and I'd appreciate moderate
speed in processing.*

MAR 28 1975

H34PC

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service

Through: Federal Representative to the National Register,
Department of the Interior

From: Federal Representative, National Park Service

Subject: Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places

The following listed nominations from Cape Cod National Seashore, National Park Service, are submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in compliance with Executive Order No. 11593:

1. Edward Penniman House and Barn
2. Old Harbor Coast Guard Station
3. Captain Samuel Rider House
4. High and House
5. Jedediah Higgins House
6. Highland Golf Course
7. Atwood-Higgins House
8. French Cable Hut
9. Marconi Site

Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley

Enclosures

cc: FW - Mr. Wheeler
Director's Reading File
FR - Mrs. Matt
PC - Mr. Meek
PC
PP

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PC
LCS Files

FNP: CO Meek:sg 3 27 75

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 11 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
North Easton Railroad Station	North Easton Bristol County
Pilgrim Hall	Plymouth Plymouth County
Rocky Hill Meetinghouse and Parsonage	Amesbury Essex County
French Cable Station	Orleans Barnstable County
Isaac Davis Trail	Acton, Concord Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Hon. Hastings Keith
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

4/5/72

HR
NRowland:mm