

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 8 1978

DATE ENTERED

SEP 1 1978

D 8 # 78 000 466

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Jethro Wheeler House

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Castle (preferred) (Wheeler House)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

N of Rockport on MA 127

Castle Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rockport vic.

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th Massachusetts

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Village Improvement Society of Pigeon Cove ✓

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Castle Lane

CITY, TOWN

Rockport

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01966

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1972

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Castle occupies a high promontory and faces Pigeon Cove across its long lawn. The shingled 2½ story "saltbox" has a center chimney, an asphalt shingled roof and is two bays deep. Fenestration throughout is 6/6.

A pronounced second story overhang and simple box cornice, each set upon fenestration lintels, accent the five bay wide facade which faces southeast towards the Atlantic Ocean. The end bays are paired and frame the wider central bay. On the ground floor of this bay is an off-center entry. On the eastern end of the facade is a basement backhead.

The second story overhang continues for two bays on the east elevation. The lean-to is a single bay deep. The west elevation has a single bay on all three levels. The slope of the lean-to shed roof is less than the original roof creating the house's unique section.

The Old Castle is believed to have been built about 1715. Chamfered framing, low ceilings and bricks laid in clay suggest the house represents holdovers of 17th century building practices.

The two room plan house was extensively restored in 1929 under the direction of Thomas Williams when it was acquired by the Pigeon Cove Village Improvement Society. The restoration included removing later interior partitions, laying new floors in some rooms, removing and patching plaster and replacing window sashes.

The kitchen lean-to is believed to have been built in 1792. A portion removed earlier was rebuilt in 1892.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c1715

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jethro Wheeler

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Castle is significant for its architecture and historical associations. The house is believed to have been built after Jethro Wheeler purchased the property from Joshua Norwood in 1712. Six successive generations of Wheelers occupied the house. The farm was subdivided in 1810 but Wheelers owned partial interest in the house until 1893 when it was purchased by Henry L. Story, a prominent Rockport resident.

Mrs. Abbie F. Story was the founder of the Pigeon Cove Village Improvement Society in 1889. In 1929, after the death of their parents, the Story children presented the house to the Society.

The house has always stood apart as a prominent landmark, particularly from the seaward side. Its name is derived from its appearance to sailors rounding the tip of Cape Ann.

The house is now maintained by the Village Improvement Society as a meeting place and as a museum open to the public during the summer months.

The intent of the 1929 restoration was not to restore the house to any particular period but to represent various phases of its building history.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chamberlain & Williams, The Old Castle, Pigeon Cove:1939

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>366830</u>	<u>4725960</u>
	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert L. Dixon, President

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor & Pigeon Cove Village Improvement Society

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 23, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

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

1/3/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9.1.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Chamberlain & Williams*

DATE

9.1.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

*The Old Castle*

*Essex*

State

*Mass.*

Working Number

*3.8.78.2646*

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1

Maps 1

*Heavy restoration*

**CONTROL**

*OK 3.8.78*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept  
W.P. Luce  
5/15/78*

*1929 "restoration"*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*accept  
Braham  
4.25.78*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*even as 1929 restoration reflecting  
early 20thC reviews of late 17th/early 18thC  
architecture it would have significant  
architectural sign.*

*Accept  
Lovich  
8/30/78*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*am  
9/1/78*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered SEP 1 1978

Federal Register Entry 10-3-78

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



4  
7  
10  
13  
5  
The Old Castle

Rockport, MA.

Essex County

SEP 1 1978

1977

Robert L. Dixon

50 Granite St.

Rockport, MA. 01966

MAR 8 1978

Photo #181

Looking north towards the facade (south elev.)

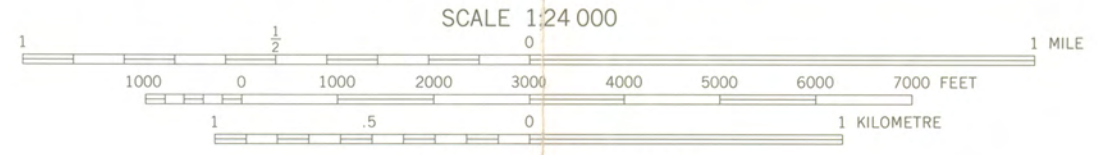
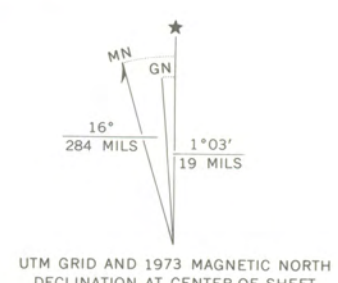
Front and west side elevations  
and grounds of Old Castle.  
Neighboring buildings not ours.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Old Castle  
Rockport, MA.  
UTM Reference:  
19/366830/4725960

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942. Revised  
from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS  
243 (1973) and 1206 (1972). 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-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROCKPORT, MASS.  
N4235—W7031/7.5

1973

AMS 6869 II NE—SERIES V814

SEP 1 1978

*U.S. Historical Survey Map*



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Secretary of the  
Commonwealth

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-8470

March 1, 1978

Mr. Charles Herrington, Registrar  
Registration Branch  
Office of Archeology and Historic  
Preservation  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find 3 National Register nomination forms:

1. Natick, Jenison House
2. Rockport, The Old Castle
3. Salem, Chestnut Street Addition

All of the above have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski  
Survey Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/ed  
enc.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP 1 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Old Castle (Wheeler House)	Rockport vicinity Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Michael J. Harrington

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Old Castle (Wheeler House)		② OTHER NAMES: Wheeler, Jethro, House		③ date of entry: SEP 1 1978	④ county code: 09
⑤ LOCATION street & number N of Rockport on MA 127, Castle Lane		city / town Rockport	vicinity of Rockport	state MA	county Essex
⑦ OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)				⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: SHPO staff	
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL		⑩ FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 6th	⑫ SOURCE OF NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑮ ACREAGE if state who prepared form? <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑯ CONDITION		⑰ features:		⑱ CLAIMS: explain	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> excavated <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> unknown		INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9		<input type="checkbox"/> 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only'	
⑲ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		⑳ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		㉑ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :		㉓ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS / GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____		㉕ architectural style(s): ㉖ architect: ㉗ master builder: ㉘ engineer:		㉙ landscape architect / garden designer: ㉚ interior decorator: ㉛ artist: ㉜ artisan: ㉝ builder/contractor:	
㉞ NAMES give role & date					
PERSONAL:					
EVENTS:					
INSTITUTIONAL:					
㉞ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					