1. NAME

COMMON:

2. LOCATION

STATE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

District

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

4. AGENCY

Entertainment

CITY OR TOWN:

Courthouse STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

CITY OR TOWN:

STREET AND NUMBER:

Barnstable

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

None: Existence of hut recognized in 1962

Federal

Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

North Eastham

Massachusetts

CATEGORY

(Check One)

Object

Building

Structure

National Park Service REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

North Atlantic Region

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

CITY OR TOWN:

Same

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Junction of Cable Road and Ocean View Drive

Public

Private

X Both

Government

🔲 Industrial

Military

Museum

Public Acquisition:

Private Residence

Religious

Scientific

OWNERSHIP

STATE:

French Cable Hut

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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 2 2 19/6	

(Number all entries)

7. Description (additional information):

The French Cable Hut is situated today a few yards south of Nauset Lighthouse, North Eastham, and about 50 yards west of the Nauset cliffs overlooking the Atlantic. The original hut was a one-room, $14' \times 12'$, one-story high structure, with about a 5" pitch gable roof.

Externally, the hut has shingled sides weathering brown in color, which probably signifies that they are of red cedar. There has been an addition of tow bedrooms and a small bath on the west side and a kitchen to the north, changing the original hut's roof line on the rear or west side. It still has the 5" pitch gable roof but the rear or west side slopes from the ridgepole closer to ground "salt box" style.

The original room (east and south) has tongue and groove boarding, stained grey running horizontally on ceiling and side walls. Pencilled on the walls are names and dates. One was Upham, Oct. 1907 (Superintendent of the Orleans Station); also a drawing (circuitry) with the words "anti-hum" pencilled above. The cables entered the hut in the northeast corner of the room. The floor boards now are of soft pine, random width. The addition has oak flooring and vertical siding stained and varnished.

The structure is on a cement foundation, perhaps done at the time of the addition of rooms to the original hut.



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French Cable Museum, and this N. Eastham hut is a direct link with the fine museum to the south.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY	_
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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance (additional information):

By 1875, there were seven transatlantic telegraph cables -- 5 to Newfoundland and 2 to the United States (1869 - Duxbury, Massachusetts; 1875 - Rye Beach, New Hampshire). In 1879, the French Cable Comayny laid a cable from Brest, France, to St. Pierre, Miquelson, and on to North Eastham, Massachusetts. A station was built, and Cape Cod was linked to Europe.

Due to the isolation of the North Eastham area at that time, a new station was built in Orleans in 1891. To accomplish this, one of the outbuildings of the old station was used as a "Cable Hut" to serve as a connecting point between the transatlantic cable and the Orleans station. A new cable was laid underground from the hut to Nauset Beach, and thence underwater through Town Cove to the new station. This arrangement continued even after a direct cable was laid from Brest to Orleans in 1899. Thus, Orleans had two cables feeding it for several years.

The Brest-St. Pierre-North Eastham cable was abandoned in 1932. Today the only evidences of its existence are the cables peering out of the cliff at Nauset Light Beach, and the Cable Hut itself, with the old cables' ends under the floor boards.

The French Cable preceded Marconi's wireless station on Cape Cod (1903) by some 24 years, and performed a valuable service in communications both before and after the wireless. The hut itself is a big part of the early story of the Cable on Cape Cod.

