

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

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)

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Barnstable
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 22 1978

1. NAME

COMMON:

****** French Cable Hut No. 32-91 (Cape Cod NS)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Junction of Cable Road and Ocean View Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

North Eastham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

12th

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

25

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 type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Former owner
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		Summer beach has 2-year
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		cottage lease.

4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

North Atlantic Region

STREET AND NUMBER:

150 Causeway Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Barnstable

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

001

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None: Existence of hut recognized in 1962

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal

State

County

Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The little French Cable Hut, a few yards south of Nauset Lighthouse, and less than a hundred yards west of the Nauset cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, is a simple shed structure, wooden planking with grayish wood panelling inside. The front portion (East side) is original--the back and kitchen area later additions to provide room for its owners as a beach cottage.

Externally, the hut has traditional Cape shingled sides. It has an asphalt shingle roof.

The front half, inside, has its original wooden walls and panels with inscribed and pencilled names and dates written by Cable personnel. Cable schematics (circuitry) also occupy wall space. The old cables' ends are immediately under the floor of the hut.

junction point where cable changed from ocean to land.

This hut was a ~~relay station~~ utilized by the French Cable Co. from 1891 after the station's equipment was moved to the new building at Orleans, Mass., the line connecting the latter through the hut to St. Pierre, Miquelon. This cable line was abandoned in 1932.

(The original large French Cable station building near this hut burned years ago). *c. 1890*

Significance--3rd Order

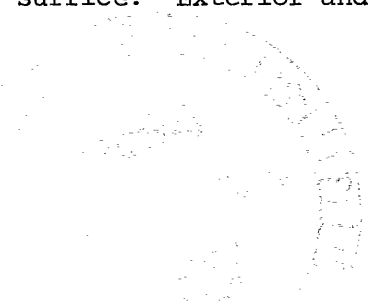
Acreage: 1 acre

Long. and Lat.: See Section 10

Recommended Treatment: Former owner has a two year lease. A decision as to restoration to its original appearance will be made after the NPS assumes control.

The removal of existing modern features will probably suffice: Exterior and Interior: \$2500.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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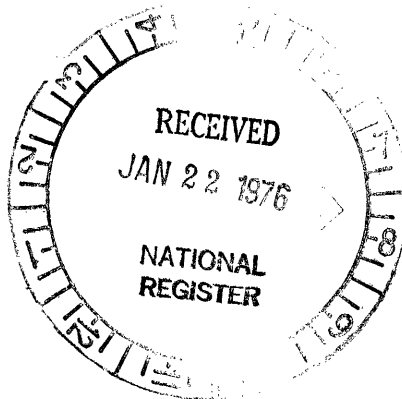
7. Description (additional information):

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' x 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 two 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.



B. 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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1869, the French Atlantic Cable Company laid a telegraph cable from Brest, France, to St. Pierre, Miquelon, and on to Duxbury, Mass., the first time an Atlantic cable reached U.S. shores. Cyrus Field's Anglo-American telegraph Company absorbed this French Company in 1873.

A second French Company laid a cable in 1879 from Brest via St. Pierre to a new North Eastham, Mass. station on this spot (or in this immediate area). This hut, all that remains of the old station, was presumably built about 1891.

Due to isolation of the North Eastham Station, the Station's facilities (but not the big building) were moved to Orleans, Mass. in 1891 and operated until 1959. However, the St. Pierre cable, which ran through this hut to Orleans, was abandoned in 1932. Old pieces of this cable may be seen on the cliff side (Ocean side) today, and ends of the cable still lie under the floor of the hut.

This small cottage, now NPS property, will be a valuable adjunct to interpretive use in the area which contains other historical elements (lighthouses and USCG activities) besides the cable.

Preceding Marconi's wireless station on Cape Cod (1903) by some 24 years, the French Cable performed a valuable service in communications, both before and after wireless. The French Station in Orleans is now the French Cable Museum, and this N. Eastham hut is a direct link with the fine museum to the south.

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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 Company laid a cable from Brest, France, to St. Pierre, Miquelon, 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.

