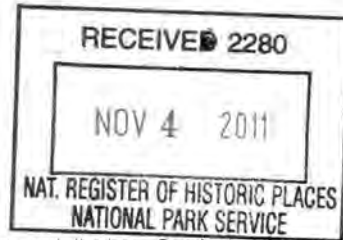


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter for Not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BARN HOUSE

other names/site number Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House

2. Location

street & number 451 South Road not for publication

city or town Chilmark vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Dukes code 007 zip code 02535

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Brona Simon 10/27/11
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12-15-11

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	2	buildings
0	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
12	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single, multiple dwellings
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

Materials

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: shingle
roof WOOD: shingle
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 7 Page 1

Description:

Barn House, also known as the Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House, is a 43-acre property on South Road in Chilmark, Massachusetts, that includes a small, shingled former farmhouse dating from ca. 1690, a barn dating from ca. 1786, and several small cabins from the first part of the 20th century. The land is partly wooded and partly open fields, with a small brook running through it. Fieldstone walls mark the property line in front of the house and along the east side, with other stone walls forming a livestock enclosure east of the house, and another smaller enclosure adjacent to the barn. Chilmark, a mostly rural town on the western side of the island of Martha's Vineyard, between Aquinnah (Gay Head) and West Tisbury, stretches from Vineyard Sound on the north to the Atlantic Ocean on the south. South Road parallels the bluff on the Atlantic side, passing through woods, fields, and pastures with grazing sheep.

The former **farmhouse** (Photographs 1 and 2) is a 1½-story, post-and-beam framed dwelling with a shingled exterior. The house has its broad side parallel to the road and faces south. It measures 40 feet by 28 feet in plan, with a rear ell extending another 44 feet to the north (Photographs 3 and 4). The south elevation is five bays wide, with two windows flanking a center entry. Beneath the shingled siding, the walls are "plank-framed," that is, made of vertical planks rather than boards on studs. There are three small, gable-roofed dormers spaced across the front or south slope of the wood-shingled gable roof, and two on the rear (north) slope. Windows generally have 6/6sash. Both the windows and the dormers are from early 20th-century renovations. The house rests on a fieldstone foundation, and has a partial cellar accessed by a hatchway on the east side. There are no chimneys in the main part of the house; the large center chimney, evidence of which remains in the crawlspace below the house¹, was removed in the 19th century.

The interior of the house reveals an unusual structural feature, the use of a pair of parallel summers to subdivide the joist spans in each of the two front rooms (Photographs 5 and 6). A slight difference in the dimensions of the two rooms led architectural historian Jonathan F. Scott to speculate that the house had been built in two phases, with the west part of the house being added not long after the earlier east part. In addition to the use of the double summers in both parts of the house, the splayed corner posts and other structural members, all of which are enclosed in plain board casings, are of similar dimension in both parts. Interior finishes throughout the house consist of wide-board floors, simple window and door surrounds, and plaster walls and ceilings.

The north or rear room of the house, typically used as the kitchen in 17th- and 18th-century houses, is now open as one large room. The area formerly occupied by the center chimney accommodates closets and stairs to the second level. The ell is currently used to house the kitchen and a large storage area, with a screened-in porch along the west side.

(continued)

¹The house was examined in detail in the 1980s by Jonathan F. Scott and included in his University of Minnesota Ph.D. dissertation on the early Colonial houses of Martha's Vineyard. This description relies on his analysis of features that are no longer readily visible.

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 7 Page 2

The Barn House property was formerly part of a farmstead. The main part of the present **barn**, which, according to Scott, was erected in 1786 using materials salvaged from the old Chilmark meetinghouse, is a three-bay English barn with wide center openings on both the north and south broad sides, to which was added an additional bay at the east end (Photographs 7 and 8). The barn is 44 feet by 24 feet in plan. Hewn structural members, visible on the interior, including large shouldered corner posts, support an 18th-century date for the building (Photographs 9 and 10). Some of the crossbeams have been replaced and other members have been sistered with modern timbers, but much remains of the original framing. The wood-shingled roof is laid on wide sheathing boards that are in turn supported on longitudinal purlins. An additional bay to the west appears to date from the middle of the 19th century, judging from its up-and-down sawn framing members: its roof is framed using the common-rafter system. A long, low, open shed, 16 feet by 59 feet in plan, has now been enclosed and appended. A shed-roofed one-story addition, probably originally a ca. 1900 milk room, appears along the west elevation, and measures 10 feet by 24 feet in plan. Most of the barn is built at grade on a low fieldstone foundation, but there is some cellar storage accessible at the west end, where the grade drops off.

The other building surviving from Barn House's days as a working farm is a small, gable-roofed **shed** on a fieldstone foundation (Photograph 11). Its sawn post-and-beam framing indicates a mid 19th-century date. It was built (or assembled from other components) in three stages and measures eight feet by 29 feet in plan. At the time of the property's purchase by Chilmark Associates, the building was in use as a chicken coop. It is also known as the Robinson Coop, after its first occupants, Boardman and Sally Robinson. The house, barn and shed are counted as three contributing buildings.

The agricultural origins of the property are still evident in the high fieldstone **walls** that run along the south and east property lines and form a small enclosure just to the east of the house (Photographs 1 and 17). The land to the north of the house and barn is maintained as an open field, and much of the land west of the house is also kept open. The stone-wall system is counted as a single contributing structure. Also counted as a contributing structure is a small stone-slab **culvert** west of the house, where a former farm road crosses a small brook (Photograph 18). As is the case with stone walls, this method of building culverts, using stone slabs set on low stone walls paralleling the brook, is a vernacular technique that goes back to the Colonial period, but cannot be definitively dated.

In 1919 the property, then known as the Vincent Farm, was purchased by Chilmark Associates for a communal summer residence, a use that continues to the present. The barn was adapted for a common dining area and social center. A number of small, one-story frame cabins were added north of the barn and west of the house. The cabins, which are also referred to as "coops," generally have gable roofs, and are supported on timber or concrete-block piers. The cabins do not have individual plumbing or cooking facilities, and the interior walls are unfinished.

(continued)

Buildings added by the association include the following:

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
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Besse Cabin (Photograph 12), 1920, wood-shingled roof and exterior, exposed rafter ends, 9 feet by 22 feet in plan with a nine-feet by 15-feet ell.

Warren Cabin, 1920, wood-shingled roof and exterior, exposed rafter ends, 9 feet by 22 feet in plan with a nine-feet by 15-feet ell (a mirror image of Besse Cabin, above).

King Cabin (Photograph 13), 1920, wood-shingled roof and exterior, 9 feet by 22 feet in plan.

DK Cabin, 1920, wood-shingled roof and exterior, exposed rafter ends, brick fireplace and exterior chimney, 12 feet by 18 feet in plan.

Hilltop Cabin (Photograph 14), 1938, shed roof with braces supporting the south overhang on the main part and a gable roof on the ell; wood-shingled roof and exterior. The main part measures 14 feet by 28 feet in plan, with a 10-feet by 18-feet ell extending from the northeast corner. Fireplace and chimney built along the northwest wall.

Pitkin Cabin (Photograph 15), 1958, wood-shingled roof and exterior, 12 feet by 25 feet in plan; fireplace and chimney at the southwest end.

Lamson Cabin, 1959 (using in part an older cabin moved to the present location), wood-shingled exterior, 20 feet by 31 feet in plan.

The above seven cabins, all of which were built during the property's period of significance, are counted as contributing buildings.

Bath House (Photograph 16), 1995, intersecting gable roof, showers in small side wings open to the sky, wood-shingled roof and exterior. Overall, the building measures 21 feet by 18 feet in plan.

Doyle Cabin, 2001, L-shaped plan, 12 feet by 34 feet north-south, 12 feet by 30 feet east-west; wood-shingled roof and exterior, exposed rafter ends.

The two buildings above are counted as noncontributing because the dates of construction lie outside the period of significance. A tennis court enclosed by a high chain-link fence (Photograph 19), built in 1996, is counted as a noncontributing structure.

(continued)

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

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The present septic system was installed in 1995. Prior to the construction of the bath house, the farmhouse and a few of the later cabins had indoor toilet facilities, and almost of the cabins have running water and sinks supplied by well water.²

Although not part of the property, the land to the south, between South Road and Chilmark Pond, forms an integral part of the property's setting (Photograph 20). Still in use as a sheep pasture, the rolling, open land is permanently protected by a conservation easement.

Archaeological Description

One known ancient Native American site may extend onto the Barn House property, and a high potential exists that additional Native American resources will be found on the property. Five ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile); including one site, the Allen Farm Site (19-DK-127), which may extend onto the nominated property: symbols representing the site on the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth show it extending onto the southeastern corner of the Barn House property; however, no Native American cultural material has been found in that immediate area. A large amount of lithic material was reported to have been recovered from the Allen Farm Site by local collectors just outside the Barn House property, from the land south of South Road to Chilmark Pond, especially along terraced areas and fields. Late Archaic and Late Woodland components have been identified at that site.

Environmental characteristics of the Barn House District represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district includes several well drained, level to moderately sloping landforms in close proximity to wetlands. Soils in the district are excessively drained sandy soils in uplands formed in glaciofluvial and moraine deposits. The water course of Mill Brook runs roughly parallel to the southern district boundary (within 1,000 feet) as it flows to Chilmark Pond. A small unnamed brook also runs through the property. Additional wetlands are present throughout most of the district, mainly to the north and west of the structures located on the property.

Given the above information, known patterns of Native settlement on Martha's Vineyard, the size of the district (42.8 acres), and limited impacts from historic period land use, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

(continued)

²A ca. 1925 photograph at the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society Library of a water tower on the property (no longer extant) suggests that provision for running water was one of the first changes made by Chilmark Associates.

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Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

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A high potential also exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources within the Barn House District. Barn House was formerly part of a farmstead established in the late 17th century. The district remained part of a farmstead, primarily a sheep farm, until ca. 1919, when it was purchased by Chilmark Associates and converted to a communal summer residence, a use that continues to the present. Structural evidence may exist for parts of the house that are now demolished, barns, stables and outbuildings that span the entire period of significance from ca. 1690 to 1961. One 18th century barn survives; however, earlier and later barns may also exist as archaeological resources. A small sheep barn, no longer extant, is mentioned in an 1885 probate inventory for the property. Archaeological evidence may also survive from construction features around the house and evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). While potential archaeological resources may survive related to the district's use as both a farmstead and communal summer residence, most archaeological resources associated with the district are probably related to the farmstead use.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, structure
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca. 1690 – 1961

Significant Dates ca. 1690 (house built)

1919 Chilmark Associates established

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not known

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Martha's Vineyard Historical Society
Edgartown, MA

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance:

Summary

The property at 451 South Road in Chilmark, MA is a significant heritage resource for three related reasons. First, the ca. 1690 house on the property, known as the Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House, is an example of vernacular domestic architecture from the earliest days of English settlement on the west end of the island of Martha's Vineyard. Although altered over the years, it retains numerous early features that are characteristic of its period, including planked walls and double summer beams (National Register Criterion C). Secondly, the property is significant because its large 18th-century barn, still-open fields, and extensive stone walls recall the island's agricultural past, when sheep farming was one of the inhabitants' principal occupations (Criterion A). From Nathan Skiff in the 1690s to Herman Vincent in the 1880s, the families who owned and operated the property as a farm depended in large part upon sheep-raising for their livelihood. Finally, the property reflects a major social history theme, the island's growing identity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a summer retreat (Criterion A). In 1919, the seaside farm's setting among stone walls and pastures attracted a group of writers, artists and social activists, and their families and friends. As Chilmark Associates, the group established a communal summer colony, owning the property in common, taking their meals together in the barn, and sharing in the chores needed to keep the place running. In addition to renovating the farm house and the small outbuilding for use as sleeping quarters, the Chilmark Associates built the first of a series of simple small cabins so that two or even three dozen people could be accommodated at a time. In 1927, they named the property Barn House, reflecting the centrality of the barn--a place of communal meals, conversation, and occasional programs of discussion and entertainment--in the social life of the summer colony.

Because a number of the original members of Chilmark Associates continued their participation through the 1950s, the period of significance for the property extends from ca.1690, when the house was built, to 1961, fifty years ago.

The property is primarily significant at the local level. The house's distinctive architectural features provide points of comparisons with other houses in the Commonwealth (and New England houses in general) that add to the knowledge base on early Colonial architecture. However, the extent of alterations and the fact that some features are now hidden, make the house a notable example primarily within the context of Chilmark.

The agricultural history significance of Barn House is also primarily local. Small-scale farms, relying on sheep raising, characterized Chilmark and other island towns for much of their history, but elsewhere in Massachusetts agriculture developed in a number of different directions. The social history aspect of Barn House, as an illustration of one variety of summer retreat, has some claim to significance within a statewide context. Other areas of Massachusetts, particularly scenic ones such as Cape Cod and the Berkshires, also experienced an influx of summer visitors with pronounced artistic, literary, and political interests who, to one degree or another, formed a communal identity. As of this writing, however, the context is not well enough developed to evaluate the statewide significance of Barn House.

(continued)

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 8 Page 2

Architectural Significance

Houses from ca. 1690 are uncommon enough that every surviving example has something to add—in terms of design, materials, and construction technique—that either confirms what architectural historians think of as the norm for the period or, conversely, extends the range of possibilities. The dwelling at Barn House has several characteristics that, taken collectively, indicate its late 17th-century origin, features that became increasingly less common or disappeared altogether during the first half of the 18th century. The heaviness of its framing members and the splay to the posts reflect the overbuilding, with roots in English tradition, that eventually gave way to house frames formed from timbers of smaller cross-section and straight posts. The practice of forming the walls from planks attached to the structural frame, as opposed to studded walls, arose in the 17th century, and, according to Scott, had generally gone out of favor in this area by 1730. The practice, for which various explanations involving economies of effort and materials have been proposed, appears to have been more common in the towns of the Plymouth Colony, from which Nathan Skiff and his family emigrated to the island. Finally, the house's method of roof framing—eight sets of heavy rafters carrying purlins for vertical roof sheathing—was generally eclipsed by the use of common rafters and horizontally applied sheathing.³

The former farmhouse on the Barn House property was studied extensively by Jonathan Fletcher Scott for *The Early Colonial Houses of Martha's Vineyard*, his 1985 Ph.D. thesis submitted to the University of Minnesota. Scott was able to explore most of the island's 17th- and early 18th-century buildings, taking photographs and writing detailed descriptions. Scott's comprehensive work allows an island-wide context for evaluating Barn House. Scott considered the house's ca. 1690 date to be credible, and he regarded it as one of the island's oldest houses, perhaps the oldest in Chilmark still at its original location.⁴

The Barn House dwelling is unusual in some respects. Scott found that the house's rafter-and-purlin roofing system was made up of both hewn and pit-sawn timbers, some of the latter of which had regularly spaced mortises of no apparent purpose, strongly suggesting some re-use of material salvaged from an earlier structure. Because this part of Martha's Vineyard was only just then being settled, house timbers being re-used in Chilmark ca. 1690 presumably came from a house at the other end of the island, where English settlement began in the 1650s. If this supposition is correct, then it suggests that the expense and difficulty of transporting such timbers were preferable to the effort of hewing new pieces.

(continued)

³These early characteristics are discussed in great detail in Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1979).

⁴Another South Road house, the James Allen House, may have been built a year or two earlier, but it was moved to the other side of the road ca. 1800 (Scott, "The 300-Year Evolution of a Chilmark Landmark," 13).

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 8 Page 3

Scott also recognized the Barn House dwelling's double-summer framing as an unusual feature. Sometime around the middle of the 18th century, the summer (the function of which was to divide the joist span in half for the floor above), disappeared as part of the overall reduction in dimensions of framing members, but for 17th- and early 18th-century houses, the use of summers was the norm. Usually, there was a single beam in the middle of the ceiling, sometimes running from front to back but more commonly from the end wall to the center chimney. However, a small number of colonial houses have two parallel summer beams like the Barn House dwelling, further reducing the required joist span.⁵ Why did most Colonial builders choose the single-summer approach, while only a few (judging by what we see in surviving houses) opted for the double summer (or a related variant, two crossed summers)? It is difficult to imagine a functional explanation arising from some special circumstances. Instead, it is more likely that this framing detail represents a particular building preference passed on from builder to builder. In the National Register documentation for the Peter Woodbury House (ca. 1696) in Beverly, Massachusetts, the double-summer pattern, cited as one of the house's distinctive features, is described as a "regional framing variation worthy of further study," and Scott noted one other example, an early 18th-century house, in Chilmark. Was there any personal and/or cultural connection between these North Shore examples and those on the island? Surviving examples, such as the dwelling at Barn House, can help address questions like this and lead to a better understanding of the interplay of objective circumstances, cultural traditions, and personal preferences that formed Colonial architecture.

The house's asymmetry—the west room is a foot narrower than the east room, resulting in a somewhat off-center doorway—is strong evidence that it was built in two stages. A will from 1746 refers to the widow's receiving the "western half" of the house, so it would appear certain that the enlargement was in place at that time, but the duplication of the east part's plank walls and double summers in the construction of the west part suggests that it had been accomplished much earlier.

Agricultural-History Significance

From the earliest days of settlement, sheepraising was a major economic activity on Martha's Vineyard, especially on the western part of the island. Sheep are hardy, undemanding animals that can graze in hilly and rocky conditions where cattle cannot. In addition to meat and wool for local consumption, Chilmark sheep provided wool for markets in Connecticut, southeastern Massachusetts, and Cape Cod. At one point in the 18th century, the number of sheep in Chilmark is said to have been 20,000. During a raid in 1778, British general Charles Grey commandeered 10,000 sheep on the island, half of which were said to have come from Chilmark.

(continued)

⁵Three houses in Connecticut are known to have had a similar arrangement of double summers: the Hempstead House in New London (1643), the Graves House in Madison (1675), and the Gershom Palmer House in Stonington; see J. Frederick Kelly, *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1929), 11-12, and *Connecticut: A Guide to its Roads, Lore, and People* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1938), 370.

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

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Statistics for 1837 showed that there were 6,470 sheep in Chilmark (outnumbering people 9 to 1), including 1,600 Merinos, which produced higher-value wool (Barber 1841: 151). As late as 1911, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* called sheepraising on Martha's Vineyard "an industry of considerable importance," with Dukes County one of the top three wool-producing counties in Massachusetts (11th ed., vol. 17, p. 787).

The property that became Barn House was, throughout its history, a typical small-scale family farm; all indications are that sheepraising was always one of the major activities. The first to occupy the farm was Nathan Skiff (1658-1725), who purchased 50 acres in 1686, including the land on which the house and barn now stand. Skiff (the family name was also spelled Skiffe) must have built at least the first part of the house not long thereafter, since his dwelling (along with a barn) was one of seven farms on South Road shown on the map of the island sketched by Simon Athearn in 1694. Chilmark was the last of the three original Martha's Vineyard towns to be settled, with the first families taking up lands along South Road in the 1680s and 1690s.

Nathan Skiff, like most island residents, was a farmer. He was born in Sandwich, where his father was a prominent man, and settled first at Tisbury, where he served as town clerk and constable, before buying land in Chilmark in 1686. He had seven children by his first wife, Hepsibah Codman, and five more by his second wife, Mercy Chipman. Though not all would have been living in the household at the same time (the oldest was born in 1679, the youngest in 1707), the children must have made the Skiff house a busy place; Scott speculates that the enlargement of the house may have occurred around 1699, when Nathan Skiff and Mercy Chipman married.

After his death in December 1725, the house passed to Nathan Skiff's son, Benjamin (1691-1781). He in turn sold it to Simon Mayhew (1687-1753) in 1731. Simon Mayhew, a pious man who served as a deacon in his church, was also a farmer. He and his wife, Ruth, had nine children, of whom six survived infancy. He left an estate valued at nearly £1,200 in 1753, most of which was accounted for by land and buildings. The next most valuable part of his estate was his herd of sheep, valued at £84-10s, or, applying the values given in contemporary probate inventories, some 200 to 300 sheep.

Mayhew's son, also named Simon, was the next owner of the farm. Simon Mayhew, Jr. (1719-1801) and his wife, Abiah, had seven children, including son Oliver (1763-1828), who took possession of the farm after his father's death. Oliver Mayhew and his wife, Jane, had no children. Following her death in 1833, the property was purchased by Herman Vincent (1806-1884) who ran the farm for 50 years. At the time of his death, he had a flock of 74 sheep but only one cow and one horse, indicating that sheep were still the major focus of the farm. Afterwards, the farm came into the possession of Francis Mayhew (1898-1904), and then Grace E. M. Tilton (1904-1919).

The Skiff, Mayhew, and Vincent families appear to have been interrelated, as one might expect with an island community in which a small number of families, each with many siblings and children, inhabited a limited geographical area. Charles E. Banks's *History of Martha's Vineyard* reports that the maiden name of Simon

(continued)

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
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Section number 8 Page 5

Mayhew's wife, Ruth, may have been Skiff, though her relationship to Nathan Skiff cannot be ascertained. Simon Mayhew, Jr.'s wife, Abiah, was a Vincent, and their son, Simon, married Matilda Vincent. Abiah Vincent Mayhew was Herman Vincent's great-aunt and Matilda Vincent Mayhew was his aunt. Moreover, both Herman Vincent and his twin sister, Amanda, married Mayhews. Thus, the historic name of the property, Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House, may indicate not so much a customary succession of ownership in the historic period but rather a continuity of ownership within a set of three interrelated families.

Today, Barn House's stone walls, open fields, barn, and former farmhouse all help recall Chilmark's long history as an agricultural community, with the remnants of the two enclosures especially suggestive of sheepraising. Some components of the farmstead, such as the small sheep barn mentioned in a probate inventory from 1885, no longer exist, and the locations of such typical features as wells and privies are unknown. But overall, the Barn House property retains much of the look of an old farm, especially since the defining features are readily visible from the road, whereas the later buildings are sited further back.

Social-History Significance

The 20th-century history of Barn House reflects an important development in the history of Chilmark and other island towns: an increase in the number of summer visitors. With farming and fishing in decline, the identity of Martha's Vineyard increasingly came to include being a place of summer retreat for prosperous families from a variety of backgrounds. In 1919, the Vincent Farm was acquired by Gertrude King, acting on behalf of a group of fifteen friends who subsequently incorporated themselves as Chilmark Associates.

Some of the group had met in Chilmark the previous summer as weekend house guests and found the place so attractive that they resolved to establish a communal summer residence there for themselves, their families, and friends. In April 1919, members of the group twice visited the island to reconnoiter properties that might be for sale. After inspecting several possibilities, they agreed to buy the Vincent farm, along with a discontinuous stretch of beach owned by the Vincent family. An unpublished poem by Gertrude King entitled "Chilmark" suggests that the property's ancient buildings, stone walls, fields, and views of the ocean all were part of the appeal:

*And run with me where Druid stones are looming
And sheep like stones are running on the hill
Til on the cliff we watch the surges booming,
Even on days the bluest and most still.*

The original members of Chilmark Associates, like most other island seasonal residents, all came from privileged backgrounds, but what distinguished them was a shared interest in art, literature, and liberal politics:

Gertrude Besse King (1881-1923) was a poet and literary critic (*Alliances for the Mind*, 1924). A graduate of Vassar College with an M.A. from Radcliffe, she worked as a

(continued)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 8 Page 6

newspaper correspondent in Russia and the Balkans during World War I. Her husband, Stanley King (1883-1951), was an executive with W. H. McElwain, a major Massachusetts shoe manufacturer, at the time Barn House was started; he later became president of Amherst College (1932-1946), during which time he was instrumental in developing the Folger Shakespeare Library. Gertrude King's brother, Arthur, and his wife Eleanor, residents of Cambridge, Massachusetts, were also original members of Chilmark Associates. Arthur Besse (1887-1951) was a clothing manufacturer and later served many years as president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.

Edwin DeTurck Bechtel (1880-1957) of Plainfield, New Jersey, was an attorney by profession, but his passions were collecting art and growing roses. He later wrote monographs on the French artists Honore Daumier and Jacques Callot, and served as president of the New York Botanical Garden.

Clifford P. Warren and **Wolcott H. Pitkin, Jr.** were both lawyers and among the earliest members of the American Civil Liberties Union. Pitkin had been the Attorney General of Puerto Rico, and Warren was corporate counsel for a Massachusetts shoe manufacturer.

Lawson Valentine Pulsifer (1882-1957) joined the family varnish business after earning a degree in chemistry from Harvard. He developed the well-known varnish Valspar™, which propelled the company to great success. His grandfather, Lawson Valentine, was a patron of Winslow Homer (whose brother worked for the company), and Lawson Pulsifer and his wife, Ethel, continued the family's interest in collecting art.

Boardman Robinson (1876-1952), one of the older members of the group, was a Canadian-born artist and illustrator. He studied art first in Boston at the Massachusetts College of Art and then in Paris, where he married Sally Senter Whitney and for a short time served as art editor of *Vogue*. His work appeared in numerous popular magazines, and he worked for a time as a political cartoonist for the *New York Tribune* until his anti-militarist opinions led to a parting of ways. He collaborated with John Reed on *The War in Eastern Europe* (1916), and was a frequent contributor to *The Masses*, *The New Masses*, and *The Liberator*. In addition to his magazine illustrations, Robinson had a distinguished career as a muralist: in 1926, Edgar J. Kaufmann commissioned a series of nine murals for his Pittsburgh department store, and murals by Robinson also appear in Rockefeller Center and the Department of Justice building in Washington, D.C.

Dorothy Kenyon (1888-1972), the daughter of a successful New York patent attorney, was, by her own admission, wasting her life as a "social butterfly" when an encounter with the poverty of Mexico inspired her to change course. She enrolled in New York University's law

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section number 8 Page 7

school so she could pursue law as a means of social change, graduating in 1917. At the time Barn House was started, she had just come back from the Versailles Peace Conference, where she had worked as a research specialist. From 1917 to 1925, Kenyon worked for Wolcott Pitkin's law firm. She was a co-founder of the Consumers Cooperative Service, a chain of cooperative cafeterias in New York City, and became an ardent advocate of free speech, women's equality, and civil rights. In addition to representing the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she served in prominent positions with both the League of Nations and the United Nations. She had friends around the world, but throughout her long life, "her closest personal relationships centered around Barn House," where she spent part of every summer from 1919 to 1971.⁶

With so many social activists among the founding members, it is perhaps not surprising that the group created a seasonal residence on a new model that differed greatly from the ordinary summer estate. The property's barn was the center of the group's life, with its open interior providing a place for communal meals, evening discussions, the occasional theatrics, or just sitting and looking out toward the ocean. Notebooks in the archives of the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society indicate that organized discussions ranged from the philosophical ("What Is It to be Free?") to the frivolous ("Hair: the Long and Short of It"). From the beginning, Barn House was conceived as a place for living simply, but not as a spartan environment to be endured. Members engaged in gardening and even haying, and both members and guests were expected to spend some time each day doing the necessary chores that would keep the place running for everyone's enjoyment. A chores list from 1925 included the following:

- Preparing vegetables
- Washing dishes
- Setting tables
- Garbage and dump
- Rabbit catching

At the same time, the group employed a cook and three other staff to prepare the meals, which might have two or three dozen people at the tables, and to take care of the chores that went beyond what could be expected of the members. Some of the members, such as the Pulsifers, chose to stay in the minimally renovated farmhouse (reportedly in a rundown state at the time of purchase), while others erected the first of the property's simple one- or two-room sleeping cabins. Sally and Boardman Robinson stayed in the outbuilding between the house and barn, last used as a chicken house, leading to the use of the term "coop" for all the cabins at Barn House.

(continued)

⁶Biographical sketch of Dorothy Kenyon, Dorothy Kenyon Papers, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. That many of Barn House's founders and early guests were persons of some national prominence, either at the time or subsequently, should not obscure the contributions of the many other members of the community who, while productive in their own walks of life, were not well-known beyond their circle of friends and colleagues.

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

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The name "Barn House" was formally adopted as the property's name in 1927. At a community meeting on August 7, 1927, the residents first adopted the name "Stone Paddocks," recalling "Paddock Farm," the name of the property under the Vincent family's ownership. Later that night, the meeting was reconvened to reconsider the name, and this time "The Barn" was chosen in recognition of the central role that it played in the residents' communal life. But even this did not seem quite right, since there were at that time many barns in Chilmark, and so a few days later the name "Barn House" was agreed upon, and the property has been so known ever since.

Barn House was communally owned and governed under the terms of the trust that created Chilmark Associates. Members paid an initiation fee and then so much for each day they or their guests were in residence; a minimum in the number of days effectively created a required annual contribution, even if the member summered elsewhere. The trustees could make all decisions on behalf of the group, though in practice major decisions were always undertaken only after consultation with the membership.

The association grew as friends and family members were added to the rolls. With few exceptions, the original members returned to Barn House summer after summer throughout their lives, with a majority still participating in the 1950s. The last of the original members were Dorothy Kenyon (1972) and Eleanor Besse (1974). Over the years, many figures who played prominent roles in the nation's political, artistic, and literary life were guests at Barn House. Some, such as the political columnist Walter Lippmann, poet Silvia Plath, and noted jurist Felix Frankfurter, stayed only a short time. Others, like painter Thomas Hart Benton and longtime American Civil Liberties Union head Roger Baldwin, became summer-long fixtures. Typically, one-quarter to one-third of the vacation days spent at Barn House were guest days.

Barn House seems to have been primarily a place of relaxation and socializing rather than work, but many members who were artists continued to paint and draw while in residence (see, for example, Figure 3), while those who were writers produced poems and plays for the amusement of their fellow residents.

As a commonly owned, intentional community that has persisted since 1919, Barn House may be unique, but it was part of a larger phenomenon that included seasonal gatherings of artists, writers, intellectuals, social activists, and academics in such places as Provincetown, Massachusetts, and the rural areas of western Connecticut.⁷

(continued)

⁷Boardman Robinson's collaborator John Reed was one of those who made up an informal community of intellectuals at Provincetown in the early 20th century. In Connecticut, Tamarack Lodge in Norfolk and the Aspetuck Historic District in Easton have both been listed on the National Register in part because of their significance as seasonal retreats of artists and writers.

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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
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Integrity

Like nearly all colonial houses that have not been consciously restored to a particular period in time, the main house departs from its original appearance in numerous ways. In the 1690s, it would have had its massive central chimney, the first windows would probably have been casements, and the interior finish was more likely whitewashed wood rather than plaster. All of these character-defining features were gone by the time Chilmark Associates purchased the property in 1919, yet enough remains that the house is easily identifiable today as a colonial house: the five-bay, center-entry, gable-roofed form is one of the most common from the Colonial period, and inside, the splayed posts, summers, and size of the framing members remain to indicate its early origins. The house's most unique feature, the use of double rather than single summers to subdivide the joist span, is also readily visible. In its totality, Barn House, though altered over time, retains sufficient integrity to support its architectural significance as a rare survivor of the type of house erected during Chilmark's earliest years of English settlement.

The presence of an 18th-century barn on the property, as well as the surrounding stone walls and open fields, gives the property an integrity of setting that conveys its historical significance as a reminder of Chilmark's origins as an agriculture-based community. The location of the 20th-century cabins at a distance to the north and west of the house and barn allows a traveler on South Road to perceive the property's origins as a Colonial-era farm. The farmhouse, barn, stone walls, and fields also convey the appeal of the property to the early 20th-century idealists who chose it for a different kind of summer retreat.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement and subsistence in Chilmark are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Most known ancient sites in the town are located to the west of the Barn House, along the eastern shoreline of Menemsha Pond and Nashaquitsa Pond, with lesser-known site frequencies to the southeast in the vicinity of Chilmark Pond. While numerous sites have been located in these areas, most are poorly documented with little information beyond locational characteristics. Ancient sites in this area may contain information that helps understand how environmental changes influenced population change and the nature of settlement through time. Information may be present at sites that indicate the effects of sea level rise on patterns of settlement and subsistence, especially at sites from earlier periods. Ancient sites in the area may also contribute information related to patterns of lithic procurement and production, possibly indicating the importance of local raw materials and trade in the manufacture of specific tool types and changes in technology through time. Native sites in the Chilmark locale, especially sites from later periods, may also contain information that helps to understand how the four historic sachemships recognized during the historic period on Martha's Vineyard evolved. This information might demonstrate unique characteristics associated with each sachemship and socio/political group located at Chappaquiddick, Nunnepaug (Edgartown),

(continued)

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**Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 10

Takemmy (West Tisbury/Chilmark), and Aquinnah, or Gay Head. These characteristics could be represented in ceramic types, lithics, or site types and distributions. Ancient Native American resources located in the Barn House District might also contain information that can help interpret important burial sites located in the area. The Lucy Vincent Beach Burial Site (19-DK-148) is located on a hill immediately south of Chilmark Pond, southeast of the district. That site contains several burials but little habitation material. Ancient Native American resources located at sites in the Barn House District may contain evidence of a social, cultural and economic association with burials located at Lucy Vincent Beach (19-DK-148).

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information that might help date the initial construction of the farmhouse and later additions. Structural remains, construction features, and the contents of occupational-related features might corroborate architectural evidence that the house was built during the late 17th century. Similar evidence may also be present that supports the thesis that the house was built in two stages; the east half being the earlier stage. Structural analysis of outbuilding remains, combined with detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features, may contribute important information related to the types of farming and husbandry that characterized the farm during most of the 17th through 19th centuries. Similar evidence may contribute important information related to the farm's change from an agricultural-dominated economy to one characterized by its use as a communal summer residence. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important social, cultural, and economic evidence of the lives of individuals who occupied the farm throughout the period of significance.

(end).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

- Banks, Charles E. *The History of Martha's Vineyard*. Edgartown, MA.: Dukes County Historical Society, 1966.
- Barber, John W. *Historical Collections . . . Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts*. Worcester: Dorr, Howland & Co., n.d.
- Barn House Collection. Martha's Vineyard Historical Society Library, Edgartown, MA.
- Barn House, 1919 - 1965*. Chilmark Associates, privately printed, 1965.
- Dukes County Probate Court Records, Edgartown, MA. Estate of Nathan Skiff, 1746; Estate of Simon Mayhew, 1754; Estate of Herman Vincent, 1885.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Chilmark*. Boston, 1984.
- Railton, Arthur R. "Artists and Other Free Spirits at Chilmark's Barn House." *Dukes County Intelligencer* 37, No. 1 (August 1995): 3-34.
- _____. "The Barn House: What is It?" *Dukes County Intelligencer* 32, No. 1 (August 1990): 32-33.
- _____. "Tom Benton, Chilmarker." *Dukes County Intelligencer* 31, No. 2 (November 1989): 51-86.
- Scott, Jonathan F. "The Early Colonial Houses of Martha's Vineyard." Unpub. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1985.
- _____. "The 300-Year Evolution of a Chilmark Landmark." *Dukes County Intelligencer* 32, No. 1 (August 1990): 12-31.

(end)

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Name of Property

Dukes County, MA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 42.8 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2

4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Clouette, Historian, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October, 2011

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Chilmark Associates, c/o Kurt Anderson

street & number 41 Second Place telephone _____

city or town Brooklyn state NY zip code 11231

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, known as 451 South Road, is recorded in the Chilmark Assessor Records as Parcel ID 025-005-00; it is recorded in the Dukes County Deeds Book 49, Page 287.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire farm purchased by Chilmark Associates in 1919. As with most properties with origins in the Colonial period, the size and boundaries of the farmstead varied over time as land was added and sold off. However, these 43 acres correspond to the core of the historical Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent farm.

UTM References:

- 1: 19.354670.4578120
- 2: 19.355120.4578320
- 3: 19.355190.4578180
- 4: 19.355220.4578020
- 5: 19.355220.4577920
- 6: 19.355000.4577880
- 7: 19.354860.4577780

(end)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section Data Page 1

RESOURCE COUNT

MHC #	NAME OR DESCRIPTION	DATE	STATUS	TYPE	MAP #
CHL.50	Barn House (a/k/a Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)	ca. 1690	Contributing	Building	1
CHL.59	Barn	ca. 1786	Contributing	Building	2
	Shed (Robinson)	ca. 1850	Contributing	Building	3
	Besse Cabin	1920	Contributing	Building	4
	Warren Cabin	1920	Contributing	Building	5
	King Cabin	1920	Contributing	Building	6
	DK Cabin	1920	Contributing	Building	7
	Hilltop Cabin	1938	Contributing	Building	8
	Pitkin Cabin	1958	Contributing	Building	9
	Lamson Cabin	1959	Contributing	Building	10
	Bath House	1995	Noncontributing	Building	11
	Doyle Cabin	2001	Noncontributing	Building	12
	Stone walls and enclosure	18 th Century	Contributing	Structure	13
	Stone-slab culvert	19 th Century (?)	Contributing	Structure	14
	Tennis court	1996	Noncontributing	Structure	15

TOTAL RESOURCE COUNT:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
BUILDINGS	10	2
STRUCTURES	2	1
OBJECTS	0	0
SITES	0	0
TOTAL	12	3

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Section Photographs Page 1

All Photographs:

1. Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA
3. B. Clouette Photo
4. August 2008
5. Digital photographs (.tifs) submitted to NPS

Captions:

1. Barn House, main house (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House), showing stone wall and gatepost along South Road, camera facing northwest.
2. South and east elevations of house, camera facing northwest.
3. East and north elevations of house, camera facing southwest.
4. North and west elevations of house, camera facing southeast.
5. Southwest front room, showing double summers, camera facing southwest.
6. Southeast front room, showing double summers, camera facing northwest.
7. South elevation of barn, camera facing northwest.
8. Interior of barn, looking east toward the east end.
9. North elevation of barn, camera facing southwest.
10. Detail of splayed post at southeast corner of barn, camera facing southwest.
11. 19th century shed (Robinson), southwest of barn, west elevation, camera facing southeast.
12. Besse Cabin, 1920, northeast of barn, west and south elevations, camera facing northeast.
13. King Cabin, 1920, west of house, north elevation, camera facing southeast.
14. Hilltop Cabin, 1938, east elevation, camera facing northwest.
15. Pitkin Cabin, 1958, east of house, north elevation, camera facing west.
16. Bath House, 1995 (noncontributing), north of house, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.
17. Stone walls forming small enclosure east of house, camera facing southeast.
18. Stone-slab culvert on farm road west of house, camera facing west.
19. Tennis court south of Hilltop Cabin, 1996 (noncontributing), camera facing north.
20. View south from South Road in front of Barn House, looking toward Chilmark Pond (left) and Atlantic Ocean.

RECEIVED
AUG 01 2011
BF
NR
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Massachusetts Historical Commission Digital Image Submission Form

MASS. HIST. COMM

Please submit one form for each group of digital images

About your digital files:

Camera used (make, model): Canon Digital Rebel XT

Resolution of original image capture (camera setting including resolution and file format):

3456 x 2304 pixels, 24-bit (8 bits per color channel) jpeg format

File names (s) (attach additional sheets if necessary) check here to refer to attached photo log:

MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House1.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House11.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House2.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House12.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House3.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House13.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House4.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House14.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House5.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House15.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House6.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House16.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House7.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House17.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House8.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House18.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House9.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House19.tif
MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House10.tif	MA_Chilmark (Dukes County)_Barn_House20.tif

About your prints:

Printer make and model: Hewlett-Packard C4280 inkjet printer

Paper: brand & type (i.e., Epson Premium Glossy Photo)

Hewlett-Packard Premium Photo Paper – Glossy

Ink: Hewlett Packard Viverra ink

Signature: (By signing below you agree that the information provided here is true and accurate.)

Signature:

Bruce Clouette
BRUCE CLOUETTE

Date:

27 July 2011

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Figures Page 1

Figure 1: The main house, ca. 1920, shortly after its acquisition by Chilmark Associates (Barn House Collection, Martha's Vineyard Historical Society Library).



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Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Figures Page 2

Figure 2: Interior of barn, ca. 1930 (Barn House Collection, Martha's Vineyard Historical Society Library).



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National Park Service

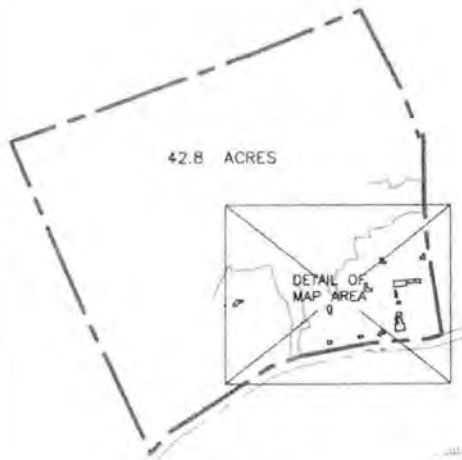
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Barn House (Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)
Chilmark, Dukes County, MA

Figures Page 3

Figure 3: Sketch of Hilltop Cabin by illustrator Warren Chappell, 1938 (Barn House Collection, Martha's Vineyard Historical Society Library).

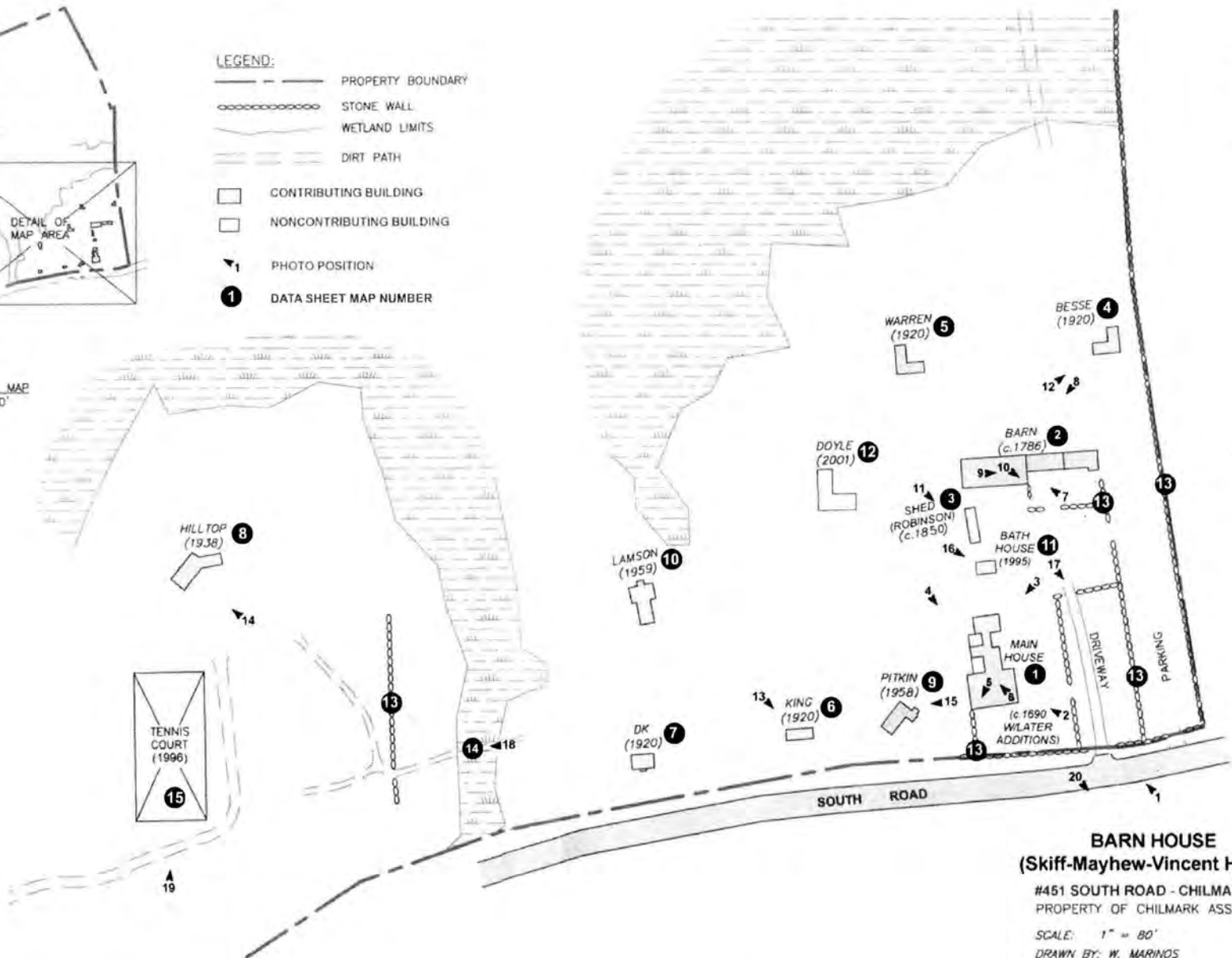




PROPERTY LOCATION MAP
SCALE: 1" = 500'

LEGEND:

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- STONE WALL
- WETLAND LIMITS
- DIRT PATH
- CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
- NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING
- PHOTO POSITION
- DATA SHEET MAP NUMBER



**BARN HOUSE
(Skiff-Mayhew-Vincent House)**

#451 SOUTH ROAD - CHILMARK, MA
PROPERTY OF CHILMARK ASSOCIATES

SCALE: 1" = 80'
DRAWN BY: W. MARINOS
DATE: NOV. 27, 2006

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Barn House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Dukes

DATE RECEIVED: 11/04/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/29/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/14/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/20/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000920

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.15.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 20

MA-CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN-HOUSE 1. ~~1~~

BARN HOUSE from SOUTH RD. SHOWING STONE WALL and GATEPOST

FACING NW



B. CLOUETTE PHOTO Aug 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY MA

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 2.tif

PHOTOGRAPH 2 OF 20

S, E ELEV. FACING NW



B. CLOUETTE PHOTO Aug 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPH 3 OF 20 MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 3.tif

E, N ELEV. FACING SW



B. CLOUPE PHOTO AUG 2008

BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 4 OF 20

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 4. 17

N, W ELEVATIONS, FACING SE



B CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE) MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

HOUSE 5.tif

PHOTOGRAPH 5 OF 20

INTERIOR SW FRONT ROOM SHOWING DOUBLE SUMMERS, FACING SW



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 6 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO
AUG 2008

MA - CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN - HOUSE 6. tif

INTERIOR

SE FRONT ROOM, SHOWING DOUBLE SUMMERS, FACING NW



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 7.DF.20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 7.tif

S ELEVATION of BARN, FACING NW



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 8 OF 20

B CLOUETTE PHOTO Aug 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 8.16

INTERIOR OF BARN, LOOKING E



B CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE) MA-CHILMARK(DUKES COUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 9.416

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 9 OF 20

N ELEV. of BARN FACING SW



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK DUKES COUNTY, MA

AUG 2008

PHOTOGRAPH 10 OF 20

MA - CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN HOUSE 10.tif

INTERIOR - DETAIL of SPLAYED POST SE CORNER of BARN,
FACING SW



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 11 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

MA - CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN - HOUSE 11. fig

19th c. SHED (ROBINSON) SW of BARN, W ELEVATION
FACING SE



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 12 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 12.tif

BESSE CABIN (1920), NE of BARN, W and S ELEV.

FACING NE



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 13 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO

AUG 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE13.tif

KING CABIN (1920) W of HOUSE, N ELEV. FACING SE



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF - MAYHEW - VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 14 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO Aug 2008
MA - CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN HOUSE 14.tif

HILLTOP CABIN (1938), E ELEV. FACING NW



BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 15 OF 20

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 15.tif

PITKIN CABIN (1965), E of HOUSE, N ELEV.

FACING W



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 16 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY) - BARN-HOUSE16.tif

BATH HOUSE (1995), N of HOUSE, N and W ELEVATIONS.

FACING SE



BARN HOUSE

B CLOUETTE

AUG 2008

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA MA, CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN-HOUSE 18.tif

PHOTOGRAPH 18 OF 20

STONE - SLAB CULVERT ON FARM ROAD W OF HOUSE
FACING W



B CLOUETTE PHOTO Aug 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTOGRAPH 17 OF 20

MA-CHILMARK (DUKES COUNTY) - BARN - HOUSE 17.tif

STONE WALLS FORMING ENCLOSURE E of HOUSE

FACING SE



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA
PHOTOGRAPH 19 OF 20

B. CLOUETTE PHOTO
AUG 2008

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 19.tif

TENNIS COURT S of HILLTOP CABIN, 1996 (N/C)
FACING N



B. CLOUETTE PHOTO AUG 2008

BARN HOUSE

(SKIFF-MAYHEW-VINCENT HOUSE)

CHILMARK, DUKES COUNTY, MA

PHOTO GRAPH 20 OF 20

MA-CHILMARK(DUKESCOUNTY)-BARN-HOUSE 20

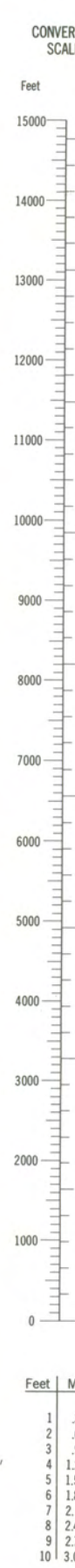
tif

VIEW S from SOUTH RD. in front of BARN HOUSE, LOOKING TOWARD
CHILMARK POND (L) and ATLANTIC OCEAN.



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW)-VINCENT HOUSE)
CHILMARK
DUKES COUNTY, MA

UTM REFERENCES:
1: 19,354670, 4578120
2: 19,355120, 4578320
3: 19,355190, 4578130
4: 19,355220, 4578020
5: 19,355220, 4577920
6: 19,355000, 4577880
7: 19,354960, 4577780

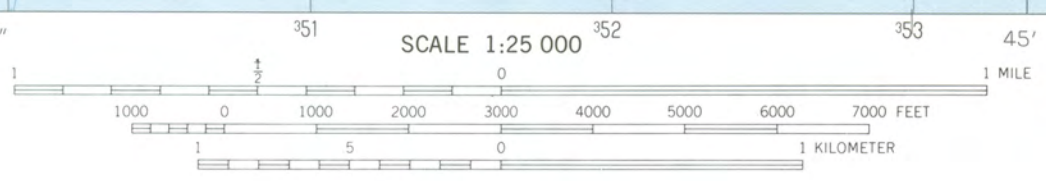
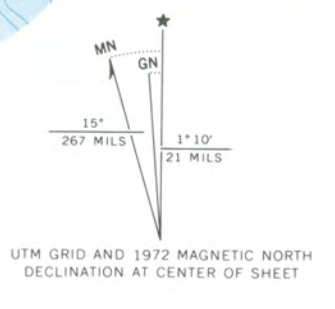


Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

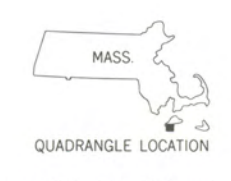
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 264 (1970) and
1210 (1970). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, island zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Map photostereographed 1977
No major culture or drainage changes observed



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 2.9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

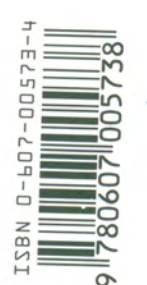


To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

SQUIBNOCKET, MASS.
41070-C7-TF-025
1972
PHOTOINSPECTED 1977
DMA 6866 IV SE—SERIES V814

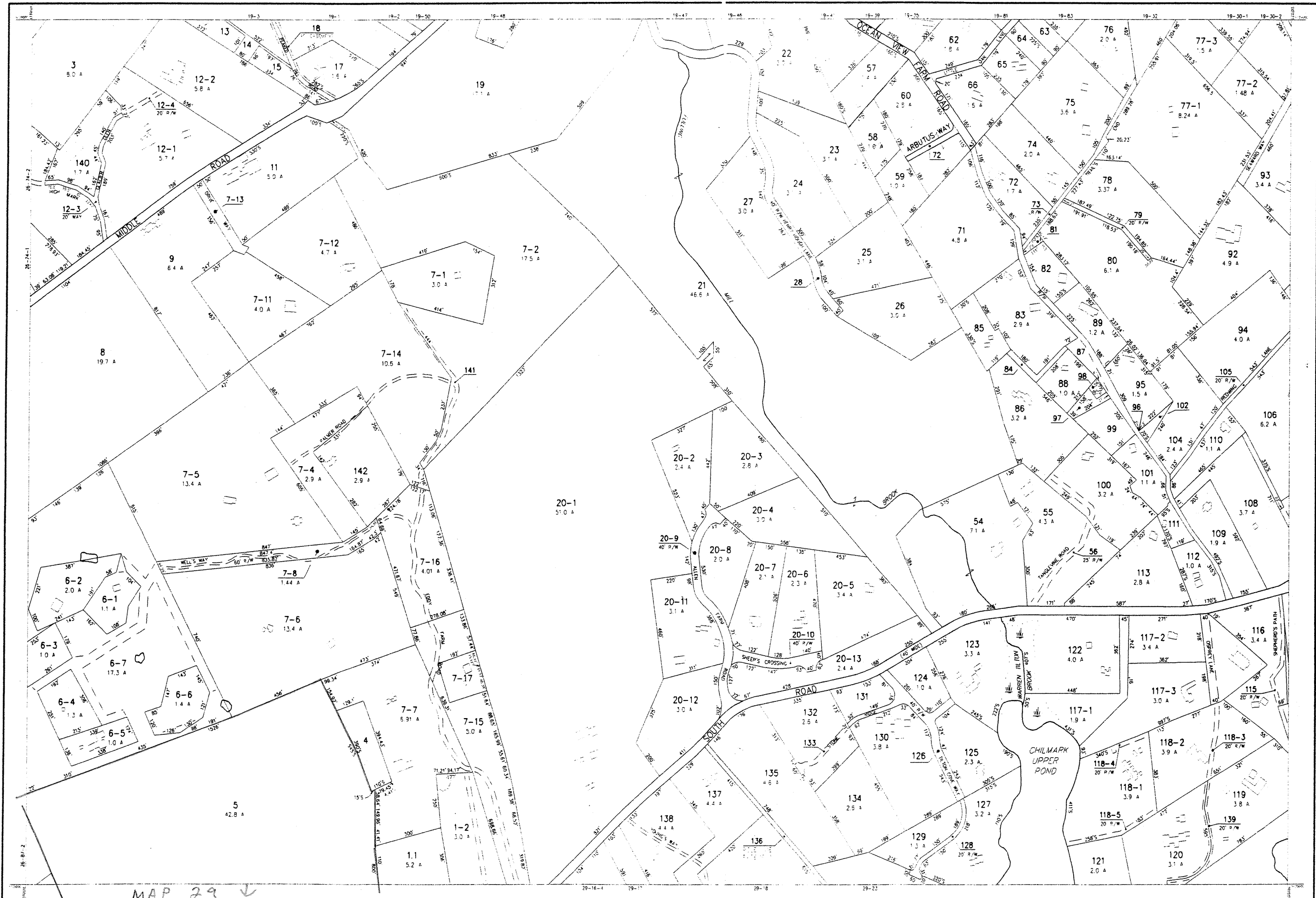


MAP 1 of 3

BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-MAYHEW-
VINCENT HOUSE)
451 SOUTH RD
CHILMARK

MAP 26
←

MAP 29
↓

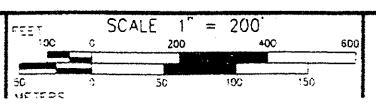


THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.
 THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 27-ISLAND FEET.

DIGITIZED IN 2001 BY
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 PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS

LEGEND

- MATCH LINE
- ▭ BUILDING
- RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS
- COMMON OWNERSHIP



PROPERTY MAPS
CHILMARK

INDEX DIAGRAM
 MAP NO. **25**

MAP 2 of 3



BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF-
MAYHEW-
VINCENT
HOUSE)
451 SOUTH RD
CHILMARK

MAP 25
→

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 27 - ISLAND FEET.

ORIGINAL PROPERTY MAPS WERE PREPARED IN 1980 BY SCHOFIELD BROTHERS, INC. PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 1978. BUILDINGS LOCATED FROM 1987 MASSACHUSETTS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

DIGITIZED IN 2001 BY
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PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS
11 CHELSEA STREET, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03581
503.444.6748 • 1-800-332-1540 • FAX: 403.444.1366 • WWW.CAI-INFO.COM

LEGEND

AREA: 1
RECORD DIMENSION: 100
SCALED DIMENSION: 100'S
PARCEL NUMBER: 22

WATER: -W-

MATCH LINE: -M-L-
BUILDING: [Symbol]
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS: [Symbol]
COMMON WALKSHAW: [Symbol]
WELLHEADS: [Symbol]

SCALE 1" = 200'

FEET: 0 100 200 300 400 500
METERS: 0 50 100 150

REVISED TO JANUARY 1, 2010

PROPERTY MAPS
CHILMARK
MASSACHUSETTS

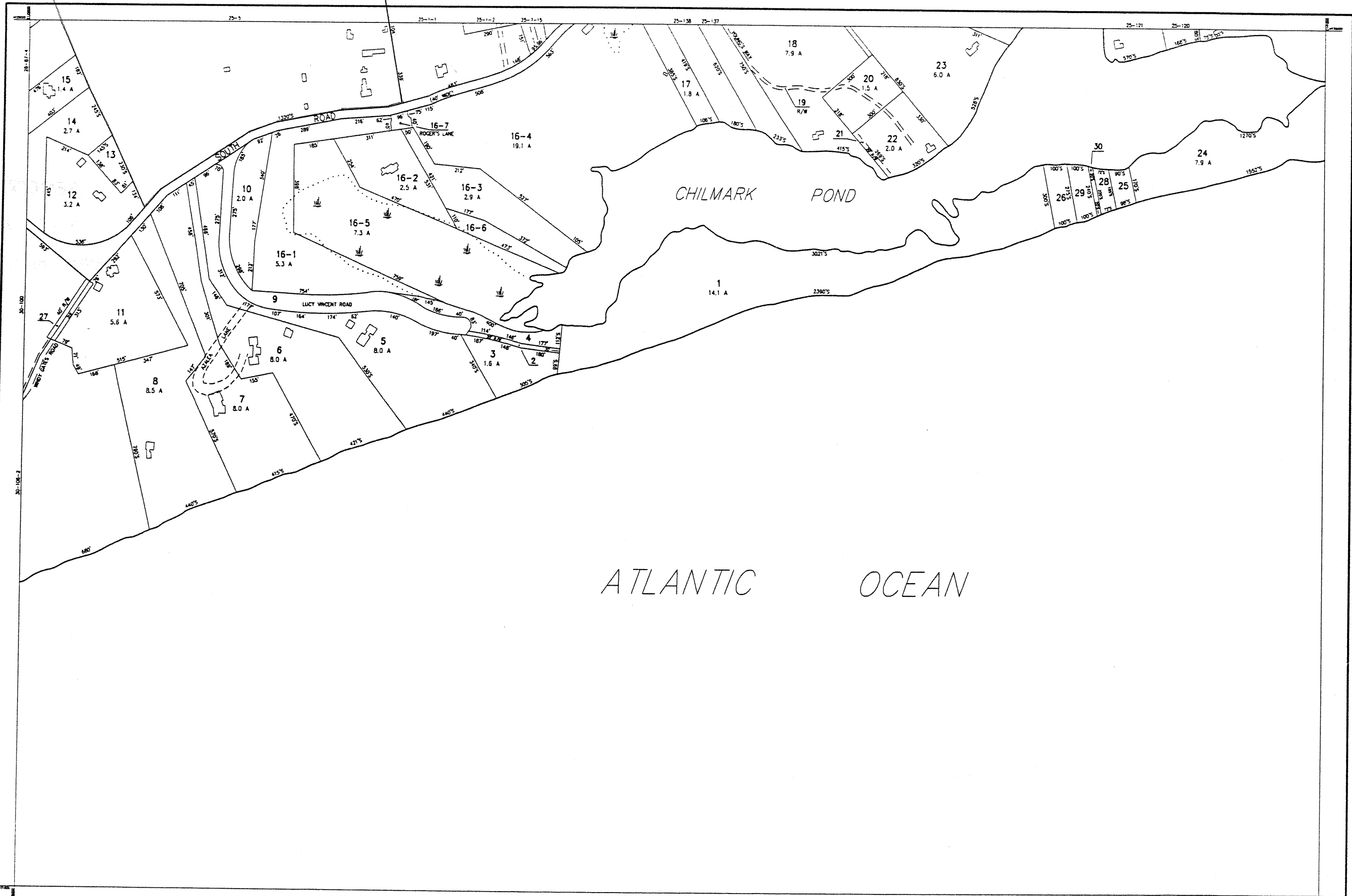
INDEX DIAGRAM

27	20	19
27	25	
31	30	29

MAP NO
26

MAP 3 of 3

BARN HOUSE
(SKIFF - MAYHEW-
VINCENT HOUSE)
451 SOUTH RD
CHILMARK



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 27-ISLAND FEET.

ORIGINAL PROPERTY MAPS WERE PREPARED IN 1980 BY SCHOFIELD BROTHERS, INC. PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 1978. BUILDINGS LOCATED FROM 1987 METRIS ORTHOPHOGRAPHY.

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MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
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(603)444-6766 - 1(800)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1366 - WWW.CAI-INFO.COM

LEGEND

AREA	A	MATCH LINE	---
RECORD DIMENSION	100'	BUILDING	▭
SCALED DIMENSION	100'S	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	---
PARCEL NUMBER	22	COMMON OWNERSHIP	---
WATER	W	WETLANDS	▨

SCALE 1" = 200'

FEET: 0 100 200 400 500

METERS: 0 50 100 150

REVISED TO :

PROPERTY MAPS

CHILMARK

MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

26	25	24
30	28	29
32		

MAP NO.

29

RECEIVED

AUG 10 2011

MASS. HIST. COMM



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 27, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Barn House, 451 South Road, Chilmark (Dukes), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Bruce Clouette, consultant
Kurt Anderson, Chilmark Associates
Jane Slater, Chilmark Historical Commission
Warren Doty, Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Jane Weidner, Chilmark Planning Board
Lauren Brown
Phyllis Yale, Barn House Trustees