

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 11 1984

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AHEARN HOUSE and SUMMER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

DAVID CURRAN HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pamet Point Road

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Wellfleet

__ VICINITY OF

10

STATE

CODE
25

COUNTY

Barnstable

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

North Atlantic Regional Office - National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Boston

__ VICINITY OF

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Barnstable

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABS Survey, CACO No. 25-53

DATE

1962

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ahearn house is an early 19th century 1½ story timber framed 3/4 Cape house set on a brick foundation and enclosed by a pitched roof covered with wood shingles. The house has a rectangular floor plan with a central chimney at west of the house's center and capped down above the roof line. Sash is uniformly 9/6 except for 6/6 in the gables; windows are set in projecting frames with pinned mortise-and-tendon joints. The building is trimmed with an entablature and boxed cornice which appears to date from a mid-19th century alteration (perhaps ca. 1851). The facade (south) is asymmetrical, containing one window west and two windows east of the entry. The main entrance is framed by Federalist-period pilasters with diamond-shaped lozenges; set back on the pilasters is a panelled door (ca. 1870) surmounted by a moulded panel which may block an earlier transom. The facade is covered with beveled clapboard laid with shiplap joints. End walls each contain three windows at the first story and two at the gable. End walls are clad in painted wood shingles including rows of decorative shingles (ca. 1890 - 1910). The north elevation contains three windows and a six-panel Federalist-period door and is clad with painted wood shingles.

The property also contains a 19th century summer house/outbuilding of timber framed construction, set on a brick foundation and enclosed by a pitched roof. An additional shed section was added to the summer house in the 1950 s or 60 s.

The original part of the building, the front, is of timber-frame construction, set on a brick foundation, and enclosed by a pitched roof covered with wood shingles. The post-World War II section of the building is of balloon-frame construction, set on a concrete block foundation, and enclosed by a shed roof covered with wood shingles.

Exterior elevations are asymmetrical and contain mostly 9/6 sash except for one twelve-pane light (east elevation) and one 2/2 window (west gable). Window frames in the original portion of the building project from the wall plane and are joined by mortise and tenon joints with wooden pins. Frames of the addition are of modern construction.

Although altered by its enlargement and conversion to a residential cottage, the Ahearn Summer House preserves most of the original features and design.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ahearn house is representative of the 19th century version of a Cape Cod house architectural style which originated in basic form in the late 17th century and still is a prominent architectural style on Cape Cod today.

The basically intact and unaltered three-quarter Cape central facade of the Ahearn house, however, makes this structure a noteworthy example of the 19th century architectural techniques that were used to construct this type of house. Likewise, the alterations that have been made to this structure are minimal and consistent with traditional evolutionary modifications that were made to Cape Cod houses between the 19th and early 20th centuries. The interior of the structure is largely unaltered, and still represents the basic floor plan that the original 19th century design intended (e.g., central entrance, flanked by two rooms; kitchen in rear and bedrooms upstairs).

The summer house also is representative of 19th century domestic life on Cape Cod and is compatible with the architectural design and setting of the main house.

The significance of the Ahearn Summer House lies with its being ancillary structure to the Ahearn House. Architecturally, its design and siting respect the Ahearn House.

The purposes of Cape Cod National Seashore include the preservation of notable examples of Cape Cod style houses and the preservation of the historic scene within the seashore. A recent survey (Pfeiffer 1981) of 110 structures that the Park Service owns or will acquire within the seashore area identified five 19th-century Cape Cod style houses.

Among the five houses, the 19th century Ahearn House is the only three-quarter Cape, a distinctive variation of the Cape Cod style. It is also one of the least altered examples of the 19th century Cape Cod style house among those that the Park Service owns. The Ahearn House and summer house, furthermore, are important reminders of the human settlement that once dominated the Wellfleet countryside. Although almost all the former agricultural fields now are reforested, the remaining rural houses, such as the Ahearn House, are crucial remnants of the 18th and 19th century historic scene of the outer Cape, telling evidence that the area is substantially a cultural landscape.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS (historic American Buildings Survey), Cape Cod National Seashore, No. 25-53, 1962
 Cape Cod National Seashore Master Plan, Historic Structure # 25-53, 1963
 Cape Cod National Seashore Historic Structures Inventory, B. Pfeiffer, 1981

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.3

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	4 1 3 4 0 0	4 6 4 5 5 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This tract was ~~part of~~ a 6.3 acre plot purchased by the National Park Service
~~(2.3 acres to remain separate from this nomination).~~

Boundaries are shown on attached site map.
 This property is identified as Cape Cod National Seashore Tract # 25-5716 and
 is located on Pamet Point Road, in Wellfleet, 0.8 mile west of the intersection
 of Route 6 and Pamet Point Road

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael E. Whatley, Park Historian

3/22/84

ORGANIZATION

Cape Cod National Seashore

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Marconi Area

TELEPHONE

(617) 349-3785

CITY OR TOWN

South Wellfleet

STATE

Massachusetts 02663

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Valerie A. Talmage
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State
 Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to
 evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edwin S. Beard

TITLE

Chief Historian

National Park Service

DATE

Sept 27, 1984

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Barbara Boyd

DATE *11/21/89*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER