

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: <i>Massachusetts</i>
COUNTY: <i>Barnstable</i>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <i>MAY 2 1975</i>

1. NAME

COMMON: <i>Marconi Site No. 23-87 (Cape Cod NS)</i>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <i>Marconi Wireless Station Site</i>

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Located one mile NE of Headquarters, Cape Cod National Seashore</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>South Wellfleet</i>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <i>Twelfth</i>	
STATE: <i>Massachusetts</i>	CODE <i>25</i>	COUNTY: <i>Barnstable</i>	CODE <i>001</i>

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) <i>Used for Interpretation.</i>

4. AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) <i>National Park Service</i>	STREET AND NUMBER: <i>150 Causeway Street</i>
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Boston</i>	STATE: <i>Massachusetts</i>
	CODE <i>25</i>

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <i>Courthouse, Barnstable, Massachusetts</i>
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Barnstable</i>
STATE: <i>Massachusetts</i>
CODE <i>001</i>

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <i>NPS survey--added to Cape Cod HABS inventory and assigned #23-87</i>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <i>1965</i>	☒ Federal	☐ State	☐ County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <i>Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Interior Building</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	STATE:	CODE <i>11</i>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <i>Massachusetts</i>	COUNTY: <i>Barnstable</i>	ENTRY NUMBER <i>MAY 2 1975</i>	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☐ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☒ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Remains of the station include: (1) the concrete base of the frame transmitter house--this base measures 26 feet, 7 inches (W to E), 27 feet (N to S). There are also 22 inch concrete strips on each side for wall support. This floor, as were all the others, is approximately 13 inches thick. Present on this floor are the heavy iron lugs which anchored the rotorgap disc and its motor. (2) part of the concrete corridor, 30 feet in length, 4 feet 2 inches wide plus 22 inch wall supports on each side. Ocean end has broken off. This corridor connected the transmitter house with the powerhouse (the latter's base slipped into the sea years ago).

(3) A few fragments of the powerhouse walls are 5 brick layers thick (about 21 inches). (4) the northwest tower concrete base has been exposed and measures 24 feet square--it is at least four feet thick as is testified by measurement of an easternmost base which lies on the beach 100 feet below its original site. The SW tower base still lies buried in the sand. These bases are made of rubble, pebbles and rocks (some measuring 4x8 inches in size) cemented together.

The probably scant remains of the pile-supported frame administration building and quarters, which lay a short distance west of the tower, are entirely buried under the dunes.

Original structures of the site included four towers and several buildings.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude and Latitude: See Section 10

Acreage: 1 acre; surrounding dunelands owned by Federal Government.

Treatment Recommended: Preservation.

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$150.00 annually

Photograph enclosed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☒ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☒ Industry | ☒ Science | Site of <u>Marconi's 1st</u> |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☒ Invention | ☒ Sculpture | <u>transatlantic American</u> |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | <u>Wireless Station.</u> |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | |
| ☒ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☒ Communications | ☒ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marconi wireless station, from which emanated the first message from the U.S. to Europe (Jan. 18, 1903), is the only nationally significant historic site within the Cape Cod National Seashore.

In November 1901, the original Marconi Wireless Station, South Wellfleet, was nearly complete. A storm in that month destroyed the original masts, a circular arrangement of 20 poles, 200 feet high. No trace of this antenna remains. The powerhouse, corridor and transmitter house were undamaged, and four 210 foot high wooden latticed towers, 200 feet apart, replaced the original antenna poles in 1902.

Using two big kerosene engines, a Tesla transformer, an alternator, and a spark-gap transmitter, the station produced 30,000 watts of power. Operating primarily as a news source to ships at sea, Marconi station ran successfully until 1917, when three unrelated factors resulted in the dismantling of the equipment in 1922:

(1) censorship imposed by World War I, (2) encroachment of the cliffs by the ocean, and (3) De Forest's invention (or development) of the vacuum tube, making spark-gap transmission obsolete.

Marconi invented few things himself, but he greatly improved everything he borrowed. His taking of the wireless lab "toy" and making it practical was one of the greatest technical achievements of man. Were Marconi alive today, he would doubtless occupy the top world position in electronic communications. No man better deserves the title "Father of modern electronic communications."

Marconi station site came under control of the Federal Government with the inclusion of the site within the boundaries of Cape Cod National Seashore. The site was re-dedicated July 5, 1963, with Carl Taylor, Marconi's chief builder of stations, present. Taylor was very probably the actual operator on January 18, 1903, when the first message from the U.S. to England was transmitted. This old spark-gap transmitter was world famous, and operated longer than any other station of its type; such stations were replaced by tube transmitters after 1908.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Marconi--The Man and his Wireless by Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr. New York The MacMillan Co. 1937
2. My Father, Marconi by Degna Marconi. McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc. New York, 1962.
3. The Saga of South Wellfleet by F.A. Parsons. Original Ms. owned by National Park Service, filed at Hq., South Wellfleet, Mass. CACO
4. A Technical History of Marconi Site, 1901-1922 by E.P. Lohr, NPS

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		41° 54' 50"	69° 58' 20"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Edison Pike Lohr, Park Historian</u>		DATE: <u>7/16/73</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>Cape Cod National Seashore</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		PHONE: <u>349-3785</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>South Wellfleet, Massachusetts</u>	STATE <u>Massachusetts</u>	CODE <u>25</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

Elizabeth R. Amadon
State Liaison Officer Signature

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

Charles A. Herrington MAR 31 1975
Federal Representative Signature
Deputy Asst. Sec.
Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Charles A. Herrington
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/17/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. Herrington
Keeper of the National Register

Date 5.2.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. PD } *Nomination*
1st Order
of Significance

ROUTING AND REVIEW SLIP

THE ENCLOSED NOMINATIONS ARE ROUTED TO YOU FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE CORRECTNESS AND ADEQUACY OF THE STATEMENTS AND EVALUATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN, SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL OR CORRECTIVE INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE. REVIEWER WILL SIGN HIS NAME HEREON FOR LATER REFERENCE IF NECESSARY. USE ADDITIONAL SHEET FOR COMMENT IF NEEDED AND ATTACH HERETO.

NOMINATED PROPERTY: MARCONI SITE

FROM AREA OF: Cape Cod N.S.

1 PA *acting* CHIEF ARCHEOLOGIST: *I feel it qualifies on the basis of the first half of the opening sentence. The rest of the statement is superfluous, though interesting. I concur. Further, it should be considered for NHL status.*

SIGNED: *Jackson W. Moore, Jr.*

2 PD CHIEF HISTORIAN: *OK*

SIGNED: *[Signature]*

3 PC CHIEF HISTORICAL ARCHITECT: *No question about this one*

SIGNED: *Henry A. Judd*

5 PC REGISTRAR, LCS

PR KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER: *C. O. Meek*
Registrar, LCS
Tel: 343-2532

☐ RECOMMENDED FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
☒ ENTERED ON THE LCS

MAR 1 29 1975

INT: 4937-74 REGISTRAR LCS

3/27/75 Assoc. Univ Prof. Services
Ross Holland recommends National Significance

PLEASE RETURN TO REGISTRAR, LCS BY

MAR 31 1975

Property

Marconi Wireless Station *Site*

Barstable

State

Massachusetts

Working Number

4.1.75.558

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{*cm*} *4.4.75*

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Important site - note National significance *ACCEPT Hugan*
4/4/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept
M. Barnes
4 Apr 75

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-7-75

BRANCH CHIEF

add "Site" to name

KEEPER

Handwritten
for Muntz
5.2.75

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered *MAY 2* *1975*

Federal Register Entry 7-1-75

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

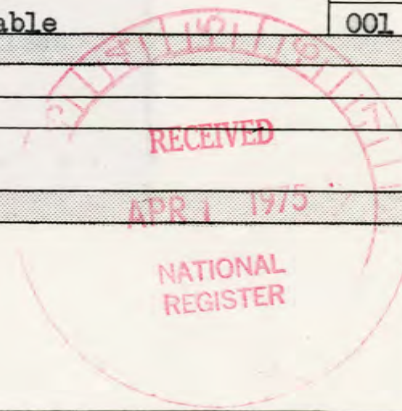
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Barnstable	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1975

1. NAME			
COMMON: Marconi Site # 23-87			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Marconi Wireless Station			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NE of NS Headquarters			
CITY OR TOWN: South Wellfleet			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 25	COUNTY: Barnstable	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Tom Swan			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1/73			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Cape Cod NS			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking East #181			



INT: 154-72

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#181

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Barnstable	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Marconi Site No. 23-87
AND/OR HISTORIC: Marconi Wireless Station

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Located 1 mile NE of Hq., Cape Cod National Seashore

CITY OR TOWN:

South Wellfleet

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

25

COUNTY:

Barnstable

CODE

001

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S., Wellfleet Quadrangle

SCALE:

1: 24,000

DATE:

1958

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Marconi Site

U S MILITARY RESERVATION
CAMP WELFLEET

RECEIVED
APR 1975
NATIONAL REGISTER

RESERVATION BOUNDARY

EASTHAM

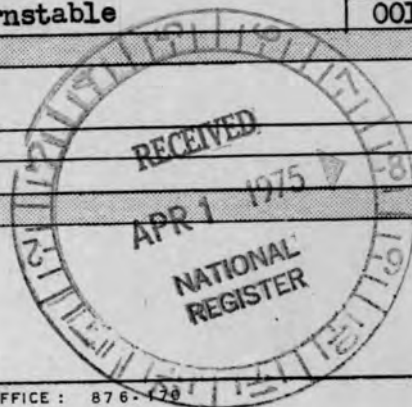
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

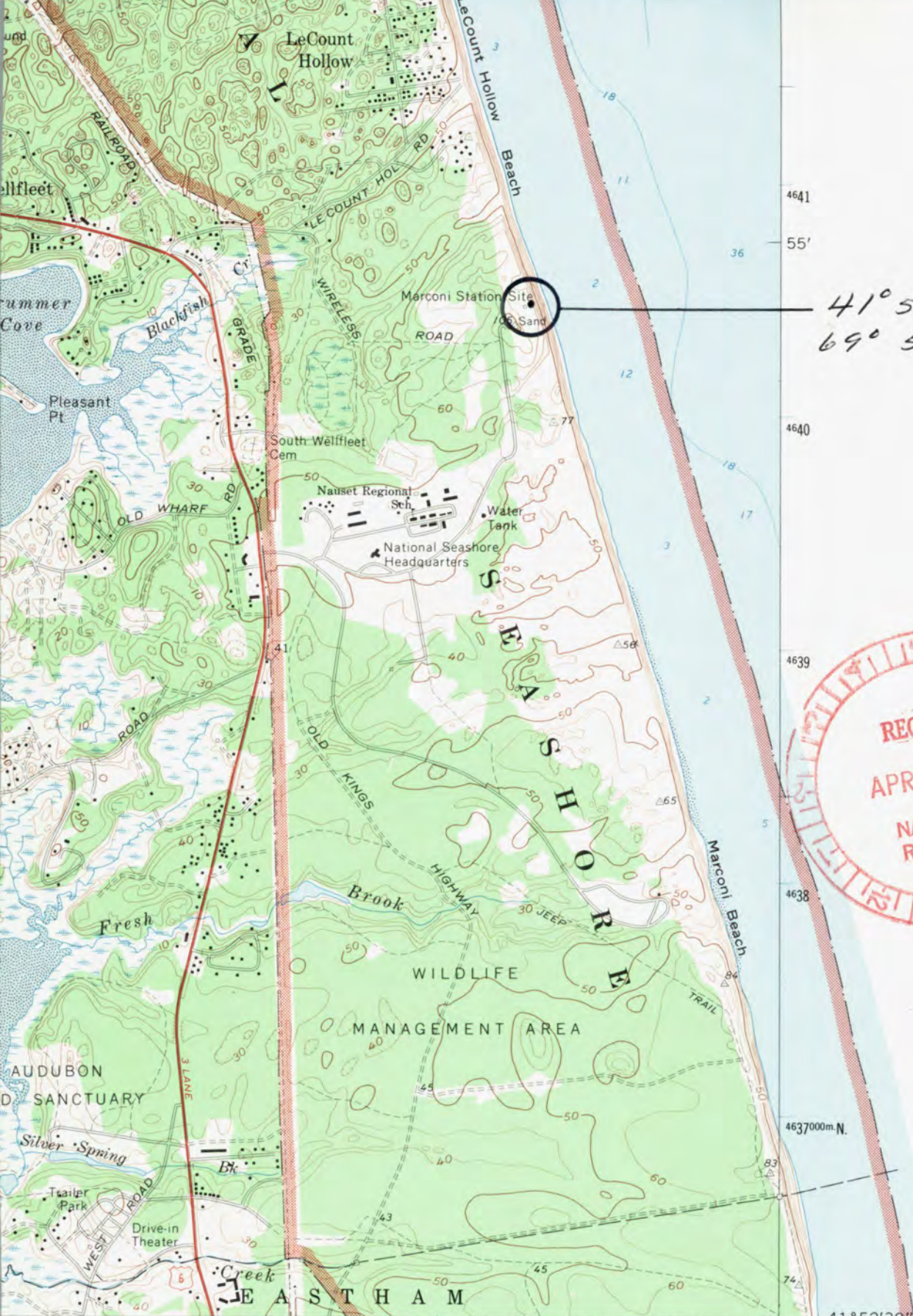
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Barnstable	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Marconi Site No. 23-87			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Marconi Wireless Station			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Located one mile NE of Cape Cod NS Hq.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
South Wellfleet			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mass.	25	Barnstable	001
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U. S. G. S. Wellfleet Quadranglr, Mass.			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1972			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





41° 54' 50"
69° 58' 20"

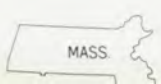


(ORLEANS) 6967 I SE 418 ORLEANS 6 MI. INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. - 1974 419 420000m E. 69° 57' 30" 41° 52' 30"

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 |

Wellfleet
Quadrangle,
Mass., 7.5
minute series



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 2 1975

Name

Location

Marconi Wireless Station Site

**South Wellfleet
Barnstable County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Mr. Douglas Wheeler
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Mr. Robert M. Utley
Assistant Director, Park
Historic Preservation
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

5/8/75

MMott/row

PR

MAR 28 1975

H34PC

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service

Through: Federal Representative to the National Register,
Department of the Interior

From: Federal Representative, National Park Service

Subject: Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places

The following listed nominations from Cape Cod National Seashore, National Park Service, are submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in compliance with Executive Order No. 11593:

1. Edward Pennabeta House and Barn
2. Old Harbor Coast Guard Station
3. Captain Samuel Rider House
4. High and House
5. Jedediah Higgins House
6. Highland Golf Course
7. Atwood-Higgins House
8. French Cable Hut
9. Marconi Site

Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley

Enclosures

cc: FW - Mr. Wheeler
Director & Reading File
IR-Mrs. Holt
PC-Mr. Meek
PC
PP

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PC
LCS Files

FNP: CO Meek:ag 3 27 75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/18/77
Reviewer INITIALS: qn
NR DOE May 2, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Marconi Wireless Station Site

OTHER NAMES: Marconi Site

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: one mile NE of Headquarters, Cape Cod National Seashore
CITY/TOWN: South Wellfleet
STATE: Massachusetts
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th
COUNTY: Barnstable
code: 001

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME)

NPS; not accessible
National Park Service

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED NO ALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
- GOOD ROINS ALTERED MOVED
- FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- Communication
now- park

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION entertainment
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC ECONOMICS LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE - 23 health
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION LITERATURE MILITARY - 18 recreation
ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING - 11 MUSIC SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN settlement
COMMERCE EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY TRANSPORTATION socio/cultural
COMMUNICATIONS - 7 INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT OTHER (SPECIFY) urban & commun
INVENTION - 14 planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

Side of Marconis 1st transatlantic Amer. wireless station

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

②
Carl Taylor -
chief builder of
Marconi site

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

Guglielmo
MARCONI - inventor of wireless

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

✓ 1901

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1917, 1922 Jan. 18, 1903 - 1ST WIRELESS
message from U.S. to EUROPE.

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

NPS

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

✓ RUINS INCLUDING CONCRETE SLAB

FOUNDATION AND SOME BRICK WALL FRAGMENTS OF MARCONI WIRE-
LESS STATION FROM WHICH ^{the first U.S. to Europe message} THE FIRST MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. TO
EUROPE WAS TRANSMITTED, JAN. 18, 1903. BUILT PRIMARILY TO SEND
NEWS TO SHIPS AT SEA; STATION BECAME OBSOLETE WITH THE ^{refinement} INVEN-
TION OF THE VACUUM TUBE, 1908.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

③ (Guglielmo)
marconi