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ESCRIBE THE PR	ESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
built a	hro Coffin House is a one-and-a-half story frame structure, round a central chimney and covered with cedar shakes. The re has a short steep front roof and a long rear slope which	2
extende	out over the rear lean-to. Small diamond paned casement are placed symmetrically on the front and arranged assymet	
cally c	on both ends and the rear lean-to. The roof is currently of	:
	ngles but plans have been made to replace these with cedar	
shakes.	•	
Shaweo		
has cau hors est horsest have be chimney	mney is unusual. The figure in projecting bricks on its fa used considerable speculation. Its obvious resemblance to a use seem not to be the original intention, for a nailed-up use open at the bottom stood for bad luck. It might, however een a charm device to prevent witches from coming down the r. It may also have been a witshbone or simply a Jacobean ch oplied in a provincial fashion.	er,
are nam west the the gro recesso consist by hor: the fin ginally of clay equal s up from to the	the porch and hall narrow and the stairs opposite the entrow row and winding. On the east was the great hall and on the parlor. The fireplaces were back to back, with the one eat hall slightly larger because of cooking. It also has a ed oven, 2 feet in diameter, in the southwest angle. The first is of eight posts, one at each corner of the two rooms, con- lizontal sills and girts, with a larger summer beam extending replace wall to the outer girts. The walls themselves were y vertical boards fastened to sills and girts, with a filli- y for insulation. The two chambers on the second floor wer in area to the hall and parlor. A straight flight of steps n the second-story landing toward the chimney and turns for garret.	e in nected g from ori- ng e lead acce
walls summer of the compar	rear lean-to addition, added in the eighteenth-century, th were without clay fill and the ceiling was supported on two s but without joists. The kitchen flew was run up the back original chimney. The new kitchen was built with a firepl able to that in the parlor, but with an oven twice the diam old one in the hall fireplace.	ace
braces remain as a m The pa as the the ma	ll of the corner posts, girts, sills, rafters, and diagonal had to be replaced. One corner post in the upper room ed. It was of oak with a bracketed top and was therefore u odel for the rest. All the fireplaces were repaired or rep rt of the lean-to which had burned before 1868 was rebuilt chimney, which was raised and given a new foundation. Mos terial used in rebuilding was obtained from another ancient was disassembled for the purpose.	sed laced as we t of
Prior	to the reconstruction of 1927, the architect chosen for the	:

Prior to the reconstruction of 1927, the architect chosen for the work, Alfred E. Shurrocks, produced measured drawings that show the rafter mortise holes for two front dormers or gables, and the cut in

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	📋 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known) C. 1	686	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
🎦 Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscope	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itorian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jethro Coffin House, originally built about 1686, is generally cited as one of the finest surviving examples in New England of a typical seventeenth-century "Cape Cod" house or saltbox. It is also unusual for the island of Nantucket in that it has remained on its original site. The house underwent heavy reconstruction in 1927 to bring it to its present form of a one-and-a-half story frame central chimney dwelling with a rear lean-to. Although hardly in its original 1686 form, either in design or materials, it does serve today as a textbook example of the saltbox house, and its present state does illustrate this rather well. The top of the large central brick chimney has an unusual ornament which has been variously interpreted as an inverted horseshoe for an anti-witch charm. a wishbone, or simply a Jacobean decoration. The house has a typical floor plan of a seventeenth-century central chimney structure with a hall and parlor, that is to say a large square room located on either side of the chimney and the kitchen in a rear lean-to.

HISTORY

The Jethro Coffin House was erected supposedly as a wedding present for Jethro and Mary (Gardner) Coffin sometime around 1686. All the materials for construction came from Exeter, New Hampshire, where Jethro's father, Peter, Coffin, owned timberland and a saw mill. In 1708 the Coffins sold the house to the Paddocks who owned it until 1840. After a series of unrecorded owners and uses it was bought by Tristram Coffin of Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1881, a direct descendant. At this time some repairs were made which included a new roof, a new cornice for the old chimney top, the insertion of strengthening timbers and the application of new shingles in bare sections. In 1923 it was bought by the Nantucket Historical Association who undertook its reconstruction.

The lean-to, which was replaced in the reconstruction, was a later addition of the early eighteenth century. It had burned in part before 1868 (as shown in old photograph) and it was decided to recreate it during the restoration. The chimney was realigned and

c lineteenth century bash window. Were replaced with leaded dramond

Forman, Henry C., Early Nantucket and Its W, ale Houses, New York, 1966. Lancaster, Olay, The Architecture of Historio Nantucket, New York, 1972. Morrison, Hunh, Barty American Architecture, New York, 1952. Ripley, Hubert C., "The Jethro Coffin House on Sunset Hill Sometimes Called the Horseshoe House," Journal of the American Institute of Architects, Vol. YUT, No. 6, June, 1928, D. 218-223. CECORAPHICAL DATA Cartfulde AND CONSTUCE COORDINATES DEFINING ARECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LOGATING CARECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LOGATING CARECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LOGATING CASTILLY CORRENT DT LONGTONE Dayses Minute Second: Degress Minute Second: Degress Minute Second: Degress Minute Second: Degress Minutes Second: Degress Minutes	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FE ICES					、		
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(July 1969)		NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(NATIONAL FISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM LANDMARKS)

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the top side of the west upper front plate for the base of a casement window. These window openings are smaller than the ones used in the rebuilding. The plain roof from a later period of the house was preferred by the owners with the resulting creation of the typical saltbox.

BOUNDARY

The Jethro Coffin House is located on a rise of ground called Sunset Hill, northwest from the main center of town, surrounded by open fields. It is approached by a semicircular drive which curves off Sunset Hill Lane. Because of the lack of topographical features upon which to extablish a boundary, two arbitrary points have been selected for the northwest and northeast corners, with the end points of the drive used for the southwest and southeast corners, beginning at the northwest corner at UTM 19.407240.4571090, continuing east to the northeast corner where the semi-circular drive meets Sunset Hill Lane, then continuing west along Sunset Hill Lane to the point where the other end of the semi-circular drive meets the Lane, then north from this point to the northwest corner, the point of beginning.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR UNI NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Massachusetts COUNTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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KITCHEN BED ANTRY ROOM PARLOR HALL

Floor plan of Jethro Coffin House



Nantucket FOR NPS USE ONLY

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pane mate	8. Significance second page nineteenth century sash windows were replaced with leaded diamond paned casements. Very little of the original timber was left and materials from another ancient house were used. Prior to the									
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