



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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14 MAR 1975

Josephine Del Deo
Secretary, The Historic District Study Committee
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

14 March, 1975

Dear Ms Deo:

This is in response to your letter of 28 February 1975 concerning the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Company Trap Shed at Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The Coast Guard has been aware for some time that the Historic District Study Committee considers the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Trap Shed to be a historic structure. The Shed is built on an old wooden pier extending out into Provincetown Harbor from the Atlantic Coast Fisheries processing plant site. The wooden pier is in very poor condition and cannot be reconditioned for Coast Guard use. Our original intention was to purchase the Atlantic Coast Fisheries site with all the then existing structures as they stood. However, it became apparent that it would be to the advantage of the neighbors if we renegotiated our purchase option to provide for substantial site clearance at the earliest possible time. During our renegotiation over details of the site clearance, Mr. Bernard Benkovitz, one of the trustees who holds title to the property, advised us that Mr. John D. Bell of the Historic District Study Committee had requested the Trap Shed structure. We told Mr. Benkovitz that we had no objection at all to the Historic District Study Committee's removal of this structure from the site. The discussion of the disposition of the Trap Shed by the respective negotiators was carried out in the context of the proposed arrangements for the demolition of the old pier. Eventually, it was determined that the Federal government could more economically remove the old pier structure, so we receded from our original request that the vendor accomplish that pier removal before conveyance of title. The final negotiated option to purchase obligates the Trust to convey the property to the United States Coast Guard without the encumbrance of the Trap Shed so that the Shed could be donated to the Committee by the Atlantic Coast Trust.

My staff has confirmed with Mr. Bernard Benkovitz that the Trust's offer to donate the Trap Shed structure to the Historic

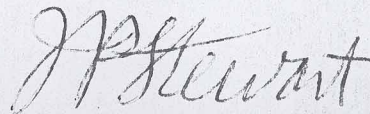
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District Study Committee for relocation still stands. I would suggest that a Committee representative follow up on this matter with Mr. Benkovitz.

Contractural details aside, the U. S. Coast Guard may not by law undertake to foster and maintain a local museum activity. Nor could we justify the expenditure of funds appropriated for the operating expenses of the U. S. Coast Guard for permanent maintenance of an extensive and useless wooden pier structure to support a venerable twenty by fifty foot frame shed.

If the shed is an important artifact, it would appear to me that it might best be relocated to a low maintenance site and developed as a museum or for whatever other purpose thought most appropriate by the Historical District Study Committee.

Sincerely,



J. P. STEWART

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, First Coast Guard District

Copy to:
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The Provincetown Advocate
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