

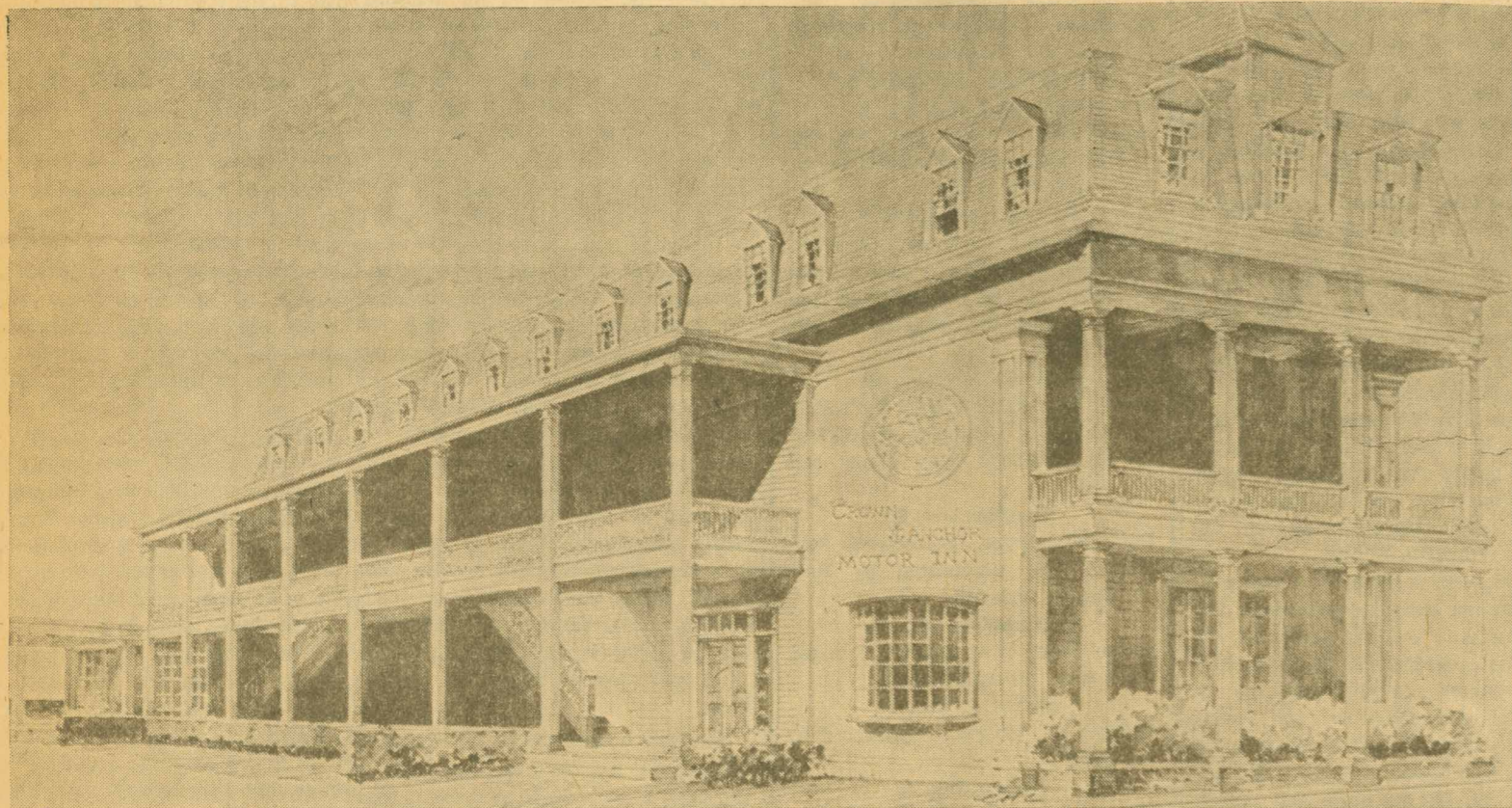
The New Beacon

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Famed Hotel Will Be Restored To Turn Of Century Glory Under New Ownership



A sketch by Orleans architect F. Cliff Peirce depicts the manner in which the famed old Central House, more recently known as the Sea Horse Inn, will be restored under the new ownership of the S. Sorrentino Realty Trust. In addition to what is seen above, a second colonnade will be constructed on the street side of the parking lot with a driveway in the center. The present shop, located on the east side of the parking area, will be removed and a "village" of eight shops will be constructed along the eastern side of the property. Each of the shops will have a different front, roof line and windows. The main building, to be renamed the Crown and Anchor Motor Inn, will be painted mostly white and will feature an American Provincial interior decor.

The former Sea Horse Inn located on Commercial Street, now to be renamed the Crown & Anchor Motor Inn and recently acquired by the S. Sorrentino Realty Trust, is due for a complete face-lifting. The interior and exterior of the present buildings will be thoroughly rebuilt in the traditional architecture and decor associated with the New England Inn of yesteryear.

The Crown & Anchor Motor Inn will be a fashionable seaside resort with forty motel rooms, lobby, dining room, Cocktail Salon and eight adjacent shops. F. Cliff Peirce of Orleans is the architect selected to be in charge of restoration.

All Motel accommodations will have private baths and the furnishings will be in the American Provincial Period, including four-poster beds with canopies and of course a "Kennedy Rocker".

The new owner, Mr. Sorrentino, also owns the Top Mast Motel in North Truro. However, he will personally manage the Crown & Anchor Motor Inn. Bartholomew Albanese and Mrs. Florence McGinn, of this town, have been announced as co-managers of Top Mast Motel.

It is Mr. Sorrentino's hope that this new venture will be an asset to the

town. He desires to build the type of business that will help attract to this area a clientele that will benefit the cultural and moral standards of Provincetown.

In years gone by this Hotel enjoyed the reputation for being this town's finest and most fashionable hostelry and has hosted many notable persons, among them two presidents—Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft—the first to lay the cornerstone, and the latter to commemorate the completion of Pilgrim Memorial Monument at the beginning of this century. Mr. Sorrentino intends to make every effort to re-

gain the fine reputation that this famed hotel once enjoyed.

Early History

No one seems very sure just when the Sea Horse Inn, or rather the Central House, its original name, was constructed. It is described, however, by Her Jennings, in his late 19th century guidebook to Provincetown, as having been built by Timothy P. Johnson. Mr. Johnson appears to be the same Timothy P. Johnson of Essex, Conn., who came here in 1825 and established himself in business as a sailmaker.

The hotel, says Mr. Jennings, was first used as a public hall where shows

and entertainment were given, and at one time a bowling alley and saloon was kept in it under the management of William Crowell. In 1868 it was purchased from Johnson's heirs by Allen Reed and the whole building was enlarged, a billiard hall attached to it and more sleeping rooms added, making it at that time the largest hotel here. Mr. Reed managed the business until his death in 1881 when he was succeeded by his son James A. Reed. In more recent years the Inn, under a variety of names, was operated by Frank Potter, then John Cashman, later Frank Diego and lastly by M. F. Patrick Associates.

Mr. Jennings' guidebook describes the hotel as having accommodations for about 75 guests "has a fine billiard and pool-room attached, ladies parlor and sitting room and gents' reading and smoking room." An engraving shows the hotel with two verandas along the water side from where "a fine view of the harbor and its shipping can be obtained."