

# MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BLVD  
BOSTON, MA 02125

**Town** Provincetown  
**Place** *(neighborhood or village)*  
**Address** 6 MASONIC PL  
**Building ID** 1582  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-038-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-038  
**Building Area** 3931.372  
**Historic Name** Atlantic House  
**Present Use** Commercial  
**Original Use**  
**Date of Construction** 1798  
**Source** Tax assessment  
**Style/Form**  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** clapboard  
**Foundation**  
**Wall/Trim** wood  
**Roof** Side gable  
**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures**

## Photograph

*(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.*

Roll	Negative(s)



## Sketch Map

*Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.*

## Major Alterations *(with dates)*

porch & dormer (1900); addition (1960s)

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.161  
**Setting**

**Recorded by** Johnette Davies  
**Organization** Kise Straw & Kolodner  
**Date** *(month/year)* April 2004  
**Form Status**  new  update

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

*Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.*

# MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## FORM B - BUILDING

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings in the community.*

The Atlantic House is a 2-story, 3-bay sidehall building at south end and a 3-story, 5-bay hotel at the north end, connected by a 1-story hyphen. The 2 story, 3-bay southern section houses the Atlantic House Bar. It is clad in clapboard on the front (east) and north, wood shingle on the side facades. The front-gable roof has partial returns; shed dormer on north slope; brick chimney at ridge; exterior brick chimney on front. The main entry consists of a modern door with pedimented hood supported by knee braces. Fenestration includes 6/6 wood DHS with louver shutters on the 1st floor; large multi-pane stained glass window across the 2nd story. An exterior stair leads to a 2nd story entry on the south side. A 1-story side gable hyphen connects this to the Atlantic House Hotel to north. The hyphen has a central plank door entry with porthole window, pedimented hood and pendant end brackets. Fenestration consists of paired 6-pane casements.

The Atlantic House Hotel portion has a fully pedimented gable end and large shed dormers. The main entry consists of a central plank door with porthole windows and porthole sidelights. An open porch extends across the facade with brackets, turned posts and balustrade; wood deck. Fenestration includes 2/1 wood DHS with louvered operable shutters (1st story); 2/1 DHS in gable end, and 6/6 with pointed arched above. 6/1, 6/6 DHS also present. An exterior stair leads to a 2nd story entry on the north side. A 2nd-story deck is located on the rear facade.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

As per Josephine Del Deo (1977): The Atlantic House bar was built in 1798 at 4 Masonic Place. The hotel section was built later in 1812, making it the second oldest hotel in town. Originally called the Union Hotel, it served as a courthouse in the early days. A circuit judge visited on a regular basis. People were tried here for crimes and misdemeanors such as spitting on the plank walk, drinking or swearing on the Sabbath and talking back to the minister or other important citizens. The Atlantic House also served as the last stop for Lysander Payne's Provincetown to Orleans coach line, which made a u-turn at the hotel and then proceeded up the hill where the steps are now, and heading back to Orleans. A menu dated 1829 is on the wall in the men's room of the main lounge, 1st floor. Rooms have been in continual use upstairs since the hotel's construction. In 1888 the building was sold for \$25, and three months later for \$75. The Atlantic House is today a successful bar and night club in addition to its status as an Inn. It has had a unique place in recent times as the meeting place of famous and less famous artists who have congregated at this night spot to hear such famous night club entertainers as Nina Simone, Jerry Mulligan and Gene Kruppa. The height of this period of entertainment during the 50's and early 60's made it the most desirable location for night clubbing in town. Its present owner, Reginald Cabral, has been an art collector for more than twenty years, and, at one time, numerous valuable canvases decorated its walls. The Atlantic House is a truly individual inn today as it has been in the past. Its unique history and various community aspects make it eligible for Historic nomination, especially since its exterior condition is almost totally intact. Plaque (blue) on building: "Atlantic House bar opened 1798, hotel built 1812. Originally called Union House. Served as courthouse with visiting circuit judge hearing all cases. Also used for town meetings. Was the last stop on a stagecoach route from Orleans to Provincetown." Bronze plaque on building says Eugene O'Neill wrote the following plays here in 1917 - "Ile," "The Moon of the Caribbees", "The Long Voyage Home," "In the Zone."

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

"Walking Tour No. 1, The Center of Provincetown", Provincetown Historical Association 12. Folk Art Museum. Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*