

# Provincetown Housing Authority

TYPICAL UNITS  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

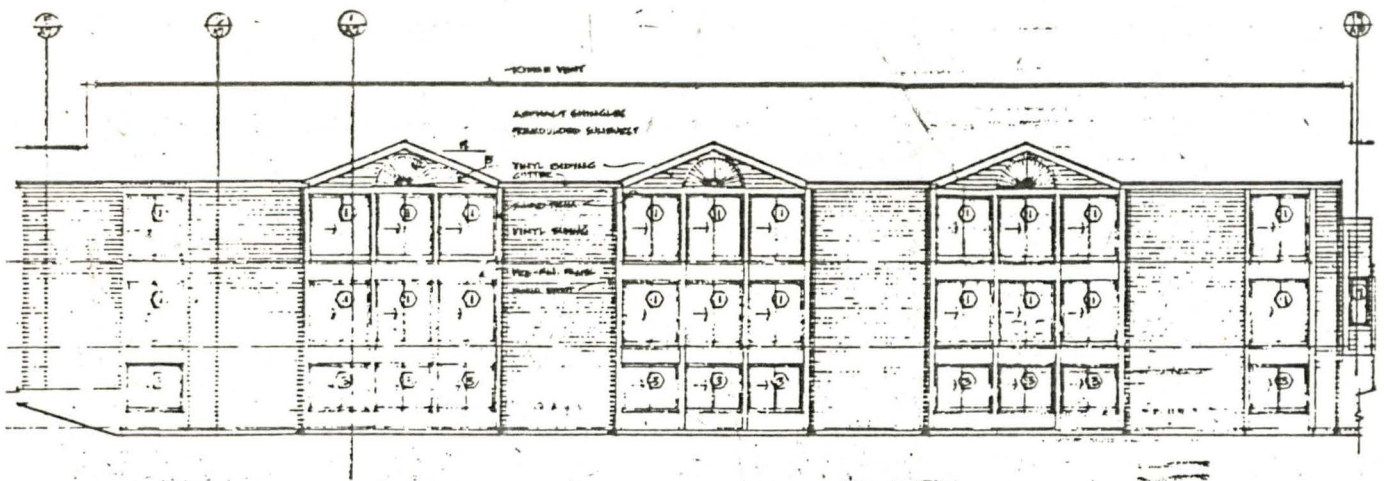
by Jan Kelly

We at the Provincetown Housing Authority are preparing for the dedication of our newly constructed apartment complex for senior citizens and families. The three buildings include 23 one-bedroom units for senior citizens, one handicapped unit, two 2-bedroom and two 3-bedroom units for families. It has been a long and varied process of six years from the grant writing to the occupancy. Some of the faces on the board have changed during these 6 years, but the objective never wavered despite the construction changes demanded by EOCD, Executive Office of Communities and Development in Boston. The work is

completely state funded. No federal funds are involved. The grant was written for a \$1,555,134.00. This amount was studied and awarded in 1980. We were awarded a second grant of \$96,000 by the Solar Energy Office for a passive solar heat design.

The purchase of land was the first step. The Board looked at all available sites, I mean all. Nora Welch's famous quote in the *Advocate* at that time, *we have become experts on swamps*, will give you an idea of the limits we went to. Pat Shultz guided us to the purchase of our first choice. Because we were public about our intent to purchase this piece of land, it was bought from under us by a speculator. From that point, all





discussion of land purchase went into executive session. Pat Shultz guided us again and we succeeded in the purchase of the present operating site at Harry Kemp and Aunt Sukey's Way.

The next step was to choose an architect. We started with a list of 49 possible candidates. We narrowed that to 13. After restudying the resumes of the 13 we finally narrowed the field to 5. We visited existing and functioning buildings of these 5 as part of the decision making.

The five came to Town Hall for interviews on August 4, 1981. The Board listened, studied drawings and models. The Board voted late that night unanimously for David Crawley, Inc. of Plymouth, Mass. David had designed and overseen the construction of nine senior citizen developments. We needed his experience and his talent. He gave us both and his time whenever we needed him.

The drawings were underway. Almost four years of changes and modifications resulted in our finally being able to go out to bid. In March, 1985, in Town Hall the sealed bids were opened by David Crawley and the Board. The amounts of the bids were noted publicly and listed in the Dodge report. Cumberland Construction Co. of Woonsocket, RI was awarded the contract. The subcontractors were next. On April 19, 1985 David Crawley, Arthur Chianese of Cumberland Construction and myself, representing the Board and armed with the Housing Authority Town Seal of 1948, met at the legal department of EOCD to execute and sign the contract. The preconstruction meeting of David, the Board, Paul LeVasseur, superintendent for Arthur Chianese's Cumberland Construction, Tom Hackenson, chief construction engineer for EOCD, Gerry Scallion, Clerk of the Works, and representatives of Audet Electric and Montle Plumbing met at the Grace Gouveia Building. Each would be the other's watchdog during construction. The message communicated was, "Foresee possible problems, collaborate and correct before error." Tom Hackenson drilled that lesson home.

Ground breaking was held on June 23 and we were underway. Everybody worked hard, we knew what we were doing and we did succeed without any major problems. There were many possible problems, but

adjustments were made. Paul LeVasseur was the daily force that kept all moving and progressing. We felt fortunate every day that we had him there. He and Arthur Chianese have been friends since the age of six years and the friendship is also a working relationship of major success.

On the Provincetown side of the story, Colette Sullivan, our executive director, had her many talents well tested. Colette has a marvelous ability to foresee problems. Much calamity was avoided by her foresight; her ability to stay with a problem and solve it until it would be history has been an invaluable strength. Her capabilities in the world of desk, files, typewriter, phone, etc., would have her wealthy in the private sector. Instead, Colette of golden heart gives all this expertise to the Housing Authority. The endless paid and non-paid hours of active and constructive concern have bettered the living conditions of a few people—pay enough—and whatever your job, if it be a job well done—pay enough.

After 11 months of fill, cement, framing, windows, wiring, plumbing, black top and landscaping the paper plans took solid form. After 11 months of healthy communication with Paul Daley, Warren Alexander, Bill Ingraham, Jimmy Meads, Fire Chief; Honey Andrews, Adolph Cunha, and all of Town Hall and the Highway Department, we all smiled at the prospect of the occupancy permit, of the practical use of a dream.

It's a pleasure to work on something that comes out right.

Nothing is perfect, but it can come out right. The haggles, hassles, and arguments have turned to humor—past, conquered, changed. The solidarity of the members of the various factions as a whole targeted the timely and sensible finish. We the Board of the Provincetown Housing Authority, Peter Codinha, Arthur Jones, Jan Kelly, Julia McGrady, and Nora Welch, and all past Board members, invite you to join us in the dedication of Maushope, Provincetown's effort for public housing for senior citizens and families. The dedication will be Friday, August 22, at 1 pm, at 44 Harry Kemp Way. All are welcome.

Maushope is a legendary Indian giant who is the protector of the Lower Cape. He does a good job.