

PROVINCETOWN ART COMMISSION

Provincetown, Massachusetts
December 12, 1959

Board of Selectmen
Town of Provincetown
Provincetown, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Certificates of Appointments from the Board of Selectmen, signed August 31, 1959, and activated by a letter from the Town Manager, signed October 20, 1959, Ernest Irmer, Carl Murchison, and George Yater met with the Town Manager in Caucus Hall on November 12, 1959, and organized the Provincetown Art Commission with Carl Murchison, Chairman; Ernest Irmer, Secretary; and George Yater, Curator.

As directed by the Selectmen, the Art Commission did proceed on November 17, 1959, to Town Hall, to the High School, and to the Cape End Manor, and inspected and listed all pictures hanging there as property of the Town of Provincetown. We asked Ross Moffett and Phil Malicoat to serve with us in determining the value and condition of each picture. We also made a list of all pictures in the High School that are on loan to the Town from the Provincetown Art Association.

Exhibit A, inclosed, contains the desired information on the 13 pictures hanging in Town Hall. Exhibit B, inclosed, contains the same information on the 20 pictures hanging in the High School. Exhibit C, inclosed, contains similar information

on the 23 pictures hanging in the Cape End Manor. Exhibit D, inclosed, is a listing and evaluation of the six pictures hanging in the High School that belong to the Provincetown Art Association.

Perhaps few people in Provincetown are aware of the fact that the pictures hanging in Town Hall are worth \$14,275.00, that the pictures hanging in the High School are worth \$8,975.00, that the pictures in the Cape End Manor are worth \$1,975.00, that the pictures that the Town has on loan from the Provincetown Art Association are worth \$1,700.00, or that the Town has a total art collection in its possession worth \$26,925.00.

The Art Commission points out the great variation in value among the various pictures, the range of value extending all the way from zero to \$5,000.00. Perhaps this has been inevitable because of the method of acquisition, but such a development is not altogether undesirable if the citizens of the Town understand the facts.

It is the opinion of the Art Commission that the Selectmen might welcome suggestions concerning the care and staging of the art collection. Some preliminary suggestions are included in Exhibit E, inclosed.

Very truly yours,

Carl Murchison

Carl Murchison, Chairman

Ernest Irmer

Ernest Irmer, Secretary

George Yater

George Yater, Curator

PROVINCETOWN ART COMMISSION

EXHIBIT A. TOWN HALL

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--|
| 1. Oil, 4 ft X 5 ft | Charles W. Hawthorne | "Fish Cleaners" | \$5,000 | Gift from artist. In good condition. |
| 2. Oil, 7½ ft X 6 ft | Charles W. Hawthorne | "Fishermen" | 3,000 | Gift from artist. <u>Needs repair.</u> |
| 3. Oil, 4 ft X 32 ft | Ross Moffett | Canvas mural | 5,000 | Federal Art Project 193 <u>Needs repair.</u> |
| 4. Oil, 24 X 36 | Wm. Halsall | "Caribbean Sea" | 300 | Gift from artist. In good condition. |
| 5. Oil, 36 X 50 | Wm. Halsall | "Peaked Hills of Cape Cod" | 200 | Gift from artist. <u>Needs repair.</u> |
| 6. Oil, 18 X 24 | Lowell M. Cook | "Town Hall-1877" | 300 | Gift from artist. Good condition. |
| 7. Etching, 25 X 32 | Wm. Bicknell | "Eight Bells" | 100 | Gift from artist. Good condition. |
| | | From Winslow Homer's "The Watch" | | |
| 8. Oil, 42 X 54 | Geo. Elmer Browne | Architectural Rendering | 100 | Gift from artist. Good condition. |
| 9. Oil, 28 X 32 | Pauline Palmer | Hilliard's Wharf | 100 | Gift from artist's estate. |
| 10. Oil, 25 X 30 | Rosa Lee | "Town Crier- 1954" | 100 | Gift from artist. Good Condition. |
| 11. Oil, 20 X 30 | C.N. Taylor | "Cod Fish" | 25 | Gift from artist. <u>Poor Condition.</u> |
| 12. Oil, 8 X 10 | Garret Benecker | "Under a Wharf- 1914" | 50 | Gift from artist. <u>Good condition.</u> |
| 13. Oil, 14½ ft X 9 ft | E.W. Savory | "Signing Mayflower Compact" | | <u>No value.</u> Should not be hung on town property. |

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EXHIBIT B. HIGH SCHOOL

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------|---|
| 1. Oil, 25 X 30 | Edwin Dickinson | "Dunes and Beach" • | \$2,000 | Gift from artist. |
| 2. Oil, 48 ft X 8½ ft | Ross Moffett | "Dorymen" | 1,500 | Federal Art Project 193 <u>Slight repairs.</u> |
| 3. Oil, 48 ft X 8½ ft | Ross Moffett | "Pilgrims Landing" | 1,500 | Federal Art Project 193 |
| 4. Oil, 76 X 64 | Frederick Waugh | "Old Ironsides" | 500 | Gift from artist. <u>Needs repairs.</u> |
| 5. Oil, 24 X 30 | Ross Moffett | "Wharf-1918" | 500 | Gift from artist. |
| 6. Oil, 30 X 36 | Charles Kaeselau | "Wharves-1926" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 7. Oil, 34 X 40 | Garrett Beneker | "Mending Nets" • | 300 | Gift from artist. <u>Needs repairs.</u> |
| 8. Oil, 42 X 48 | Henry Hensche | "News Boy" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 9. Oil, 48 X 48 | Henry Hensche | "Portrait" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 10. Oil, 38 X 50 | Julius Katzieff | "Town Crier Amos Kubik" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 11. Oil, 36 X 42 | R.H.Ives Gammell | "Portrait" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 12. Oil, 34½ X 32½ | Charles Kaeselau | "Frank A. Days, Sr." | 250 | Gift from Days family. |
| 13. Oil, 30½ X 40½ | Wm. L. L'Engle | "Circus" | 250 | Gift from Mrs. L'Engle. |
| 14. Oil, 25 X 30 | R. Eastwood | "Dunes - Dawn" | 150 | Gift from artist. |
| 15. Oil, 25 X 30 | V.B. Rann | "Landscape" | 100 | Gift from artist. |
| 16. Water Color, 23 X 26 | John Frazier | "Bradford Street" | 100 | Gift from artist. |
| 17. Oil, 18 X 20 | Frank Carson | "Wreck of the Spindler" | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 18. Charcoal, 16 X 20 | F.H. Marvin | Drawing" | 25 | Gift from artist. |
| 19. Etching, 16 X 20 | W.H.W. Bicknell | "G. Stuart's Washington" | 25 | Gift from artist. |
| 20. Etching, 14 X 19 | Morgan Dennis | "Wynken, Blyken, & Nod" | 25 | Gift from artist. |

PROVINCETOWN ART COMMISSION

EXHIBIT C. CAPE END MANOR

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Oil, 30 X 40 | Ambrose Webster | "Snow Scene, Tamworth, N.H." | \$300 | Gift from artist, 1915. |
| 2. | Oil, 25 X 30 | Bruce McKain | Peaked Hill C.G. Station" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 3. | Oil, 40 X 50 | G. Elmer Browne | "Landscape" | 300 | Gift from artist. |
| 4. | Oil, 20 X 40 | Heinrich Pheiffer | "Landscape" | 100 | Gift from artist. |
| 5. | Oil, 18 X 22 | Ada Raynor Hensche | "Still Life" | 100 | Gift from artist. |
| 6. | Water Color, 22 X 28 | V.B. Rann | "Landscape" | 100 | Gift from Mrs. Rann. |
| 7. | Oil, 20 X 24 | D. Margaret Hughes | "Housetops" | 75 | Gift from artist. |
| 8. | Water Color, 22 X 28 | Oliver Chaffee | "Tourette 1926" | 75 | Gift from artist. |
| 9. | Oil, 16 X 20 | D.M. Hughes | "Rooftops" | 75 | Gift from artist. |
| 10. | Oil, 16 X 20 | Ernest Perry | "Landscape" | 50 | Gift from Mrs. Perry. |
| 11. | Water Color, 22 X 28 | Oliver Chaffee | "Landscape" | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 12. | Oil, 48 X 32 | Chanel | "Dunes" | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 13. | Water Color, 21 X 27 | Florida Duncan | | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 14. | Water Color, 20 X 28 | Heinrich Pheiffer | | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 15. | Oil, 16 X 20 | Ernest Perry | "Inlet" | 50 | Gift from Mrs. Perry. |
| 16. | Oil, 20 X 28 | Heinrich Pheiffer | "Boats" | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 17. | Oil, 13 X 14 | Heinrich Pheiffer | "Nasturtiums" | 50 | Gift from artist. |
| 18. | Monotype, 20 X 24 | Julius Katzieff | "Dory" | 25 | Gift from artist's estate. |
| 19. | Monotype, 20 X 24 | Julius Katzieff | "Wharf" | 25 | Gift from artist's estate. |
| 20. | Oil, 10 X 14 | Ernest Perry | "Red House" | 25 | Gift from Mrs. Perry. |
| 21. | Print, 15 X 20 | Dorothy Lake Gregory | "Moonlight Conversation" | 25 | Gift from artist. |
| 22. | Watercolor, 16 X 20 | Oliver Chaffee | "May Day- 1936" | 25 | Gift from artist. |
| 23. | Watercolor, 14 X 12 | Ada Gilmore | "Heron" | 25 | Gift from artist. |

PROVINCETOWN ART COMMISSION

EXHIBIT D. PICTURES ON LOAN TO THE TOWN FROM THE PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 1. Oil. | Charles W. Hawthorne | "Still Life with Fish" | \$500 | In High School. |
| 2. Oil. | Blanche Lazzell | "Painting No. 12" | 300 | In High School. |
| 3. Oil. | V.B. Rann | "October Landscape" | 250 | In High School. |
| 4. Oil. | J. Floyd Clymer | "Harbor in Winter" | 250 | In High School. |
| 5. Oil. | George Elmer Browne | "Amplitude of Nature" | 250 | In High School. |
| 6. Oil. | Elizabeth H. Thomas | "Still Life" | 150 | In High School |

PROVINCETOWN ART COMMISSION

EXHIBIT E. SUGGESTIONS TO SELECTMEN

1. We hope that all plaster surfaces in the exhibition hallways of Town Hall can be painted white, this to be done for the walls, ceiling, and the ugly sprinkler-pipe on the ceiling. This will greatly enhance the colors of the pictures.

2. We recommend that the Art Commission be allowed to direct the hanging of the pictures after the hallway renovation is completed, and that the Art Commission be allowed to choose a few pictures from the High School or the Cape End Manor in order to achieve a proper balance in the hallways of Town Hall.

3. We recommend that the Art Commission be allowed to remove from the Town Hall any picture that does not possess sufficient artistic merit to be hung in that place.

4. We recommend that insurance be placed on the Town's art collection, especially on the pictures that belong to the Art Association.

5. The Provincetown Art Association will be glad to provide additional pictures from its permanent collection on loan to the Town.

6. We recommend that metal name plates be placed on the pictures. George Yater can supply any desired information.