



c 1442 - View from Hilliard's Wharf in 1860, Provincetown, Mass.

The First Town Hall

Taken in 1860



John R. Smith

High Pole Hill and Town Hall from Ryder St
- 1854 -

In 1853 the town bought the land known as High Pole Hill for \$350. The next year, the top of the hill was lowered some feet and a \$15,000 "Town House" put up. The town demanded three things in the new Town House: a hall for town meetings, rooms for a High School, and a tower that could be seen half way to Boston Light.

Because the top of the hill was windswept and bleak, the town offices remained in their old quarters on the front street.

On February 16, 1877, at 8.25 P. M., the building was totally destroyed by fire, and the greatest lament was for the beacon which could be seen "clear out in the bay."