

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

--	--	--	--

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

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

Town Provincetown
Place (neighborhood or village)
Address 253A COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 753
Parcel No. (PID) 11-3-028-0
Mapbase # 11-3-028
Building Area 448.498
Historic Name
Present Use Commercial
Original Use Outbuilding - Shed
Date of Construction 1870
Source 1880 Map of Provincetown
Style/Form Astylistic
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material Wood shingle
Foundation wood
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Flat
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.099
Setting

Recorded by Vanessa Zeoli
Organization Kise Straw & Kolodner
Date (month/year) October 2003
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

--	--	--	--

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

253A Commercial St. is a 1-story, 3-bay, astylistic shed converted to commercial use; flat roof has a built-up roof surface; exterior is clad in wood shingles with wood corner boards and trim; building sits on a wood foundation; fenestration includes 6/6 wood DHS windows, 2/2 wood DHS, 36-pane wood picture window flanked by 4/4 wood DHS; primary entrance is accessed by paired wood pane-and-panel doors.

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.

"This property is very important from many aspects of community development. As indicated above, the original building was the ship's chandlers of Captain Charles Cook's wharf and is typical of many wharf buildings of that period. It is similar in dimension to the old Trap Shed, for instance, on Cold Storage wharf, demolished two years ago. Subsequent uses of the building were a boat building workshop in which the famous Race Point surfboat was originally built by Charles Gardner. The designer of this boat was George Bickers, father of Arthur Bickers who was, for many years, the curator of the Pilgrim Monument Museum and formerly of the Historical Museum on Commercial St. (see newspaper clipping, Aug. 21, 1969, Appendix Newspaper File). George Bickers was chief of the Wood End Coast Guard Station for thirty years.

In 1924 Ross Moffett and Heinrich Pfeiffer began a school of painting in the building called "The Panting School" which continued for a limited period of time. The property passed to the Provincetown Playhouse from Heinrich Pfeiffer about 1940. The three persons who began the original Playhouse company at he time were: Catherine Huntington, Virginia Thoms, and Edwin Petit.

Because of the varied aspects of community life that this building represents and the ongoing theater tradition which the company has carried on since the traditional was made famous by the plays of Eugene O'Neill this building is worthy of Landmark status."

The associated Playhouse Theater burned down in 1977.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

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