

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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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 474 COMMERCIAL ST
Building ID 1360
Parcel No. (PID) 12-4-056-0
Mapbase # 12-4-056
Building Area 1023.7
Historic Name Captain Sylvanus Cook Cottage
Present Use Residential
Original Use Residential
Date of Construction 1807
Source Plaque on building
Style/Form Greek Revival
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material clapboard
Foundation brick
Wall/Trim wood
Roof Front gable
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Wrap porch with lattice sidewalks. Rear ell addition.

Condition Good
Moved no yes **Date**
Acreage 0.091
Setting

Recorded by Johnette Davies
Organization Kise Straw & Kolodner
Date (month/year) December 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.

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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.

474 Commercial St. is a 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, Greek Revival-style sidehall cottage; gable-front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, shed dormer on side roof slope; exterior is clad in clapboard siding with wood trim; building sits on a brick foundation; fenestration includes 6/6 wood DHS with operable louvered shutters; sidehall entrance is accessed by a wood panel door, door surround includes entablature, pilasters and sidelights; Greek Revival details include partial cornice returns, trim around windows, door surround with entablature, pilasters and sidelights; front entrance details same as Cook Street entry; the partial façade 2nd-story porch wraps around the west side of the building; full façade 1-story deck; a lattice screen is located at each level, obscuring some of the features of the building; a window in the gable end has been converted to a door, which opens to the 2nd-story deck; west façade contains a 3/4 cottage that faces Cook Street with 6/6 DHS, operable louvered shutters, a deck wraps to front, a door surround with pilasters and large entablature, sidelights, panel door, large brick ridge chimney, address marked as 1 Cook Street, rear (north) façade contains a 1-story side-gable addition with skylights and steps/porch to double door entry facing Cook Street.

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 Mary Avellar (1976): "This was the home of Captain Henry Cook, a member of the great Cook family that dominated the entire portion of this section of town. His residence was opposite the H. & S. Cook pier which formed the eastern line of the "Cook Block: of business. The homes of all the Cook family were clustered in this area. The 1880 map shows the full complex of homes. Captain Sylvanus Cook's house next door at 472 Comm (96-P) was another important Cook residence still standing and in excellent condition. The E. Kibby Cook house, later the home of Mary Heaton Vorse (94-P) is also still standing, although in poor condition. The "Cook" family amounted to a kind of empire dating from the early 18th century (see Bryant's history) and dominating the whaling and fish wholesaling industry for the greater part of the 19th century.

In later years this house became the residence of Abbie Putnam, Provincetown librarian extraordinaire who played the trumpet in her front yard when Eisenhower was elected President."

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.*