UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
AHEARN HOUSE and SUMMER HOUSE
AND/OR COMMON
DAVID CURRAN HOUSE

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Pamet Point Road
CITY: TOWN
Wellfleet
STATE
Massachusetts
VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10
STATE
Massachusetts
COUNTY
Barnstable
CODE
25

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
_-DISTRICT
_-BUILDING(S)
X-STRUCTURE
_-SITE
_-OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
_-PUBLIC
_-PRIVATE
_-BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_-IN PROCESS
_-BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
_-OCCUPIED
_-UNOCCUPIED
_-WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
_-YES: RESTRICTED
_-YES: UNRESTRICTED
_-NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PARK
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
North Atlantic Regional Office - National Park Service
STREET & NUMBER
15 State Street
CITY, TOWN
Boston
STATE
Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Barnstable
STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
HABS Survey, CACO No. 25-53
DATE
1962
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Park Service
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D.C.
The Ahearn house is an early 19th century 1½ story timber framed 3/4 Cape house set on a brick foundation and enclosed by a pitched roof covered with wood shingles. The house has a rectangular floor plan with a central chimney at west of the house's center and capped down above the roof line. Sash is uniformly 9/6 except for 6/6 in the sables; windows are set in projecting frames with pinned mortise-and-tendon joints. The building is trimmed with an entablature and boxed cornice which appears to date from a mid-19th century alteration (perhaps ca. 1851). The facade (south) is asymmetrical, containing one window west and two windows east of the entry. The main entrance is framed by Federalist-period pilasters with diamond-shaped lozenges; set back on the pilasters is a panelled door (ca. 1870) surmounted by a moulded panel which may block an earlier transom. The facade is covered with beveled clapboard laid with shiplap joints. End walls each contain three windows at the first story and two at the gable. End walls are clad in painted wood shingles including rows of decorative shingles (ca.1890 - 1910). The north elevation contains three windows and a six-panel Federalist-period door and is clad with painted wood shingles.

The property also contains a 19th century summer house/outbuilding of timber framed construction, set on a brick foundation and enclosed by a pitched roof. An additional shed section was added to the summer house in the 1950 s or 60 s.

The original part of the building, the front, is of timber-frame construction, set on a brick foundation, and enclosed by a pitched roof covered with wood shingles. The post-World War II section of the building is of balloon-frame construction, set on a concrete block foundation, and enclosed by a shed roof covered with wood shingles.

Exterior elevations are asymmetrical and contain mostly 9/6 sash except for one twelve-pane light (east elevation) and one 2/2 window (west gable). Window frames in the original portion of the building project from the wall plane and are joined by mortise and tenon joints with wooden pins. Frames of the addition are of modern construction.

Although altered by its enlargement and conversion to a residential cottage, the Ahearn Summer House preserves most of the original features and design.
The Ahearn house is representative of the 19th century version of a Cape Cod house architectural style which originated in basic form in the late 17th century and still is a prominent architectural style on Cape Cod today.

The basically intact and unaltered three-quarter Cape central facade of the Ahearn house, however, makes this structure a noteworthy example of the 19th century architectural techniques that were used to construct this type of house. Likewise, the alterations that have been made to this structure are minimal and consistent with traditional evolutionary modifications that were made to Cape Cod houses between the 19th and early 20th centuries. The interior of the structure is largely unaltered, and still represents the basic floor plan that the original 19th century design intended (e.g., central entrance, flanked by two rooms; kitchen in rear and bedrooms upstairs).

The summer house also is representative of 19th century domestic life on Cape Cod and is compatible with the architectural design and setting of the main house.

The significance of the Ahearn Summer House lies with its being ancillary structure to the Ahearn House. Architecturally, its design and siting respect the Ahearn House.

The purposes of Cape Cod National Seashore include the preservation of notable examples of Cape Cod style houses and the preservation of the historic scene within the seashore. A recent survey (Pfeiffer 1981) of 110 structures that the Park Service owns or will acquire within the seashore area identified five 19th-century Cape Cod style houses.

Among the five houses, the 19th century Ahearn House is the only three-quarter Cape, a distinctive variation of the Cape Cod style. It is also one of the least altered examples of the 19th century Cape Cod style house among those that the Park Service owns.

The Ahearn House and summer house, furthermore, are important reminders of the human settlement that once dominated the Wellfleet countryside. Although almost all the former agricultural fields now are reforested, the remaining rural houses, such as the Ahearn House, are crucial remnants of the 18th and 19th century historic scene of the outer Cape, telling evidence that the area is substantially a cultural landscape.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cape Cod National Seashore Master Plan, Historic Structure # 25-53, 1963
Cape Cod National Seashore Historic Structures Inventory, B. Pfeiffer, 1981

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.3

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 111 34 0 4 46 5 6 6
B
C
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This tract was a 6.3 acre plot purchased by the National Park Service. Boundaries are shown on attached site map.
This property is identified as Cape Cod National Seashore Tract # 25-5716 and located on Pamet Point Road, in Wellfleet, 0.8 mile west of the intersection of Route 6 and Pamet Point Road.

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Michael E. Whatley, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION
Cape Cod National Seashore

STREET & NUMBER
Marconi Area

CITY OR TOWN
South Wellfleet

STATE
Massachusetts

DATE
3/22/84

TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3785

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NATIONAL

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE
Sept 27, 1984

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
11/20/89
AHEARN HOUSE
Wellfleet, MA
Cape Cod National Seashore
Photo by Michael E. Whatley
Date: March 1984
Southwest Elevation
Negative on file at CCNS
AHEARN HOUSE
Wellfleet, MA
Cape Cod National Seashore
Photo by Michael E. Whatley
Date: March 1984
East elevation
Negative on file at CCNS
AHEARN HOUSE - Summer House
Wellfleet, MA
Cape Cod National Seashore
Photo by Michael E. Whatley
Date: March 1984
Southwest elevation
Negative on file at CCNS