

PH0280346

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
OCT 24 1975
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED NOV 12 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ Customs House, District 7

AND/OR COMMON
Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Cobbs Hill, ^{MA} Route 6A

CITY, TOWN Barnstable VICINITY OF 12th
STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Barnstable CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Barnstable

STREET & NUMBER
Town Office Building, Main Street

CITY, TOWN Hyannis VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts 02601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Barnstable Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Route 6A

CITY, TOWN Barnstable STATE Massachusetts 02601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE 1974
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Customs House (now the Trayser Museum) in Barnstable is located on Cobbs Hill at the eastern end of the village, facing north on Main Street (Route 6A). Across the street is the Unitarian Church, and beyond that, Barnstable Harbor. There are no other buildings immediately adjacent to the Customs House except for the Old Jail (on the National Register) which was moved to its present location beside the Customs House in 1973. The building is located on one third of an acre with decorative iron fencing marking the back boundary. A small hip roofed carriage house with two large double doors is situated behind the Customs House.

The Customs House, a 2 story hip roofed red brick building, rests on a high granite foundation. A string course topped by a dentiled molding marks the division between the first and second floor, and the cornice repeats this decorative detail with two rows of dentils and a string course below. The fenestration is regular and all the windows are identical, with 2/2/2 sash. The top lights in all the windows fit into a semi-circular opening which is in turn topped by a cast iron hood molding. There is a central doorway topped by a semi-circular arch identical to the window arches on either side of the door, in the facade and rear elevation. A cast iron balcony supported by elaborate brackets extends across the three second floor windows in the shallow pavilion of the facade. A flight of granite steps leads up to the facade entrance.

The original low pitched hip roof was of corrugated iron, and supported a balustrade between the five brick chimneys which served the interior fireplaces. When the steam heating system was installed four of the chimneys and the balustrade were removed. A new higher slate hipped roof was installed over the old roof, and the flag pole which was placed on the new roof is now used as a landmark by the United States Geological Survey. The slate on the new roof was replaced by asphalt in 1971 because of the high cost of maintenance.

The interior contains most of the original cast iron structural and decorative features. Five square cast iron columns with Corinthian capitals support the second floor, and a broad cast iron staircase with an ornate banister rises along the west wall. Other interior features include Doric and Tuscan pilasters, plain plaster walls, and maple floors. Most of the wood paneled partitions from the building's Post Office days were taken out when the building was converted in 1960 into the Donald G. Trayser Museum.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1855-56 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barnstable Customs House is significant not only for its architectural merit but also for its role in the shipping industry on Cape Cod in the nineteenth century.

The architect of the building cannot definitively be named. Local sources claim that Alfred B. Mullett designed the building. However, this seems unlikely because Mullett was not connected with the Treasury Department when the Customs House was built in 1855. Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury during the 1850's was most likely the architect because he was involved with the design of most of the customs houses and post offices built during that decade. The large number of these buildings, reflecting the tremendous economic growth of the United States in the mid-nineteenth century attest to Young's proficiency in his field. Many of these Federal buildings were designed in the rather heavy Italian style exhibited by the Barnstable Customs House. The Customs House, the first "fireproof" building on Cape Cod, and its style, massing, and materials were in marked contrast to the typical wood frame buildings which had traditionally been constructed in the area.

The Seventh Customs District was established by an act of Congress in 1789, and encompassed all of Barnstable County except Falmouth. The district ranked fourth among the Massachusetts Customs Districts, following Boston, Salem, and New Bedford. By 1850, 91,102 tons of shipping had been reported and the need for a customs house was obvious. Prior to the construction of the Barnstable Customs House each Collector had been required to use his own place of business to collect the taxes. After the Civil War however, the shipping receipts in the Seventh Customs District gradually decreased until the District was made part of the Boston District in 1913. The building continued to be used by the Post Office until 1958, and the Cape Cod Extension Service used the second floor from 1924 until 1957. In 1960 the building was turned over to the Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum and now contains exhibits relating to the maritime history of Barnstable, as well as artifacts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barnstable Registry of Deeds
 National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Three Centuries of Customs Houses
 1972
 Trayser, Donald G., ed. Barnstable - Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town, Hyannis, Mass.
 F.B. & F.P. Goss, 1939
 U.S. Treasury Department, History of Public Buildings Under Control of the Treasury
 Department, Washington, Government Printing Office

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	3	9	1	8	9	0	4	6	1	7	0	9	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Louis Cataldo

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE October 8, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston

STATE Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Elizabeth Reed Amador

DATE 10/17/75

TITLE Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>11/12/95</u>
<u>Acting</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>NOV 10 1975</u>
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

Property ^{U.S.} United States Custom House, District 7

Barnstable

State Mass.

Working Number 7.8.75.1275

TECHNICAL

Photos /
Maps /

CONTROL

OK 7.11.75
cm

Grant wasn't president in 1855-56. In fact he didn't become president until 1869, so Alfred Mullett had not been appointed by Grant in 1855. I wonder do they have their dates straight or was this just a mistake. Has architectural significance and commercial significance.

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
7-18-75

ARCHITECTURAL

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVITZ
7-16-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

See new info.

OTHER

Accept
w. R. Luce
10/31/75

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

state wants it returned to change information on Mullett (perhaps Ann B. Young)

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
COLE
8/5/75
10/3/75
Return
w. R. Luce

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Herington
11.3.75

KEEPER

[Signature]
NOV 10 1975

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-3-76

Send-back 8.13.75
Re-submit 10.24.75

Entered NOV 12 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 24 1975**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 12 1975**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC ^{U.S.} United States Customs House, District 7

AND/OR COMMON

Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Barnstable

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Barnstable

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Tales of Cape Cod, Inc.

DATE OF PHOTO

1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT

47 Cherry St. Hyannis, MA 02601

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

1

North facade and east elevation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 24 1975
DATE ENTERED	NOV 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ Customs House, District 7

AND/OR COMMON

Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Barnstable VICINITY OF COUNTY Barnstable STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S., Hyannis quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

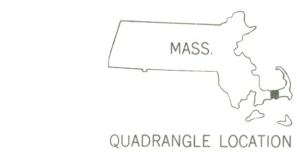
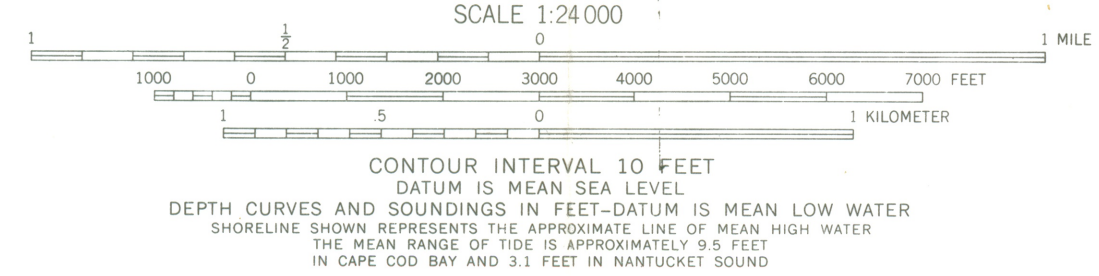
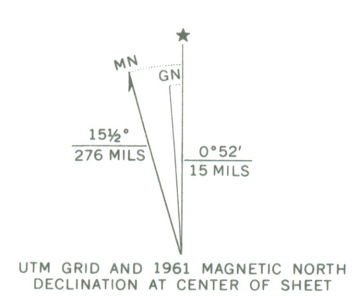
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Barnstable, United States
Custom House, District 7
UTM reference:
19/391890/4617090

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939. Revised 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 258
and 339 (1960). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts's coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	Slate Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HYANNIS, MASS.
N4136.5—W7015.8 X 7.5
1961
AMS 6967 III NE—SERIES V814





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street

~~100 Beacon Street~~

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

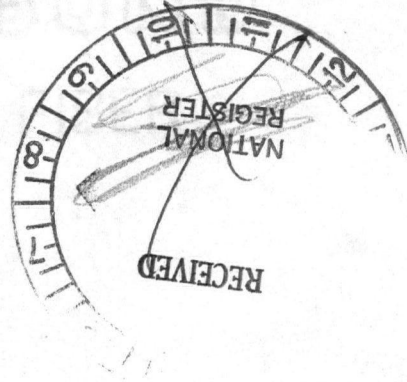
Paul Guzzi

727-8470

Secretary of the Commonwealth

17 October 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find two National Register nominations for the following properties:

1. Plainville, North Attleboro, Angle Tree Stone
2. Franklin, Red Brick School

Also enclosed is the re-submission of nomination for the U.S. Customs House in Barnstable.

These properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mw

Enclosures



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	10/24/75
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACH)	
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	
INITIALS	

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 12 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
u.s. United States Customs House, District-7	Barnstable Barnstable County
Matthews Pulling Mill Site	North Brookfield vicinity Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Hon. Edward P. Boland
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 11/14/75

di
LE

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/16/77
Reviewer INITIALS: *geoff*
NR DOE Nov. 12, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: U.S. Customhouse

OTHER NAMES: Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum - *sec.*

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Cobbs Hill, MA. Rte. 6A

CITY, TOWN Baenstable
STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12th
COUNTY Barnstable code 001
Public

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR Substantially intact-1 EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2 ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact - 0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- Customhouse

now- Educational, Museum

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE - 4
- ART
- COMMERCE - 6
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES FIREPROOF BLDG. NO ON CASE. "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: RENAISSANCE REVIVAL - NORTH ITALIAN MODE.

architect/m-builder: attributed to AMMI B. YOUNG

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1855

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1973

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): ~~1789, 1913, 1958, 1960~~

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/3

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

BRICK, GRANITE FOUNDATION; 2 STORIES,

RECTANGULAR, TRUNCATED HIPPED ROOF; FRONT CENTER GLAZED DOUBLE-

DOOR ENTRANCE WITH FAN LIGHT, FLANKED BY ^{PANELED PILASTERS, AND} ROUND-ARCHED OPENINGS;

^{2nd story}

~~BRACKETED IRON BALCONY, ~~ON THE~~ ~~ROOF~~ ~~OVER~~ ~~THE~~ ~~ENTRANCE~~~~

~~SIMILAR~~ SIMILAR REAR AND SIDE OPENINGS, PROMINENT CONTRASTING AND

DENTICULATED BELT COURSE AND CORNICE; CAST-IRON STRUCTURAL AND DECORA-

TIVE INTERIOR FEATURES; ORIGINAL LOW-PITCH-

ED IRON ROOF WITH BALUSTRADE REPLACED, LATE 19TH C.; ^{REAR CARRIAGE HOUSE. ITALIAN} RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

~~NORTH ITALIAN MODE.~~ ^{COB}

FIRST FIREPROOF BUILDING ON THE CAPE; BUILT

^{to handle} ^{Shipping} ^{at the} DUE TO INCREASED TONNAGE USING THE PORT MUSEUM.