

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report

NANTUCKET

Report Date: 1984

Associated Regional Report: Cape Cod and the Islands

Reconnaissance Survey Town Reports, produced for MHC's Statewide Reconnaissance Survey between 1979 and 1987, introduce the historical development of each of the Commonwealth's municipalities. Each report begins with an historic overview, a description of topography, and political boundaries. For the purposes of the survey, the historic period has been subdivided into seven periods: Contact (1500–1620), Plantation (1620–1675), Colonial (1675–1775), Federal (1775–1830), Early Industrial (1830–1870), Late Industrial (1870–1915), and Early Modern (1915–1940/55). Each report concludes with survey observations that evaluate the town's existing historic properties inventory and highlight significant historic buildings, settlement patterns, and present threats to these resources. A bibliography lists key secondary resources.

Town reports are designed for use together with a series of town maps that demarcate settlement patterns, transportation corridors and industrial sites for each historic period. These maps are in the form of color-coded, polyester overlays to the USGS topographic base map for each town on file and available for consultation at MHC. For further information on the organization and preparation of town reports, readers should contact MHC.

Users should keep in mind that these reports are now two decades or more old. The information they contain, including assessments of existing knowledge, planning recommendations, understanding of local development, and bibliographic references all date to the time they were written. In some cases, information on certain topics was not completed. No attempt has been made to update this information.

Electronic text was not available for digital capture, and as a result most of the reports have been scanned as PDF files. While all have been processed with optical character recognition, there will inevitably be some character recognition errors.

The activity that is the subject of the MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior. This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240.



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DATE: 1984

COMMUNITY: Nantucket

I. TOPOGRAPHY

Nantucket Island lies approximately 25 miles south of Cape Cod. It is separated from the mainland by the Nantucket Sound to the north, with the Atlantic Ocean lying to the south and east. Martha's Vineyard lies a short distance to the west. Nantucket Island itself is a product of the Wisconsin period glaciation which created the terminal moraine and outwash deposits which compose most of the island. Three surficial geological deposits make up the island's topography. In the northern half of the island a hilly moraine deposit is present. A sloping outwash plain is present in the southern half of the island. A fosse or valley runs between the two deposits noted above. In the northern portion of the island, land surfaces reach maximum elevations of 100 feet in hilly moraine areas. In the south, elevations average 50 feet or less, sloping southerly to sea level on the island's southern shore.

Two islands lie off Nantucket's easterly shoreline. The first and largest is Tuckernuck Island, a continuation of the moraine found over most of northern Nantucket. The island was historically connected to Nantucket by a tidal bar which permitted passage between the two areas. The second island, Muskeget Island, lies northwesterly of Tuckernuck and is also a continuation of the moraine deposit noted for the other island.

Nantucket's soils are a product of parent materials deposited following glacial recession. Sand has been the dominant factor in soil formation. In general, soils are sandy and droughty and not good for crops. Attempts at agriculture have not been greatly successful with crop yields normally lower than that on the mainland. The Duke soil series is present throughout much of the southern outwash plain deposits. Hinckley and Meadow soil series are also present in drainage channel areas cross cutting the outwash plain generally from north to south. In the northern portion of the island, Coastal Beach and Dune Sand Soil series are present, particularly in the Great Point and Coatue Point areas. In moraine areas, considerable variation in soil type is found. Soil series in these areas include the Nantucket, Tisbury, Peat, Plymouth, and Carver series.

Drainage on Nantucket Island is characterized predominantly by subsurface patterns, the eastern half of the outwash plain containing the greatest ground water deposits. Some surface drainage is also present in pond areas such as Miacomet and Long ponds. Smaller ponds and some streams also exist as well as swamps and bogs. Numerous tidal ponds and harbors are also present on Nantucket Island. Some of these areas include Coskata and Sesachacha Ponds, Nantucket Harbor, Polpis Harbor, Head of the Harbor, and Madaket Harbor.

Prior to initial white settlement, Nantucket was covered with a deciduous forest which was depleted. Today, most of the island is covered with vegetational types consisting of woody shrubs, softwood, heath, and meadow.

II. POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Nantucket was included in the original Plymouth Colony grant of 1621. In 1641 Nantucket, along with Martha's Vineyard and other offshore islands, were sold to Thomas Mayhew of Watertown. In 1659, it was purchased from Mayhew by a group interested in its settlement. The island was incorporated as the town of Nantucket in 1671, under the jurisdiction of the Province of New York. Its name was changed to Sherburne in 1673. In 1692 the island was annexed to the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Tuckernuck Island was granted to the town in 1713. In 1793 the name of the town reverted to Nantucket.

III. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Nantucket is a resort island, located 25 miles south of the Massachusetts mainland. At least six native village sites have been reported, and many other sites are likely. First permanent European settlement occurred in 1660 after purchase from the Mayhew family, by a group of non-Puritans and separatist sympathizers. Initial settlement was located in the western part of the island, primarily between Capaum Pond and Hummock Pond, with first Friends meetinghouse sited in 1714 at north end of Hummock Pond. First Presbyterian meetinghouse was located at south end of Capaum Pond. Closing of Cappamet Harbor mouth in 1717 forced removal of official settlement focus east to Great Harbor in 1720, where 18th century maritime oriented village developed. Relatively island native population was soon decimated by epidemics.

Local 18th- and early 19th-century agricultural economy was largely limited to extensive sheep and livestock raising, but shaling industry soon assumed major importance, and despite serious periodic wartime losses, by 1830 Nantucket became the third most important commercial center in Massachusetts.

An extensive, prosperous maritime village developed with a heterogeneous population, dominated by an economically powerful Quaker majority. Stagnation quickly followed the decline of whaling after the early 1840s, and the local population declined dramatically. The summer resort economy expanded steadily after the 1870s, and by the 1890s landmark shoreline hotels were in operation, and speculative real estate ventures (mostly unsuccessful) abounded. The notable exception was Siasconset on the east coast, where an 18th-century fishing hamlet and later local resort enjoyed continued success and expansion as a summer colony.

With relatively little post-1850 development, Nantucket Village remains a significant collection of 18th- and early 19th-century landmarks and structures, with a central area of unusual stylistic uniformity as a result of reconstruction following a major 1846 fire. Although most of the large hotels have been lost, much of the later resort development here and at Siasconset remains intact. While designation of the village as a historic district in the 1950s has provided some local control, developmental pressures have remained intense. Outside the village, extensive summer home development, although locally regulated, continues to threaten historic archaeological sites.

IV. CONTACT PERIOD (1500-1620)

A. Transportation Routes

Little direct evidence is present describing or locating native trails of the Contact period. However, because of Nantucket's nature as an island, travel by water around the island may be assumed. Trails around the island's coastline may also be inferred similar to those along coastal areas on Martha's Vineyard and the Cape Cod mainland. These trails probably skirted the inside boundary of coastal ponds and harbors and connected the various political/tribal areas as well as natural resource areas. Interior trails also probably existed.

B. Population

Nantucket did not contain a settled white population during this period. Occasional transient European explorers, traders, or fishermen may have been present.

There is no concrete basis on which Nantucket's Contact period native population can be based. However, extensive settlement of the area during the Late Woodland period suggests a substantial population may have been present. Should Starbuck's (1924) Plantation period (ca. 1675) estimates of native population prove correct, populations during the Contact period may have approached ~~or exceeded~~ the 2,000-3,000 person range.

C. Settlement Pattern

European settlements did not exist on Nantucket during this period. However, some contact between Native Americans and Europeans on Nantucket undoubtedly took place as European explorers, traders, and fishermen frequented the area long before settlement, possibly as early as the late 15th century. The first European to describe and explore Nantucket was probably Bartholomew Gosnold during his 1602 voyage.

Native Americans had settled the Nantucket area for some time prior to European contact. Middle and Late Woodland period sites are the best represented in Nantucket's prehistory and exhibited preferences for coastal/estuarine locations. Shell midden sites with Middle and Late Woodland components are common. Notable

sites of this period include the Squam Pond, Henecater Swamp, and Ram Pasture I (near Hummock Pond) sites. Late Woodland burials were also found at Onaise in 1916. In short, existing sites and artifact finds indicate intensive use of Nantucket during the Late Woodland period.

No evidence exists at present to identify specific Contact period village sites on Nantucket. However, it seems probable that they exist; the problem is pinpointing exact locations and recognizing them when they are found. Sheet copper or brass projectile points have been found near Dionis, Surfside, and Nobadeer, which may indicate Contact period components or sites in those areas.

Thus, while specific Contact period native sites are not known for Nantucket Island, Late Woodland period native settlement and potential Contact period artifact finds indicate sites of this period should be present. Plantation period native settlement of Nantucket further supports this conclusion. Accordingly, we might assume that Contact period native settlement of the Nantucket area follows other regional, Cape, and island trends of preferences for coastal areas such as tidal rivers, estuaries, and ponds. Settlement of inland areas is also likely, although not to the extent of coastal areas.

D. Subsistence Pattern

Since European settlements were not present in the Nantucket area during this period, European subsistence probably followed that of the native inhabitants in the area. While some food was undoubtedly carried with early explorers, traders, and fishermen, the bulk of their subsistence was probably secured through hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants, shellfish, and trade, stealing, or the purchase of agricultural products (corn, beans, etc.) from the local natives.

Native American subsistence during the Contact period in the Nantucket area was probably similar to that practiced in other Cape areas, with one exception--fishing. On Nantucket, fishing may have been more important than hunting or agriculture. However, in general, the combined use of wild and domesticated food resources formed the basis of the subsistence system. It is unknown at present exactly when agriculture, or more specifically, horticulture, was introduced to the natives in the Cape and islands areas. However, by the Contact period, sufficient quantities of corn, beans, and squash were being produced for storage and at times for sale or trade to English settlers. Shellfishing, fishing, and hunting were also important. On Nantucket, numerous native place names and suspected village areas are in close proximity to extensive shellfish beds and in some instances existing and potential anadromous fish runs. On Nantucket, numerous harbors and salt ponds contain mixed and, in some instances, concentrated shellfish beds of quahaug, bay scallop, oyster, soft shelled clam, and mussel. At least one coastal stream flowing from Long Pond contains an alewife run as well.

In addition to alewives, other species of fish are also available in the Nantucket area, both in fresh and salt water. In freshwater ponds, many of the warm water species of fish available in other areas of Massachusetts are also available. These include bass, pickerel, and others. In salt water areas such as tidal ponds, Nantucket Sound, Madaket and Nantucket Harbors and the Atlantic Ocean, various species of fish would have been available seasonally. These species include sea bass, striped bass, bluefish, flounder, cod, haddock, and halibut. Tuna and swordfish may also have been available in offshore areas. Sea mammals such as whales and seals were also available and apparently of great importance to the Nantucket natives, particularly whales.

The wetlands and wooded areas of Nantucket may have provided numerous species of mammals for hunting. Unfortunately, many species of animals available on the mainland are not found on Nantucket. These include fox, raccoon, mink, weasels, skunks, cottontail rabbit, grouse, and muskrats. Whether or not these species were present during the early historic period remains for archaeologists and historians to determine. However, it seems reasonable to assume that deer and other fur-bearing mammals were present.

V. PLANTATION PERIOD (1620-1675)

A. Transportation Routes

Inferred Contact period trails probably continued in use by both natives and later, Europeans. As European settlement developed in the northern portion of the island, new trails and cart paths probably connected those areas. Coastal water travel also probably continued in use for both natives and Europeans.

B. Population

During the Plantation period Nantucket's native population may have remained relatively unchanged from the previous period. Starbuck (1924) notes that during King Philip's War (ca. 1675) Nantucket's male native population included from 500 to 600. Assuming four persons per family of each male native, there may have been up to 2,400 natives on the island at that time.

During the initial settlement in 1659, only one or two families plus single males were involved. Thus, the 1659 settlement may have been in the range of 15 to 25 persons. This number rapidly increased, so that by the time of King Philip's War it is estimated that 30 male English settlers were present (Starbuck 1924). At five persons per family, a total English population of up to 150 individuals may have been present. Other authors estimate slightly higher in the range of 50 men and families or 250 individuals.

C. Settlement Pattern

Most of what we know regarding the historic period natives of Nantucket comes from the Plantation period. At that time, four sachems were present and functioning as the traditional landholding authorities on Nantucket: Wanackmamack, Nickanoose, Attapehat, and Spotso. The sachems and associated peoples were members of the Wampanoag federation and under the political authority of Massasoit and later his sons Alexander and Philip. The largest native villages were reputedly on the end of the island farthest from the mainland (southeastern corner of the island). The village of Oggawam is reported in this area (Siasconset) where King Philip reportedly retreated along the broken creek known as Philip's Run from advancing colonists. In general, Plantation period settlement probably followed similar trends as that noted for the Contact period.

While white settlement did not occur until ca. 1659, Thomas Mayhew had begun missionary activities with the Nantucket natives as early as 1643. Mayhew was assisted in these efforts by Peter Folger, also a half-share man in the Nantucket Partnership. By the time of white settlement, most of the Nantucket natives had reportedly converted to Christianity. Folger later acted as middleman between the natives and settlers.

Conflicting claims to Nantucket Island arose some time prior to actual settlement. In 1635 King Charles I granted Nantucket to the Earl of Sterling. Subsequently, in 1639 Charles again granted the island to Sir Ferdinand Gorges, resulting in conflicting claims to the island. In 1651 Thomas Mayhew and his son purchased Nantucket, Muskeget, and Tuckernuck islands from the Earl of Sterling. The Mayhews, however, never lived on Nantucket, but rather on Martha's Vineyard, which they also purchased in 1642. In 1659 Mayhew sold Nantucket to a partnership of ten investors. In 1660 the partnership was enlarged to twenty members (Starbuck 1924:13-17). In addition to their purchase from Mayhew, the Nantucket Partnership also purchased the rights to the land from the local natives as well. In 1660 the sachems Wanackmamack and Nickanoose sold the twenty Nantucket partners rights to the western half of the island, half the meadows and marshes on the rest of the island, all the timber, and the rights to graze cattle anywhere on the island from the end of harvest to first planting. The following year, in 1661, Wanackmamack also sold the rights to half of Tuckernuck Island and portions of eastern Nantucket to the partnership. Throughout the Plantation period, Nantucket was under the political authority of the New York Province.

In 1659, Thomas Mayhew, his family, and a few others were the first whites to settle Nantucket. Initial settlement was made at Madaket Harbor during the first winter. Little is known regarding the first winter at Madaket, for the following spring new settlements were made in the Reed Pond and Hummock Pond areas. In general, mid-17th-century settlement of Nantucket was concentrated on the northern edge, on high, well watered land. Initial home lots were laid out in this area. The first town of Sherburne was

located in this area in the vicinity of Capaum and Maxey's Pond. Capaum Pond was originally open to the sea and afforded a small harbor. In time, major settlement shifted easterly to its present location in Nantucket Center.

D. Economic Base

Native American subsistence on Nantucket during the Plantation period was probably similar to that practiced during the Contact period. Hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants and shellfish combined with some form of corn agriculture was pursued. Nantucket natives may have also begun cod fishing for the island's white residents late during this period.

Following initial settlement in ca. 1659, European settlers practiced agriculture and husbandry as their major occupations. In regard to agriculture, corn was probably the major crop followed by possible attempts at rye, oats, wheat, and barley. Domesticated fowl, horses, cattle, pigs, and sheep were also present, the latter quickly gaining in importance. In order to process agricultural products, a grist mill was constructed on Wesko Pond in the 1660s. Hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants and shellfish were also conducted by European settlers.

While agriculture and husbandry were important for the survival of the early settlers, it was readily apparent that agricultural production on Nantucket was much less than that on the mainland. As a result, as early as 1672 the islanders were becoming interested in the fisheries. At that time, John Gardner was invited to Nantucket for a half-share partnership in order to develop codfishing on the island. Gardner accepted the offer and was quick to incorporate the island's natives in his activities. In addition to codfishing, evidence also exists that weir fishing was also begun during the 1660s. At that time, a proposal was made to drain Long Pond to construct a fish weir. The processing of oil from drift whales may also have begun late during the period on a limited scale.

VI. COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

A. Transportation Routes

As settlement gradually shifted to Nantucket Village, street networks grew quickly with the rapidly growing population. Roadways were also extended to several outlying settlements, as well as codfishing and whaling stations. These areas included Siasconset, Polpis Harbor, Quidnet, and Great Point. Roadways/trails were also extended to the Tuckernuck Island area for the passage of cattle. Roadways were needed to connect fishing camps and whaling stations to major harbor areas for the transport of products generated in these areas. Sea transportation also remained very important.

B. Population

Starbuck's (1924) estimate of 30 male Englishmen may have indicated a population of approximately 150 colonists at the end of the Plantation or beginning of the Colonial period (ca. 1675). However, after this date, Nantucket's population increased tremendously with the development of the cod and whale fisheries and associated trade. By the time the first census was taken in 1765, 3,320 persons were recorded. However, this figure does not take into account transient individuals involved in maritime trades, who may have been quite numerous.

Nantucket's native population decreased throughout the Colonial period from a potential high of 2,400 individuals in ca. 1675. The population was decimated to a few hundred individuals by a plague in 1763. The 1765 census does not distinguish native inhabitants if recorded. Quakers began settling Nantucket from 1700 to 1750.

C. Settlement Pattern

Nantucket continued to contain a substantial native population throughout most of the Colonial period. During this time, Nantucket's native population was concentrated in four general areas: Wannisquam (Squam), Squatesit (Quaise/Polpis area), Occawa (near Gibbs's Swamp) and Miacomet (Little 1981). Shawakemmo, Nobadeer, and Madaket also had native houses (Macy 1842). Four native meetinghouses existed through ca. 1750: Miacomet (1732) and Occawa, near Polpis, and at Plainfield (between Polpis and Siasconset). In 1763 a plague decimated Nantucket's native population. Reportedly, a native cemetery near the location of the Miacomet meetinghouse contains numerous victims of the plague (Macy 1842). Little (1981) has noted that following the plague numerous native residential and commercial structures were moved (1764-95) by Nantucket's white inhabitants to the towns of Sherburne (Nantucket), Siasconset, and Sasachacha.

During the Colonial period, white settlement began during the Plantation period continued to develop in the northern portion of the island and in other areas as well. In 1692 an act of Parliament transferred Nantucket from New York to Massachusetts. Nantucket's local government was then run by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts rather than by the 20-member proprietorship, effectively ending political conflicts that arose between the full-share and half-share members.

In 1722 a storm closed the harbor entrance to Capaum Pond, after which the settlement gradually moved to Wesco where the present town of Nantucket is located. Apparently, lumber shortages on the island resulted in the moving of many of the earlier homes to the new settlement location.

Quakers also settled on Nantucket during the first half of the 18th century. During this period, at least two meetinghouses were

built, the first in 1711, the second in 1731 near the Quaker burying ground.

D. Economic Base

Nantucket natives continues to combine wild and domesticate food resources as a basis for subsistence. Hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants and shellfish were important. Evidence also exists that natives were becoming integrated into the island's cash economy as well. As natives played a greater role in the codfishing and whaling industry, wages were earned from which homes, food, and general merchandise could be purchased.

While agriculture continued to be pursued by the island's white residents, sheep became the island's major farm product during the 18th century. By ca. 1730 at least four large windmills were present for grinding grain.

While agriculture and husbandry continued to be pursued, it was during this period that the island developed its overriding maritime influence. Being an island, the coasting trade was important early, as small vessels traveling back and forth to the mainland and other islands were Nantucket's only link to these settlements. Food and wood for fuel and building construction had to be imported early. However, it was codfishing and whaling that rapidly gained prominence. As noted for the Plantation period, specialized individuals were enticed (John Gardner) as early as 1672 to settle on Nantucket to develop codfishing. The cod fishery developed quickly and flourished until the Revolutionary War. Native Americans were important during this early development. From the late 17th century until ca. 1725 codfishing crews were made up predominantly from the island's native residents. Codfishing "camps" or villages containing fish houses and fish stages were quickly established. The village of Siasconset was established as a codfishing camp ca. 1700, followed by others at Sasachacha, Squam, Quidnet, Sankaty, and Weweder. Codfishing camps or villages were inhabited predominantly by Nantucket natives.

Although the codfishing was important on Nantucket, it was the whale fishery that became the most important. Drift whales were undoubtedly processed shortly after the initial settlement. However, it was not until ca. 1690 that an organized effort was made to exploit whales. At that time, along shore whaling was developed with whaling stations containing lookout towers and whale houses being constructed along the island's southern and southwestern shores. From 1690 to the Revolutionary War, whaleboat crews made up of local natives were located at Smith Point, Hummock Pond, Weweder, and Siasconset. Along shore whaling peaked on Nantucket ca. 1726 with about 28 English and native whaleboat crews.

Offshore or deep water whaling was also developed on nantucket during the early 1700s and flourished up to the Revolutionary War. In ca. 1775 Nantucket had more whaling vessels (65) than any

other colonial port involved in whaling. In 1715 about six deep water vessels were present, 25 in 1730. By 1775, 150 ships were reported in Nantucket's whaling fleet which was nearly totally destroyed during the Revolutionary War.

E. Architecture

Residential: Nantucket Island holds an exceptional number of dwellings of this period, including most of the known housetypes of the New England region. First period houses from the late 17th century survive in four well known examples. The Nathaniel Starbuck House (ca. 1676?), moved to its present location in 1820, consisted of a one-room plan with lobby entrance in the chimney bay before later additions. The Richard Gardner House (ca. 1686), also moved and expanded, had a similar original form, as did 107 Main St.: The Jethro Coffin (ca. 1686) was a central chimney lobby entrance hall and parlor house of 1 1/2 stories with facade gables, in its original form, restored without gables in the 1920s. Larger houses of 2 1/2 stories and integral lean-tos survive from the early 18th century. These too had central chimneys with lobby entrances located in that bay. Most examples are three bays in the facade with side entry (ca. 20 survive), but both four- and five-bay houses of this type are known (ca. 10 examples of each). Smaller numbers of 1 1/2-story houses are also known, particularly from West Monomoy. Little in the way of exterior ornament survives on these structures, with the exception of a number of pilastered and otherwise ornamented chimneys (cf. the "horseshoe" on the Coffin House).

Later in the 18th century, houses were built of full double pile form, with a symmetrical side elevation. In most examples the chimney continued to be located in the house's interior. Some examples of gambrel roofs survive (ca. 8), but the majority remain gable roofed in form. By far the most numerous were the four-bay type, which is known here as the typical Nantucket house: 2 1/2 stories high, raised on a high brick basement, entry in the third bay. Most are currently undated, but ca. 11 are known to have been built during this period. Next most numerous were three-bay, side entry versions of this type, although only three are certainly from this period. The more familiar five-bay version of the two-story, central chimney house is known from ca. 12 island examples, dating after the middle of the 18th century. Full Georgian plan homes, with double interior chimneys allowing central through-passage are almost unknown for this period, though 3 Liberty Street may be an exception. Most of these houses are nearly devoid of ornament, attributed by some authors to a Quaker aesthetic. The three-story Folger house of 1765 on Centre St., five-bay facade with center entry, center chimney, and double pile, is an exceptional example for this period.

The island is also well known for its Siasconset whale houses, many of which are said to date from this period. These structures are unusual in their close connection to a specific occupational group, the offshore whaling crew. An early source (Macy 1835) attributes their original form to the specific seasonal needs of

the five-man crew (later sources claim a six-man crew). Called fishing stages, these small structures, were divided into two main sections. At one end a hall area, open to the rafters, held the end chimney. The opposite end was divided into two small bedrooms, with a garret above for the boys. Now found only in 'Sconset, they were formerly located in four clusters that divided the south and east shore into quadrants early in the period, and expanded to seven by 1700. With the abandonment of offshore whaling in the 1760s, some were moved to 'Sconset. Their current form of many small additions may date from this later period when longer stays required more room. Foreman (1966) suggests that the typical order of additions was to add small shed additions on either side of the bedroom end, adding substantially to their suze; later an addition to the opposite end incorporated a kitchen area.

Institutional: The town's first religious structure, a Friends' Meetinghouse was built near the old town near Maxey Pond in 1708; its appearance is unknown, and it burned in 1736. The second house of this group was built at Main and Saratoga in the 1730s, also unknown in appearance. The Presbyterian Meeting House of 1725 stands behind the present First Congregational Church, its successor. The simple building is rectangular, two stories in height, with a gable roof. A town house was built in 1716, 34 x 24 feet, but of otherwise unknown appearance. It was originally located near West Chester Street, but moved to Milk and Main in 1783.

Commercial: The Rotch Warehouse (1772), at the bottom of Main Street Square, was built as counting house and storage. It is of brick, originally two stories in height with end chimneys, belt courses, segmental arches over the windows, with an entry in the center bay of the long side, and in the third bay of the gable end. Other period commercial buildings known from early views were frame 2 1/2-story gambrel roof in form.

Industrial: The Nathan Wilbur Wind Mill of 1746 stands on Mill Hill; octagonal in form, revolving cape type, the only remaining mill on the island. The Brandt Point Light was built in 1759 and blown down in 1774.

VII. FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

A. Transportation Routes

By the end of the period, much of the street grid of Nantucket Village had been established. From the Center, roads radiated across the island to outlying shores and harbors. To the west these included Madaket Road and Hummock Pond Road. From Orange Street, Old South Road extended east to Siasconset, while another road led to Polpis Harbor and Quidnet, with a branch north to Great Point Light. With increasing maritime traffic, Commercial Wharf was built after ca. 1800. Steamboat service from New Bedford had an initial run from 1818-1821, and this was followed by other attempts before 1830.

B. Population

Nantucket's population made its greatest advance in the Federal period, more than doubling between 1765 and 1810. Between 1775 and 1790 Parliament's duty on American whale oil caused many old-time whalers to emigrate to Halifax, Wales, and Dunkirk. The decade 1790-1900 matched the pre-Revolutionary period 1765-1776 with a rate of 99.2 persons per year. The decade of its greatest expansion was 1800-1810, when its growth averaged 119 new persons per year. Probably as a result of the deprivations of war, the decade 1810-20 showed only moderate rise of 45.9. Between 1820 and 1830 the town's population fell by a small amount. In 1830, the number of residents stood at 7202, largest of any town in the study unit, and ranking sixth in the state after Boston, Salem, Charlestown, New Bedford, and Gloucester.

As a result of the 1763-64 epidemic, the number of natives on the island was sharply reduced. Macy in 1792 reported only four males and sixteen females, down from 83 and 66 respectively in 1765. Blacks made up a larger proportion of Nantucket's population than anywhere else in the study unit. In 1790 the number of "all other free people" [exclusive of whites] numbered 110, of which about 90 may have been black, about double the 44 blacks reported in 1765. 228 were reported in 1800; the figure appears to have remained steady throughout the remainder of the period. In 1830 132 males and 115 females were reported.

The town held a unique position and population that led it to seek special treatment during the Revolution and War of 1812. Exposed to attack from the sea, unable to support its inhabitants with island resources, and with a high percentage of Quakers, the residents basically desired neutrality to continue to trade, fish, and avoid attack. They were often visited by the British and plundered. In spite of periods of dislocation, the growth of deep sea whaling brought an era of rapid growth and prosperity.

The community which had delayed formation of religious societies for so long entered into the period pattern of denominational proliferation enthusiastically. A second North Friends Meeting was formed in 1792. In 1799 itinerant Methodists visited and established a church meeting at Fair and Lyon from 1800 to 1823 when they moved to Centre Street. The Congregational Society split in 1809 after the imposition of strict membership requirements. The new society later became affiliated with Unitarians. Universalists too formed a society active between 1825 and 1836. The town formed an academy in 1800; in 1827 the state imposed strict rules for the establishment of a public system that included four primary, two grammar, and two monitorial schools; a substantial donation led to the founding of the Coffin School in 1826 on the Lancastrian model. The first black school was established in 1823.

Subscription libraries became popular with the formation of the Columbian (1823) and United (1827).

On several occasions during this period citizens from the island moved elsewhere to form new whaling communities, including to Canada and England, as well as to abandon it for farming in North Carolina and New York.

C. Settlement Pattern

While the town's development was set back seriously by the economic disruption that took place during the Revolution and the War of 1812, growth was strong in intervening and subsequent intervals. By 1830, Nantucket was the third commercial town in the state in terms of size, wealth, and importance, and significant expansion had taken place in the extent of the central village.

By period's end, the built-up area extended a half mile inland from the shore, and about an equal distance north and south of Main Street. To the north, residential development pushed beyond Chester Street, with a linear extension along Cliff Road. Lily Street, Liberty Street, and Gardner Street marked the western extent of the village north of Main Street. To the south of Main Street, continuous settlement extended toward Quaker road on Milk and Vestal Street, and had reached Prospect Street in the southwest. Development extended south along the Pleasant Street, Orange Street, and Union Street corridors, thinning out to the modest cottages of the developing black residential focus toward the York Street/Warren Street area.

Maritime activity continued to intensify at the five wharves on Nantucket Harbor, with the central focus at Straight Wharf at the head of Main Street. Warehouses, marine industries, and whale oil processing and candlemaking factories concentrated in this area, and extended south of Commercial Wharf along Washington Street. To the west of Straight Wharf, the Market Square commercial focus developed on Main Street, bounded on the east by the Rotch Market (1775) and on the west by the landmark Pacific National Bank (1818). Early in the period, a new civic focus was established to the west at the Main Street/Milk Street intersection with the relocation of the Town House in 1783. The Vestal Street Jail was located nearby in 1805. Main Street and Centre-Orange Street remained the most intensively developed residential corridors, and high style residential concentrations occurred on those streets, on Federal and India Streets, and on Milk Street beyond the civic focus.

Early period institutional buildings were dispersed around the central area. In 1792, a new Quaker Meetinghouse (the fourth) was built, and its site was relocated east from the burying ground to the Main Street/Pleasant Street intersection. The same year another Quaker Meetinghouse was built to serve members in the northern part of town. This was located on Broad Street at Centre, near the Congregational Church. In 1800, the Academy was built in this vicinity on Academy Hill. In contrast, the first Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1800, was located far to the south at the Fair Street/Lyons Street intersection. The Masons

built their brick lodge hall at a prominent site on Main Street west of Centre in 1802.

In contrast to previous edifices, the last three new churches built in the period were all located within a block of Market Square. The Second Congregational Church (1809) was located just to the south on Orange Street. The new Methodist Episcopal Church (1822) was built just north of Main Street on Centre Street. The Universalist Church (1825) was located on India Street at Federal Street. The First Methodist Church was apparently converted to the Nantucket Lancastrian School (later Coffin School) in 1823. At the other end of the socioeconomic spectrum, an African School was opened ca. 1825 at the corner of Pleasant Street and York.

Outside the Center, the House of Correction (1826) and new Poor House (1822) were located far to the east at Quase. Other settlement outside the Village was generally dispersed, with a small hamlet at Polpis Harbor. The exception was the cluster of cottages at the fishing village of Siasconset on the east coast, which continued to grow. By the late 18th century Nantucket villagers were using the location as a summer resort.

D. Economic Base

The Federal Period, despite the hostilities of the Revolution and the War of 1812, saw a rapid advance in Nantucket's maritime and commercial activities, though its prosperity varied in direct proportion to the fluctuating value whale oil. Left out of English markets after Parliament passed a duty of 18 pounds per ton on American whale oil, the Nantucket industry was in part rescued in 1785 when the Massachusetts legislature established bounties on whale oil landed in Massachusetts ports in Mass. ships. But the bounty was not as effective as intended: the years of deprivation had conditioned the new nation to doing without whale oil, and not until the opening of the French markets to American whale products in 1789 was there a significant recovery (Tower: 42-43). By the end of the war, the 150 whaling ships reported in 1770-75 had been reduced to 28, of which 12 sailed to Brazil, five to the coast of Guinea, and eleven to the West Indies. In 1791 the Beaver was the first to sail around Cape Horn and seek whales in the Pacific. The War of 1812 again checked Nantucket's whaling operations: over 844,000 gallons of sperm oil reported in 1811 was reduced to 48,000 in 1815. At the war's conclusion, however, the industry rebounded swiftly. English and other European markets provided a large demand for oil, and by 1819 there were 61 ships and brigs employed. In 1820 the Maro was the first to seek whales on the Japanese coast.

Nantucket's commercial activity had been well established by the end of the Colonial period. Whale oil sent to England brought needed cash into the community, while the trade of lumber to the West Indies was also well established, bringing back goods that could be bartered throughout the length of the New England coast, as well as pitch and tar from North Carolina, flour and biscuits from Philadelphia, and beef and pork from Connecticut. As in the

Colonial period, the island's need to import virtually everything, made Nantucket a natural commercial center, supplying not only oil to much of the eastern seaboard, but merchantable items to many of the lower Cape towns. The harbor was constantly full of a "vast number of little vessels from the mainland, and from the Vineyard, constantly resorting here as to a market" (Crevecour). The need to purchase supplies from the mainland constantly drained specie from the island, and in 1795, the first bank in the study unit, the Nantucket Bank, was formed, supplying both specie and credit for the whaling and coastal voyages, though the robbery soon after it was formed hampered its abilities to offer credit. A light was erected on Great Point in 1784 by the State, and whaling interests also provided the lights at Gay Head (1799) and Edgartown (1801). Brandt Point, maintained by the town until 1795 was taken over by the U.S. at that time. Testimony to the considerable commercial success of the Nantucket Bank was the formation of the rival Pacific Bank in 1804, in addition to two insurance companies, also the first in the study unit. In 1828, the first steamer was placed in service between Nantucket and New Bedford. By 1830, Nantucket [though sixth in population] was said to have ranked third among the commercial towns of Massachusetts (WPA Guide: 10).

The first spermaceti candle factory was formed in 1772; by 1807 there were 19; by the end of the period, 43. The single ropewalk in Crevecour's time by 1807 had become ten, most of which were located in the higher land immediately west of the windmills. A duck factory was established in 1792 in response to the state's recent offer of a bounty on duck, which "employed more hands than five ropewalks and two sperm candleworks, which number there is here" (quoted in Starbuck: 33ln). But the town's second largest industry in terms of the number of men and boys it employed was the manufacture of casks, and it was said that all children were apprenticed at the cooper's trade before being sent to sea. Other manufactures included both whale boats and the making of candle boxes. Nantucket's four windmills remained in operation for most of the period, though the Colonial fulling mills appear to have disappeared, replaced for a brief period by a woolen mill on New North Wharf established in 1814. Small whaling and coastal vessels (30-40 tons) were built at Brandt Point after 1810. In time as the size of ships increased, the Bar became a problem for ships heavy laden with oil, and Edgartown became increasingly a port for Nantucket ships to outfit and unload in.

E. Architecture

Residential: The Nantucket House as it is known is the most common house type constructed during this period on the island: 2 1/2 stories in height raised on a high brick basement, four bays on the facade and double pile in depth. The interior chimney is placed wither between the two large rooms or occasionally closer to the entry in a modification of the central chimney plan. The third bay entry opens into an area often subdivided into a narrow passage and small service rooms in the small single bay area. Most of the dated buildings of this type were constructed during this period (ca. 70) as well as many of the undated examples (ca.

90). Three-bay examples are also known in large numbers (ca. 20 dated as well as many of the ca. 40 undated). Full five-bay versions with central chimneys were also constructed (ca. 10). At this time Georgian plan double interior chimney center passage houses were built in greater numbers (ca. 20). For the first time, modified Georgian plan houses with end chimneys were constructed. Three- and four-bay examples are known, but five-bay versions are most common. Most are double pile in depth but occasionally a single pile front section with rear ell was constructed. Still, in all its variations, this chimney placement remains unusual during this period (ca. 10). During this period 1 1/2-story houses became more familiar on the island, but very few have been dated, three-, four-, and five-bay examples are known, though the three-bay is by far the most common. Again, the form usually has an interior chimney but two end chimney examples are known (each with four bays). During this period more familiar ornament is added to the houses, at cornice and doorway in particular. Transom lights above doors, simple architraves, and occasionally wide blind fans were common early in the period. In the 1820s and later, fuller Greek Revival door surrounds were incorporated into house designs, and in many instances added to earlier structures. The island is also known for the numerous roof walks that survive in the town.

Institutional: The Friends Meetinghouse was rebuilt at Main and Pleasant, two stories in height, in 1792. A second society, North, built its meetinghouse on Broad Street, unknown date and appearance. In 1809, the separated Second Congregational Society built its meetinghouse on Orange Street. The house is an unusual variation of the gable entry with portico and tower that dominated the ecclesiastical architecture of the period: the portico, three bays in width with center entry, rises three full stories in height (1820) above the main block before narrowing to form a square clock tower with two-tiered octagonal domed belfry. Its entry is simply ornamented with a semicircular blind fan within an architrave. The main block with tower was designed by Elisha Ramsdell; a tower erected in 1815 was replaced in 1830 by Perez Jenkins; the interior was redesigned later by Frederick Brown Coleman in 1844, with interior painting by Carl Wendte. Although the building does not survive, the Universalist Church (1825) is said to have resembled the later Atheneum of the same site, but featuring the island's first colossal portico of four Ionic columns.

The "Old Gaol" on Vestal Street was constructed in 1805, of hewn logs and sheathed and shingled. It is two stories, three bays, restored 1970. In 1822 the town purchased a farm at Quaise and built four buildings; a fifth, the House of Correction, was built in 1826. In 1805 the Masonic Lodge built the town's best surviving example of period Neoclassical. Originally longer, the frame structure is now three bay in the first story, entry in the third bay, with plain pilasters between the rectangular openings. In the second story, Ionic pilasters rise from the dividing entablature separating the three roundheaded windows. The cornice is ornamented by patera over the capitals and a range of swags.

In 1825 the island's black community built a school, standing at the corner of York and Pleasant near their period neighborhood. It is one story with a hip roof with entry in the short side, a rare example of a poorly maintained town building.

Commercial: Outstanding among the town's many 19th-century commercial buildings is the Pacific National Bank of 1818. Constructed of Flemish bond brick, the three-bay facade features a semicircular portico with Ionic columns and pilasters over a fanlit recessed entry; its first floor windows are recessed within semicircular arches, while those on the second have segmental heads within recessed rectangles. The granite foundation and brownstone belt courses provide contrast.

The Brandt Point Light was rebuilt, blown down again in 1784, and rebuilt in stone. A second light was added to Great Point in 1785 of wood, and rebuilt of stone in 1818, 70 feet high and 24 feet in width.

VIII. EARLY INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1830-1870)

A. Transportation Routes

The early 19th-century roadways continued in use, and in 1831 the paving of Main Street with cobblestones was begun. After 1832, the New Bedford steamboat line was run by the Nantucket Steamboat Company. From 1840 to 1870 the New Bedford-Edgartown line also provided occasional service to Nantucket. After 1854 regular service to the mainland railroad terminus at Hyannis was established.

B. Population

Nantucket reached its peak population in 1840, when 9,012 persons were reported. (This is a figure never since reached despite active 20th-century development on the island.) The decade leading up to 1840 was likewise a period of unparalleled growth, with an average increase of 181 persons per year. The rest of the period was one of declining population, particularly after 1855, with the greatest loss occurring in the five years 1855-60, the island losing nearly 400 persons a year. By 1870, the number of residents of the island stood at 4123, less than half the number in 1840 and approximately the number on Nantucket in 1770.

Blacks continued to make up a relatively sizeable proportion of the population. In 1855, they numbered 186, a figure which was exceeded by only six other communities in the state. Fifty-six others were identified as mulattos. The percentage of European immigrants in this period was 5.6 -- less than a point above the study unit as a whole, and less than half that of communities like Provincetown or Sandwich. The Irish and the Portuguese predominated. Forty-one percent of Nantucket's foreign-born population was Irish, and the number, 189, was more than in any other study unit community but Sandwich. The Portuguese numbered

149 (32.7%) and made up the largest Portuguese community in the state but for New Bedford (196) and Boston's First Ward (161).

The town's prosperity persisted into the 1840s until the decline of whaling here; thereafter, many left the island for opportunities elsewhere. In those early years, however, more new religious groups were formed. In the black community, institutional formation peaked with the formation of the African Baptist Church (1831) and later the short-lived African Methodist Church in 1835. The presence of Roman Catholics brought services from 1849 and the first church was consecrated in 1858, the former Harmony Hall. Among the Protestants there was the addition of an Episcopal Trinity Church in 1838 and a Baptist Church in 1839. The Methodists suffered a split in 1835 with the withdrawal of the Reformed (anti-episcopal) group who met briefly on Silver near Union; in 1846 the second society of the denomination was formed, meeting at Fair and Lyon in the house of the first society until 1856.

Most fraught with divisions, however, were the Friends. First came the Hicksite schism, which led to the withdrawal of the minority who questioned atonement and divinity of Christ; they formed a separate society in 1831. Fifteen years later a second division occurred among the orthodox, between Gurneyites and Wilburites. The former were followers of an evangelical movement within the faith, and included the majority of New Englanders; on Nantucket they were the minority. The groups split in 1845, the Gurneyites met through 1867, the Wilburites through 1906.

Of particular interest on the island is the effect of intermarriage on the population. As early as 1835, Macy reports, "perhaps there is not another place in the world, of equal magnitude, where inhabitants were so connected by consanguinity as is this" (p. 55). Later in the century, the town reports high occurrence of deafness and hermaphroditism, related to these intermarriages as hereditary conditions.

C. Settlement Pattern

The intensive village growth of the early 19th century continued through the 1830s and 1840s, but while significant infill and rebuilding took place, the perimeter of the built-up area was not extended greatly. The disastrous fire of 1846 necessitated the rebuilding of a central area including almost the entire commercial district. With the subsequent decline of the whaling industry, and the loss of over half the mid-century population by 1870, little new development occurred during the second part of the period.

To the north, new industrial development extended along the harbor north of New North Wharf, including several candleworks, and a marine railway at Brant Point. Some new residential development extended northwest on Liberty Street. To the west, linear development continued on Main Street, and a new cluster of houses was built beyond Prospect in the Mount Vernon Street area. The

main extension of settlement occurred to the south, where growth along the Pleasant, Orange, and Union Street corridors pushed to Back Street and Fish Lane.

New high style residences were built in various locations, but the construction of a cluster of brick and temple front mansions on Main Street near Pleasant in the 1830s and 1840s made that area the fashionable focus of the village.

Religious edifices continued to multiply. Quaker factionalism led to the building of new meetinghouses, as the Orthodox group moved to Fair Street in 1833, and the Hicksites built a church on Centre Street in 1836. A new Orthodox Congregational Church was built on Beacon Hill in 1834. The same year, the Universalist Church on India at Federal was converted to the Atheneum. In 1835, an African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the south at Pleasant Street and York Street. Trinity Episcopal Church was located at the site of the Broad Street Friends' Church in 1839. A year later the town's first Baptist church was built on Summer Street.

Maritime activities continued to concentrate in the wharf and harbor area, including candle factories, oilsheds, ropewalks, salt works, sail sheds, rum distilleries, and cooper's shops. Commercial activities intensified around Market Square. By the mid-1840s there were located here a dozen groceries, 16 dry goods stores, five hardware stores, two auction houses, five boot and shoe shops, four clock and jewelry stores, three ship outfitters, and over a dozen other shops and dealers. All of this was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1846 which, in consuming over 300 structures, destroyed a fifth of the town. The burned-over area extended from Straight, Old North, and New North wharves west along Broad and Main streets to Center Street, including all of Federal Street, and Water Street north to Sea Street.

Post-fire rebuilding quickly followed. Residential streets were soon filled with Greek Revival houses. The north side of Main Street was set back 20 feet, and multi-story brick and brownstone commercial blocks were erected. Sherbourne Hall, a new frame block, was built on Centre Street. A new, temple-front Atheneum was erected on India Street in 1847. The Episcopal Church was rebuilt on Fair Street in 1849. The Sons of Temperance Hall, built on Federal Street in 1846, was converted to the first Roman Catholic church in 1858. The Jared Coffin House, the only structure to survive on Broad Street, was purchased by the Nantucket Steamboat Company in 1847 and made into the Ocean House Hotel. Wharves and warehouses were also reconstructed, but with the sharp downturn in the local economy in the 1850s, little further expansion in the central village occurred during the period. Exceptions included a new Coffin School (1852) on Winter Street, and a public high school (1856) on Academy Hill.

In the east, Siasconset continued to be a popular resort, and new residences were built west of the sea cliffs on New Street and Main Street (Milestone Road). The Atlantic House Hotel was built here in 1848 on Main Street.

D. Economic Base

The Early Industrial period witnessed both the peak of Nantucket's whaling industry in the early 1840s, and its complete collapse in the 1850s. For the industry as a whole, the years 1835-1850 were ones of phenomenal growth and prosperity, and the capture by a Nantucket whaler of the first right whale on the northwest coast of America in 1835 opened one of the most important grounds in the world for the industry. In 1838 the Federal government erected the "Bug Lights," a pair of beacons along the cliffs just west of Brandt Point, and despite the business depression which affected Nantucket merchants as much as anyone that year, as well as a major destructive fire, whalers continued returning to Nantucket in increasing numbers.

The year 1842 was the "banner year" for the Nantucket whalers: in that year 100 ships were in the whale fishery employing nearly two thousand men. Thirty-six candle factories, brass foundries, forges, cordage works, tinware shops, block and pump makers, and a flourishing commercial trade were kept busy by this industry. Sankaty Light was erected in 1849-50; the granite tower is today the oldest beacon in the study unit. An entirely separate industry introduced in 1836 from Providence was the silk manufacture, part of the craze for the morus multicaulus which then was sweeping the country. The Atlantic Silk Company was organized that year and thousands of mulberry trees laid out. The street on which the factory was located was named after the Providence inventor of silk machinery Gamaliel Gay, who came to Nantucket to help set the works up. For several years the factory employed about twenty persons, mostly girls, before being wound up about 1844.

A variety of factors affected the decline of Nantucket whaling in the 1840s and 1850s. New Bedford had become a serious rival to Nantucket as early as 1820, surpassing Nantucket about 1830 in the size of her whaling fleet. The competition of other ports, a great fall in prices beginning in 1842, the limitations of Nantucket's harbor, the Great Fire of 1846, and the exodus of men to California all played an important part in Nantucket's decline. Shipbuilding was discontinued after 1840 as the cost of bringing supplies grew with the size of vessels, and proprietors turned to mainland yards. As a means of helping heavy-laden ships over the Bar, the "camel" was introduced in 1842.

In part to rescue Nantucket's failing commerce, Nantucket men were largely responsible for the extension of the Cape Cod Railway to Hyannis for better communication with the mainland. The town subscribed to fully \$50,000 of the \$240,000 capital stock put up to finance the railroad. The first gasworks in the study unit was established in Nantucket in the early 1850s. New non-maritime

industries began to appear in Nantucket, including shops for rag carpeting, straw bonnets and hats, hosiery and mittens, and a significant expansion of the boot and shoe industry. A brief attempt was made at establishing the fishing industry to replace whaling, but without success. The town's commerce continued to decline along with its population; 44 ships were in the whaling fleet in 1855, 7 in 1865. The last whaler left Nantucket in 1869.

Although Nantucket's farms are usually given scant attention, 111 farms were reported in 1865 -- more than most towns on the Cape. In the quantity of barley produced, it exceeded all study unit towns but Falmouth, while the amount of Indian corn was fourth to Barnstable, Sandwich, and Orleans. Potatoes ranked sixth in the unit. 140 acres were devoted to cranberries, more than all other towns but Harwich and Dennis.

E. Architecture

Residential: Many of the house forms constructed during the 1820s remained popular during the 1830s and 1840s. Two and a half-story houses continued to be built with interior chimneys, both three- and four-bays in width. In five-bay examples, end chimneys became more common. The greatest increase came among 1 1/2-story houses with raised stud length to incorporate higher ceilings as well as wide cornice boards; most were three bays in width. The primary ornamentation on these traditional forms come from cornices, door surrounds, and on more pretentious examples, a full portico over the entry. More unusual was the adoption of the gable end to the street form of the Greek Revival, but ca. 80 were built, most 1 1/2 stories. Ornament remained simple, though gable windows were occasionally elaborate. In these forms, the Gothic style is occasionally reflected in window treatment.

The majority of the town's stylistically exceptional residences date from the early years of this period. Through large and expensively detailed, these buildings are familiar in form, continuing to employ the 2 1/2-story, five-bay, center entry, end chimney model introduced late in the Federal period. The Charles G. Coffin House on Main Street follows this form in brick with a simple brownstone entry piece of Tuscan plain pilasters and entablature. The Starbuck Houses ("The Three Bricks" on Main Street, 1836-38) add an Ionic porticoed entry and cupolas. The Jared Coffin House on Broad Street (1845) is also brick with similar entry and cupola, but three stories in height. More unusual was the Folger House at 58-60 Main Street (1831), a brick center entry five-bay, hipped roof house but elaborated with bowed bays on either side, brownstone Doric portico, and guidloch cornice. Frame examples are also known, including the Levi Starbuck House on Orange Street. The entry remains on the long side, but its gable end faces the street; its facade is flushboard, three bays in width divided by thick pilasters supporting a wide entablature; the center entry has an Ionic portico which, with the windows, is ornamented with familiar pattern book elements. The William Hadwen House (1840s, Main Street) is also entered through the center of its long side, with

four Tuscan pilasters and wide entablature; here, however, the architect Frederick Brown Coleman adds a colossal pedimented portico with four Ionic columns. Fewer examples employ the full gable front temple form. The exception is the George W. Wright House (1840s, Main Street), also designed by Coleman, which employs a portico of four Corinthian columns. The William H. Crosby House on Pleasant Street (1837) presents its gable end to the street, is 2 1/2 stories, with a Tuscan portico and French windows on the first floor.

Institutional: In 1840 the Methodist church greatly altered its appearance with the construction of a new roof and the addition of a six-column portico of Ionic columns, designed probably by Frederick Brown Coleman. That same year he designed the First Baptist Church on Summer Street. This gable front church has a center entry with a large window on either side, and is ornamented by four simple pilasters and wide entablature. Its tower is square, three-tiered, with steeple. After the fire, Coleman designed the new Atheneum building (1847), gable front with a projecting full pedimented portico of in antic Ionic columns, plain pilasters on the corners of the main block, and wide entablature on both portico and block; the double height, double door entry in the flushboard facade has side pilasters and pediment. Also designed in this vocabulary is the Coffin School of 1852. Smaller in size but built in brick, the school is also gable fronted with a recessed entry behind free standing wooden Ionic columns, and no other facade openings.

The third meetinghouse of the First Congregational Society (1833) was the major Gothic building constructed on the island. Designed by a Mr. Waldron of Boston, the form is a gable front main block with a front tower that projects partially from the main body of the church. This tower holds the entry and a large lancet window with similar interior lancet traceries; its pilastered culminating stage has corner pinnacles but was originally topped by a tall steeple. Soon thereafter the new Episcopal congregation altered the former North Meetinghouse of the Quakers on Broad Street in a similar mode; it was designed by C. Pendexter, dedicated in 1839, and burned in 1846.

In 1831 the Hicksite Friends Society built a meetinghouse of unknown appearance at 74-76 Main Street. The Orthodox group built their third meetinghouse on Fair Street, 50 x 70 feet, but also unknown in appearance, in 1834. With the division of that Society in 1845 the Wilburites met on Fair Street, while the Gurneyites met in the Hicksite house. The Gurneyites built a new house on Centre Street in 1850 where they met until 1867; it is now part of an inn. The Wilburites met in the Fair Street School after their meetinghouse house was sold in 1864. The school (1838) was a two-story, hip roofed, frame structure.

The Quaise Asylum burned in 1844, was rebuilt, then sold in 1854. A portion became the basis for "Our Island Home" on Orange Street. The House of Correction was removed to a site next door to the Old Gaol and taken down in 1953 due to its lack of historic significance; it was a large gable roof, two-story frame structure with two interior chimneys. In 1856 the town built a high school on Academy Hill. Two full stories under a hip roof, with block cornice, the facade is divided into three sections: at each side a roundheaded door with bracketed hood, a three-part window, each section roundheaded, between them, on a flushboard facade; in the clapboard second story two- and three-part windows of the same design.

Commercial: The commercial district of the town rebuilt after the fire of 1846 is an exceptional survival of period streetscape. After the street was widened, stores were rapidly rebuilt in brick, brownstone, and frame. On Main at the corner of Federal a group of two-story buildings are executed in the Federal style with a rounded corner and a contrasting belt course unifying them. A large and exceptional example at 47-57 Main to the corner of Centre is 14 bays in length with a center section of six bays raised and pedimented; the whole is 2 1/2 stories, of brick, with piers between windows and a brownstone cornice. On Centre Street the block of the International Order of Odd Fellows is composed of three high pedimented pavilions connected by low wings. The majority of buildings were similar in their pierced and corniced first floor treatments, primarily three bays per shop; some were as high as 2 1/2 stories, gable front, but many were only a single story under a gable roof. Small commercial buildings of the second half of the period employed high false fronts with heavily ornamented, pedimented cornices in an Italianate vocabulary.

Industrial: The Starbuck Cooperage on Vestal Street is two stories over a high brick basement, five bays with center entry, single pile in depth. William Hadwen's Candle Factory (1847, now the Whaling Museum), is a 2 1/2-story brick structure with center entry into the five-bay facade and gable roof.

A third lighthouse was built at Sankaty (1849-50) with a 1 1/2-story brick keeper's house.

IX. LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIOD (1870-1915)

A. Transportation Routes

A series of transportation improvements came with the island's increasing importance as a summer resort. In 1872, steam packet service was shifted from Hyannis to Woods Hole, with the extension of rail service to a terminus at the latter location. Twice-daily summer season runs began in 1874. In 1879, regular steam service between Nantucket and New Bedford was resumed. After 1880-81, when new jetties were built, harbor improvements continued to be made through the end of the period. In 1886, the New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamboat Company was formed, and from then on provided daily service to Steamboat Wharf from October to June, with twice-daily runs from June to October.

In 1881, the Nantucket Railroad Company opened a single, narrow gauge line from Steamboat Wharf at Nantucket Village to the south shore at Surfside. This line was extended east along the shore to Siasconset in 1884. By 1895, however, the route through Surfside was abandoned, and replaced by the Nantucket Central Roadroad, a shorter line that ran a more direct route between Nantucket Center and Siasconset. This line continued to operate through the rest of the period, and after 1906 occasionally used a small, gasoline-powered locomotive. At Nantucket Village, horsecar service was briefly (1890-94) provided by the Beach Street Railway Company from Main Street along Brant Point Road to the lighthouse. In 1894, a new macadamized state road (Milestone Road) was built from Nantucket Village to Siasconset.

B. Population

Nantucket's population continued to fall, from 4123 in 1870 to 2930 in 1905 -- a loss of nearly 30% in 35 years. The island's greatest loss, however, occurred in the five years 1870-75, when Nantucket residents left the island at a rate of 184 persons a year, a rate only bettered in the dark years 1855-65. In fact the Federal censuses of 1880 and 1890 both showed gains over the preceded state censuses, and for all practical purposes, in the years between 1885 and 1915, the island population remained stagnant, varying no more than 200 on either side of 3,100.

Blacks continued to make up a substantial portion of the island population; declining at half the rate of the population as a whole. Nevertheless, by 1895, the island's 60 blacks were outnumbered by those of three other study unit communities -- Barnstable, Mashpee, and Oak Bluffs.

The European immigrant population continued to rise, both numerically and as a percentage of the total population until by 1915 it reached 14.8%, less than 2 points behind Barnstable County's figure. As in the preceding period, this group was dominated by the Irish and Portuguese. After 1855, the number of foreign-born Portuguese on Nantucket sharply declined: in 1875 only 27 Portuguese were reported, down from the 149 counted 20 years before. The Irish at this time, though also down, were more than double the number of Portuguese. From 1875 onward, however, the Portuguese recovered lost ground and by 1915, numbering 229, made up 48% of the island's foreign-born population == making it the largest Portuguese community in the study unit after Provincetown and Falmouth. The Irish at this time, numbering 55 (11%) were the only other significant ethnic group.

C. Settlement Pattern

Resort development intensified through the period both at Nantucket Village and Siasconset, and other real estate ventures were attempted at several outlying areas. By the 1870s a hotel cluster had developed at the Village on Orange Street. In 1873 the Ocean View House was opened at Siasconset, and in 1876 the

Wauwinet House was finished at Head of the Harbor in the northeast. Speculative cottage resorts were laid out during the decade at North Shore Hills, Trots Hills, Wannacomet, Madaket, and Matticon. All of these failed, but the Sconset Heights development at Siasconset flourished. By 1882 Siasconset had 100 dwellings, two hotels, and several boarding houses. The next year a Union Chapel was built here.

Attempts at resort development were renewed in the 1880s. By 1883, the Springfield House and the Veranda House had been added in the Village. The Surfside House had opened at the south shore railroad terminus, the Ocean View annex was built at Siasconset, and the landmark Nantucket Hotel was assembled at Brant Point. In 1887, the Queen Anne style Sea Cliff House was opened northeast of the Village at Nantucket Cliffs, and in 1891 the Point Breeze was built on Eastern Street toward Brant Point. Cottage developments at Brant Point and the Cliffs had some success, but other ventures at Sachacha, Surfside, and Coatue (where a beach house was built in 1883) never got off the ground. Nor did all the hotels enjoy sustained success. With the loss of rail service, the Surfside was abandoned after 1895, and the Nantucket House closed in 1904. Siasconset, however, with its improved rail connections, continued to develop. A casino was built there in 1899, and a Marconi wireless station was installed at the village in 1904. A bathing pavilion was added in 1907, and by period's end a golf course and tennis courts added to the range of recreational possibilities.

Besides hotel and cottage development, some institutional reconstruction occurred at Nantucket Village. A new Roman Catholic church was built in 1897 on Federal Street. In 1902 the Fair Street Episcopal Church was replaced by a stone structure.

D. Economic Base

"In 1870 Nantucket had not a ship, bark, brig, or vessel of any kind suggestive of the vast amount of business done in the past" (W.C. Macy). The first evidence of Nantucket's new resort trade occurred with the opening of steamboat service between Woods Hole and Nantucket in 1872 in conjunction with the new rail line to that point, and two years later "two boats a day" issued in a new era of prosperity. Land speculation followed quickly in the wake of the new steamer service: the earliest, by the Surfside Land Company, promoted a new city by the sea and was closely associated with a new railroad, hotel at Surfside, and the famous Coffin family reunion. Though Surfside proved a bust by 1887, the island's popularity as a summer resort was assured -- a view documented by the publication in 1881 of the first birds'-eye view of Nantucket. Nantucket became the first community in the study unit to build a water-supply system in 1879; an electric plant followed in 1889. Siasconset preceded Wellfleet as the first Marconi station when in 1901 a station was erected for the transmission and reception of messages to and from ocean steamers.

Despite Nantucket's reputation as a non-manufacturing town, the several industries begun when whaling was on the decline combined to give the island in 1875 the third highest product value of manufactured goods in the study unit, after Sandwich/Bourne (chiefly the glass and railroad car operations) and Falmouth (the Guano works). Nantucket's position was largely the result of three industries: 4 shops manufacturing clothing (\$50,000); a straw goods factory (\$25,000), and two builders (\$20,000). The clothing shops, employing 103 women and 6 men was the largest in southeast Mass. outside of New Bedford. The straw goods factory/shop was also the only one in the study unit. The large shoe factory of Hayden & Mitchell was in operation only two years 1871-73.

Though sheep raising declined through the closing years of the 19th century, agriculture as a whole expanded. By 1905 Nantucket's dairy farms produced \$49,293 worth of milk, ranking second among all the study unit communities after Barnstable, and second in the value of hay harvested. Vegetables also were produced, valued at \$11,173 (4th after Eastham, Barnstable, and Falmouth). Cranberry production, however, by 1905 was down to a mere 11 barrels. Nevertheless, the Early Modern period's cranberry production takes its origins in the last decade of the preceding period. Between 1905 and 1915 Nantucket's cranberry acreage climbed from 51 acres to 291.

Commercial scallop fishing was begun in 1881, and it was not long before Nantucket had a reputation for the finest scallop fishing grounds in New England.

E. Architecture

Residential: The significant drop in population precluded large amounts of housing construction by the year round population in the town. Along Broad Street, and occasionally on others, houses were built in the Second Empire style: the Eliza Barney House (1871) on Main Street is an outstanding example. Later isolated examples of Queen Anne building are also known in the town, including 74 Main, two examples on Easton, and another on North Water.

The majority of dwellings constructed were in the developing summer communities on Cliff Road Surfside and 'Sconset. Many of the earliest summer homes, both on the cliff and at 'Sconset, were simple gable front houses of 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 stories. Their ornament came from the use of cross gables in the roof form, wraparound porches, and applied ornament of chateaux style brackets and bargeboards that were common to period institutional structures (see 'Sconset Chapel and Lifesaving Station). Later in the 1880s and 1890s, larger and more elaborate houses were added in these areas in Queen Anne and Shingle vocabularies. In addition, at 'Sconset, Underhill developed a group of small houses in imitation of the existing whale houses.

Institutional: With the expansion of population at 'Sconset a Union Chapel was built, gable front with side entry tower with spire, and a smaller tower opposite; the ornament is derived from the arched windows and doors, bargeboards, and applied stick x bracing; it now has a rear ell, buttresses, no small tower, front tower entry, and covered with shingles. In 1897 the Roman Catholics constructed St. Mary's Our Lady of the Sea on Federal Street, a shingled gable front church with side tower. The Episcopalians built their church in 1901 of Quincy granite and brownstone in a similarly gothic form. Club buildings were constructed in connection with summer tourists. Near the Beachside group the Nantucket Athletic Club (org. 1890) built a clubhouse (1904-05), now the Yacht Club; it is a long, low, shingled structure of levels of hip roofs with a central pavilion with beveled roof; only the major pavilion survives. The Casino at 'Sconset (1899) was also shingled and low, gable front with a porch. Golf clubs were also formed and clubhouses built. A single example of the island lifesaving stations survives at Surfside. Originally, the gable front building had a wide overhang roof supported by brackets and bargeboards as well as ornamental side walls of vertical board, x bracing; it is now extended on each side and shingled.

Commercial: With the development of the summer vacation trade came increased numbers of hotels on the island. As in so many instances, the earliest began as new uses for older buildings. Large homes such as the Coffin House were converted to serve as early hostels. In other instances, the transformation was greater, as in the Veranda House, White Elephant, and Springfield, which expanded earlier houses with additions, porches, and in the latter, mansard roofs. The Nantucket House at Brandt Point used a former Friends meetinghouse at its base; this hotel opened in 1884, was 3 1/2 stories in height with a five-bay center entry pavilion and large wings and porches, and distinctive open belvederes, one pyramidal, the other ogee in roof form. Further from the town new buildings were constructed, including the Surfside, 3 1/2 stories in height, first floor porch and mansard roof (1883), simple in overall form and prefabricated on the mainland. The Point Breeze, also 3 1/2 stories with first floor porch and corner tower and its annex survives as the Gordon Folger Hotel. The Sea Cliff Inn rivaled the Nantucket in size and complexity; it began with a gambrel roofed, Shingle Style core and added several wings, including an enormous four-storied, towered addition. Also constructed during this period were resort related bathing houses and fairground buildings; at Cliff Shore, low buildings were divided into cubicles for changing, and a high open stand for viewing. Just out of town a judges' stand and grandstand were built in 1879 and 1894 respectively; all of these structures were ornamented in the bracketed stick and chateau motifs. Another building type developed in connection with the squantum, a boat trip to a remote location for picnic and dancing. These featured a 1 1/2-story structure with wide porches around the full first floor entertainment area; these were built at Wauwinet and Cedar Beach.

The early Brandt Point Light was replaced in 1904.

X. EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1915-1940)

A. Transportation Routes

The Nantucket Railroad ceased operations in 1917. Although early restrictions were placed on automobile use on the island during summer seasons, improvements were made in the road system as major highways were paved by the 1930s. To the west, these included Madaket Road, with the Warren Landing Road branch, and Hummock Pond Road. Atlantic Avenue-Surfside Road was improved to the south. A loop route east to Siasconset followed Milestone Road-Sankaty Avenue-Polpis Road, with a north branch on Wauwinet Road. By the mid 1930s Nantucket Airport was established southeast of the Village on Old South Road.

B. Population

Between 1915 and 1940, the island's population grew by about 7.4%, comparable to Edgartown in the same period but substantially less than the mainland resorts of Falmouth, Barnstable, or Yarmouth. Most of this growth took place during the 1920s, as the years of World War I and the Depression both saw declining figures. In the mid '20s, the island's summer population swelled by 10-12,000 persons -- nearly four times the permanent population.

During this period, the black population of Nantucket increased from 60 (1895) to 230, an increase from 1.9% to 6.7% of the entire population. The number of Portuguese dropped sharply, while Canadians became the dominant group with nearly a third of the foreign-born population.

C. Settlement Pattern

Peripheral growth continued around the edges of Nantucket Village, with the main area of development to the north at Brant Point and Nantucket Cliffs. Cottage, bungalow, and estate development extended on Eastern Street and Hulbert Avenue, and in the area north of Cliff Road west to Reed Pond. To the south, residential expansion continued along the Orange Street and Atlantic Avenue corridors. Outside the Center, new resort development occurred in the west at Madaket at Hither Creek, and to the south at Surfside at the southern end of Surfside Road. Smaller developments took place on Nantucket Harbor at Monomy, Quase, and Wauwinet, and at Quidnet on the east coast. The main center outside Nantucket Village remained Siasconset, where resort development continued. Cottage construction continued south of Milestone Road in the Morey Lane-Ocean Avenue area, and to the north in the Burnell Road-Clifton Street area. Along Atlantic Street linear growth extended north to Sankaty Head.

D. Economic Base

Tourism was off sharply during World War I, but its revival in the 1920s was accompanied by new concern for the island's history, marked by the opening of the Whaling Museum in 1927.

Agriculture was still practiced by some on the island: the Sea Cliff Inn, Nantucket's largest and finest hotel, ran a small farm to supply hotel guests with dairy products, vegetables, poultry, and eggs. Eighty men still were employed in agriculture in 1940 -- about a tenth of the working population of 881. The cranberry acreage reached its peak in the 1920s when over 300 acres were harvested.

E. Architecture

Residential: The primary change during this period was to the construction of more modest vacation and year-round homes. Bungalow, 1 1/2-story cape, 2 1/2-story gable and pyramidal shingled buildings, were all built. Year-round housing was constructed in the area east of the town center, where islanders congregated as more of the town's older buildings were purchased for summer use by families and innkeepers. Restoration of these older structures happened in increasing numbers by off-islanders, both in the town and among the 'Sconset whale houses. Smaller summer homes were also added at Beachside, Wauwinet, Quidnet, emerging waterfront neighborhoods.

Institutional: The overwhelming choice of style during this period was the Colonial Revival. The new high school on Academy Hill (1929) is a three-story, 14-bay brick block with pediment over the center four bays. Other period structures in this style include the Sea Street Pumping Station (1927-28), three bays with parapetted chimneys and arches over openings in a Federal Revival structure; as well as the Fire Station (1930), Cynis Pierce School (1930), Post Office (1932), and Nantucket Institution for Savings (1925).

XI. SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

The town has no state authorized inventory due to the early date of its designation as an historic district (1955). However, a large amount of information is available on the town's architecture. Many structures have been drawn for the Historic American Buildings Survey, which was systematically recording the town. This project was in part taken up by the Preservation Institute held each summer; students conduct individual building examinations, study areas as well as period groupings, conduct surveys. Architectural historians have also published studies of island buildings that can be substituted for inventory. Clay Lancaster's The Architecture of Historic Nantucket catalogs town buildings by form and location; Henry Chandlee Forman's Early Nantucket and its Whale Houses considers 'Sconset's houses; other sources are listed in the SOURCES section of this report. Collections of historic photographs have also been helpful,

including Lancaster's Nantucket in the Nineteenth Century and McCalley's Nantucket Yesterday and Today. Although there is little doubt that the island's resources are being protected, the imposition of strict exterior finish guidelines has resulted in a disconcerting uniformity. The Commission should work more closely with the Historical Society to obtain an outline of the studies available there.

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