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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 1:05 PM
** FORM B - BUILDING **

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

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1. **Town**
   Oak Bluffs

2. **Address**
   1345 Hudson Avenue

3. **Name**
   Spinney Cottage (see * )

4. **Present Use**
   Private seasonal dwelling

5. **Present owner**
   Linda W. Wasson

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6. **Description:**
   Date 1868, tower 1875 (see ** )

   Source C.M.A.R. and Vineyard Gazette

   Style Campground

   Architect

   Exterior wall fabric Unpainted wooden shingles

   Outbuildings (describe) garage and shed

   Other features Twin cottage with tower; two front gables with distinctive eave brackets; one S. Gothic window with braid trim; side door with same three sided covered porch/ post & pierced board brackets; dormers. Altered porch added & Date 1890 dining room see ** **

6. **Moved**
   yes Date 1889

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5. **Lot Size:**
   One acre or less 1 A. Over one acre

   Approximate frontage 30'

   Approximate distance of building from street 15'

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6. **Recorded by**
   Hollis Engley, Alice Robinson, Jill Bouck

   Organization O.B. Historical Survey

   Date October 25, 1978

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4. **Map.** Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

   The information which follows will negate the earlier assumption that the Campground cottage at 2 Clinton Avenue, form # H-177 area E, is what is left of the original double Spinney Cottage which appears in the attached photocopy here and that was sent before.

   ** The Campmeeting Assoc. records show the original single Spinney cottage to have been built in 1868. In 1875 the Vineyard Gazette reported: "Last year Mr. Spinney purchased the corner cottage next to his own and has had the two united by a fine tower." The cottage he purchased most likely had a building date close to his own.

   ** Also, the top of the tower was reported to have been blown down in the hurricane of 1938. All of the front facing doors, windows, and balconies have been altered.
The original owner of J.S. Spinney's first cottage (8 Clinton Avenue) was Rev. C. Payne of Philadelphia.

7. Original owner (if known)  
Original use: Private seasonal dwelling
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>Conservation</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Science/invention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architectural</td>
<td>Exploration/settlement</td>
<td>Social/humanitarian</td>
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<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Military</td>
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<td>Transportaion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community development</td>
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</table>

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This building is significant for once being part of the Wesleyan Grove Campground, and being one of the finest examples of Campground style architecture at the time. The Spinneys were well known in the social circle of Cottage City's heyday, and entertained most frequently.

The removal of the double cottage to the Vineyard Highlands is related in the Vineyard Gazette notation in 1889: "Joseph S. Spinney is having his double cottage on Clinton Avenue moved to a lot on the Highlands."

And again in 1890: "The Spinney cottage, recently moved to the Highlands, has been much improved with piazzas around two sides and the front..."

The building is also significant for being part of the Vineyard Highlands, an area laid out originally in 1869 as an alternative to the Wesleyan Grove Campground by a group of Campmeeting Association directors fearful of encroachments by the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co. development on Wesleyan Grove. The area includes the highest land in the resort, overlooking Lake Anthony and Vineyard Sound.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
- Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Assoc. Records, Camp Meeting Office.
- "Layout of the Vineyard Highlands" by Charles Talbot 1870 revised 1906.
- Vineyard Gazette: August 13, 1875, November 15, 1889, April 25, 1890.
- Dukes County Historical Society, Cooke St. Edgartown, Mass.
Photo by Robert Cantius, staff photographer, Oak Bluffs Historical Survey
from glass negative from Dukes County Historical Society
Edgartown, Mass.

"The Spinney Cottage"
Circa 1886

Inventory Form B, H-117