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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name WEST CHOP CLUB HD

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number TROQUOIS AVE. _____ not for publication

city or town TISBURY _____ vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county DUKES code 007 zip code 02573

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon

August 21, 2007

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Joe

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

10-18-07

West Chop Club HD
Name of Property

Dukes, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	building
0	1	sites
4	3	structures
	3	objects
9	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

SOCIAL: clubhouse

GOVERNMENT: post office (seasonal)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation/
sports facility/auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

SOCIAL: clubhouse

GOVERNMENT: post office (seasonal)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation/
sports facility/auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Shingle style

LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH C. REVIVALS: Tudor

Revival: Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE: Granite, CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Shingle, Weatherboard

roof WOOD: shingle, ASPHALT

other WOOD, BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The West Chop Club Historic District is located in the town of Tisbury approximately two miles north of the village of Vineyard Haven. The district occupies about 17 acres on the northernmost point of Martha's Vineyard, at the terminus of West Chop, a broad peninsula that frames the western shore of Vineyard Haven Harbor. The West Chop Club Historic District encompasses buildings and recreational facilities located on Iroquois Avenue between Main and Franklin streets on level terrain above the beach, as well as one section of the club's approximately 2,000-foot-long beach property facing Vineyard Sound. The West Chop Club Historic District's contributing resources consist of five buildings, and four structures. The contributing structures are an historic pier, jetty, and two tennis courts. Also included within the district boundaries are noncontributing modern elements: two staff quarter buildings, three tennis courts, a playground, two benches, and a flagpole. Both contributing and noncontributing resources are listed on the district data sheet included with this nomination.

The four primary buildings and the pier in the West Chop Club Historic District were constructed between 1889 and 1900 as part of the development of the West Chop area by the West Chop Land Company. The West Chop Trust purchased the four major buildings that comprise the West Chop Club Historic District, along with the associated land and piers from the failed West Chop Land Company in 1911. The West Chop Club is a private membership club, established by the West Chop Trust in the 1960s.

In addition to the core land and resources included in this nomination, the West Chop Club owns additional beachfront on Vineyard Haven Harbor with Middle Pier and Little Pier, as well as a few small parcels of inland property. These properties are not contiguous to the proposed historic district. However, they could be included in a future larger historic district at West Chop encompassing more of the 19th and early 20th century residences under multiple ownership.

West Chop is one of two peninsulas, along with East Chop, that flank Vineyard Haven Harbor, with Vineyard Haven village nestled at the south end of the harbor. West Chop is a wooded and sparsely settled area with large mature trees, surrounded by narrow, rocky beaches on three sides. Houses constructed in the late 19th and 20th centuries are concentrated primarily in and around the West Chop Club Historic District at the northern tip of West Chop, where the neighborhood of narrow curving roads reflects the original layout of this summer community in the late 19th century. Residences are also scattered along Main Street (also known as West Chop Road), which extends from Vineyard Haven up the east shore, around the north tip, and down the western shore of West Chop, and on Franklin Street running north to south in the center of the peninsula. The first permanent structure on the peninsula, the West Chop Lighthouse erected in 1817 (NR 1987), sits on the east shore of West Chop adjacent to, but outside the West Chop Club Historic District. The Minks Meadow Golf Course occupies most of the southwest quadrant of West Chop, also outside the district.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 2

The West Chop Club Historic District is characterized by narrow, curving roads, dense tree cover, architecturally harmonious wood-frame buildings, and an intimate scale which contrasts with the open beach on the edge of Vineyard Sound. The West Chop Club buildings, both contributing and noncontributing, that comprise the West Chop Club Historic District share a commonality of materials and design. The following narrative describes all the resources in the district. The resources discussed are contributing unless otherwise stated.

The Cedars (Map 1, photos 1,2,3,)

The Cedars at 187 Iroquois Avenue, constructed ca. 1888, is a large, 2½-story, cross-gable, Shingle-style building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Iroquois Avenue. The building sits on a level lot landscaped with grass, shrubs, and mature Atlantic White Cedar trees for which it is named.

The main block of the building has a side gable form oriented roughly north-south, with a cross-gable roofed ell oriented east-west. The cross gable is articulated on the main block of **The Cedars** as a wall dormer on the north elevation. The north elevation of the cross-gable ell has two roof dormers, each of which consists of two small, steeply pitched gable roofs. The south elevation of the cross-gable ell also has two roof dormers, one of which has two small, steeply pitched gable roofs and the other that has three gable roofs. The roof is sheathed in white cedar shingles that appear to have been treated, except for a semi-octagonal porch section at the southwest corner of the building, the roof of which is covered in standing-seam metal material. The gutters and downspouts are galvanized steel and attached to the building using galvanized hardware. An interior, brick chimney projects from the ridge of the main block.

The building, which underwent renovations after a fire in 1977 and again in the late 1990s, features a rectangular main block embellished with flared shingle courses at each story. The building is likely constructed using balloon-frame techniques from the late 19th century. In the basement of **The Cedars**, pegged structural members are visible in several locations. The walls of **The Cedars** are sheathed in weathered white cedar shingles of various sizes that have been laid in a random pattern. Much of the exterior trim of **The Cedars** is matching weathered cedar, although white pine that has been painted green is also used. Galvanized steel drip cap materials are used at the top of all the windows and doors to protect them from the weather, likely because of **The Cedars'** relatively short distance from Vineyard Sound.

The open porch on the south (Iroquois Avenue) elevation has simple square posts, constructed of weathered cedar, steps to ground level on all sides, and a wheelchair ramp constructed of poured concrete with stone and shell aggregate at the southwest corner. There are two small handrails in the center of the south elevation constructed of white cedar, with square balusters and a square newel post with pyramidal cap and flat, rectangular grab rails. The porch deck is constructed of white cedar planks with a small spacing, while the ceiling is built of 2-inch tongue-and-groove beadboard.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 3

The primary entrance of **The Cedars**, on the south (Iroquois Avenue) facade, features a lower wooden portion consisting of two fielded panels and an upper glass section with one diamond-shaped pane in the center, surrounded by four polygonal glass panes with wood trim, which form a square as a whole. The 2"-thick wood door is mounted using brass hardware and hinges, and is flanked by a simple screen door with two rectangular screen panels. The west elevation has two sets of single-light platen glass French doors centered in the bracketed roof overhang that forms a small exterior deck, while the east elevation has a single set of identical doors, also centered within the overhang roof, with steps to ground level. There is a single fire door at the basement level of the north elevation, with stone steps to ground level, and a small stone wall surrounding it.

The west elevation features a one-story, integral porch with plain wood posts and no rail. Located directly above is an oversized, gable-roof dormer that features an integral deck with wood rail flanked by 12/2 double-hung sash windows. On the third floor there is a window with a round fanlight, flanked by shutters centered within the wall dormer. The south elevation of the building is notable for its hipped-roof overhang, similar to that found on the north elevation, and irregular window placement. Fenestration on the remainder of the building consists of single 12/2 windows and single and rows of awning sash, pivot, and casement 6-light sash.

All of the windows of **The Cedars** appear to have been replaced over time. The majority of the windows of the building are wood double-hung replacement sash manufactured by Pella, which match the original 12/2 windows of the structure. The east elevation of the building is embellished with irregularly placed window openings and a row of three awning-sash, 6-light windows in its gable end. The facade (north elevation) features a hipped-roof overhang at the first story supported by shingled brackets. The overhang shelters an arcaded, integral porch on the east end of the north elevation. At the west end of the facade is a one-story, hip-roof, enclosed vestibule. **The Cedars** is constructed on a foundation consisting of laid rubblestone, with retrofitted poured and formed concrete in several sections, added in the 1990s.

The Cottage (Map 2, photo 4)

The Cottage at 187 Iroquois Avenue is located directly east of **The Cedars** and west of **The Casino**, set back from the road approximately 150 feet. Reportedly, this was an outbuilding that was constructed ca. 1888 and was moved to the present site from its original location near the "**Big Pier**" at the foot of Main Street about 1911. This small and simple rectangular, one-story Shingle Style building consists of two distinct parts: a square section with a slightly convex pyramidal hipped roof, and a rectangular section with a side gable roof that may be a later addition. The roofs are built of wood frame with asphalt shingle sheathing and a simple pine cornice with 3/4" round-over detailing.

The walls are wood frame construction and sheathed in weathered white cedar, which appears to be untreated. The corner trim and the flat wood surrounds of the windows and doors are painted pine. A

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 4

small wooden deck built at ground level of the west elevation of the cottage provides a landing for the only entrance to the structure. The front entrance consists of paired wood and glass doors, each consisting of two vertical fielded panels on the bottom and nine fixed rectangular lights on the top. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wooden sash, except a single oval fixed window on the east facade. There are two double-hung sash on the south facade, one on the west facade and one window and a pair of outdoor showers on the north facade. The building is built upon concrete pier footings.

The Casino (Map 3, photos 5, 6)

The Casino at 167 Iroquois Avenue is a large, two-story, gambrel-roof, L-shaped; Shingle Style building that is remarkably well preserved and appears on the exterior today much as it did when it was constructed ca. 1889. The 1914 Sanborn map shows that the building included both rear ells (although the larger ell is listed as being one story) and the bay window. The building is set back approximately 20 feet from Iroquois Avenue on a level lot that includes paved **tennis courts** enclosed by a tall chain-link fence to the east of the building.

The building's main block has a side-gambrel roof and a south-facing facade. The gambrel roof of the main block of **The Casino** is distinctive, appearing as a normal side gambrel roof looking at the west elevation. However, the east elevation features a gambrel shape on the south side of the ridge, and a straight gable on the north side of the ridge, leading to the cross gable of the rear ell. The gambrel roof is framed using an all common rafter system. A one-story, hip-roof, full porch spans the south facade of the building. Two gable-roof dormers project from the front roof slope of the building. A one-story, five-sided bay window with a polygonal roof is located on the west elevation of the main block. A two-story, gable-roof, single-bay ell projects from the west side of the rear (north) elevation of the main block. A small, one-story, hip-roof, single-bay ell is located on the north end of the two-story ell. The roofs are built up of wood framing and sheathed in modern asphalt shingle materials.

The Casino is constructed of typical balloon-frame construction of the late 19th century and sheathed in white cedar shingles. The main two-story block of **The Casino** is open to the roof, with no second floor framing. Three large rectangular rafters run north-south within this open space, and are tied together and to the roof framing using steel cabling. The south facade hipped- roof porch features a shingled railing and rectangular shingled columns. The deck of the porch is constructed of rectangular concrete paving stones. The gutters and downspouts of **The Casino** are aluminum.

The primary entrance to **The Casino** is a set of inwardly swinging hinged doors of wood construction. The lower portion of the door consists of a single, horizontal fielded panel with an upper section of twelve fixed rectangular lights of rolled glass divided by slender wooden muntins. Six sets of paired, ten-light

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 5

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The primary entrance to **The Casino** is a set of inwardly swinging hinged doors of wood construction. The lower portion of the door consists of a single, horizontal fielded panel with an upper section of twelve fixed rectangular lights of rolled glass divided by slender wooden muntins. Six sets of paired, ten-light doors extend across the east elevation of the building. On the west elevation, there are three entry doors, two on the first floor and one on the second floor accessed by a straight run of wooden steps. A first-floor wooden entrance door with a single undivided pane of glass is located at the northwest corner of the main block. The doors at the entrance to the second-floor apartment (at the southwest corner of the ell) and the rear first-floor entry (at the northwest corner of the ell) are solid pine six-panel doors that may be later replacements.

Fenestration on the main block of the building consists of single and paired 12/2 wooden double-hung sash windows, except for two windows on the south facade of the main block that are 12/1 wooden double-hung sash. The windows of the main block appear to be original sash, based on their construction and the presence of historic rolled-glass panes. Fenestration on the ell is comprised of single and paired 6/6 and 8/8 wooden double-hung sash windows. **The Casino** sits on a foundation of granite piers that are screened by wooden trim. The porch of **The Casino** has been reconstructed on a concrete foundation in the 1990s.

The West Chop Inn (Map 4, photos 7, 8)

The **West Chop Inn** at 162 Iroquois Avenue, a large, two-story, T-shaped, Shingle Style building comprised of two distinct sections: a rectangular, hip-roof block set perpendicular to the street (roughly oriented east-west), and a long rectangular, gable-roof block set parallel to the street (roughly oriented north-south). The core of the **West Chop Inn** was constructed in 1892, with later additions and alterations. The hip-roof block features a 1-story, hip-roof wraparound porch that continues along the north side of the gable-roof block. The roofs of the **West Chop Inn** are constructed of wood and sheathed in modern asphalt shingles.

The walls of the **West Chop Inn** are constructed of balloon-frame construction and sheathed in white cedar shingles. On both blocks of the **West Chop Inn**, on the north exposure, there is a flared shingle course between the first and second floors. On the gable roof block, on the northeast corner of the building, there are three courses of decorative wooden shingles, just above the beginning of the flared

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 6

shingle courses. These shingles roughly emulate a saw-tooth pattern, with three rectangular blocks of differing sizes. These shingles were likely used in other areas of the Inn, but remain in this location because it is sheltered from the weather. Recent shingle replacement in kind is visible at certain locations.

The porches on the north facade feature alternating pyramidal and square posts, a plain rail, and vertical screening on its north, east, and west elevations. A set of steps leads up to the porch on the north and west elevations, and a ramp with a simple rail provides access from the east. The building's primary entrance is sheltered within this porch and comprised of paired, outward- swinging wood doors, each with two horizontal, rectangular fielded panels and a single plate- glass fixed pane. Inside the wood and glass doors are a set of inward-swinging screen doors, each of which have two identically sized vertical panels with differently sized horizontal panels above. The open porch of the **West Chop Inn** has a fire sprinkler system and is lit by electric lights with round opaque glass enclosures. The deck of the porch is built of pressure-treated wood laid with 45-degree cuts at the porch corners. Flanking the central door on the north facade is a set of wooden benches, attached to the face of the building.

An interior brick chimney is located on the east roof slope of the hipped roof block. An interior brick chimney rises from the south roof slope of the gable-roofed block. Flat-roof, one-story, single-bay porches project from both the east and west ends of the gable-roofed block. These porches appear on the 1914 Sanborn map. Both are topped with a simple rail. Fenestration on the building consists of 2/2 wooden double-hung sash windows in rectangular openings. The **West Chop Inn** is built upon a brick pier foundation that is only visible from the south (rear) elevation.

The West Chop Post Office (Map 5, photo 9)

Across the street, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Iroquois Avenue and Massasoit Avenue, stands the **West Chop Post Office** at 155 Iroquois Avenue, a 1½-story, gable-roof building set on a concrete foundation and sheathed in vertical flushboards. Constructed ca. 1900, the **West Chop Post Office** is the one notable departure from the predominant Shingle Style in the district, having been designed in the Tudor Revival style and sheathed in vertical wood siding with half timbering detail. The roof of the **West Chop Post Office** is constructed of built-up wood materials and sheathed in white cedar shingles. An oversized, gable-roof dormer with half timbering and a pair of nine-light casement windows projects from the east roof slope. A one-story, flat-roof porch with square wood supports extends across the rear elevation of the building.

The building is embellished with decorative half timbering below the gable, which projects slightly from the south facade. Access into the building is provided by two doors, one on the south elevation and the other in the second bay of the west elevation. The entrance on the south elevation is offset and reached by two wood steps with a simple wood rail with plain balusters. Fenestration consists of nine-light casement windows set into rectangular surrounds. A row of three windows is located in the southern half

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 7

of the east elevation of the building. The West Chop Post Office is built upon a foundation of poured and formed concrete. The Post Office is largely unchanged from its original construction, except for the 1994 addition of a porch with wheelchair ramp to the rear of the property and the construction of a one-bedroom apartment in vacant second-floor space (Town of Tisbury 2005). The foundation of the building was replaced at that time as well. The building houses the Chop Shop general store and the post office, which operate in the summer season. The property is owned by the West Chop Club.

Staff Quarter Buildings (two non-contributing buildings, Map 6 and 7)

To the east of the **West Chop Inn** are two one-story, wood shingle **Staff Quarters Buildings**, for seasonal employees of the West Chop Club. The **Northern Building** has a gable roof with pedestrian entrances on both its east and north elevations. This building dates from ca. 1960 and was expanded with an additional four bedrooms in 2000. Fenestration consists of rows of 6/1 wooden double-hung sash. The **Southern Building** has a shed roof and single-light fixed-pane windows, and was constructed ca. 1990. The southern building features 1/1 wooden double-hung sash.

Big Pier (Map 8, photo 12)

The "**Big Pier**," as it is historically known, was constructed ca. 1888 and is located on Vineyard Sound off Main Street at the foot of Waronco Avenue. The pier is accessed by an asphalt path and parking area off Waronco Avenue. The wooden deck of the pier is constructed upon two sets of 16 driven wood pilings. There is a flat, rectangular wooden plank railing on the left side of the pier, and a swim platform and steps to the waterline at the end of the pier. Riprap constructed of large boulders has been added to the shoreline. According to members of the club, **The Big Pier** is much shorter than it was when it was constructed, and the pier has been rebuilt numerous times to repair damage caused by fall and winter storms (Fuller and Cox 1990:55). Preventative measures are taken at the end of the West Chop Club's season to minimize the damage inflicted during the off-season.

The Big Pier is the oldest and one of three piers owned by the West Chop Club. The other two wood piers were built ca. 1900 and are located on the east shore of Vineyard Haven Harbor on beachfront property that is not contiguous with the historic district. Although they are not included in this nomination, they would be eligible as part of a larger West Chop historic district. The "Middle Pier," located off of Main Street at the foot of Miantomo and Massasoit avenues, is accessed by a gate and walkway. The "Little Pier," also known as Draper Pier, is located off Main Street, directly south of the West Chop Lighthouse (NR 1987).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 8

The Jetty (Map 9)

The **Jetty** is a stone structure located in the water at the shoreline curve between Vineyard Sound on the west and Vineyard Haven Harbor on the east. It marks the eastern extent of the West Chop Club's beach property on Vineyard Sound. Originally a loose tumble of rocks placed here in the first half of the 20th century, the Jetty's current appearance with large smooth boulders reflects modifications in the 1970s (Fuller and Cox 1990:56).

Flagpole, noncontributing object (Map 10, photo 10)

The **Flagpole** is located off Main Street at the Iroquois Avenue Intersection, directly north of the Cedars, overlooking Vineyard Sound and Vineyard Haven Harbor. A wooden flagpole has been on this site since the 1930s, but has reportedly been replaced at least three times because of extensive wood rot due to the exposed location. The exact height and date of the current flagpole is unknown. There is an original undated bronze dedication plaque to the memory of Philip Leverett Saltonstall, one of the three original Trustees of West Chop, at the base of the flagpole. The present landscaping, including flagstone paving, fencing, and two **Benches**, was installed in the mid 1970s.

Tennis Courts (two contributing sites, Map 11 and 12, photo 13; and three noncontributing sites, Map 13, 14, 15)

There are five **tennis courts** within the West Chop Club property. The two earliest, contributing **Tennis Courts** date from ca. 1911 and are located directly west of the **West Chop Inn** and between **The Casino** and the **West Chop Post Office**. These courts are shown on the 1911 Plan of The West Chop Land Trust (Crowell and Breck 1911) and have a clay surface. A tennis professional was hired by the West Chop Land Trust as early as 1913 (Fuller and Cox 1990:52). Three modern, noncontributing courts with a concrete playing surface were constructed in the 1970s to the south of the West Chop Inn.

Playground (one noncontributing site, Map 16)

The **Playground**, established ca. 1990, is located east of the **West Chop Post Office**, on an irregularly shaped lot at the corner of Iroquois and Massasoit Avenues. The playground is surrounded by a modern, pressure treated wooden picket fence with a gate and has a ground surface of dirt and tree bark mulch. Several slides, swing sets, timber benches, and various pieces of playground equipment are located within the fenced, landscaped area.

Benches (two noncontributing benches, Map 17)

Two concrete and wood **Benches** installed in the last 20 years are located adjacent to the **Flagpole**.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 7

Page 9

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located in the district or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district contains level to moderately sloping terraces, knolls, and other landforms in coastal areas within 1,000 feet of Vineyard Haven Harbor and Vineyard Sound. Soils in the district are excessively drained and sandy; formed in glacial fluvial deposits on glacial outwash plains. In spite of the above information, the potential for locating significant ancient sites in the district is moderate. Residential construction and related recreational facilities in the district would have adversely affected the integrity or destroyed most sites that were present in the area. Smaller archaeological features and isolated artifact distributions may survive.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the district. While West Chop was settled in the late 17th century, settlement remained sparse until the 19th century. Only three families inhabited the area until the late 18th and early 19th century. Most of the West Chop area was used as sheep pasture throughout the period. No extant homes or potential archaeological sites are known for the West Chop locale until the late 19th century and the development of the area as a summer resort. Structural evidence may survive at the original site of an outbuilding (ca. 1888) removed in 1911 from a site near the "Big Pier" at the foot of Main Street. The outbuilding described above was incorporated into The Cottage at 187 Iroquois Ave. Structural evidence may also survive from recreational facilities no longer extant, including boat houses, tennis courts, greenhouses, bathhouses, and a freight house built to service the West Chop community. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also exist in the district, especially associated with earlier extant buildings. The West Chop Land Company prohibited shops, manufacturing, stables, privies, and the keeping of pigs on land sold for their development. Structural evidence of wharves or piers may exist in coastal areas.

(end)

West Chop Club HD
Name of Property

Dukes, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1887-1957

Significant Dates

1887, 1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Hugh Tallant, architect

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWest Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 1

SIGNIFICANCE

The West Chop Club Historic District is significant as one of the earliest, most comprehensive, and best-preserved examples of a planned summer resort community on Martha's Vineyard. It includes public buildings, recreational facilities, and the open space along the shore, which together formed the West Chop Club. Architecturally, the district is notable for its collection of well-preserved buildings constructed between 1888 and 1900 in the Shingle and Tudor Revival styles. It is also an excellent example of the late-19th-century seaside resort development that characterized coastal New England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The West Chop Club Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of architecture, entertainment/recreation, and community planning and development. The period of significance extends from 1888, with the planning of the community and construction of the first building by the West Chop Land Company, until 1957, the 50-year National Register eligibility cutoff date.

Early History of West Chop

At the time of European contact, the island of Martha's Vineyard was inhabited by the Algonquin-speaking Native American Wampanoag tribe. The Wampanoag economy and way of life were based on agriculture and fishing. The Wampanoag Aquinnah continue to maintain a strong presence on the island to the present day. Martha's Vineyard—first settled by Europeans in 1642—received its name from Bartholomew Gosnold, an English explorer who stopped there in 1602. During the early settlement of Tisbury, Vineyard Haven was originally known as Holmes Hole (or Homes Hole). It is the oldest place name on the Vineyard and is mentioned in records of 1646 that refer to “the easternmost chop of homses hole,” which is now known as East Chop (Banks 1911:4). West Chop was also referred to as Holmes Hole Neck. The name “chop” is “a variation of chap, the jaw of a vise or clamp. In the plural, it signifies the mouth or entrance of a channel, as the chops of the English Channel.”(Banks 1911:3-13) Both East Chop and West Chop remained unsettled by Europeans until the second half of the 17th century.

In 1641, Thomas Mayhew, a resident of Watertown in Massachusetts Bay Colony, purchased Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands from two English noblemen who had conflicting grants in the area (Huntington 1969:9). Sometime before 1664, Thomas Layton and Peter Tallman, who were formerly of Portsmouth and Newport, Rhode Island, respectively and who owned land in Edgartown, purchased West Chop peninsula from two Native Americans, Poketapace and Pesoonquan (Banks 1911:9). Subsequently in a letter dated May 1, 1664, Massachusetts Governor Thomas Mayhew Sr. wrote to Governor John Winthrop Jr. of Connecticut complaining about the sale without his approval as the patent holder to the Island (Banks 1911:10). No record of Winthrop's response has been located (Banks 1911:10).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 2

The first white settler to live in the Vineyard Haven and West Chop area was Francis Usselton, a resident of Edgartown, who took possession on behalf of Layton and Tallman about 1667. Mayhew brought and won a suit against Layton and Tallman for their agent's trespassing, and Usselton was evicted. He went to Newport, Rhode Island, where he apparently got into similar trouble. Huzzelton's Head in Tisbury perpetuates his name. In June of 1667, as a reward for their services, Mayhew divided Holmes Hole Neck into six parts, reserving one share for himself and deeding five to the persons who removed Ussleton: Richard Sarson, John Eddy, John Gee, and John and James Peas, (Banks 1911:11). None of the shareholders settled on the land; in 1669 they sold their shares to a number of different entities who in turn passed the land to new owners.

The town of Tisbury, incorporated July 8, 1671, included the present town of West Tisbury. In 1673, Governor Mayhew annexed West Chop to the Town of Tisbury. Permanent settlement of Holmes Hole Neck began the following year in 1674 when Isaac Chase, a 24-year-old widower, settled in the area. Isaac Chase was born in Hampton, N. H., on April 1, 1650. Possibly because of his Quaker religious beliefs, the townsmen initially refused him the right to settle, but eventually allowed him access to the relatively remote area of the town at West Chop. Chase bought additional parcels, becoming one of the largest landowners on the Vineyard by 1700. Isaac Chase was a blacksmith, inn-holder, ferryman, and Lieutenant. He held the first tavern license on the Vineyard, which was granted in March 26, 1677-8, to keep 'A Publike house.' The house was located in Vineyard Haven, then Holmes Hole, near the ferry dock for boats between Falmouth and Tisbury (Banks 1911:53-70).

Chase was followed in 1682 by Thomas West, who purchased 30 acres, and later more land, on the west side of the lagoon towards Kuttashimmoo (now Tashmoo). Edward Cottle also settled in the West Chop area in 1695. These three families were the only inhabitants of the area until about 1700 (Banks 1911:15; MHC 1984:5). Isaac Chase later became the sole proprietor of West Chop, as shown on a 1725 map of Holmes Hole Neck indicating that the Chase family owned all of Holmes Hole neck from present-day Vineyard Haven to the north tip of West Chop (Banks 1911:17). Chase also owned property in the Chickemmoo region. Upon his death on May 19, 1727, his properties passed to his widow and surviving children Thomas, Isaac, and Abraham.

The population of Martha's Vineyard and Holmes Hole/Vineyard Haven village grew modestly throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, with an economy based on farming and fishing. By the late 18th century, a road (now Main Street on West Chop) was built along the east shore of West Chop northward from Main Street in Vineyard Haven (MHC 1984:7). By the mid-19th century, Martha's Vineyard was famous for its whaling captains who sailed all over the world. Although not large enough to be home to whaling ships, the protected harbor at Vineyard Haven was a busy port in the 19th century. During this period West Chop remained sparsely settled, due in part to its remote location, and to the single ownership by the Chase family, who used West Chop primarily as sheep pasture.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 3

The first significant construction event at West Chop was the erection of the West Chop Lighthouse (NR 1987) at the northeast edge of the peninsula, which was built in 1817, the same year that Vineyard Haven was made a customs service sub-port (MHC 1984:8). Erosion at the exposed site caused the government to move the lighthouse back from the cliffs in 1830, and again in 1846 (MHC 1984:9).

In 1856, the first telegraph cable between Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard was constructed as a part of their existing system by the Cape Cod Telegraph Co. between West Chop and Woods Hole in Falmouth on Cape Cod. The laying of cable by the steamer *Neptune* and schooner *William T. Conquest* took approximately two and one-half hours. Following an opening celebration in Vineyard Haven, the cable was used for about five years (Banks 1911:70-72).

The whaling industry suffered major setbacks from Confederate attacks on shipping during the Civil War and from the discovery of petroleum in 1859 (Anonymous 1971). However, Tisbury remained a viable port for the Atlantic shipping industry during the 19th century, in part because of the marine railways in Tisbury Harbor and boatyards at Lagoon Pond, which continued until the completion of the Cape Cod Canal in 1914 (Anonymous 1971).

The early name of Holmes Hole was officially replaced by the town of Vineyard Haven in 1871. In 1889 Main Street to the West Chop Lighthouse was improved with a graded and shell-dressed surface. By 1891, when proliferation of large summer houses on West Chop began to obscure the West Chop Lighthouse, a 17-foot mast with the light on top was added to the tower.

Martha's Vineyard Summer Resort

A number of factors fueled the emergence of Martha's Vineyard as one of New England's premier summer resorts in the late 19th century. In response to the dreariness and drudgery of urban life and factory work, Americans across the nation began to value leisure time and a healthy environment, seeking and creating a wide range of recreational options. These destinations included urban parks and greenways, rural and picturesque cemeteries, and mountainous, lakeside, and coastal resorts. Day excursions, weekend trips, and summer vacations became popular concepts to be spent at places like Newport, Rhode Island, Cape Cod, the Berkshires, or the North and South shores of Massachusetts, the Maine coast, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

The outstanding natural beauty, picturesque villages, and invigorating air of Martha's Vineyard, located just five miles off the south coast of Massachusetts, along with improved rail and steamship travel, drew thousands of visitors—the majority from New England towns and cities—radically changing the economy and character of the Island (Rodgers 2002:10).

Methodist camp meetings were a key factor in the shaping of Martha's Vineyard's popularity as a summer resort. Strong and consistent growth of Methodism on Martha's Vineyard began in the 1820s.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 4

The first Methodist camp meeting on Martha's Vineyard was held at West Chop by "Reformation John Adams" in the summer of 1827. Approximately 150 participants from the Island, Cape Cod, Boston, and New Bedford gathered in the woods near the West Chop Lighthouse for the month-long meeting (Banks 1911:31-53; Sanborn 1985:8). The first small Methodist church building was erected in Edgartown in 1828, followed by the larger "whaling church" in 1844 (NR, outside district), and three additional churches in Chilmark, Lambert's Cove, and Vineyard Haven in the 1850s (extant) (Weiss 1987:22).

The most well-known and influential camp meeting on the Vineyard was the Wesleyan Grove Methodist camp meeting founded in 1835 in the East Chop area. Wesleyan Grove led directly to a planned summer resort that was laid out in 1867 next to the then-famous camp meeting (Weiss 1987:xi). Both are now known as Wesleyan Grove-Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association (NR/NHL). Originally part of Edgartown, these two developments, along with nearby Vineyard Highlands, had grown so rapidly and to such an extent as a middle-class family resort area by 1880 that they separated and formed a new town, Cottage City, which was renamed Oak Bluffs in 1907 (Weiss 1987:77).

The Martha's Vineyard camp meetings led to real estate booms and summer resort development on the island (Hough 1936). At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, visitors came to stay for a short time, or in some cases, particularly wealthy visitors would purchase old farmhouses or build new houses as their own seasonal residence. With the completion of the Cape Cod Canal in 1914, increased numbers of yachts and pleasure boats replaced the dwindling commercial vessels arriving at Vineyard Haven harbor. The introduction of the automobile in the early 20th century gave visitors increasing autonomy in arranging travel plans to and from the Vineyard, and even on the island if their vehicle was ferried across. (Anonymous 1971:72-75). By 1920, the summer population of Martha's Vineyard had exploded to 25,000 people, in contrast to the winter population of 4,500 residents (Rodgers 2002:9).

At least one summer colony in Tisbury predates West Chop, and two formed slightly later. In about 1873, a small colony of musicians concentrated in cottages around the hotel "Innisfail," overlooking the Lagoon on the other side of town. However, a fire in 1902 destroyed most of the buildings, and the colony did not recover from this loss. Another resort area started in 1892 in the Makonikey Woods in West Tisbury. Although a fine hotel was erected, some cottage lots were sold, and a dock was built for steamers; due to inadequate transportation in the pre-automobile era, the project failed. The success of a summer colony built at Bayside in 1900 with a small hotel surrounded by rental cottages was supported by the construction of the adjacent Vineyard Haven Yacht Club (Hough 1936: 227-229, 232-245; Anonymous 1971:75-76).

The West Chop Land Company

Attempts to promote summer resort development at West Chop began in 1872 with Thomas Bradley of Vineyard Haven who advertised cottage lots at Cedar Bluff, west of the West Chop Lighthouse. At the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWest Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 5

same time, an offshoot of the Oak Bluffs development was laying infrastructure for West Point Grove on an adjacent tract of land. After a period of stagnation caused by the depression of 1873, interest resurfaced, and a syndicate that included Boston investors formed the West Chop Land and Water Company. This company built the first public water supply system on Martha's Vineyard at Tashmoo Spring and Pond (Tisbury Waterworks, NR pending) (Hough 1936:231-232).

Charles C. Jackson, Stephen Minot Weld, and William Minot Jr. of the Boston area were the investors who visited Martha's Vineyard in 1887, at the height of the summer resort boom, for duck hunting and were informed of a large parcel of land available for purchase and development (Fuller and Cox 1990). Stephen M. Weld (b. 1842) served in the Civil War, achieving the rank of Brigadier-General, and then entered the wool and cotton textile businesses (Anonymous 1967 Vol. X 1967:503-504). William Minot Jr. (1849-1900) was a lawyer with Minot & Balch, specializing in taxation, real estate property management, and trusteeship (Anonymous Vol. XXXIII 1967: 37). These three men established the West Chop Land Company (Company) in 1888 and purchased extensive land on West Chop including the Cedar Bluff and West Point Grove parcels (Hough 1936:231-232).

J.H. Crowell and Charles E.C. Breck prepared a "Plan of the Cottage Lots at Tashmoo - West Chop" for the Company in 1888, which illustrated its intentions for the entire area at the north end of West Chop, including land within and outside the West Chop Club Historic District. In keeping with the suburban design aesthetic and the Romantic landscape movement of the late 19th century prevalent at the time, large house lots were laid out in a roughly diamond-shaped area on meandering streets in the northern portion of West Chop from Metacomet Avenue west to upper Quinsigamond Avenue. Narrow, winding roads were named after Indian tribes and persons of the Northeast (Algonquin, Massasoit, Iroquois, etc.). Smaller lots on gently curved and gridded streets filled the southern portion as far south as Cohasset Street. A thin strip of bathing beach was identified along the coastline to the east of the Tashmoo Wharf (now the **Big Pier**). It appears that the West Chop Land Company initially tried to name the area Tashmoo, which is an adaptation of an Algonquin term Kuttashimmoo, or "at the great spring." When the **West Chop Inn** was completed in 1892, it was originally referred to as the Tashmoo Club (Fuller 1985).

The 1888 Crowell and Breck Plan shows the existing buildings as the West Chop Lighthouse on Main Street and one residence (916 Main Street) directly across the street (Crowell and Breck 1888). The map also identifies the proposed site for a hotel, although no building had actually been constructed. Apparently, an observatory had been planned for Wachussett Avenue, but was never constructed. The beach line extended southerly beyond the Land Company's Wharf, which is in the same location as the current Little Pier (outside the district). The 1888 plan clearly shows the Tashmoo Wharf, which is located where the **Big Pier** is now located.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 6

Following the tradition created by other planned summer communities from Maine to New Jersey, a clubhouse was built and named **The Cedars** with rentable cottages nearby. The Company also constructed bathhouses, a **Big Pier**, a freight house, and a **tennis court** (Fuller 1964). The freight house and bathhouses were removed sometime in the mid-20th century (Fuller and Cox 1964:56). The Company hired a small steamer, *The City of Portsmouth*, to run between the **Big Pier** at West Chop and Woods Hole in Falmouth several times a day to meet trains. The Company was ready for business in 1889, and at that time began the sale of land for development. In this same year, a new road north from Main Street (West Chop Avenue) was cleared and graded (MHC 1984:11).

The Company advertised "the new village of West Chop" summer residences as having a "climate that is delightfully cool, and the air pure and soft." They marketed the area as having easy access to Boston, New York, and the West. "Cottage Lots," which ranged in size from 5,000 to 20,000 square feet, were offered for sale at prices ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 per lot. A "complete system of water works"—the Tisbury Water Works—had been introduced to the area. The Water Works, completed in 1880, are extant, located south of West Chop on West Spring Street at the south edge of Tashmoo Lake. Interested parties were directed to contact either Francis Peabody Jr., a lawyer at 54 Devonshire St., or William B. Owen, 23 Court St., in Boston for information regarding the lots.

The Company's records indicate that certain principles were to be followed in the construction and design of the dwellings to ensure a harmonious and uniform architectural appearance of the development. The grantor reserved the option of approving the exterior design of the residence before construction could commence, and sanitary facilities and utilities for indoor plumbing and waste disposal were included in the development program. Restrictive easements were placed on all buildings that were part of the West Chop Land and Wharf Company development. They were as follows:

1. *The building or buildings which shall be erected on the land hereby conveyed, shall not be nearer to the street than 20 feet.*
2. *No shops to be located on premises or manufacturing, stables, the keeping of pigs or privies.*
3. *No fence more than 4 feet.*
4. *No selling or making of "any spirituous, intoxicating or malt liquors, or any other thing, the sale of which is prohibited by law."*
5. *No house less than \$2,000 will be erected.*
6. *All designs are subject to the sellers' approval.*

By June of 1890 seven new Shingle Style residences had been built along the bluff overlooking the north shore at the tip of West Chop (outside the historic district), along with **The Cedars** and **The Casino** (Crowell 1890; Rodgers 2002:30, 31).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 7

The Cedars at 187 Iroquois Avenue was constructed in 1889 for use as a hotel for visitors. The 1888 plan shows the proposed hotel (labeled "hotel site") to the northeast of where it was actually constructed. The proposed building also had a much different footprint than constructed. By 1890, the building is shown on the map at its current location and is identified as the "Cedars," named for the cedar trees found through the area, many of which were planted after the construction.

The earliest community members at West Chop came from nearby New England areas, particularly Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In its first summer, **The Cedars** was fully occupied by Dr. John Homans and his family of six, Charles Jackson of Boston and his family of four, and Charles P. Greenough of Boston and his family of four. These three men, along with Ben Young, purchased the first four lots on the bluff, and all but Young built houses by the summer of 1890. Following the construction of homes in the area, people continued to eat their meals at The Cedars, fostering the area's sense of community (Fuller 1964: [3-4]). According to the 1907 Tisbury directory, Arthur C. Clark served as the proprietor of the Hotel Cedars in that year. The building is identified as a "Summer Hotel" on the 1914 Sanborn map.

A revised plan prepared by J.H. Crowell and Charles E.C. Breck for the West Chop Land Company in June 1890 is similar to the 1888 plan with additional planned development south of Algonquin Avenue and between Quinsigamond Avenue and Main Street (extensions to Quinsigamond, Wachussett and Iroquois avenues).

The Casino at 167 Iroquois Avenue was constructed in 1889 (Fuller 1964) by the West Chop Land Company. The building is shown on the 1890 map as an L-shaped building on the same lot as The Cedars at 187 Iroquois Avenue. The Casino was constructed with a bowling alley, billiard room, and a dance hall upstairs (Sanborn 1985).

The **West Chop Inn** at 162 Iroquois Avenue was constructed in 1892 as a project initiated by John Cobb, a Trustee of the West Chop Land Company in an attempt to stabilize the finances of the West Chop Land Company. Cobb, a Boston lawyer, was brought in to help the Company (Anonymous 1895:338, Fuller and Cox 1990:8). According to an article in the Vineyard Gazette, the inn was occupied in the summer of 1892 by the Seashore Normal Institute. The article states that the building is "large and commodious" and that "temporary quarters have been utilized by means of tents erected near the inn" (Fuller 1985:112). The West Chop Inn has been significantly expanded since its original construction, mostly through the construction of large hip-roofed porches that flank the main block of the building on three sides.

By the turn of the century, the community already included the two hotels (The Cedars and the West Chop Inn), a post office, billiard hall, and bowling alley (at The Casino), a grocery store, boating, bathing, fishing and tennis grounds (Sanborn 1985).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 8

The **West Chop Post Office** at 155 Iroquois Avenue was constructed in 1900 to serve the burgeoning summer community as a seasonal general store and post office.

Subdivision and development of West Chop continued outside the historic district at the turn of the century. Newer plans to the southeast of the district proposed smaller lots on a more grid like street pattern. The coastal pond located just south of the West Chop Light House was filled in sometime between 1890 and 1911 (Crowell and Breck 1911).

The West Chop Land Trust

Although the West Chop summer community continued to thrive, the Land Company went bankrupt in 1911. The householders who owned the residences around the community buildings formed the West Chop Trust in 1911, which purchased the remaining lots of land as well as **The Cedars, The Casino, the West Chop Inn, the West Chop Post Office, the wharves, beaches, tennis courts, and several smaller structures** (Fuller 1964). The West Chop Trust was established under a Deed of Trust, which empowered the trust to issue stock and purchase land (Fuller and Cox 1990). The first Trustees were Charles Whittier, Charles Morse, and Philip Saltonstall (Fuller 1964).

About 1911 (based on dated plans at the Club) the **Cedars** was expanded with a 2½ story wing from the northeast corner of the original building. Attached to this were two single-story ells in line with the two-story addition (Sanborn Map Company 1914). Attached to the east facade was a single-story wood-frame ell consisting of a large rectangular shape flanked to the south by a smaller L shape.

Also visible on the 1914 Sanborn map is a building similar in scale and location to **The Cottage**. According to Club staff, the outbuilding was moved to this location from its original site near the Big Pier and converted to a tool shed by the West Chop Trust about 1911 (Malcouronne 2005). This building was converted to a one-bedroom cottage during the late 1990s building campaign and is referred to as **The Cottage**.

From the 1911 establishment of the West Chop Land Trust until present, the three-member trust has managed the physical and monetary upkeep of the buildings, grounds, and other holdings of the Trust. The Trustees are also responsible for the staffing for upkeep of the properties. In 1932 the Trust hired Adelaide Bangs as the Postmistress for the seasonal West Chop Post Office, which would be staffed by the Bangs family until 1978 (Fuller and Cox 1990).

For approximately 50 years, the Trustees quietly oversaw the management of the property. During the 1960s the West Chop Club was established as a private membership organization, and adopted formal bylaws in 1965. The West Chop Club rents and operates the properties from the West Chop Trust, which still owns the five core properties of the West Chop Club Historic District. Of these properties, the **tennis**

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 9

courts, The Cedars, the West Chop Inn, The Casino, and the Post Office are all open for use in the summer months for this thriving seasonal community. The property has remained unchanged since 1911, except for the addition of the West Chop South Beach, a gift to the Trust in 1964 by Mrs. Bissell and Mrs. Fuller (Fuller and Cox 1990:28).

From the 1960s on, about 50-60 houses stood in the West Chop area around the waterfront, focused on the community center formed by The Cedars, The West Chop Inn, The Casino, and the West Chop Post Office (Fuller and Cox 1990:20). The permanent residents of West Chop continued the pattern established initially in that most were from the New England area and the Mid Atlantic. However, due to the increased ease of travel, particularly with automobiles and airplanes through the 20th century, residents came from as far as Ohio, Florida, Colorado, Hawaii, Tennessee, Canada, England, and Italy (Fuller and Cox 1990:23).

During Memorial Day weekend in 1977 a fire broke out in an electrical panel in the northwest wing of **The Cedars**. Through a large-scale community effort, the core of the Cedars structure was saved and much of the building's contents were emptied and stored in neighboring garages. The eills from the northwest corner of the building and west wall were removed because of extensive fire damage, and The Cedars returned to its traditional rectangular form (Fuller and Cox 1990:80). Another large-scale effort was undertaken, and the building reopened for a planned wedding four weeks after the fire (Fuller and Cox 1990:80). During the late 1990s a planned rehabilitation was undertaken that included the conversion of a four-bedroom two-bath apartment into a two-bedroom, one-bath apartment with a kitchen. The building was also completely re-sheathed and given a new white cedar shingle roof.

The West Chop Club preserves the continuity of appearance and use of the "new village of West Chop" today, the largest summer community in Tisbury. Numerous noted educators, musicians, journalists, actors, and U.S. diplomats visited West Chop (Anonymous 1971:72). The Club is the center of a vibrant summer community that has engaged many families from the Northeast and other parts of the United States for approximately 140 years. Memories of swimming, tennis, games, dances, sailing, and camaraderie fill the recollections of West Chop resident families (Fuller and Cox 1990:84-98). Many started their association with West Chop staying at the West Chop Inn or The Casino, or renting a house, and later buying property. The neighborhood around the West Chop Club Historic District continues to be characterized by the late 19th and early 20th century summer houses that formed the private residential component of the West Chop community from the early days of the resort. This larger area may also be eligible for inclusion in the National Register following additional study in the future.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 10

Architectural Significance

The buildings in the West Chop Club Historic District comprise a cohesive collection of community buildings, sharing architectural materials, scale, massing, and styles. They also reflect many of the same architectural details and construction materials as the residential buildings of the immediately surrounding West Chop area outside the West Chop Club Historic District. The majority of summer community buildings in the Historic District were constructed in the Shingle Style from 1880 to 1910, creating an impressive visual concentration that continues in the residences outside the district. Most are 2½ - 3 stories in height; several employ large gable roofs, others use a basic gable with facade gables and dormers, occasionally in double rows; most have first-floor porches, often adding second-story porches and decks (MHC 1984:12). Although scale, setting, and materials are consistent among the buildings, individual variations in fenestration and massing create visual interest.

The Shingle Style found its widest popularity in the northeastern United States between 1880 and 1900. The first examples were designed by some of the more prominent architects of the late 19th century, including Henry Hobson Richardson and the firm of McKim, Mead and White, as summer residences for wealthy clients. From this fashionable base, well publicized in contemporary architectural magazines, the style spread throughout the country. Shingle Style design drew heavily upon Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Richardsonian Romanesque precedents. From the Queen Anne it borrowed wide porches, shingle surfaces, and asymmetrical forms. From the Colonial Revival style came the often-used gambrel roofs, classical columns, and Palladian windows. Later residential additions to the West Chop area were designed in the Colonial Revival style. Adapted from the Richardsonian Romanesque was the emphasis on irregular, sculpted shapes, Romanesque arches, and, in some examples, stone lower stories.

Identifying features of the Shingle Style are irregular roof planes most often broken by a series of dormers, cross-gable and cross-hip roof extensions, polygonal bays, unpainted wood shingle exterior fabric, Palladian and double-hung sash windows with multi-pane upper sashes and single-pane lower sashes, and wide veranda porches. English Tudor architecture provided another romantic design aesthetic with half timbering and multiple gables. It appears in one building in the district. The Colonial Revival style was popular in the U.S. from the early 20th century to the present day. The term "Colonial Revival" refers to a rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch colonial houses of the Atlantic Seaboard. During the first half of the 20th century, Colonial Revival was the dominant style for American residential architecture. Some of the identifying characteristics of Colonial Revival architecture include a gable, hip, or gambrel roof; an accentuated door, often with a classical surround; simple entry porches supported by slender columns; a symmetrical facade (although it is fairly common for the door to be set off-center); double-hung sash windows, usually with multi-pane glazing in each sash; and windows that are frequently paired.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 11

Little is known about the architects of the West Chop Club buildings. However, according to club historians, several buildings may be associated with Hugh Tallant (1870-1952), a prominent New York architect who was born on Nantucket. Tallant attended Harvard University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The firm Herts and Tallant designed the Brooklyn Academy of Music and several leading Broadway theaters. Tallant retired in the 1930s and died in Savannah, Georgia (Anonymous 1952).

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement and subsistence in Tisbury are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Most known ancient sites in the town are located in the Lagoon Pond locale with lesser-known site frequencies in the vicinity of Lake Tashmo. While numerous sites have been located in these areas, most are poorly documented with little information beyond locational characteristics. Ancient sites in this area may contain information that helps understand how environmental changes influenced population change and the nature of settlement through time. Information may be present at sites that indicate the effects of sea level rise on patterns of settlement and subsistence, especially at sites from earlier periods. Ancient sites in the area may also contribute information related to patterns of lithic procurement and production, possibly indicating the importance of local raw materials and trade in the manufacture of specific tool types and changes in technology through time. Native sites in the Tisbury locale, especially sites from later periods, may also contain information that helps to understand how the four historic sachemships recognized during the historic period on Martha's Vineyard evolved. This information might demonstrate unique characteristics associated with each sachemship and socio/political group located at Chappaquiddick, Nunnepaug (Edgartown), Takemmy (West Tisbury/Chilmark), and Aquinnah, or Gay Head. These characteristics could be represented in ceramic types, lithics, or site types and distributions.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the early settlement of Tisbury in the 17th and 18th centuries and its development in the late 19th century into a summer resort community. Archaeological resources may contribute important information that documents the evolution of the town from a sparsely settled community dependant on farming and the sea to a clustered community based on recreation, rest, and relaxation. Structural evidence of residential buildings, barns, outbuildings, and associated artifacts may contribute important architectural information related to early architectural styles and the internal configuration of buildings on early farmsteads. Structural evidence of buildings, their distribution, and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute important information that documents the relationship between farming and maritime trades in the town and on individual farmsteads. Archaeological resources may contribute important information that supplements the written record available for the summer resort community that developed in Tisbury in the late 19th century. Important information may exist that

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 8

Page 12

documents the transition of the West Chop community and town of Tisbury from a farming and maritime-based settlement and economy to one based on recreation. Architectural evidence and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features associated with archaeological sites and extant structures may contribute important evidence of the changes that occurred in resort communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architectural evidence and the contents of occupational-related features may contribute important social and cultural information related to the inhabitants of summer homes and hotel facilities. The information described above may indicate how the social and cultural characteristics of Tisbury's inhabitants have changed from early settlement to the development of a resort community. Archaeological resources may also contribute important evidence on the changes that occurred within the town's long history as a resort community from the late 19th through the 20th century.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 3

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 4

Rodgers, Patricia H.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 5

Maps

Anonymous

1931 Plot Plan of West Chop Showing Two Plots Belonging to W.S. Corkran.

Crapo, Henry

1830 Tisbury, MA.

Crowell, J.H., and Chas E.C. Breck

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 9

Page 6

Walling, Henry F.
1858 Atlas of Dukes County, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, MA.

(end)

West Chop Club HD
Name of Property

Dukes, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ca. 17 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19	366100	4493380	3. 19	365920	4593180
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	366160	4593300	4. 19	366140	4593140
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

x See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Adams, Mark Rayburn, PAL, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 2007

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The West Chop Trust

street & number P.O. Box 1881 telephone 508-693-1005

city or town Vineyard Haven state MA zip code 02568

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number 10

Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References

5. 19 Zone	366060 Easting	4593010 Northing	6. 19 Zone	366060 Easting	4592920 Northing
7. 19 Zone	365920 Easting	4593000 Northing	8. 19 Zone	365900 Easting	4593120 Northing
9. 19 Zone	365840 Easting	4593380 Northing	10. 19 Zone	365460 Easting	4592880 Northing
11. 19 Zone	365420 Easting	4592920 Northing	12. 19 Zone	365780 Easting	4593220 Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the West Chop Club Historic District are shown on the accompanying district map and Assessor's Maps 1 and 29.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the West Chop Club Historic District are drawn to encompass the contiguous property containing the club's buildings and recreational facilities, the first and largest pier, and the beach facing Vineyard Sound. This property formed the majority of the property acquired by the West Chop Trust in 1911.

The boundary excludes other nearby non-contiguous West Chop Club property: beach property on Vineyard Haven Harbor including the Middle Pier and Little Pier; and the inland ball field lot at the intersection of Franklin Street and Algonquin Avenue. The neighborhood surrounding the West Chop Club Historic District is comprised of private residences built by founders and members of the West Chop Trust and the West Chop Club late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries. These properties would be eligible for inclusion in a larger historic district at West Chop in the future that would encompass properties under multiple ownership.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number district map

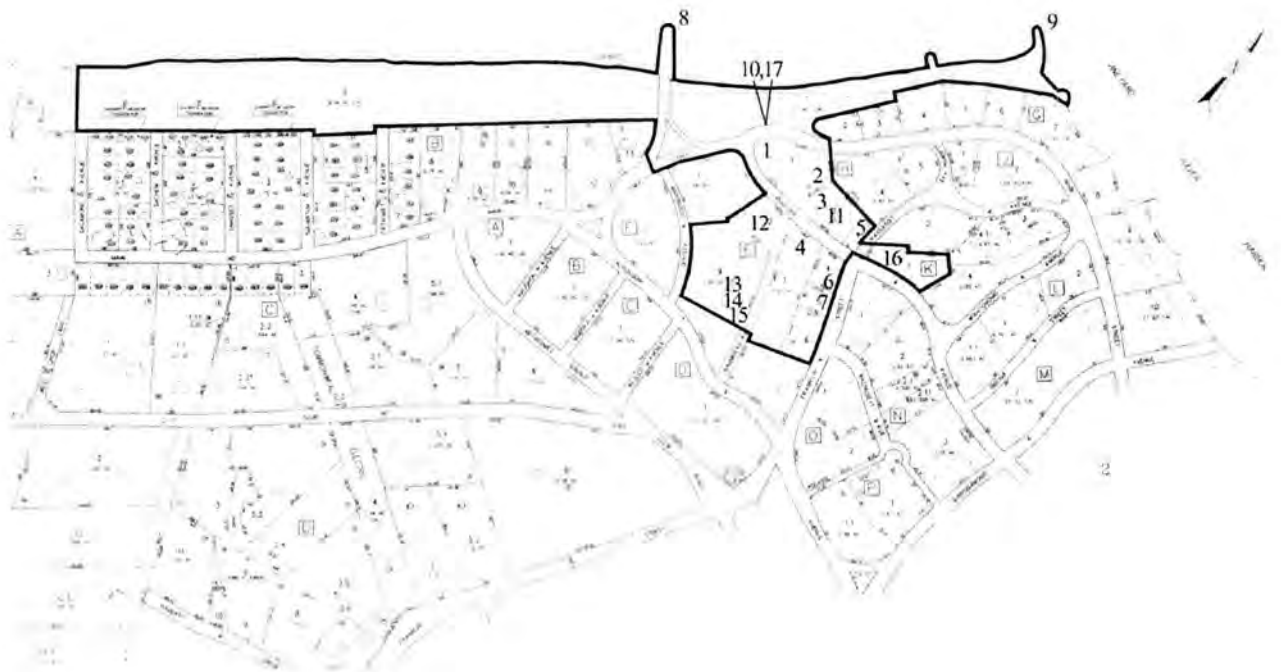
Page 1

Historic District Boundary with Map Numbers

Source: Town Assessor's Maps 1 and 29

(See District Data Sheet and Large-scale Version of Historic District Assessor's Maps)

No Scale



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number photo list

Page 1

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury, Dukes County, MA
Mark G. Rayburn
September, 2005
On File at PAL, 210 Lonsdale Avenue, Pawtucket, RI

(Note: These photographs were taken with a digital camera at high resolution and printed on Epson Premium Glossy paper using Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks per the National Park Service March 2005 Photo Policy Expansion list of Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images).

1. Looking east from the West Chop Flagpole towards the Cedars.
2. Looking north towards the Cedars from Iroquois Avenue tennis courts.
3. Looking west from the Casino, towards the east façade of the Cedars.
4. Looking northeast from the Cedars, towards the cottage between the Cedars and the Casino.
5. Looking east on Iroquois Avenue towards the Casino, with the West Chop Post Office in the background.
6. Looking northwest from the West Chop Inn towards the Casino.
7. Looking south from the Casino towards the north façade of the West Chop Inn.
8. Looking northeast towards the West Chop Inn from the southern, modern, tennis courts.
9. Looking northwest from the intersection of Iroquois Avenue and Franklin Street towards the West Chop Post Office.
10. Looking west from the Cedars towards the West Chop Club flagpole.
11. Looking northeast from Big Pier (Main Street at the foot of Waronoco Avenue) along the beach.
12. The Big Pier (Main Street at the foot of Waronoco Avenue) looking west.
13. Historic tennis court, west of the West Chop Inn, looking west.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

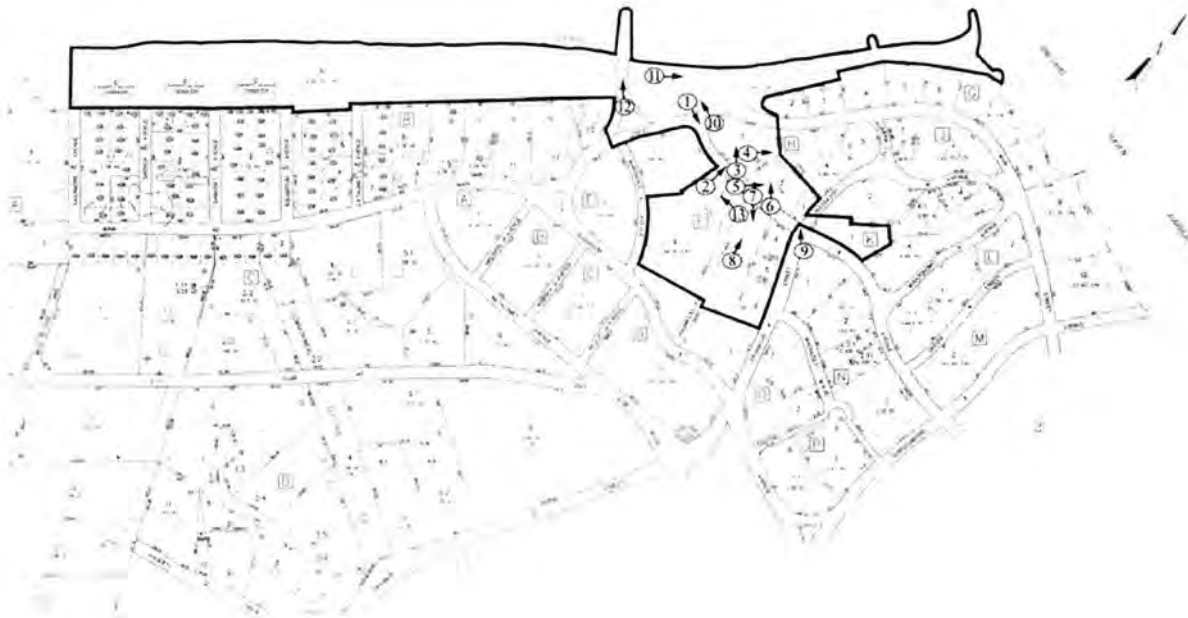
Section number photo key

Page 1

Photograph Key

Source: Tisbury Assessor's Maps 1 and 29

No Scale



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

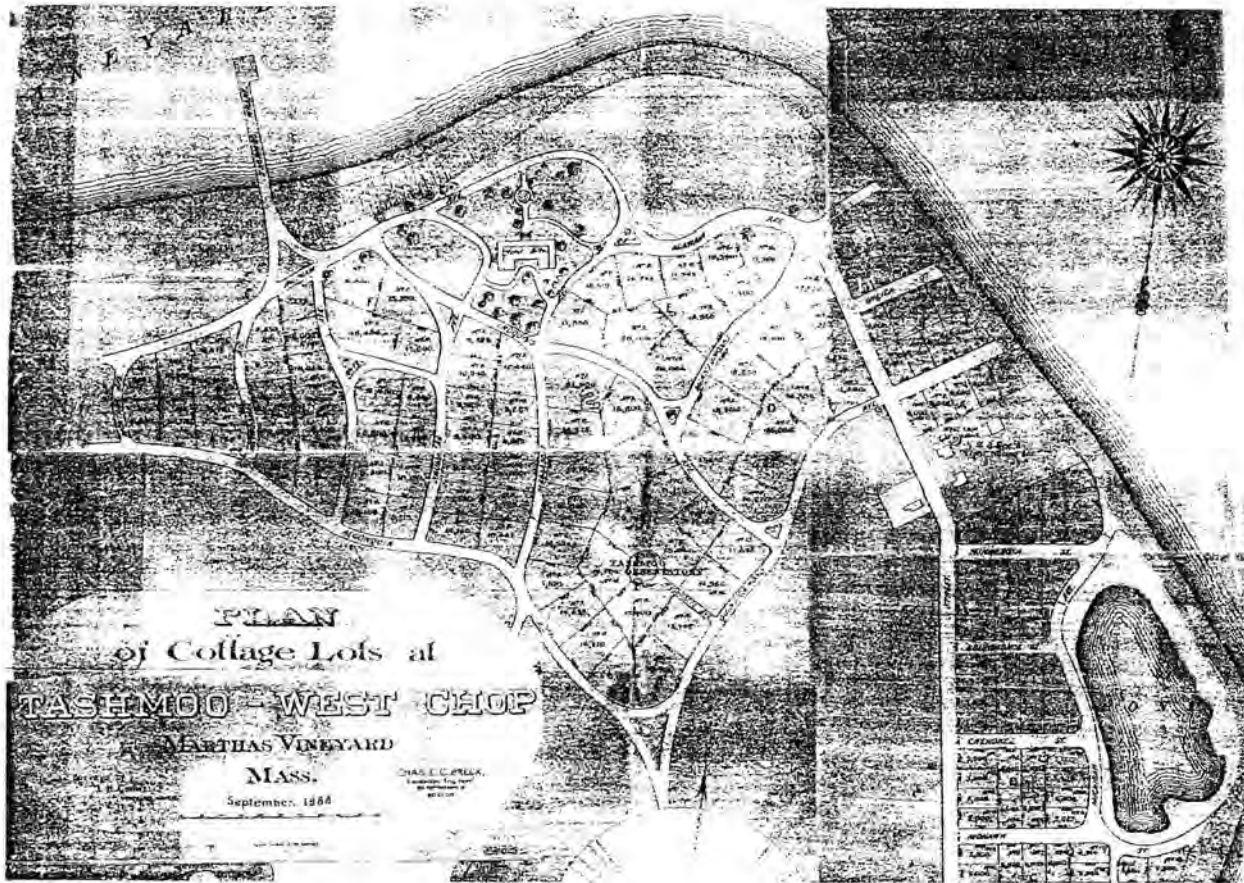
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 1

West Chop Club
1888 Crowell and Breck Plan of Cottage Lots at Tashmoo – West Chop



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 2

West Chop Club
1890 Crowell and Breck Plan of Cottage Lots at West Chop



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

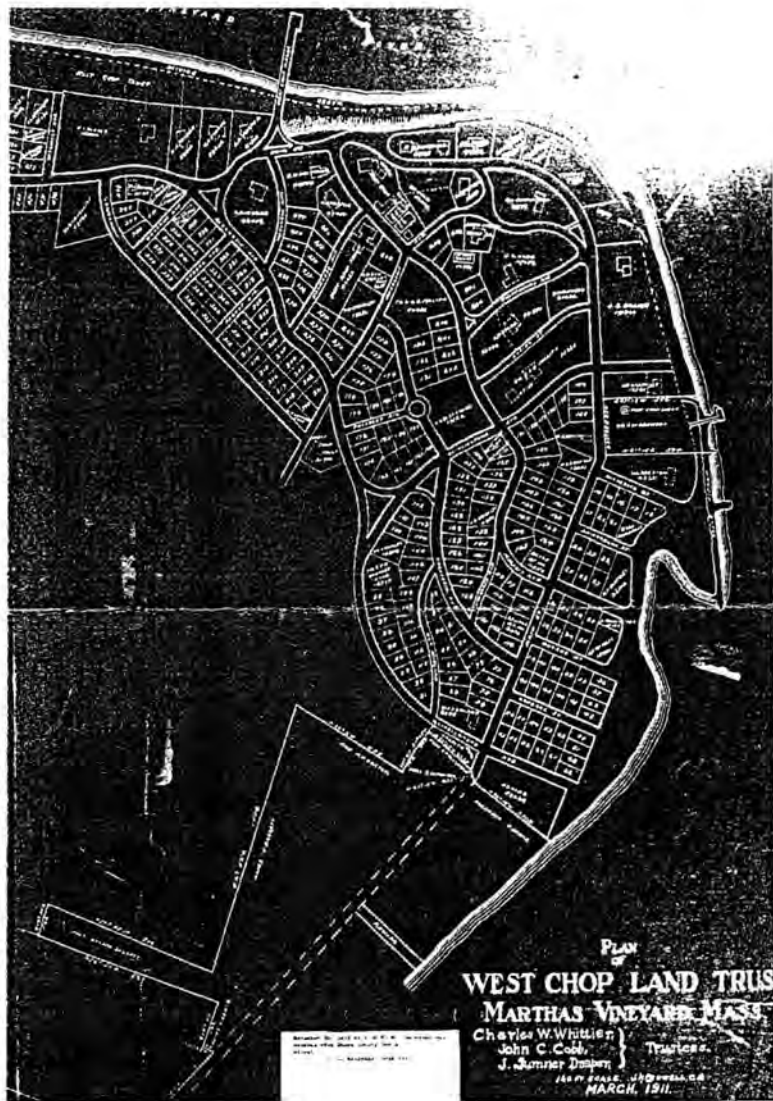
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 3

West Chop Club
1911 Plan of West Chop Land Trust by J.H. Crowell



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National Park Service

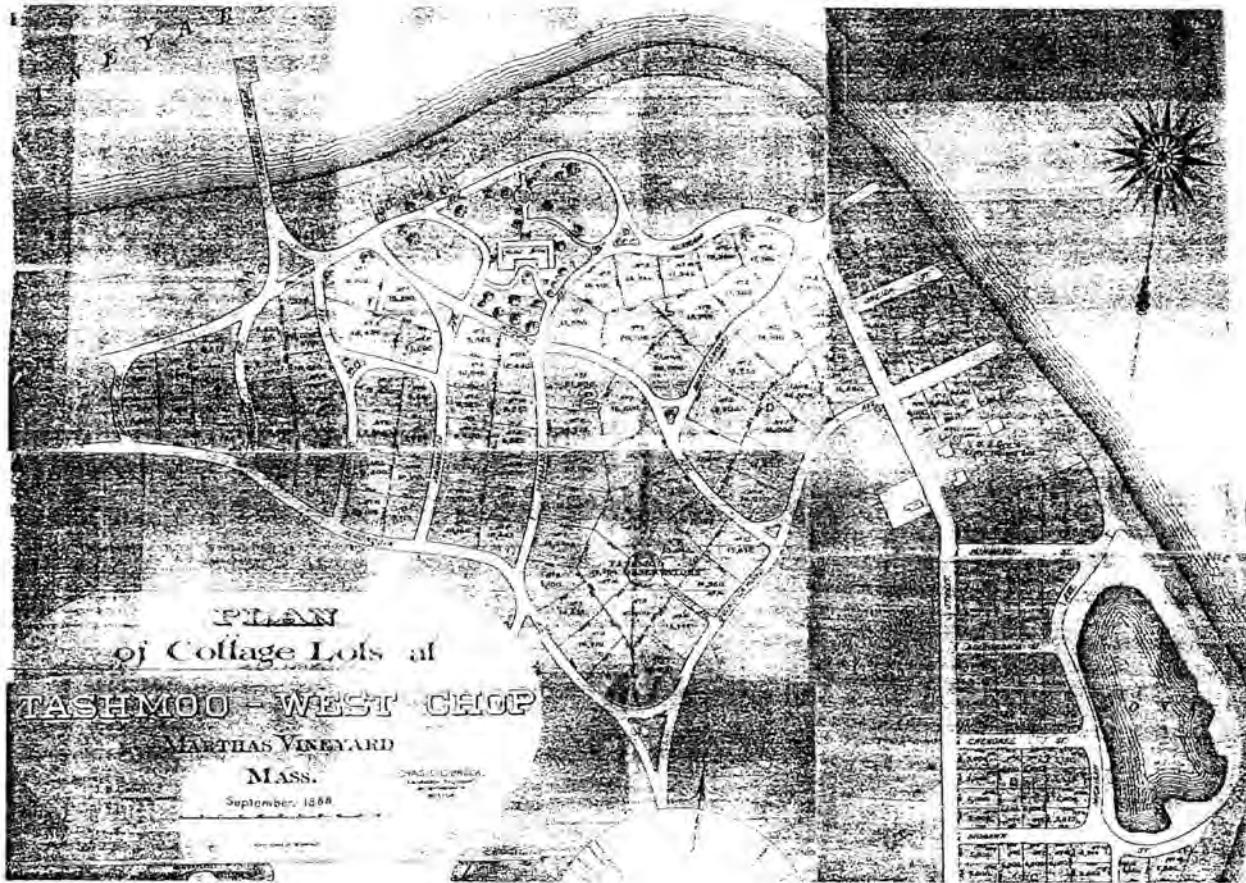
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 1

West Chop Club
1888 Crowell and Breck Plan of Cottage Lots at Tashmoo – West Chop



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

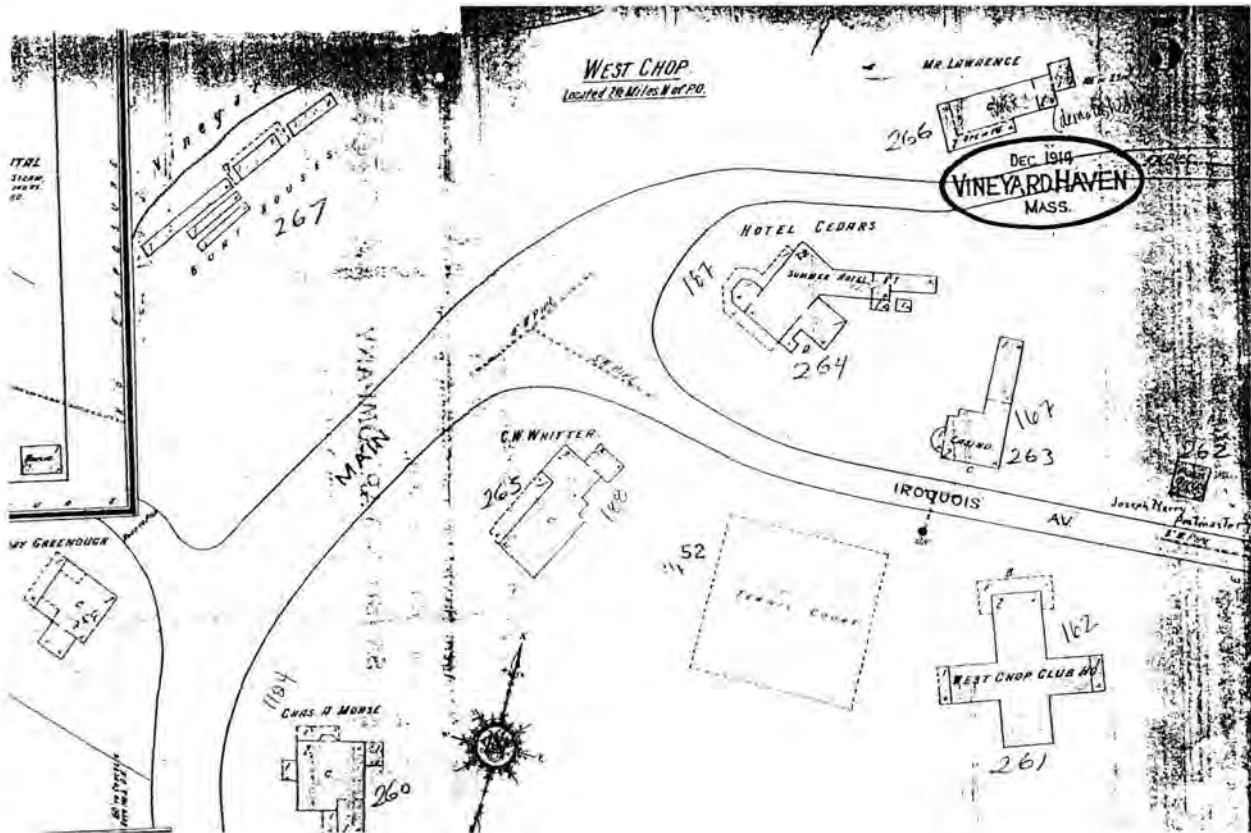
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 4

West Chop Club
1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury (Dukes), MA

Section number figures

Page 5

West Chop Club
1931 Plot Plan of West Chop Showing Two Plots Belonging to W.S. Corkran, Millburn, NJ



(continued)

**West Chop Club Historic District
Tisbury, MA
District Data Sheet**

NR Map No.	MHC No.	Historic Name and Address	Date of Construction	Status	Style	Resource Type	Photo No.
1	TIS.158	The Cedars, 187 Iroquois Ave.	1888	C	Shingle	Building	1, 2, 3
2	TIS.159	The Cottage, 187 Iroquois Ave.	ca. 1888	C	No Style	Building	4
3	TIS.157	The Casino, 167 Iroquois Ave.	ca. 1889	C	Shingle	Building	5, 6
4	TIS.155	The West Chop Inn, 162 Iroquois Ave.	1892	C	Shingle	Building	7, 8
5	TIS.154	The West Chop Post Office, 155 Iroquois Ave.	ca. 1900	C	Tudor Revival	Building	9
6	TIS.156	Staff Quarter Building North	ca. 1960	NC	No Style	Building	n/a
7	TIS.156	Staff Quarter Building South	ca. 1999	NC	No Style	Building	n/a
8	n/a	"Big Pier", off Main Street at the foot of Waronoco Avenue	ca. 1888	C	n/a	Structure	12
9	n/a	The Jetty, Vineyard Sound	Early 20 th c.	C	n/a	Structure	n/a
10	n/a	West Chop Club Flagpole, Main Street at Iroquois Avenue	Replaced several times since 1930	NC	n/a	Object	10
11, 12	n/a	Two West Chop Club Tennis Courts, Various Addresses	ca. 1911	2 C	n/a	Structure	13
13, 14, 15	n/a	Three West Chop Club Tennis Courts, Various Addresses	1970s	3 NC	n/a	Structure	n/a
16	n/a	Playground, corner of Iroquois and Massasoit Avenues	ca. 1990	NC	n/a	Site	n/a
17	n/a	Two Benches at Flagpole, Main Street at Iroquois Avenue	1970s	2NC	n/a	Object	10

	Contributing:	Noncontributing:
Buildings	5	2
Sites	0	1
Structures	4	3
Objects	0	3
TOTAL	9	9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Chop Club Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Dukes

DATE RECEIVED: 9/10/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/01/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/16/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/24/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001104

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.18.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Entered in the
National Register*

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ONE WAY

West Chop Club Historic District

Dukes County, MA

#1 of 15



West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
#2 of 13

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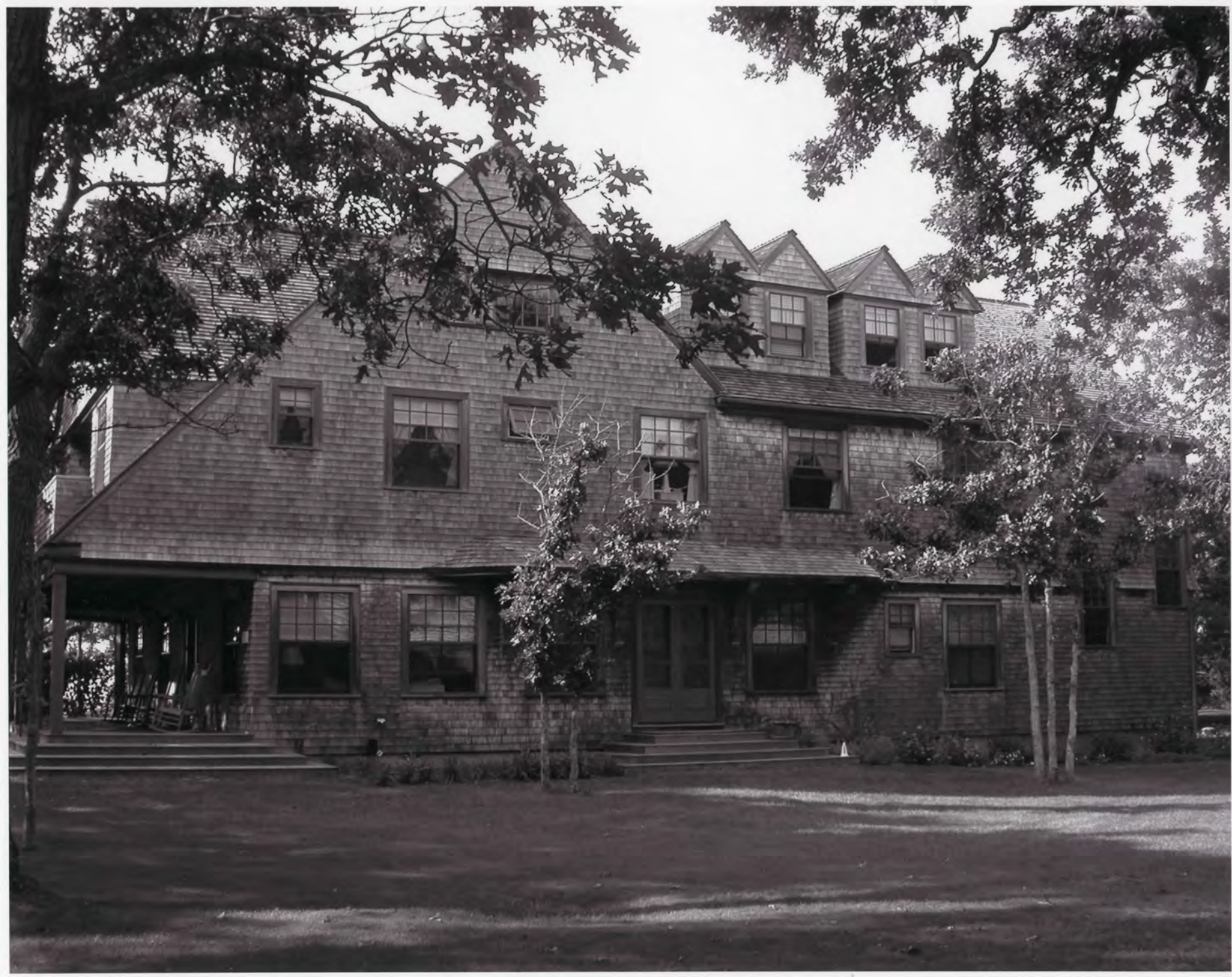
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West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
#3 of 15



West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
#4 of 13



West Chop Club Historic District

Dukes County, MA

#5 of 13



West chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
#6 of 15



West Chop Club Historic District

Dukes County, MA

#7 of 13



West Chop Club Historic District

Dukes County, MA

#8 of 13



West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA

9 of 15



West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
10 of 13



West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA
11 of 13

NO
FISHING
PLEASE

PIER & BEACH
CLOSED
11 PM - 5 AM

West Chop Club Historic District
Dukes County, MA

#12 of 13



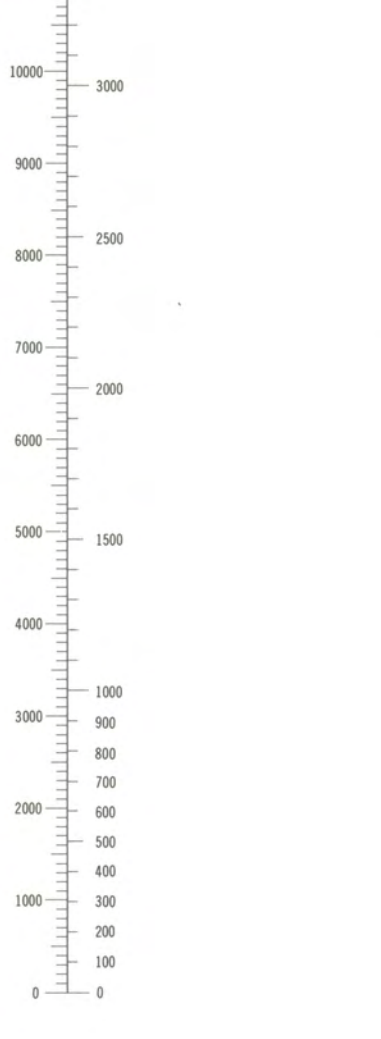
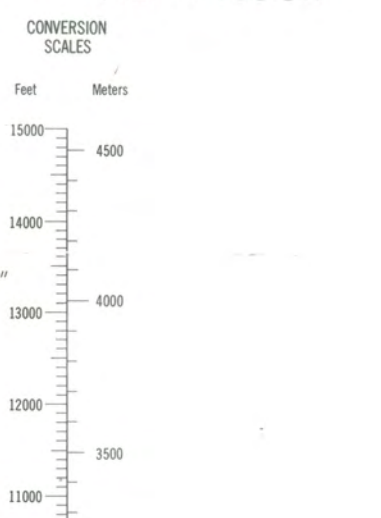
West Chop Club Historic District

Duke County, MA

#13 of 15



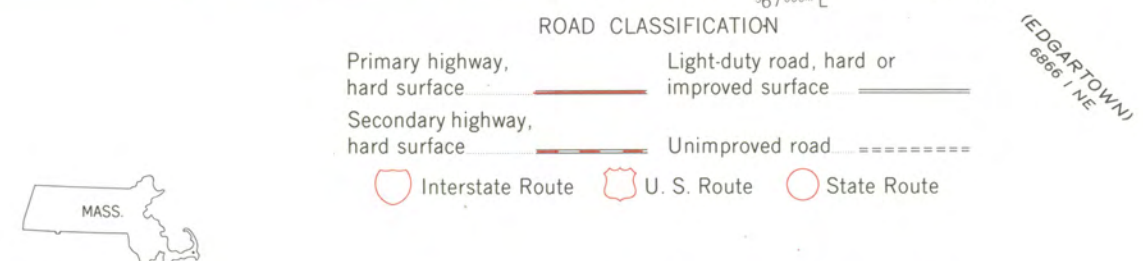
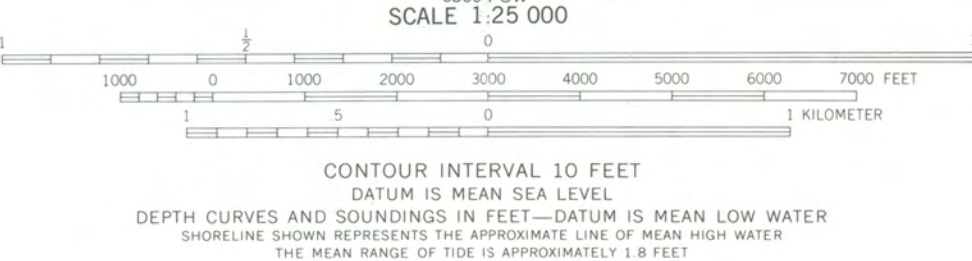
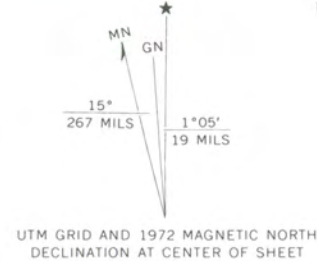
- West Chop Historic District
Tisbury, Dukes County, MA
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 5. 19.0366068E. 45.93094N
 6. 19.0366088E. 45.92917N
 7. 19.0365928E. 45.92913N
 8. 19.0365900E. 45.93117N
 9. 19.0365838E. 45.93075N
 10. 19.0365462E. 45.92883N
 11. 19.0365429E. 45.92929N
 12. 19.0365772E. 45.93215N



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

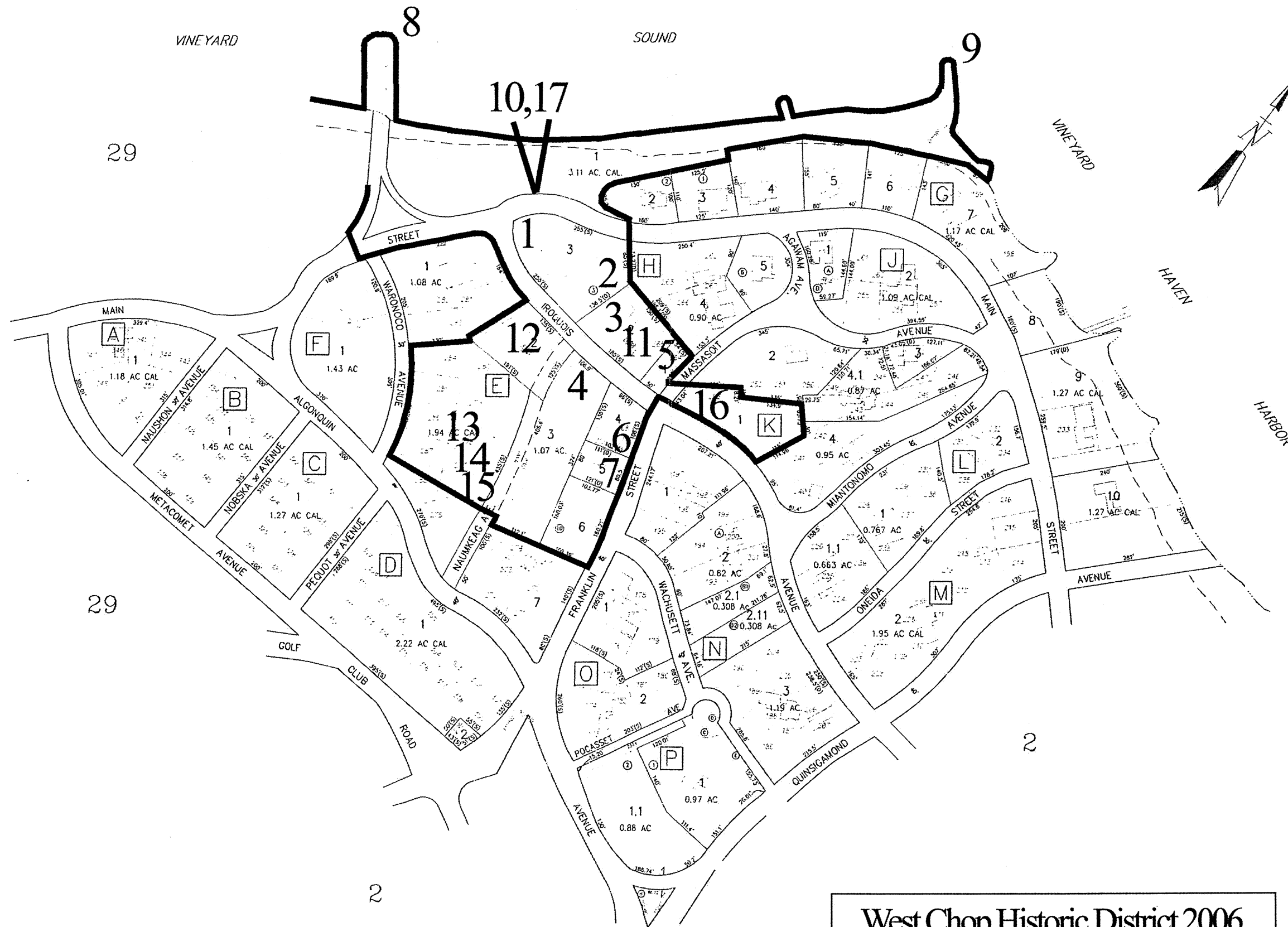
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 260 (1971) 261 and 264 (1970), and 114SC (1972). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, island zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



VINEYARD HAVEN, MASS.
N4122.5—W7035.7.5

1972
AMS 6866 1 NW—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



West Chop Historic District 2006
Page 2 of 2

GRID COORDINATES AS SHOWN REPRESENT MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BELOW. DIGITAL FILES OF INDIVIDUAL TAX MAPS HAVE BEEN ROTATED TO FACILITATE ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL TAX MAP UTILITY. COORDINATE VALUES OF ROTATED DIGITAL FILES WILL NOT MATCH STATE PLANE COORDINATES AS SHOWN.

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.
THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.
STATE PLANE COORDINATES AS SHOWN HEREON WERE DERIVED BY BEST FITTING THE TOWN CORNERS AS SHOWN ON THE TISBURY, MA, ASSESSORS MAPS TO COORDINATE LOCATIONS PROVIDED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. SOME DISCREPANCY EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO DATA SOURCES.

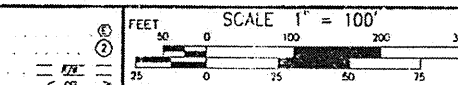
DIGITIZED, REVISED AND REPRINTED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC.
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

AREA SURVEYED
AREA CALCULATED
SCALED DIMENSION
SCALED DIMENSION

LEGEND

AC
AC CAL
100'
100'(S)

EXEMPT PROPERTY
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS
COMMON OWNERSHIP

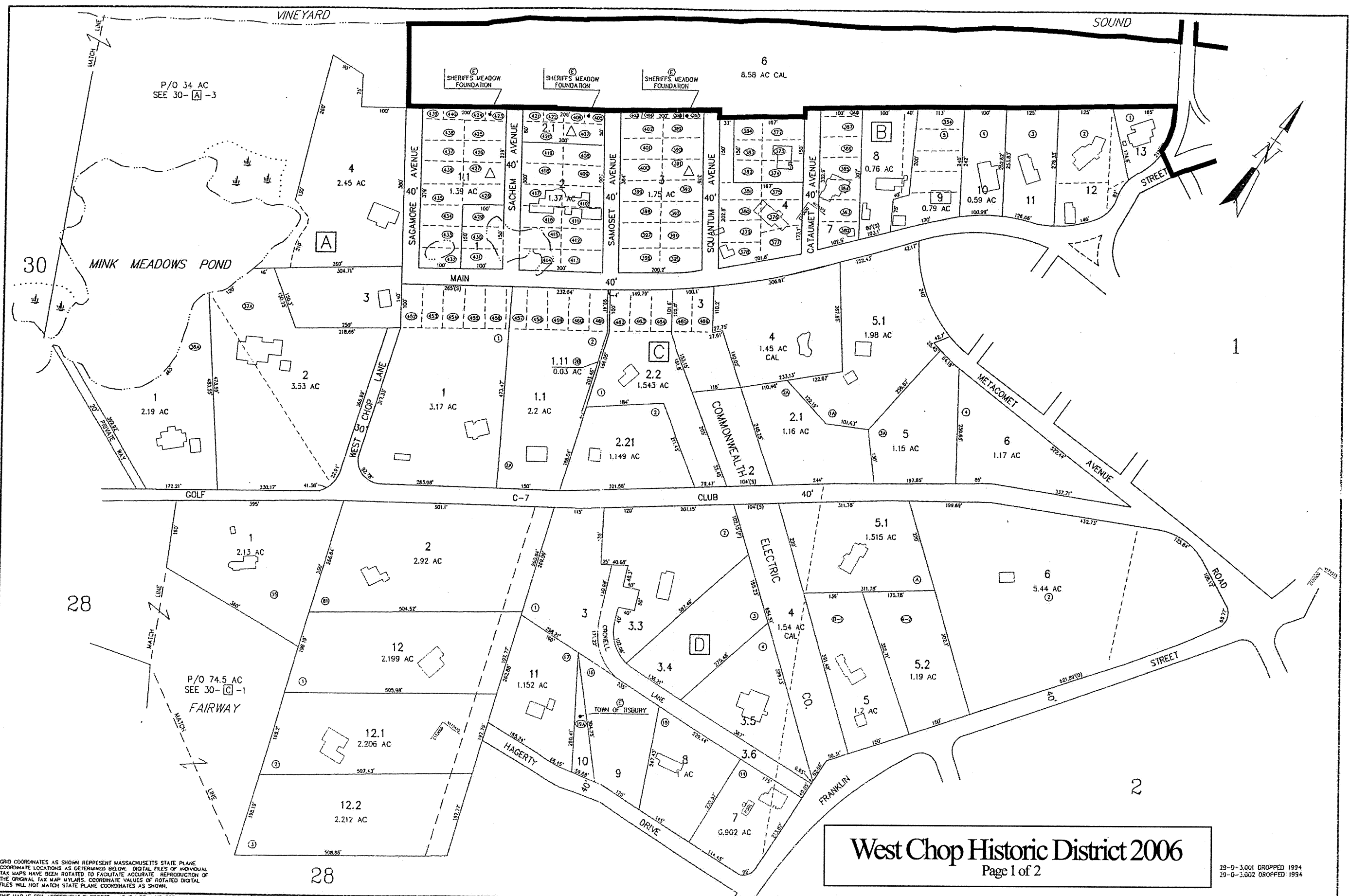


TOWN OF TISBURY
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

I-Q-1 DROPPED 2005
I-E-6 DROPPED 1991

MAP NO.

1



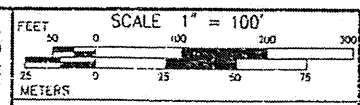
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 PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: APRIL 27, 1983

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 MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
 11 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 287, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03521

EXEMPT VINEYARD CONSERVATION SOCIETY
 AREA SURVEYED
 AREA CALCULATED
 RECORD DIMENSION
 SCALED DIMENSION
 MATCH LINE
 MATCH LINE

LEGEND
 EXEMPT PROPERTY
 SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
 RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS
 COMMON OWNERSHIP
 ADJACENT SHEET NO.



West Chop Historic District 2006
 Page 1 of 2

29-0-3.001 DROPPED 1994
 29-0-3.002 DROPPED 1994

TOWN OF TISBURY
 BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 VINEYARD HAVEN MASSACHUSETTS

MAP NO.
29



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

August 21, 2007

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

West Chop Club HD, Tisbury (Dukes), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Virginia Adams, PAL
West Chop Trust
Chair, Tisbury Historical Commission
Tristan Israel, Board of Selectmen
L. Antony Peak, Planning Board