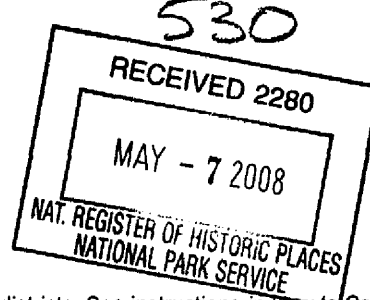


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 Sea Call Farm

historic name Sea Call Farm

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 82 Tonset Road not for publication

city or town Orleans vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 01 zip code 02653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 May 6, 2008
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date

State of 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 the 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Andrews

6/12/2008

Sea Call Farm
Name of Property

Barnstable MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(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	
2		buildings
4		sites
3		structures
0		objects
9	0	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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: Agricultural field
Domestic: single dwelling, storage shed

Agriculture,
Conservation and Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman

foundation Concrete
Walls Weathered Cedar Shingles
Roof Asphalt Shingles
other

Narrative Description

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

see attached

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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1921-1958

Significant Dates

1921-1924 (land acquired)

1921-1922 (house constructed)

1931 (Fiskes move to Orleans full time)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N.A.

Cultural Affiliation

N/a

Architect/Builder

Edward Stone, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation Sheet

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Orleans Historical Society

Orleans Historical Commission

Sea Call Farm
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.35 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing

3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing

2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 0 |

4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 0 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) The boundaries are delineated on the attached Town of Orleans Assessor's Map

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The boundaries conform to the land originally purchased by William Fiske in 1921-1923, and farmed until his death in 1950.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Consultant; Patricia Crow, RLA, Principal, Hadley Crow Studio; Christine Beard, Principal, Tremont Preservation Associates with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 2008

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Orleans

street & number 19 School Road telephone 508 240-3700

city or town Orleans state MA zip code 02653

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

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

Portions redacted

The origins of Sea Call Farm date to the 1920s when the property was acquired by William A. Fiske and his wife Bertha. It was actively farmed from ca. 1931 – 1950, and remained in family ownership until 1987 when it was acquired by the Town of Orleans. The town and the private group known as the Friends of Sea Call Farm have actively pursued preservation and restoration of the historic buildings and landscapes that constitute the property. Their efforts are documented at the end of this section.

Location

Sea Call Farm occupies 6.35 acres in Orleans, MA in the area known as Tonset, which is located in the northeastern part of Orleans and defines the southwestern shore of Town Cove. The farm property is oriented to Tonset Road and Town Cove, which form its southeast and northwest boundaries. To simplify the description, northwest is designated as north, northeast as east, southeast as south, and southwest as west. The property is bounded by Tonset Road on the south, Town Cove on the north, Harpoon Lane on the east, and the side boundary of the adjacent property on the west. It is one of the largest single landholdings that remain in a neighborhood that has undergone intensive residential subdivision in the second half of the 20th century. Two features that have remained largely the same since the Fiske family developed the property in the 1920s and 1930s help to reinforce the rural nature of Sea Call Farm. These features are the Orleans Cemetery across Tonset Road and Town Cove. Together, the farm, cemetery, and cove help to provide some sense of the area's appearance prior to mid 20th suburbanization.

Landscape

Sea Call Farm consists of gently rolling terrain. At the approach from Tonset Road, the topography first falls away, then rises gently to an east-west ridge that defines the northern third of the property. The buildings, including greenhouse foundation, garage with attached shed, and house, are aligned along a straight drive, with the burning pit (#4) reached first, followed by the greenhouse foundation (#3), garage and attached shed (#2), and the farmhouse (#1) last, on the ridge above Town Cove. The drive is paved in the area of the buildings and unpaved as it falls to Tonset Road. Together the buildings form a backdrop to the rolling farmland. Behind the farmhouse, a steep wooded slope falls 40' to the undeveloped coastal bank of Town Cove. The property encompasses approximately 430 linear feet of shoreline. A trail at the northwest corner of the property allows walking access to the cove. The farmhouse is situated approximately 50 feet above sea level and has a view of Town Cove in winter.

Viewed from Tonset Road, community gardens (#8) are now located to the right of the drive where they occupy the least elevated part of the site; the upper portions of this former field are overgrown. The drive is lined with a straggling hedgerow and stone wall (#7) on the left, and beyond that is a meadow (#6) that occupies the majority of the southern area. West of this, at the crest of the hill and aligned with the house, is a windbreak (#5) of nine spruce trees planted in

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Narrative Description

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

1928. The remnants of an orchard (A) are located immediately north of the house. The northernmost portion of the property is forested, as is the eastern edge (B). A small, unpaved parking area is located near the street, south of the drive.

Farmhouse

The farmhouse occupies the highest portion of the property: an east-west ridge parallel to the Town Cove. From this lofty position it overlooks the Cove to the north and Tonset Road to the south. It is built on a simple rectangular plan, 40 feet along the north-south axis (perpendicular to the Cove and road) and 34 feet along the east-west axis (parallel to the Cove and road.) The plan encompasses 8-foot-wide glazed verandahs that run the full length of the house on both the north and south sides to take advantage of views of both the Cove and the farmland. Surviving specifications provide much detailed information.

For example the specifications called for a well-seasoned spruce timber frame of first quality. Sills were to measure 6 x 6", girders 8 x 6", studs 2 x 4", joists 2 x 8", and rafters 2 x 6". Double studs were used around all doors and windows. Joists were doubled around openings and under partitions, first floor joists were notched into the sills and spiked, the rafters were spiked to the plates.

The house rises 1½ stories from a concrete-block foundation to a gambrel roof with full shed dormers across both the north and south slopes. The corners of the foundation under the main block on the west side are detailed with rustication. The verandah roofs break out from the steep lower slopes of the main roof to a pitch that parallels the dormers. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge west of center. The original specifications called for 18-inch perfection red cedar shingles, laid five feet to the weather, with Boston ridge hips. They are now white cedar shingle.

Trim, consisting of plain fascia boards on the main building coupled with plain window and door surrounds, is painted the original chrome green. Roofs are gray asphalt shingle with exposed rafter ends. While gambrel roofs are typical of the Dutch Colonial style popular in the early 20th century, the prominent verandahs, exposed rafter ends, and overall simplicity of this design reflect the Craftsman style.

Windows in the main body of the house and the dormers contain 6/1 double-hung wooden sash. The verandahs are enclosed with fixed 12- and 16-pane sash set between simple vertical supports. Dormer windows are equipped with shutters. The main entrance to the house is from the north (Town Cove) side, leading through the north verandah directly into the living room in the northwest corner. A second entry opens into the south verandah from the east end, while a third provides access to the basement on the south side. Window and door frames were intended to be very simple with butt joints inside and out. Stock sash was to be 1 3/8" thick with 7/8-inch molded mullions.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 3

Narrative Description

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

The south elevation, facing Tonset Road, is dominated by a full-length verandah. It consists of a shingled base and upper section with twelve continuous windows separated only by narrow vertical supports. All of the front-facing verandah window openings contain 16-pane fixed sash. Side window openings on the verandahs contain 12-pane fixed sash. There are three windows at the west end, while at the east end, two windows frame a glazed door. The full-length dormer contains three evenly spaced windows with shutters and 6/1 sash. The shutters are solid with crescent moon cutouts in their upper portions. A paneled cellar door is located beneath the third window from the west. Historic photographs show a low-slung, gable-roof greenhouse extending from this door, taking advantage of the sunny side of the house.

The north elevation is nearly identical, the differences being four dormer windows, a glazed door to the verandah, and lack of cellar access. The door is off-center to the right and approached by three concrete steps. The door from the verandah into the house is typical of the early 20th century, consisting of two wood panels beneath four vertical lights.

The west elevation of the main block (discounting the three verandah windows with their 12-pane fixed sash at the north and south ends) contains two paired windows at the first story and two more closely spaced single windows at the second story. Two basement windows, containing 6-pane hopper sash, are aligned with the first-story windows. Three 12-pane verandah windows that wrap around from the east and west flank the main body of the house described above.

The east elevation is similar, but replaces the paired first-story windows of the west side with single windows. Also, the ground is higher here, so basement windows are partially underground and protected by cellar wells. The south verandah contains two 12-pane windows that frame a glazed door.

The interior organization of the house consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, and verandahs on the first floor with additional bedrooms and a bathroom above. A two-run stair in the center of the plan connects the two levels.

Interior trim is North Carolina yellow pine, as are floors, stairs, stair balusters, and rail. Almost all the original cast-bronze window sash locks and lifts remain in place, as does the original door hardware. All the original cast-iron steam radiators remain. Walls are covered with beaverboard. The central fireplace has a cast-iron throat with adjustable damper. It is also filled with a small cast-iron ash dump that connects to an ash dump in the cellar by means of three round tile pipes. The fireplace is finished by pressed-brick facings and a tile or brick hearth. The specs called for a Colonial Revival mantel consisting of pilasters supporting an 8-inch molded shelf.

Outbuildings

The detached one-car garage and attached shed (map #2) is a wood-frame building that rises one story from a concrete foundation to an asphalt-covered gable roof. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles. Trim is the original chrome green with the exception of the large, white overhead door, which takes up the entire west end; this door appears to be a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 4

Narrative Description

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

mid- to late-20th century replacement. There are two windows with 6/1 sash on the south side. An attached shed, similar in form but smaller in scale, extends from the east end of the garage. This shed has a single window at the intersection with the main block and double-leaf doors at the east end of the south side, opening toward the farmland. This type of door is much more typical of the early 20th century than the overhead door in the main block. Based on William Fiske's writings, the wing appears to have functioned as a storage shed and workshop.

The greenhouse foundation (map #3) survives as a rectangular concrete-block foundation that is similar in size to the garage shed. A wood and glass pitched roof was taken down in 2006 as a safety hazard, including lead-paint issues. The windows originally slid down from the ridge of the greenhouse to allow ventilation. This feature will be restored following completion of work on the house.

The burning pit (map #4) is a small cylindrical structure made of mortared fieldstones. A wooden cap, used to dispose of garden debris, presently covers the top. The remains were returned to the planting areas to enrich the soil.

Evolution of the Dwelling House

The house at Sea Call Farm has changed over time with most alterations dating to the 1930s, after the Fiskes moved to Orleans full time in 1930. The first was replacement of the foundation, which originally consisted of brick footings, set at least 3' 6" below grade with a full cellar. In November 1927, Fiske noted that the house was settling badly in places as the footings were sinking. The contract was given to a Mr. Darling who was responsible for the original work. In May 1928, William Fiske inspected the work, which was partially completed, and stated that "We are to have a wonderful cellar and it will be worth all it cost." (William Fiske: *Essays and Letters*) According to this same source, William Fiske helped with the work. The cellar rebuilding was completed in 1928

Recently discovered early photographs of the house and land clearly show that the early house reflected the vernacular Craftsman style that was popular for summer homes on Cape Cod. The primary difference between the original house and what we know today are seen in the roofline. It was originally gable in form. The northside that overlooked Town Cove was overshot to enclose the full verandah that existed on the side. On the south, the roof stopped just beyond the plane of the north wall. A single shed-roof dormer was located above the third window from the west and an open verandah with balustrade that ran from the south east corner of the house to a point just below the dormer. A basement entrance is visible just beyond the end of the verandah, where it is aligned with the second window from the west. Exposed rafter ends are visible along the eaves along the roof ends. At this time the garage was a smaller one- by two-bay structure enclosed by a gable roof. A 1929 site plan confirms this appearance.

Probably soon after the Fiskes moved to Orleans full-time, the roof was altered to provide more headroom and useable space at the second story. The roof was broken to provide space for full-shed dormers on both the north and south sides and then sloped out at a gentler angle to enclose a verandah on the south matching the one that already existed on the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 5

Narrative Description

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

north. By some time shortly after 1931, the houses had acquired its gambrel-roofed appearance. Perhaps at this time or a bit later, a brick and concrete foundation was constructed on the south side, directly in front of the basement entrance. A glazed superstructure, rising above the foundation, provided the farm's original greenhouse. The other change of note from this early period was the addition of a rear wing on the garage for use as a workshop.

An extensive effort to restore the house and make it livable was launched in 1989, two years after the Town of Orleans purchased Sea Call Farm for conservation purposes. Care has been taken to maintain the appearance of the house when the town acquired it. The guiding philosophy has been to repair early features and salvage early materials whenever possible, and to replace them in kind when not. For example, the sash in the porches were stripped of lead paint, the glass panes were removed and saved, and the windows were all reglazed with the original glass, with the exception of a number of panes that broke during removal.

During this first phase of work in 1989, a new asphalt-shingle roof was installed; heat, wiring, and plumbing were brought up to code; and exterior wood shingles were replaced, with the exception of those on the east side of the building where a door and exterior stairway were slated for removal. The 1987 stair and door were removed in 2007, and the east wall was reshingled.

Additional exterior restoration of the house was undertaken in 2005-2007 after the town voted funds for de-leading of the building so that it could be habitable. During this period, the north and south verandahs were substantially upgraded, including replacement of deteriorated shingles, sills, and columns, and repair of porch floor joists and floorboards to match original wood. In addition, all original porch windows were rebuilt and reglazed in their original 16- and 12- fixed-pane configuration. This included two windows at the west end of the south verandah where the original 16-pane sash found elsewhere had been replaced with single, large panes. First-floor windows, and all second-story windows that did not survive the de-leading process, were replaced with similar units in the original 6/1 configuration. De-leaded wood trim was repainted in its original chrome green color. The chimney was rebuilt to match the existing appearance.

Interior work has concentrated on the kitchen and bathroom to meet code and livability requirements. In addition, floors have been refinished and window sash have been stained or painted.

The garage and attached shed have been reshingled, retaining a decorative pattern in the gable, and doors and windows in the shed portion have been replaced in kind.

Landscape Alterations

Active farming of the property ended in the 1950s following the death of Mr. Fiske. Subsequently, succession set in and small trees began to replace the flower and vegetable beds, and the orchard was neglected. Careful observation of the remnants of wooden posts on the east side of the house has also revealed the location of a small vineyard that once

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 7 Page 6

Narrative Description

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

existed in that area. The hayfield on the southwest corner of the property is now being mowed once a year, and grants have been obtained to begin removal of invasive species. The current victory gardens on the southeast portion of the property have brought some active agriculture back to Sea Call Farm, producing products – fruits, vegetables, and flowers – similar to those raised by the Fiskes.

Archaeological Description

Environmental characteristics of the area represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that support the presence of Native American sites. The Sea Call Farm includes a well-drained, level to moderately sloping ridge, shoreline, and other topographic features located within 1,000 feet of wetlands. The Town Cove, which forms the northern boundary of the farm, represents an important marine-related ecosystem that offered a variety of fish and shellfish important to Native American subsistence. Fresh water is also available from springs or aquifers that flow from the steep slope that borders the Cove. A fresh-water stream also flows northerly to the Town Cove from a wetland located approximately 2,000 feet southwest of the farm. Although an entry in a 1928 Fiske diary mentions grading on the property, the entry refers to sand that was dumped on the property, then graded. Any cultural resources that were present might actually be protected by the addition of fill and grading in those areas.

A moderate potential exists that historic archaeological resources will be found on the Sea Call Farm property. Structural evidence may exist from the brick footing that preceded the new foundation and cellar constructed in 1927-28. Structural evidence may also exist from outbuildings associated with domestic and agricultural activities at the Sea Call Farm after ca. 1920. Evidence from outbuildings may also survive from agricultural activities that preceded the Sea Call Farm in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

Introduction

Sea Call Farm encompasses 6.53 acres, which are located in an area that contained other small farms and older houses characteristic of the cultural landscape of Orleans from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The property was purchased and developed in the 1920s by William A. Fiske and his wife Bertha, initially for use as a summerhouse with some small-scale farming activities. After William's retirement from the Hartford Railway Express Company in 1931, the Fiskes resided in the house and farmed the surrounding land on a full-time basis. The property remained in the family until their daughter Gertrude's death. The Town of Orleans took the farm for conservation purposes in 1987.

The Fiskes operated the property as a small market-garden farm from ca. 1931-1950. Farms such as this were common in Orleans, and on Cape Cod in general, in the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. Sea Call Farm, including farmhouse, outbuildings, and land overlooking Town Cove is the only surviving agricultural ensemble in Orleans and one of the few in the Cape Cod region. Its significance is enhanced by the extensive collection of diaries, account books, and other papers that detail life on the farm during the period of significance, and by current town ownership, which allows public access. Sea Call Farm possesses integrity of location, design, setting (partial), materials (partial), workmanship (partial), feeling, and association. It meets criterion A as an exceptionally well-documented 20th century farm, and criterion C as a well-preserved agricultural ensemble consisting of farmhouse, garage and attached shed, burning pit, greenhouse foundation, and agricultural landscape. It is significant on the local level. The period of significance is 1921-1958.

Local Community Context

Beginning in 1717, residents of Orleans, then known as Eastham's South Parish, petitioned the Massachusetts General Court several times for the status of an independent town. Efforts were unsuccessful until 1797 when the area was set off as a separate town, becoming the twelfth town in Barnstable County. At the time of incorporation Orleans had a population of close to 1,000, while Eastham was reduced to about 450 residents. As in towns throughout Cape Cod, settlement was dispersed and scattered farmsteads characterized the landscape of Orleans. At the time of incorporation 56 families resided in Tonset (northeast part of town) where Sea Call Farm is located. By that time the principal roads in town had been established. Within East Orleans the thoroughfares now known as Main Street, Beach Road, and Tonset Road existed. In the western part of town, Brewster Road (now Rte. 6A) and South Orleans Road (Rte 28) were the only routes connecting Orleans with surrounding towns. On Main Street in East Orleans stood the South Meetinghouse and the town cemetery. Development in the northwest part of town (Rock Harbor) was spurred by construction of a landing there in 1814. The early 19th century also saw increased development in the Tonset area along Tonset Road, the location of Sea Call Farm.

The population of Orleans numbered 1,095 according to the census of 1800. In 1840 the population peaked at 1,974. After 1840 the trend reversed and the town's population steadily declined, reaching 1,323 in 1870. Despite the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance

declining population, residential development along Main Street, especially east of the South Parish Church, continued between 1830 and 1870. The Cape Cod Branch Railroad was completed in 1865 with a terminus in Orleans northwest of Sea Call Farm. A commercial center developed around the depot, preserving the residential character of East Orleans. By 1905 the number of residents had fallen to a low of 1,052. Then, around 1915 when the population reached 1,166, the trend reversed as Cape towns grew in popularity as locations for seasonal retreats and year-round residences. It was during this period of early 20th century growth that William Fiske, the creator of Sea Call Farm, began taking the train to Orleans as a vacation destination. The population of Orleans nearly doubled between 1920 and 1960, finally surpassing its 1840 peak. The Orleans population fluctuation is typical of the Cape Cod region as a whole.

Local and Regional Agricultural Context

Throughout Cape Cod, the earliest settlers were engaged in both agricultural and maritime pursuits. In the late 18th century, settlers grew crops, but soils were depleted rather quickly, and they turned to animal husbandry, supplemented by small-scale maritime activity. During the American Revolution, maritime activities were sharply curtailed, resulting in increased agricultural interests as former seafaring men turned to farming. Following the Revolution, fishing once again became the more prominent industry. By the time Orleans was established as a town in 1797, the community's economic base had changed from one of subsistence agriculture and limited fishing to one of seasonal farming and a variety of maritime pursuits.

A monograph of Orleans published in 1802 describes the town's agricultural activity as being largely for local consumption: "Butter is made for summer use, and a little cheese. Some cattle are fattened, and several sold in the townships below...." The author goes on to say that most of the cultivation was undertaken by "old men and small boys" because those between the "ages of twelve and forty-five" were engaged in fishing. A brief 1840 description mentions only the fishing and shell fishing industries of Orleans. Nevertheless, in the early 19th century, sheep and wool production were particularly important elements of the Cape Cod economy. The towns of Chatham, Orleans, and Truro were leaders on the Lower Cape in this business, which peaked around 1837. After that time, sheep were gradually replaced by poultry as the principal pursuit of husbandry. Chatham and Orleans were the leading producers of eggs in Massachusetts between 1845 and 1865. Beef and pork were also raised during this time, but to a lesser degree.

By 1905, within Barnstable County, the town of Barnstable was ranked first in the value of eggs and dressed poultry produced, followed by Orleans. By 1865, there were 77 farms in Orleans, the largest number in any town east of Dennis. In the mid-19th century, with maritime interests declining, agriculture once again asserted itself in the economy of Orleans. Through the 19th century and into the early 20th century poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruits and specialty crops, including asparagus, strawberries, turnips, and cranberries, were the most significant products. In 1890, it was reported that most of the land in Orleans was under cultivation, producing corn, rye, vegetables, and large amounts of English hay. On the Lower Cape, east of Brewster and Harwich, Eastham was the largest producer, followed by Chatham, Wellfleet, Truro, Orleans, and Provincetown. As the 20th century progressed, the rural character of Orleans and the

(continued)

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Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance

other towns gradually disappeared as the farming population decreased and the number of seasonal visitors increased. By 1940, the population of Orleans was on the rise and most of the farms had been subdivided into house lots.

William Alvin Fiske

William Alvin Fiske was born in Sheldonville, Mass., on June 4, 1873. Sheldonville is a village within the incorporated town of Wrentham, Norfolk County. In 1891, at the age of 18, he began working for the Railway Express Agency in nearby Franklin as a clerk and driver, delivering goods that were shipped by train to that community. Over the next two decades he served as clerk, agent, and route agent in several Massachusetts and Connecticut towns. During that period, he married Bertha Mirfield, daughter of Edward and Anna Mirfield of Waterbury, Connecticut. Together they had one daughter named Gertrude.

In 1917, Fiske was transferred to New Haven, where he served as Assistant Superintendent for the Western District of the New Haven Railroad. From 1919 until his retirement in 1931, he was employed by the Hartford Railway Express Agency. He retired after forty years of service with a monthly pension of \$104 based on an average monthly salary of \$261. Fiske was encouraged to retire because of heart-related ill health. Retirement allowed Fiske to move to Orleans and devote all of his time and efforts to his beloved Sea Call Farm until his death in April, 1950. Fiske was a meticulous and hardworking man who chronicled his daily life in a series of diaries, letters, and essays written between 1900 and 1950. The early volumes document his railroad years and the various New England communities where he resided to fulfill the needs of that profession. Orleans is first mentioned during a two-week vacation in August 1921. Located at the Orleans Historical Society, William Fiske's papers add greatly to the significance of Sea Call Farm.

Sea Call Farm

Fiske became an Orleans landowner when he purchased a small property from Elizabeth F. Smith of Orleans on August 26, 1921, during his vacation (Registry of Deeds Bk373/371: 8/26/1921). His diary notes that he was looking at property and that he found Orleans to be a "beautiful place and a pleasure just to be there." An entry of August 24 states that he measured land and laid out a house lot. According to the Registry of Deeds, Fiske bought two more lots of adjacent land from Smith in 1923 and 1924. A land plan of 1929 (39-131) shows these three parcels to be the same property now known as Sea Call Farm. That plan also shows that the Smiths retained land to the west of the Fiskes. Probate records indicate that Elizabeth Smith inherited her land on Tonset Road from her parents, Solomon and Cornelia H. Crosby. Nineteenth-century maps show this area on the west side of Tonset Road as Crosby land. One of the Fiske deeds reserved the right of Elizabeth and her husband Asa to work their current asparagus field for a period not to exceed five years, indicating that at least some of the land that is now Sea Call Farm was farmed before the Fiskes took ownership.

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Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

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Statement of Significance

The Fiskes' house was completed in 1922. It was designed by E. M. Stone, a Hartford architect with offices at 327 Trumbull Street. Fiske probably knew of his work as a resident of Hartford. Specifications for labor and materials survive at the Orleans Historical Society. (See Description, section 7, for additional detail.) The general contractor was E. W. Perry, while a man named Darling was responsible for the foundation work. According to his diaries, Fiske participated in some of the foundation work. Both the house and garage are shown on a 1929 land plan. The 1931 diary mentions painting the garage and building the sixteen-foot-long cold-frame. (This is probably the greenhouse, which remains today as a foundation after the upper glazed portion was removed in 2006 for safety reasons; replacement is planned.)

Fiske's essays and letters provide a wealth of detail on his early weekend and vacation visits to the farm, including his final move to Orleans by 1931. They describe the production of his land, additions and repairs to structures, plantings, weather conditions, and the abundance of fish and shellfish he harvested from his frontage on Town Cove. In addition, the papers succinctly describe daily life and interactions among people whose histories are intertwined with the history of Orleans and give a sense of the cultural relationship among people, landscape, and sea at that time. The Fiskes also seemed to have close friends and family in the area with whom they spent a great deal of time. The papers bring the farm to life with vivid descriptions of work interspersed with the joy that Fiske took in simple pleasures. For example, in November of 1927, Fiske noted that Bertha, Wheat, and Dad drove from Hartford to Orleans and made the trip in five hours. He followed the next day by train from Hartford to Boston to Hyannis. During this visit, Fiske made plans with Mr. Darling for foundation repairs and noted that the landscape was in good shape, including trees, vines, and flowers, with many still in bloom. Four truckloads of manure were delivered and spread by Fiske. As usual, hard work was balanced by pleasurable activities described in glowing terms:

In the afternoon we drove over to Chatham for more oysters and had a splendid ride even if it was cold and windy. Coming back we went up around the light in order to see the sea and it was worthwhile. Wind blew a gale and the breakers were wonderful.... After one of those justly famous suppers that my wife cooks we went over to Everett's for the evening. They played cards and me, I had a fine nap in a big chair. When we arrived home again we retired at once and was well rocked most of the night by the wind. (William Fiske: *Essays and Letters*)

The following day they enjoyed the byways of Eastham and went scalloping in Town Cove. In the evening they visited with Walter, Eleanor, and the folks.

An entry of early May 1928 provides an example of how Fiske chronicled development of the landscape:

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Sea Call Farm
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It certainly did look good to see all the little trees just growing as fast as they could and all green with leaves and budded thickly on most of them, The vines were also growing strong. Mr. Lake had most of the garden planted and it looks like a bigger and better one. The grape was growing nicely and enough rhubarb to supply a hotel ...

The lilies grew wonderful this winter or spring and we will actually have hundreds of soap bubble flowers. The roses are growing nicely and give promise of plenty of color and perfume. The hollyhocks will not do much this year as we had to dig them up for the house improvements (foundation) and plant a new lot. The glad flowers should come along in about all the good types and styles and for color there is not one left out. I have fourteen hills of dahlias, no two alike. The season should be one of blossom for us. The bank where the new sand has been dumped is rounded out nicely and looks very attractive. This will permit us to grade the yard quite a bit and improve it a whole lot. Mr. Stone spent several hours with me in laying out the grounds, fixing the house etc.
(William Fiske: *Essays and Letters*)

In addition to the flowers, vines, and orchards described above, the farm produced a wide variety of vegetables that are described throughout Fiske's writings. They include potatoes, corn, green squash, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, string beans and shell beans, beets, and turnips. Fruits included strawberries, rhubarb, and grapes. The Sea Call Farm letterhead of unknown date cited the following products: relishes and jellies grown and canned by the Fiske family, vegetables and flowers, and farm and irrigation supplies. May 18, 1930, is the first reference to the name "Sea Call Farm." The origins of this name are not known.

The William Fiske papers clearly describe the important role of friends and family in the life of the Fiskes. Relatives who are mentioned include "the folks" (presumably the parents of William or Bertha) Everett and Eleanor, Uncle Walt and Aunt Guss, and Grace. William also mentions walking to the cemetery to see how Mother's remains had been placed. (5/12/1928) Existing family ties are typical of many people who moved to Cape Cod in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Fiske papers also contain references to many people who are well known in Orleans history. The adjacent property was farmed by Clayton Mayo, a member of a prominent Orleans family and treasurer of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. His farm raised animals and crops, and he and William Fiske were friendly. (The Mayo farm has since been subdivided for single-family houses.) George Knowles, a lifesaver for the Orleans Life Saving Station, worked for Fiske and later became Fire Chief in Orleans. Members of the Snow family (first comers to Orleans) were also friendly with Fiske. The Crosbys, who sold the land to the Fiskes and remained as neighbors, also represent an old Orleans family.

(continued)

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Orleans (Barnstable) MA

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Statement of Significance

Summer Resort Context

The Fiskes were among the thousands who discovered the amenities offered by a summer sojourn on Cape Cod in the 19th and 20th centuries. Primary attractions included cool ocean breezes, miles of both fresh and saltwater beaches, quaint villages, boating, sightseeing, and a slower pace of life. Cape Cod's earliest summer visitors were sportsmen and wealthy families who arrived in the early to mid-19th century. The horse-drawn vehicles available to these groups fostered season-long visits. The former often stayed at guesthouses where they shared quarters with the owners. The latter bought or rented existing dwellings, and occasionally built summer homes for their families. The introduction of railroad service in the second half of the 19th century provided mass transportation to far greater numbers of summer visitors. As a result, resort hotels, cottage colonies, and individual houses, both large and small, arose to supplement the existing guesthouses.

The Fiskes started coming to Orleans in the late 1910s, a period when widespread ownership of private automobiles, coupled with greatly improved roadways, opened Cape Cod to unprecedented numbers of summer visitors and year-round residents. Automobiles also offered a flexibility and freedom unknown in earlier periods. Visitors could come more frequently and stay for shorter periods to accommodate work schedules. They could also choose destinations without regard to railroad locations, to develop their own sightseeing itineraries and otherwise indulge their personal preferences for leisure activities. William Fiske often refers to the family automobile in his writings, describing the ease of the journey between Hartford and Orleans and the pleasures of various sightseeing expeditions. Like many others, the Fiskes were at least partially drawn by the presence of family members in the area.

Architectural Significance

Cape Cod's summer and year-round populations were gradually rising in the early 20th century, following a region wide nadir in the 1860s. This coincided with the rising national popularity of the Craftsman style. Most local and regional examples are firmly rooted at the simple end of the stylistic spectrum. The one-story bungalows that inhabit this range on Cape Cod are characterized by wood-frame construction, weathered wood-shingle exteriors, 1 – 1½ story height, deeply overhanging gable roofs with exposed rafter ends and dormers, and broad verandahs that provided space to enjoy the outdoors. The bungalow form and spirit blended well with the scale, materials, and simplicity of traditional Cape Cod cottages. With the addition of commodious verandahs, and some elements of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, and modern conveniences in kitchens and bathrooms, the new style suited both natives and summer visitors alike. The house at Sea Call Farm exhibits all of the major features of the Craftsman style as it developed in Orleans and the Cape Cod region.

The house was designed by Edward M. Stone, a Hartford architect with offices at 327 Trumbull Street. Stone was an architect and civil engineer who practiced from 1908-1930. He was joined by his son, Laurence B. Stone, C. E., in 1927. In 1930, the firm became a real estate brokerage office.

(continued)

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Orleans (Barnstable) MA

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Modern History

When William Fiske died in 1950 at the age of 76, his daughter Gertrude Fiske inherited the farm and lived in the farmhouse until her death. The townspeople of Orleans voted to buy the farm in 1987. Soon thereafter, the Sea Call Supporters, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, was established. Their efforts led to a 1990 vote to rehabilitate rather than demolish the farmhouse. The Supporters have raised funds and donated countless hours to preservation of the farm. The farm is now managed jointly by the Orleans Conservation Commission and the Sea Call Supporters, Inc. This lovely cultural landscape is being used for conservation, recreation, and open space. Community gardens occupy a portion of the old farm plot (SE; Map #8), the Sea Call Supporters are restoring the gardens around the buildings (center), and the hay meadow (SW; Map #6) is being managed by the Conservation Commission. Preservation and restoration of the historic buildings and landscape were initiated in 1989 and continue today. Work has been undertaken by a mix of professionals and volunteers. As the surrounding areas have become more built up, the farm's rural aura, characteristic of another time, becomes ever more pronounced, and ever more valued.

Archaeological Significance

Although forty-eight ancient Native American sites have been identified in the town of Orleans, most are poorly documented with locational information only. Few sites have been systematically studied at the intrasite level. Recent archaeological studies within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore have produced the most reliable and detailed studies in the area; however, they are biased by the seashore boundaries. Additional survey and testing is needed in Orleans and in other neighboring towns to form a more representative and unbiased model of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the area. Given the above information, any sites found in the vicinity of Sea Call Farm could potentially be significant. Ancient sites in the district may contain information that helps better understand the importance of interior coastal areas within larger Native American settlement systems. Potential sites in the district may contain information relating to the effects of sea level rise on Native subsistence in the area, especially the point at which shellfish beds in the Town Cove became an important food resource to local Native Americans. Ancient sites may also contain information relating to the changing availability of different species of shellfish and related climatic and coastal change. Information may also be present relating to lithic procurement and technologies. Postglacial soils in this area contain lithic materials in the form of cobbles that were used by Native Americans for tool manufacture. Ancient Native American sites on the Sea Call Farm property may contain information indicating how these materials were obtained and reduced to various tool forms.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the settlement and agricultural history of Orleans and general way of life on Outer Cape Cod during the 19th and 20th centuries prior to mid-20th century suburbanization. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of settlement and agricultural production known to exist in the Sea Call farm area during the 19th and 20th centuries, prior to the construction of the farm in the 1920s. Archaeological resources may corroborate and supplement

(continued)

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Statement of Significance

the extensive collection of diaries, account books, and other documents that detail life on the farm during its period of significance. Important archaeological information may exist that is absent in the documents listed above. Archaeological information together with documentary sources may contribute important social information relating to life in the Fiske Family, Sea Call Farm, and the Town of Orleans, during a period when Orleans was still a rural coastal town that had just begun to increase its population following a decline during the 19th century. Documentary sources together with archaeological research may contribute important information relating to the local and regional importance of market gardens in the 20th century Outer Cape economy. Important information may also exist that documents the relationship of maritime trades and farming, especially the seasonal exploitation of fish, shellfish, and farming.

(end)

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Sea Call Farm
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**Sea Call Farm
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Section number 9 Page 2

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(end)

Sea Call Farm Data Sheet
 82 Tonset Road, Orleans, Massachusetts

Resource Summary

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
2	0	<u>buildings</u>
3	0	<u>structures</u>
4	0	<u>sites</u>
0	0	<u>objects</u>
9	0	<u>TOTAL</u>

Sketch Map #	Feature Name	Construction Date	Architect ural Style	Architect/ Builder	Status/ Type
1	House	1921-1922	Craftsman	E.M. Stone	C/B
2	Garage and attached shed	ca. 1922 and ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/B
3	Greenhouse foundation	ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/St
4	Burning pit	ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/St
5	Windbreak	1928	n/a	n/a	C/Si
6	Agricultural Field/ Hay Meadow	ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/Si
7	Hedgerow/stone wall	ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/St
8	Agricultural Field/ Community Gardens	ca. 1930s / 1990s	n/a	n/a	C/Si
9	Orchard remnants	ca. 1930s	n/a	n/a	C/Si
B	Native Forest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
C	Trail to Town Cove	unknown	n/a	n/a	n/a

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Sea Call Farm
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Black & White Photograph List

Photographer: Patricia Crowe, December 2006
Orleans Historical Society

Photo #	Neg #	Description of View
1	25	Facing NW from Tonset Rd. to fields, garage and house
2	8	Main House facing east
3	14	Facing SW to Main House
4	15	Facing N to Town Cove; E side of house with E end of rear verandah visible on left
5	6	Facing NE to garage; greenhouse foundation and ash pit in front; remains of orchard to rear
6	7	Facing S to Tonset Rd. from Ash Pit over east field (community gardens)
7	4	Facing NW overlooking west hayfield to windbreak beyond; house and garage visible to east

Historic Photographs:

Fig. 1. Farmhouse from the cove looking northeast, before addition of second dormer, ca. 1929-31

Fig. 2. Snapshot view of farmhouse from cove showing second dormer and gambrel roof, post 1931

Fig. 3 Pre-1929 view of farmhouse and garage, looking northwest

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Fig. 1. Farmhouse from the cove looking northeast, before addition of second dormer, ca. 1929-31



Fig. 2 Snapshot view of farmhouse from cove showing second dormer and gambrel roof, post 1931

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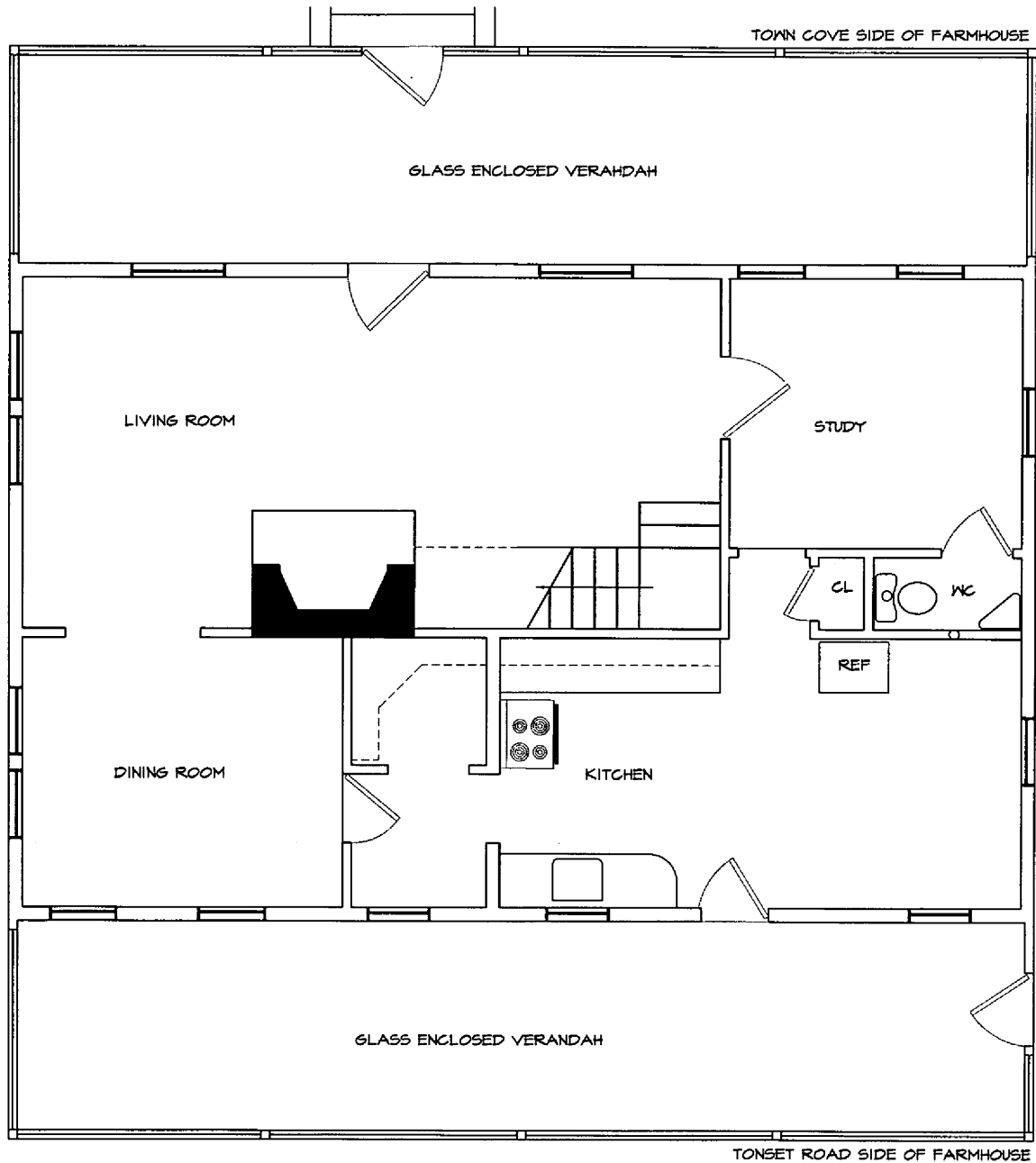
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sea Call Farm
Orleans (Barnstable) MA

Section number Historic photos Page 2



Fig. 3 Pre-1929 view of farmhouse and garage, looking northwest



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SEA CALL FARM

82 TONSET ROAD
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REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR

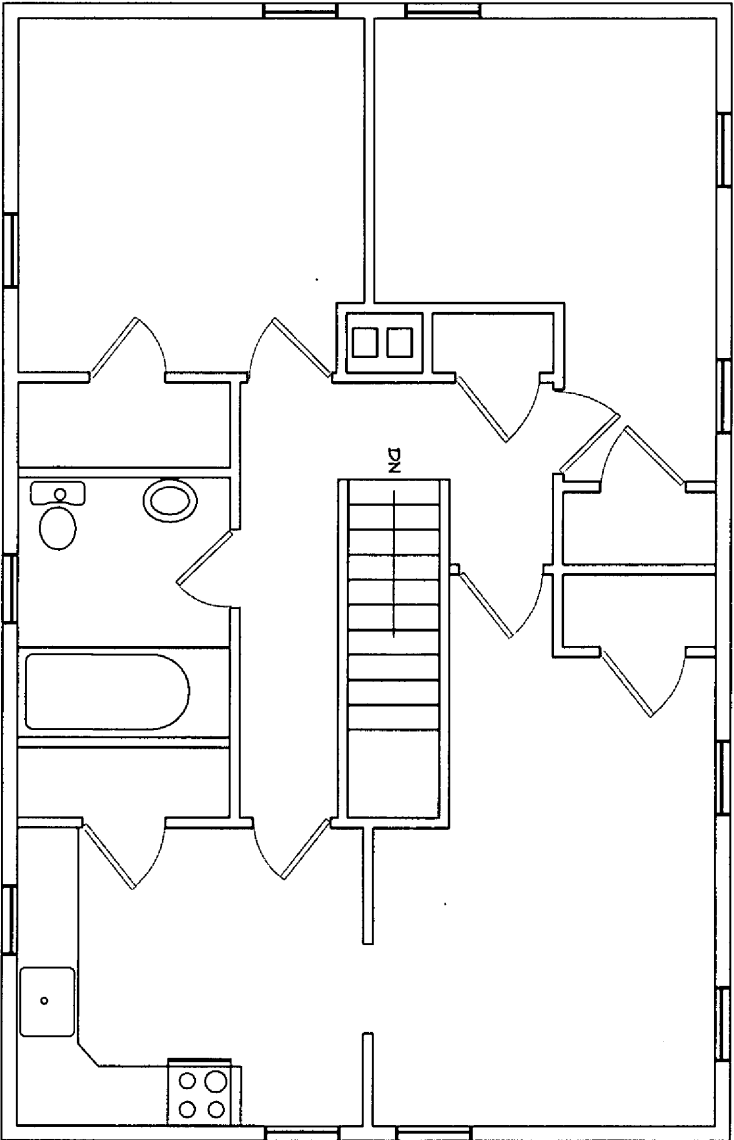
**INTERIOR
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

DATE: MAY 2, 2006

SCALE: 1/4" = 1' - 0"

DRAWING NO. A-1





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SEA CALL FARM
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REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR

SECOND FLOOR

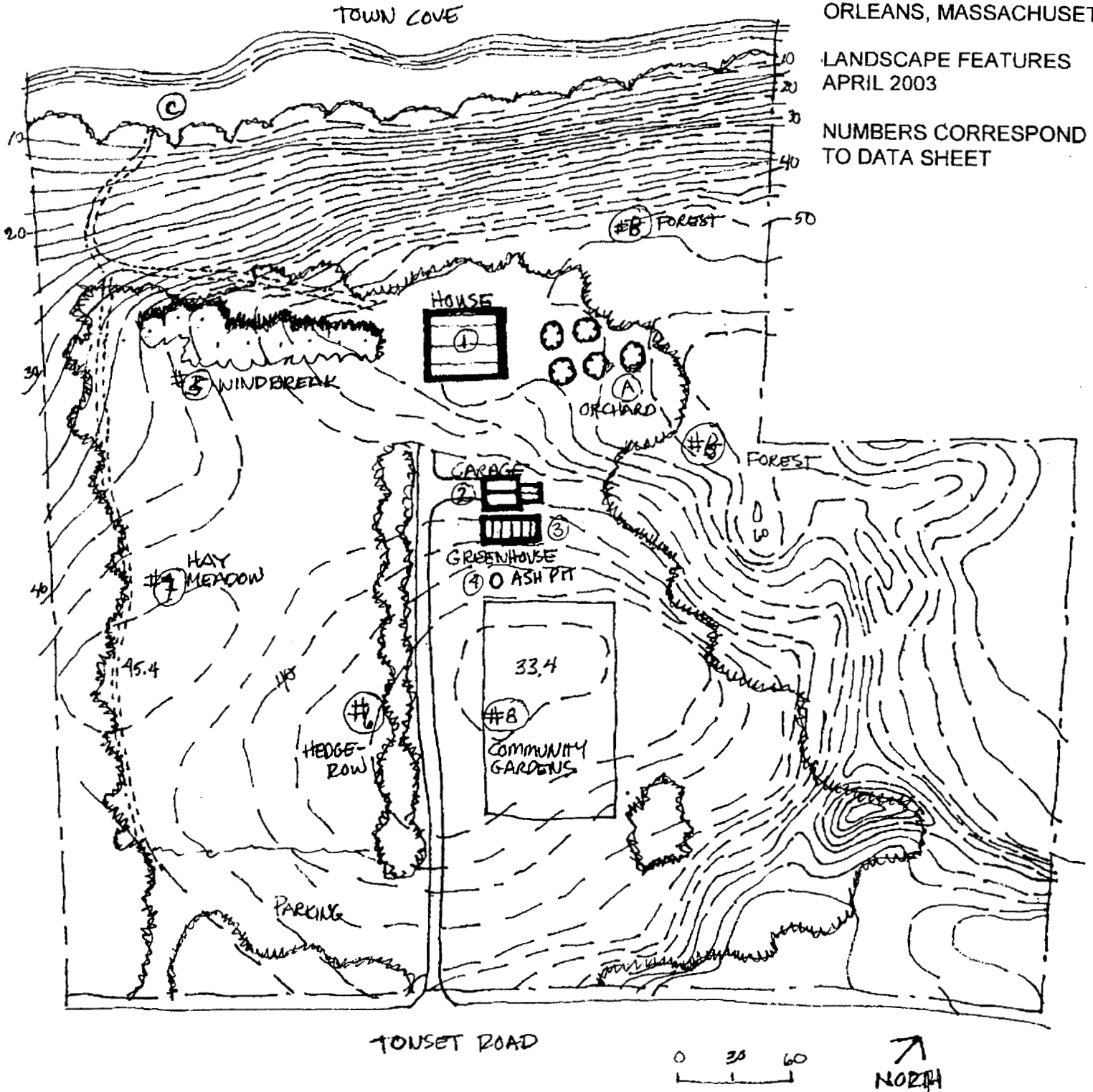
DATE: MAY 2, 2006
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1' - 0"
 DRAWING NO. A-2

SKETCH MAP

SEA CALL FARM
ORLEANS, MASSACHUSETTS

LANDSCAPE FEATURES
APRIL 2003

NUMBERS CORRESPOND
TO DATA SHEET





① Sea Cliff Farm
82 Tanset Rd
Orleans, MA

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe OHS - 12/2006 neg #25

Facing NW from Tanset Rd to Lickly garage +
house



2) Sea Hill Farm

82 Tanset Rd.

Orleans, MA

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe OHS

12/2006 neg #8

Facing NE. toward main house.
C

South ^{+ west}₁ elevations



③ Sea Call Farm

82 Tonsel Rd.

Orleans, MA

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe, OHS

12/2006 reg # 14

North + east elevations



④ Sea Call Farm

82 Torset Rd.

Orleans, MA

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe, OHS 12/2006 neg #15

Facing N toward Town Cove E side of house
with rear verandah on left



⑤ SeaCall Farm

82 Tonsit Rd.

Orleans, Mass.

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe, OHS, 12/2006 neg#6

Facing NE to garage, greenhouse foundation &
ash pit in front; remains of orchard to rear



⑥ Sea Hill Farm
82 Torset Rd.

Orleans, MA
Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe OHS 12/2006 reg #7

Facing S to Torset Road from ash pit
(over E field (Community Gardens) map #8)



⑦ Sea Cove Farm

82 Tanset Rd.

Orleans, MA

Barnstable County

Patricia Crowe OHS 12/30/06 Reg #4

Facing NW overlooking ^W hayfield (#7) to
windbreak (#5) House & garage visible on right

m