

Richard Rich House
South Pamet Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-761

HABS
MASS.
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RICHARD RICH HOUSE

HABS No. MA-761

Located on the north side of South Pamet Road 3/4 mile from U.S. Highway 6 in Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Building number 17-30 in Cape Cod National Seashore.

Owner: Dr. Manuel Furer,
145 East 92nd Street, New York 28, New York

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Richard Rich House is a one and a half story Cape Cod "house-and-a-half" covered with wood shingles and surrounded by residential landscaping. The house is rectangular, faces south and has a west ell. The house is in excellent condition on the exterior but the interior has been extensively remodeled.

The construction of the house is post and beam with horizontal wall boards. The plank type wall construction consists of the single width of plank, exterior shingles and interior plaster directly applied, giving a wall of about three or four inches in thickness. The foundations are brick covered with cement on the south side. The gable roof is shingled and has a simple box cornice. The roof planks run parallel to the ridge. The rafters are sawn. There are brick stoops at all doors.

The front or south main door has six panels without a transom. The windows are 6/6 light double hung sash. There are solid wood shutters on the exterior. The cornice molding on the exterior is directly over the window heads.

There is one main chimney directly in the center. There was a chimney in the west ell that was recently removed.

The first floor has one room across the south front of the house. This was formerly two rooms and a center hall. Across the rear or north of the main house is the largest room, or old kitchen. To the east of this room are two small rooms, one of them a bedroom and one a bathroom, with a stair to the second floor between them. The west ell contains a modern kitchen. To the south of the ell is a small Greek Revival entry porch. To the north of the west ell is a small "salt box" porch. The second floor contains three bedrooms. There is a small circular cellar under the main house. This is a typical round brick Cape Cod cellar. There is a small basement under the west ell. This is brick and is rectangular on the three exterior sides of the ell, but on the east side, where the ell joins the main house, the wall is curved.

The one stairway runs up and to the east from the east wall of the old kitchen. There is some indication that there was a second stair on the west side of the main house toward the chimney. There is a steep stair to the cellar under the stair to the second floor. The cellar stair is reached through a door under the second floor stair, which is not usual on Cape Cod. There is evidence of a similar stair arrangement in the Elisha Cobb House, which is recorded in drawings in HABS (building no. 14-40).

The flooring is random width planking. The walls and ceilings are plastered. There are chair rails in the main rooms. The west ell has wainscoting of three boards. The interior doors are both the six and four panel types. Some of the four panel are the traditional Cape Cod type and some are the Greek Revival type. All have simple iron lift latches.

The house has electric lighting. There is no central heating, but the fireplaces in the old kitchen, the south and the second floor east bedrooms have open fireplaces.

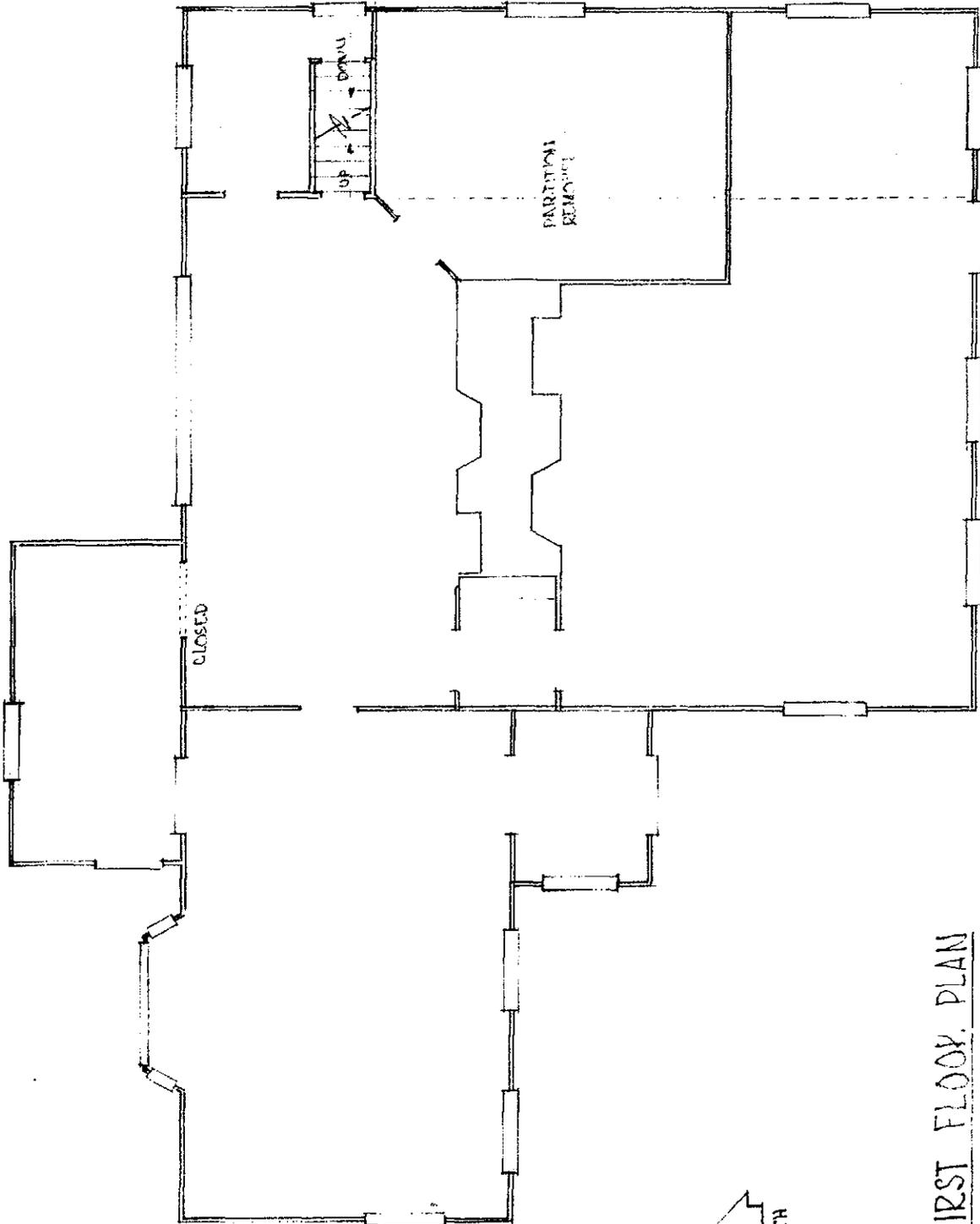
To the north of the main house is a small single car garage which has been made over into a guest house. There is a small garage-barn across the street and to the south of the house. This is a grey shingled structure with a loft.

Prepared by:

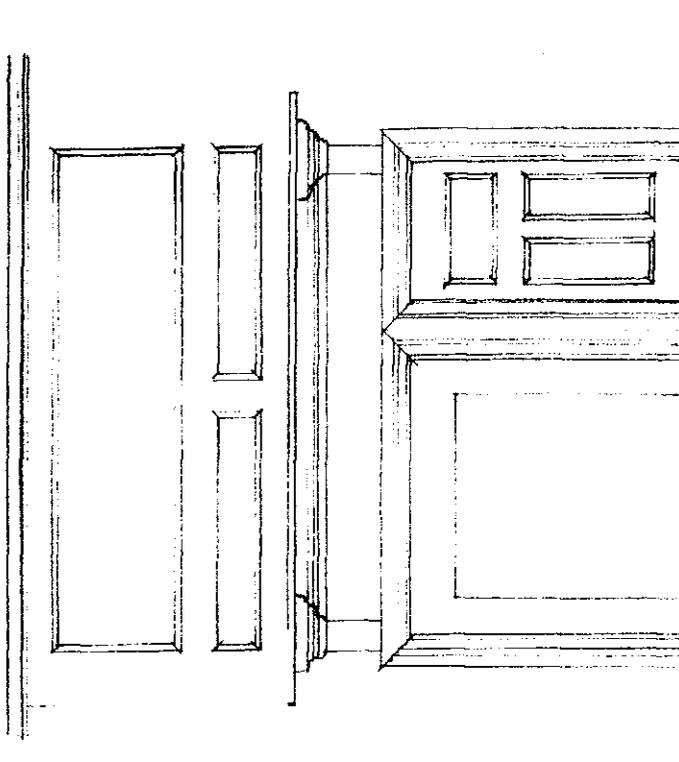
Donald B. Myer

Donald B. Myer
National Park Service
Cape Cod Survey II
Truro field office
September 4, 1962

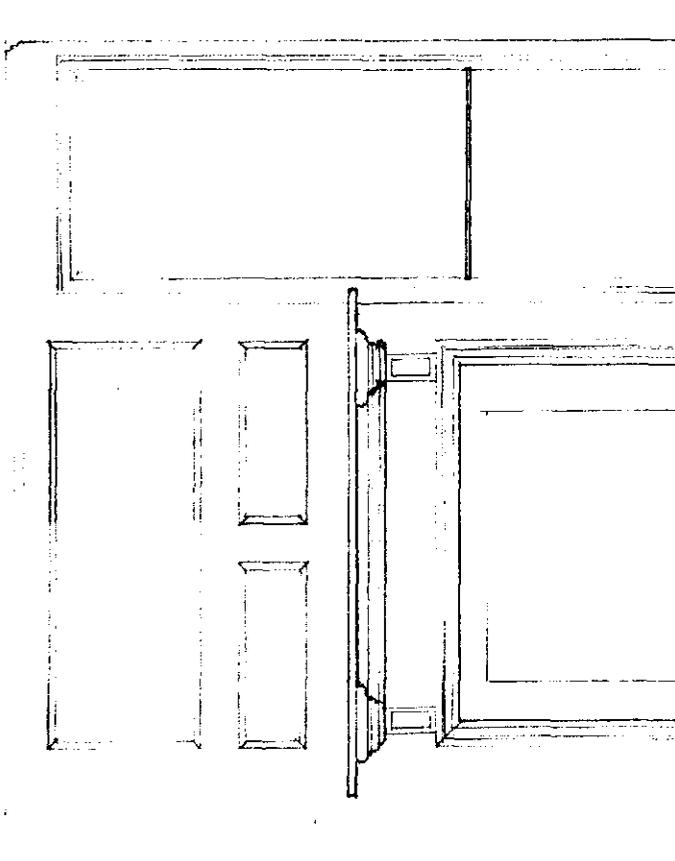
RICHARD RICH HOUSE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SOUTH FIRE PLACE



NORTH FIRE PLACE