

Jonah Atkins House  
(Kahn House)  
South Pamet Road  
Truro  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-707

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JONAH ATKINS HOUSE  
(KAHN HOUSE)

HABS No. MA-707

Location: South Pamet Road.  
Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Mr. E. K. Kahn, Jr.

Present Occupant: E. K. Kahn, Jr. and family.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Significance: The original structure was a Cape Cod "double house" with Greek Revival influence located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and Subsequent Owners

Mr. Arthur S. Joseph, local contractor, and resident of this area since birth reports that this structure was moved in about 1890 from a place east of its present location. A Mr. King owned the house when it was moved, and Jonah Atkins owned it before him. Shortly after the house was moved, a salt shed was attached to the west part. This was originally located a quarter mile farther east. Mr. Joseph thinks the house is ten or fifteen years older than the other houses in the neighborhood and that it was built a little better than the rest. Mr. Kahn has owned the house since 1954.

Date of Erection Early or mid 19th century.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Unknown.

Original Plans None known to exist.

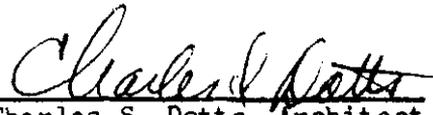
Alterations and Additions The present owner added dormers to the north roof of the salt shed and converted its first floor into a modern kitchen and dining area. Mr. King had originally built two rooms and a bath on the first floor. In the original house itself, the present owner made a bath room out of a small bed room at the west end of the original kitchen. A bath room was also added on the second floor.

Sources of Information: Present owner, and Arthur S. Joseph, South Pamet Road, Truro, Massachusetts.

Likely Sources not yet Investigated:

Truro Town Records, Barnstable County, Massachusetts records. These County records are scarce before 1827 due to a Court House fire that occurred on that date. Some of the early Register of Deeds books were saved, however, and it is possible that a search of them would uncover more information pertaining to its former owners.

Prepared by

  
Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Survey Project  
July 11, 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit

This structure is a one and one-half story Cape Cod "double house" with Greek Revival influence, and with attached salt shed, located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore. The original floor plan can be observed in the house and is typical of similar houses built on Cape Cod during the early and mid years of the 19th century. Like most of the similar houses that exist there today, alterations and additions have been made to the original structure.

Condition of fabric

This structure is in good condition. The present owner has modernized the house to make it more livable, but the early characteristics of the place have been retained.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions Original structure, 19' x 21'; salt shed addition, 25'-6" x 25'-9".

Foundations Wood sills on brick foundation.

Wall construction Exposed north exterior wall as seen from the interior at the second floor shows 6 x 7 corner posts with 6 x 7 girts and 3 x 4 wall studs 33" to 36" on center. Sheathing boards are laid horizontally. The south exterior of the house is covered with clapboards and the other sides are shingled. This is typical of the Cape Cod house of this period. Clapboards exposed 4 1/4", shingles exposed 6".

Porches, stoops Small stone and brick stoops are located at the exterior doors. It is not known if these were built at the same time as the house.

Chimneys Two, one over center of original house and one over west addition. Both are brick.

Openings - doorways and doors 6 panel wood door with 4 light transom at south entrance. Modern 12 light door at north entrance. South door is flanked by pilasters.

windows and shutters 9/6 panes in double hung sash, appear to be original. West addition has 6/6 panes in double hung sash. Original part of house has louvered shutters of wood, and appear to be early type, with probably original hangers and dogs.

Roof - shape, covering Gabled, pitched, wood shingled.

cornice Wood, box cornice, narrow eaves.

dormers Full dormer added to north part of west addition by present owner in 1954.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR

Floor plans Original house is a Cape Cod "double house" with south entry flanked by an east room and west room, each with two windows on the south, or front of the house. The north side of the house has the original kitchen, now used for a living room, and this is flanked on the east by the small buttery and east bed room, which is adjoining the east front room, and is connected to it by a doorway. A stairway to the second floor runs between the buttery and this small bed room. On the west of the kitchen was a small room which was converted to a bath room by the present owner in 1954. Next to this, on the north side of the house is a narrow hall leading to the west addition. Another stairway in this original house led off of the entry, running to the north.

The salt shed that was attached to the original house has been converted to a modern kitchen by the present owner. Dining space is in this area also. A partition running across the shed was removed, and a bath room installed by the former owner was also removed to provide for this kitchen and dining area. 1954 was the date of this remodeling. Off of this addition, at its north east corner is a stair leading to the second floor.

The second floor of the original house consists of one large bed room on the east with a smaller bed room and bath room on the west. In the addition, the second floor is one large dormitory bed room with dormer on the north side.

Stairways Three - one of of main entry, one off of original kitchen, a and one off of the west addition. These are wood, narrow, and are typical of early Cape Cod houses.

Flooring Random width pine flooring, 4 1/2" to 14 1/2".

Wall and ceiling finish Original house has plastered walls with wood wainscot to window stool height in all first floor rooms except the buttery, which has vertical boards. The fireplace walls in the east room, west room and kitchen have panelled walls.

The ceilings were originally plastered. On the second floor the walls were plastered along with the ceilings. The west addition has walls of painted plywood, late construction. Second floor east bed room has original wood wainscot to height of window stool.

Doorways and doors 6 panel wood doors on first floor of original house. These are 7/8" thick, with top two panels of glass.

Trim Molded, mitered corners of window and door trim in original house.

Hardware Early style, probably original, butt hinges and door latches in original part of house.

Lighting Electric.

Heating, fireplaces Four fireplaces in old house - located in east room, west room, and original kitchen on first floor and in the east bed room on second floor. Each has apparently original paneling and mantels.

#### SITE

Orientation and setting This house faces south in typical Cape Cod fashion. It is set in a clearing, about 50 yards down a lane on the north side of the road.

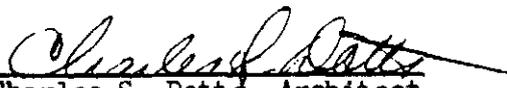
Enclosures None.

Outbuildings A barn-studio is located 20 yards east of the house.

Walks, driveways No walks; gravel driveway leads from the road to the yard.

Landscaping Good. Landscaping consists of shrubs, trees and grape arbor. The planting is informal.

Prepared by

  
Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Survey I  
July 11, 1960

#### References:

HABS Measured Drawings, Cape Cod Survey I, Eastham Field Office, Summer 1960.