

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

See Datasheet	North Truro	H	See Datasheet
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Photograph



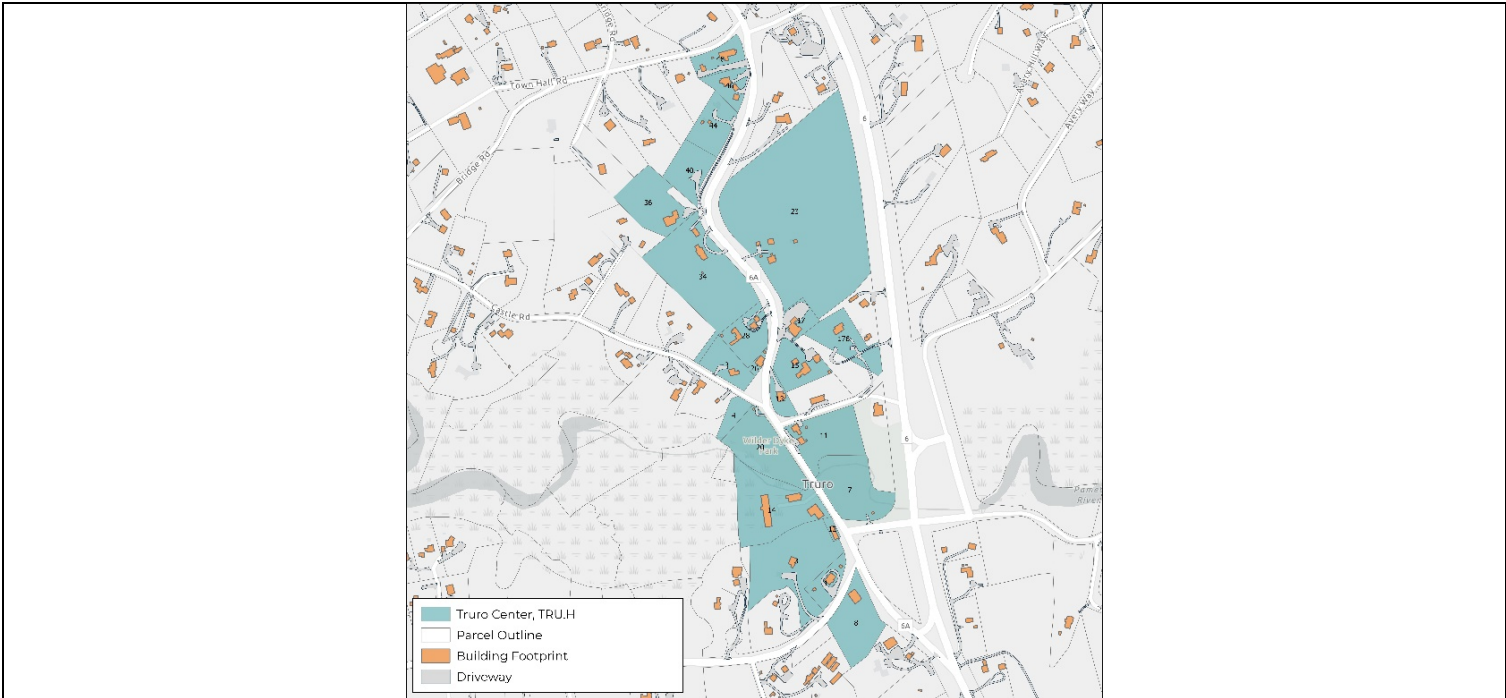
Photo 1. View on Truro Center Road, looking north (compare to Figure 1).

Town/City: TRURO  
Place (neighborhood or village): Truro Center

Name of Area: Truro Center  
Present Use: Single Family Dwelling, Commercial, Institutional  
Construction Dates or Period:  
Overall Condition: Good  
Major Intrusions and Alterations: None

Acreage: 36.3 acres  
Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant  
Organization: Truro Historical Commission  
Date (month/year): May 2023

Locus Map



☒ see continuation sheet

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

TRURO

TRURO CENTER

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Truro Center Area spans across a small valley formed by the Pamet River and rises up along the east side of the Hill of Churches (TRU.D). The Pamet River is diverted to a culvert and is not visible within the Area. The Area runs north for  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles along Truro Center Road from the intersection with Depot Road to the intersection with Bridge Road. The Area includes a mix of residential, commercial and institutional buildings.

### Commercial and Institutional Resources

As a center of Truro activity, and the site where the original north-south road crossed the Pamet River, this Area was the location for a number of commercial and institutional resources dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, many of which are extant.

8 Truro Center Road, Wilder Elementary School (1852, TRU.113). This is one of two schools built in 1852 that now serve as bookends for the Truro Center Area. This former schoolhouse was built in this location (the other was moved here, see below). This Greek Revival-style building is five bays wide and two bays deep. The gable roof is oriented on a north-south axis. A cantilevered second-story addition with attached deck projects from the west elevation. The building has a brick foundation and an asphalt-shingled roof with a brick center chimney at the roof ridge. The walls are clad in wood shingles with wide frieze boards, pilasters, and overhanging eaves at the gable ends characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The symmetrical front (west) elevation has two centered doors flanked by two evenly ranked windows. It is unknown if these doors were the original doors for boys and girls to enter the school. Fenestration consists of modern 1/1 double-hung sash. The building has since been adapted for commercial use.

13 Truro Center Road, Cobb Memorial Library (1912, TRU.114, NRI 2013). This Craftsman-style, wood-frame building measures 40 feet by 20 feet. The building rises one story from a concrete foundation to an overhanging, slightly flared gable roof, with clipped gable ends. The deeply-projecting eaves of the front and rear roof slope are open with exposed rafter tails. The clipped gable ends are supported by horizontal rafter tails, and the lower section of the roof slopes are supported by decorative wood braces. The roof is surmounted by a centered, four-sided copper-clad clock tower. The tower is capped with a pyramidal roof, also clad in copper, and a weathervane. Octagonal-shaped clocks are set into the west, north and south faces of the tower. The elevations are clad in wood shingles, with simple broad cornerboards. A central portion of the front roof extends to cover an entrance porch supported by wide posts onto which are attached deep pilasters. Built-in wooden benches connect these posts to the main block where there are matching deep pilasters. The front door has three vertically aligned recessed panels topped by a square window with nine bullseye glass panels, and the door is hung with decorative iron hinges. To the south of the front entrance are three mullioned 8-lite casement windows. These windows are set in a projecting frame with a molded lintel and sill with modillions. The south elevation has three multi-lite mullioned windows similar in detail. The middle window forms a segmental arch. The north elevation has five tall narrow fixed windows with multi-lite sash. The middle three windows are taller than the two on the ends. The window surrounds are similarly detailed. There is a 1960 one-story addition on the rear (east) elevation.

16 Truro Center Road, Truro Center Post Office (1973, TRU.1165). The most recent, potentially contributing institutional resource is the 1973 post office. This one-story, rectangular building with gable-front roof is a modest example of Postwar Traditional architecture. In this case, the building is vaguely referential to Colonial Revival details, including the roof cornice

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on the front and rear elevations where flush wood boards mimic the full return across gable ends sometimes found on Greek Revival-style buildings. The centered front entrance has a projecting gable-roofed portico.

The Truro Center Post Office is located on a large parcel that includes two large 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings. These two buildings represent the only modern intrusion into this historic streetscape.

17 Truro Center Road, Manuel J. Marshall Blacksmith Shop (ca. 1870, TRU.116). This one-story, wood-frame structure was originally located on Prince Valley Road as a stable. It was moved to its current site in ca. 1910. The central structure is eight bays wide, with a low-pitched, side-gable roof. Several additions include a one-story, side-gabled extension to the north elevation, and a two-story side-gabled addition to the east elevation. The building faces west toward Truro Center Road, and a gravel parking lot extends around the north side of the building. The building has a brick foundation and an asphalt-shingle roof. The walls are clad in wood shingles with flat cornerboards. The main entrance is located in the third bay from the north on the west elevation and consists of a vertical board door. Fenestration consists primarily of paired 6-light fixed sash.

26 Truro Center Road, Eben Paine's General Store (ca. 1825-1840, TRU.112). The original portion of this former store appears to be the small, symmetrical, side-gable block set close to the street (see Photo 1, Figure 1). A large 1 ½-story addition wraps around the rear and right (east) portions of the smaller block. The smaller block rests on a brick foundation and is more ornamented, an indication that it predates the astylistic rear block. The original store was built in ca. 1825-1840, and was substantially rebuilt in the 1940s, which may account for the Colonial Revival-style details. The front elevation is symmetrical with a centered entrance flanked on each side by two mullioned windows. The front entrance is sheltered by a close-pedimented portico. The box cornice extends across the side elevations, creating closed pediments in the gable ends.

48 Truro Center Road, Obadiah Brown Elementary School (1852, TRU.108). This tall, one-story, wood-frame building was also constructed in 1852 as an elementary school about 2.5 miles south on Old County Road. It was relocated to this site in 1895 and converted into a Catholic church. Alterations at that time likely included a small gable-roofed ell attached to the south elevation, the bell tower at the east end of the roof, the main entry located at the center of the east elevation in a one-story enclosed vestibule with a pedimented gable roof, and the scrollwork that adorns the main entrance and gable end of the side ell. The east elevation is clad in clapboard, while the other elevations are clad in wood shingles. The Greek Revival styling of the building is evident in the wide frieze boards beneath the eaves and the corner pilasters. Fenestration consists primarily of modern, 2/2 double-hung sash in wood frames with simple molded entablatures.

## Residential resources

There are a total of 11 single-family dwellings in the Area, five built before 1900, three built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, two in the 1960s, and one in 2005. Of the five built before 1900, all but one have the Cape Cod house form – two have the Full Cape form and two have the Three-quarter Cape form. All five pre-1900 houses are Federal in style.

15 Truro Center Road (ca. 1785, TRU.115). This Federal-style, Full Cape is the oldest house in the Truro Center Area. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep and faces due south. Several additions include a rear kitchen ell, an ell and shed-roofed addition on the west elevation, a shed dormer across the roof's north slope and a small extension on the east side with a screened-in porch. A white-washed brick chimney is located at the center of the roof ridge. The house is clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The centered main entrance on the south elevation has a six-panel wood door set in an elegant surround with pilasters and transom lights. The door surround and window frames on the front elevation are all cut into the roof entablature. Fenestration is varied, with 9/6 double-hung sash on the original block and a collection of 3/3, 9/9, and small bay windows on the ells. Small 3/3 attic windows are centered just below the eaves on the original block. The original windows on the main block are all set in projecting frames.

23 Truro Center Road (ca. 1790-1820, TRU.118). This is another intact example of a Federal style, Full Cape. In this case there is only one small rear ell. This house is clad in wood clapboards with plain cornerboards. The windows have the same projecting frames, but the windows have been replaced with modern 1/1 double-hung sash. This house also has the same elegant door surround as 15 Truro Center Road.

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3 Castle Road (ca. 1790-1820, TRU.111). This Federal-style, Three-quarter Cape is a well-preserved example of the period. There is a three-bay ell that is flush on the right (east) side that is flush with the front elevation. This ell may have been added when the house was moved up the hill on its parcel in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Still intact are the molded box cornice, the 9/6 sash in protruding frames, the door surround with pilasters (but no transom lights), and the smaller, gable-end attic windows on the second floor.

34 Truro Center Road (1826, TRU.109). This is the only pre-1900 house in the Area that does not have a Cape form. In this case, the house form is a variation on the two-story, five-bay Federal house with hip roof. In this version, the two-story house is only two bays wide by three bays deep, but still has a hip roof. A ca. 1920, one-story ell on the left (south) side was replaced in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century with a two-story ell with open porch along the front, and there is a one-story ell with gable roof on the right (north) side of the house. Fenestration includes wood, 6/6 double-hung sash. The front entrance has a surround with full sidelights, and a pedimented entrance porch which is likely a later addition.

176 Rt. 6 (ca. 1915, TRU.393). This house dates to ca. 1915 but is very likely older. It has the form of a gable-front, Greek Revival style house with stepped-down rear ell – a form and style commonly seen in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The house is three bays wide by four bays deep and faces west. The walls are clad in wood shingles with broad corner pilasters. The roof of the main block and rear ell have a molded box cornice with broad frieze boards below. The front entrance on the west elevation has a surround with full sidelights, pilasters and broad molded lintel. The corner pilasters, roof cornice and entrance surround are all character-defining features of the Greek Revival style. Fenestration consists of 6/1 double-hung wood sash (likely a later replacement). A narrow, one-story addition spans around the rear ell and part of the north elevation of the main block.

The six post-1900 houses represent a range of styles and forms. The most significant architecturally is 44 Truro Center Road (ca. 1923, TRU.407). This house has a Foursquare form with hipped roof. A one-story enclosed porch with hip roof extends partially across the southeast elevation. A one-story addition, also with a hip roof, is attached to the northwest (rear) elevation. The building has an asphalt-shingle roof and wood-shingle walls with flat cornerboards. The main entrance is located near the center of the façade. Fenestration consists of wood, 6/1 double-hung sash with flat surrounds.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.*

Truro was occupied seasonally for centuries by Pamet Indians, members of the Wampanoag Nation. There were no settled villages, but trails likely existed along both the Atlantic and Bay shores, as well along the rivers and ponds. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, there was first contact with European explorers, including well-documented expeditions to Truro by Capt. Martin Pring and his men who spent seven weeks at Pamet Harbor in 1603, and the Pilgrims in 1620. In both cases, the areas visited included Pond Village, Corn Hill, and Pamet Harbor, where there was clear indication of Pamet Indian occupation and cultivation. The European explorers also likely walked along one or both sides of the Pamet River to the Atlantic coast. Like the Pamet Indians, early European settlers would also choose these areas for early development.

European settlement began in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Native trails were likely still in use, and the first road in Truro, known as the Drift Highway, appears to have been laid out in ca. 1700 connecting Pilgrim Pond to the Head of the Pamet. King's Highway was laid out in 1715, and by the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, South and North Pamet Roads and Higgins Hollow and Longnook Roads were in place, bisecting or incorporating parts of King's Highway. King's Highway also included portions of what became Shore Road in Pond Village. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, local roads were well established to the Bay and Atlantic coasts, Old County Road had become the principal route from Truro Village to Wellfleet, and Castle and Depot Roads were in place leading along both sides of the Pamet River.

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Truro Center contains buildings connected to the maritime history of Truro from the mid-18th into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the early houses, and later buildings are also connected to Truro's emergence as a seasonal destination, including a large community of artists and writers drawn to the Outer Cape's natural beauty.

As evidenced by the inset map of Truro Village in the 1858 *Map of Cape Cod* (Figure 3), the Truro Center Area was considered part of the larger Truro Village which comprised the land on both sides of the Pamet River. As such, Truro Center's historic development should be understood as connected to the Depot Road-Pamet River Area (TRU.G) and the Castle Hill-Snow Village Area (TRU.I). These areas together comprise the largest concentration of historic buildings in Truro and are interrelated as the focus of Pamet Harbor development in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a time when Truro Village emerged as the economic and political center of Truro.

Residential development began along Depot Road in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century. The early occupants of these properties were alternately listed as mariners and farmers in Census records. In many cases, young men first went to sea, and returned in later life to a quieter life of farming. All of the houses had subsistence gardens, and in some cases larger commercial farming operations. At this time, settlement in Truro was scattered among rural clusters, including South Truro, Pamet Harbor, Castle Hill, and Pond Village along the bay, where local whaling and fishing dominated economic activity. Truro Center served as a conduit between these areas of settlement.

With the rise of coastal and deep-sea fishing and whaling, Truro prospered, and the population increased. Maritime activity increased dramatically into the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The full length of Pamet Harbor was navigable and from the 1830s into the 1850s, Pamet Harbor emerged as the economic and civic center of the town. Pamet Harbor served as a fishing port with shipyards (15 brigs and schooners were built between 1837 and 1851), sail lofts, stores, fish-processing sheds, three wharves, windmills nearby for salt making, and over 60 cod and mackerel boats. It was also the docking point for packet boats for freight and passengers to and from Boston.<sup>1</sup> The population in Truro rose from 1152 in 1800 to a high of 2051 in 1850, leading to the construction of many new houses.

With the building of bridges and then dikes across the Pamet River in this location, Truro Center became the head of the then fully navigable Pamet Harbor. As a result, Pamet Center saw significant commercial and institutional development, including stores, a stable, hotel, blacksmith's shop, library and post office.

As Truro's prosperity became linked to the Pamet River, the seat of government was moved from North Truro to the hill above Pamet River to the north (Hill of Churches, TRU.D). In 1827, the First Parish Congregational Church (NRDIS, 2014) was built to serve both religious and town meeting purposes (3 First Parish Lane, TRU.82). Town meeting activities were moved to the nearby Union Hall which was built in 1848 to the west of the Congregational church (24 Town Hall Road, TRU.83, NRI 1997).

Starting in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, maritime activity declined significantly. This was a result of Pamet Harbor silting up in 1860, other towns having bigger harbors able to accommodate larger ships, and the loss of Truro men to shipwrecks, including the Gale of 1841 which claimed 57 of Truro's men and boys. The number of fishing vessels in Truro dropped from 49 in 1855 to 10 in 1865. Truro's population began a decline that lasted into the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1870 and 1915, Truro's population dropped in half from 1269 to 663 persons. Many of Truro's families moved away to cities for new industrial jobs, and in some cases, houses and farmsteads were left vacant. In the Depot Road-Pamet Harbor Area, no new houses were built from ca. 1875 to 1900.

Despite the population drop during this period, starting in the 1860s, Truro saw the immigration of Portuguese families. In the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, Portuguese were the dominant foreign-born ethnic group in Truro. As a result, two Catholic churches were established, one in Truro Center in 1896, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (48 Truro Center

<sup>1</sup> Richard Whelan, *Truro The Story of a Cape Cod Town* (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2007), 105.

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Road, TRU.1852), the former Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Pond Village in 1915 (17 Pond Road, TRU.212), now Chapel on the Pond.

The decline in maritime activity was eventually replaced by the rise of a seasonal/resort economy. The greatest impetus for this in Truro was the completion in 1873 of the Old Colony Railroad to Provincetown, with stations in South Truro, Pamet Harbor (at the west end of Depot Road), Corn Hill and North Truro (Cold Storage Beach). The railroad was initially used to transfer goods from the canning and cold storage facilities associated with the fish processing, but soon became a method of transportation for summer vacationers. A few cottage colonies or resorts were built in Truro beginning in the 1880s.

Maritime activity declined in Truro in the later-19<sup>th</sup> century. There were many factors in this decline, most notable was the silting of Pamet Harbor in 1860. Other factors included the loss of Truro men to shipwrecks (most notably the Gale of 1841 which claimed the lives of 57 Truro men and boys), and other towns having bigger harbors able to accommodate larger ships. The only bright spot was the success of weir fishing, including cold storage facilities, in Pond Village. The number of fishing vessels in Truro dropped from 49 in 1855 to 10 in 1865. Truro's population began a decline in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century that lasted into the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Over this period, the population count was cut in half. Many of Truro's families moved away to cities for new industrial jobs, and in some cases, houses and farmsteads were left vacant. In the Depot Road-Pamet Harbor Area, no new houses were built from ca. 1875 to 1900.

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Truro Center Road was originally referred to as the County Road in deeds, and later as the State Highway. Construction of the new four-lane Rt. 6 was completed through Truro in the early 1950s, bypassing what is now Truro Center Road. The Truro Center Area now contains a loose collection of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The following properties are representative of the historical contexts of maritime and agricultural history in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Portuguese immigration in the later-19<sup>th</sup> century, the emergence of Truro as a seasonal destination, and arrival of artists and writers in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In many cases, properties represent multiple contexts.

## Commercial and Institutional Resources

8 Truro Center Road, Wilder Elementary School (1852, TRU.113). This former school serves as the southern terminus to the Truro Center Area. In 1851, a special committee appointed to study the status of public education recommended that the town be divided into six districts and build a school for each district. A year later the town voted to build six schools. The Wilder School possibly received its name from Wilder Dike which crosses the Pamet River close by to the north in Truro Center. The building was in continuous use as a school until the mid-1930s when the Truro Central School was built. When this school closed, the building became the Truro Center branch for the Post Office. A new Post Office was built in Truro Center in 1973 and the old Wilder School became an office building.

13 Truro Center Road, Cobb Memorial Library (TRU.114, NRI 2013). Cobb Memorial Library was Truro's first town-owned public library. Built in 1912, Cobb Memorial Library was named for its primary benefactor, Elisha Wiley Cobb, a Truro native. Cobb became a leather merchant in Boston, but also owned a house in Truro that had been in the Cobb family since it was built ca. 1727. Cobb Memorial Library remained in use as a public library until 1999. After a new public library was built, Cobb Memorial Library became the town's historic archive.

17 Truro Center Road, Manuel J. Marshall Blacksmith Shop (ca. 1870, TRU.116). In his 1974 book, *Truro, Cape Cod, As I knew It*, Anthony L. Marshall recounted the history of this former blacksmith shop. The shop was originally a stable on the John Elliott estate on Prince Valley Road in South Truro. Sometime after 1910, it was purchased by Anthony Marshall's

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uncle, Manuel J. Marshall. He flaked the stable to its present location and reassembled it for a blacksmith shop. Marshall was a horseshoer and carriage builder and did a great deal of work for local fisheries, including anchors and chains for weir boats, and farm wagon wheels and shafts. With the advent of the automobile, business dwindled, and Marshall closed the shop in ca. 1917.

The building was purchased by the Jordan family for a family garage. In the mid-40s, it was turned into a fish market with an apartment above. Lawrence and Muriel Wright remodeled it and ran it as a restaurant from 1948. In the process of preparing for the 1983 summer season, a propane torch caused a fire that gutted the restaurant. It was rebuilt and opened as a lounge in 1984 and a full-service restaurant in 1985. It continues to operate as a restaurant.

26 Truro Center Road, Eben Paine General Store (ca. 1825-1840, TRU.112). According to the 1989 Form B for this property, this building has housed a variety of commercial interests for more than one hundred years. Records found in the attic indicate a store here as early as 1862, although it may have been used for this purpose much earlier. Through the years it served as a grocery, apothecary, restaurant, and, as of 1989, a sandwich shop. It is perhaps best known in Truro as the site of Eben Paine's store. Paine operated this store from the late-19th century into the 1920s. He carried fruit, meats, vegetables, canned goods, cheese, jams, butter, tobacco, candy, coffee, etc... The building has since been converted to residential use.

48 Truro Center Road, Obadiah Brown Elementary School (1852, TRU.108). This former school serves as the northern terminus to the Truro Center Area. This building has served two important functions in the history of Truro. As referenced above for the Wilder Elementary School at 8 Truro Center Road, in 1851, a special committee appointed to study the status of public education recommended that the town be divided into six districts and build a school for each district. A year later the town voted to build six schools. This school was originally located 2.5 miles south on Old County Road.

Truro's loss of population in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century led to the closure of this school. In 1895, it was sold to the Bishop of Fall River and was flaked and moved to its present location. It was dedicated and named Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church that same year. During its first several years, all services were in Portuguese conducted by Rev. Fr. Manuel C. Terra who also served St. Peter's Church in Provincetown. People of Portuguese ancestry as well as others would walk or come by horse and carriage from throughout Truro. A second Catholic church was built on Pond Road in North Truro in 1912. This church was still active at the time the 1989 Form B was prepared. The building has since been sold and converted to residential use.

## Residential Resources

There are a total of 11 single family dwellings in the Truro Center Area. Five of them predate 1900, three were built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, two in the 1960s, and one in 2005 (included for continuity). The following is a summary of how some of those houses connected to historic contexts in Truro.

3 Castle Road (ca. 1790-1820, TRU.111). The original owner of this house is unknown, but by the early-19<sup>th</sup> century it was owned by Samuel C. Paine, one of the Longnook Area Paines. Samuel Paine (1824-1901) was alternately listed in Census records from 1850 to 1900 as a farmer, druggist, town clerk and treasurer, and postmaster. Paine kept the Truro Center post office in the ell of his house. That tradition was continued by subsequent owners until at least 1935.

15 Truro Center Road (ca. 1785, TRU.115). This is the oldest house in the Truro Center Area.<sup>2</sup> The original owner of this house is unknown, but this house was the subject of extensive research by the Truro Historical Society, the results of which were included with the 1985 version of the Form B. In 1841, Mary Snow sold this property to Ebenezer Lombard. That deed referred to the property as the "homestead of John Snow, deceased." The deed further states that the property was conveyed by two deeds to Snow – one by Andrew Collins (1721-1805), the other by his sister, Ruth Collins (1719-1786).

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that almost all records were lost in a fire at the Barnstable Registry of Deeds in 1827. As a result, without physical evidence, dating pre-1827 houses is speculative.



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Ebenezer Lombard was a mariner. He sold the property, with dwelling house and barn, to William Atkins and Uriah Rich. Rich (1827-1909) was listed as a seaman in Census records. In 1901, members of the Rich family sold the house to Thannie Dyer. Dyer lived in the west side of the house and rented the east portion to summer visitors. Dyer also donated a portion of the land for the site of the Cobb Library, built in 1912. The house was sold in 1921 to Phyllis Duganne. Duganne (1899-1976) was a writer, best known as a short story writer for leading women's magazines, such as *Ladies Home Journal*.

23 Truro Center Road (ca. 1790-1820, TRU.118). This house was in the Ryder family, one of Truro's oldest, at least as far back as the 1840s. It may have been the house of Capt. Samuel Ryder, a trader who moved to the western United States in 1851. It was later the house of Solomon and Laurena Ryder. Solomon Ryder (1845-1918), like so many of Truro's men at that time, began working at sea while young and then became a farmer, in his case a fruit farmer (possibly referring to cranberries). His wife, Laurena, kept the Truro Center library in one room of the house until the construction of Cobb Library in 1912. She was the named as the first librarian of that library.

28 Truro Center Road (ca. 1838, TRU.110). This history of this house touches on many of Truro's historic contexts. This house was built on land that Amasa Paine purchased in 1838. He had married Susannah Freeman in 1836. The Paine family were one of the founding families of Truro. Amasa Paine (1811-1882) was involved in the maritime industry – he was listed as a fish inspector in early Census records. He was later listed as a trader/merchant.

The house was purchased in 1899 by Lorenzo Dow Baker. Baker (1840-1908), sometimes referred to as the Banana King, was born on Bound Brook Island and went to sea at age 10. He became a ship's captain and, in 1870, began purchasing bananas in Jamaica to be shipped to Boston, founding what became United Fruit Company. He was Wellfleet's wealthiest citizen and owned an enormous number of properties, most in Wellfleet, but many also in Truro, including this house, the 1826 John Creel Knowles House next door at 34 Truro Center Road (TRU.109), and 74 Depot Road (TRU.318). Baker died in 1908, but this house was kept by his heirs until 1924.

The house was purchased in 1924 by Manuel J. Marshall, Truro's last blacksmith, who owned the blacksmith shop property across the street, 17 Truro Center Road (TRU.116). Marshall was related to the Marshalls of Depot Road - Portuguese immigrants who took up a variety of occupations in Truro, including farming, carpentry and blacksmithing.

In 1938, the Marshall family sold the property to Clarence Day, Jr. of NY, NY. Like so many houses in Truro at this time, the house was subsequently used as a summer home. Day (1874-1935) was a cartoonist, long-time *New Yorker* contributor, and author, most notably of the book *Life with Father* (1935), which later became the basis for a long-running Broadway play, and then a movie starring William Powell and Irene Dunne. The house remains in the Day family.

44 Truro Center Road (ca. 1927, TRU.407). This house appears to have been built in ca. 1923 by Arthur S. Joseph (b. 1898). Joseph, who immigrated to Truro from the Azores as a child, was listed in the 1930 Census as the caretaker of a doctor's institute. The house was constructed on the site of the ca. 1870 John Enos House (TRU.167), which was moved to 107 South Pamet Road in ca. 1923.

In the late 1800s, Enos purchased neighboring plots from several local landowners to create a large lot near Truro Center. In 1895, he and his family, who owned considerable land between Town Hall Road and Rt. 6A, donated the land upon which Sacred Heart Church now stands (48 Truro Center Road, TRU.108). In 1919, his son, John Enos, Jr., sold the property, including the ca. 1870 house, to Clayton W. and Bertha Welles of Wethersfield, CT (b. 1883). Clayton Wells was the state manager of Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford, CT. At the time that they purchased the property, it stretched from what is now First Parish Lane on the west to beyond modern Route 6 to the east. Arthur S. Joseph purchased it from Welles in 1923, moved the original house to land Welles had bought in 1919 on South Pamet Road, and built the current structure.



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[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Vital records

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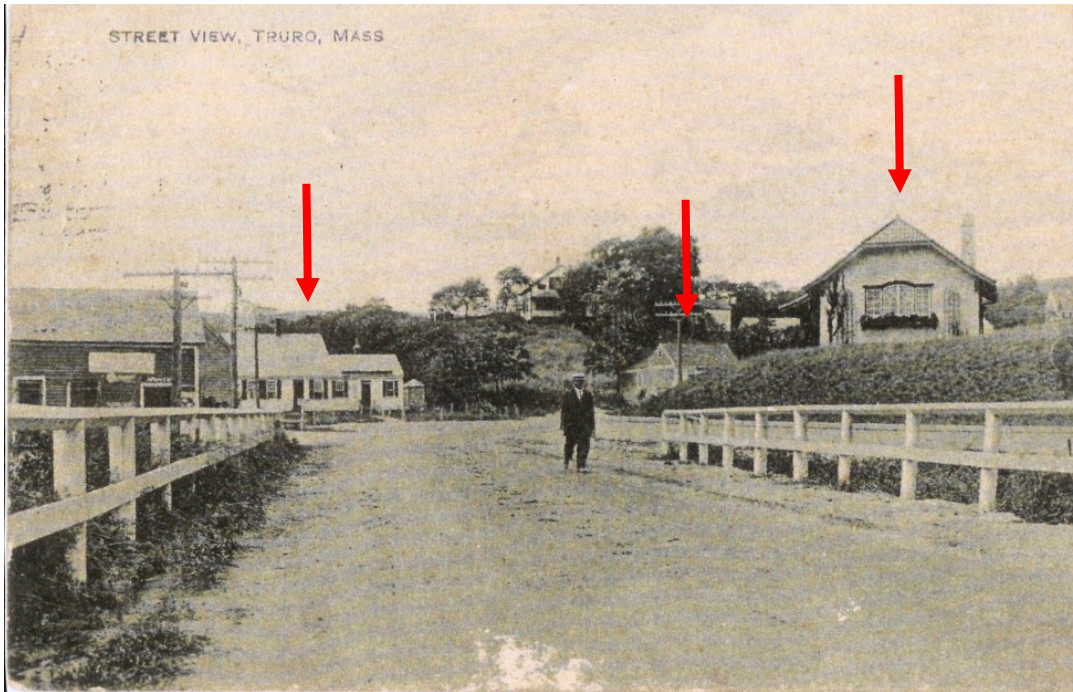


Figure 1. Ca. 1915 postcard view (Courtesy: Truro Historical Society). Extant resources include, from l-r, 3 Depot Road, Eben Paine General Store at 24 Truro Center Road, and Cobb Memorial Library at 13 Truro Center Road (arrows added).

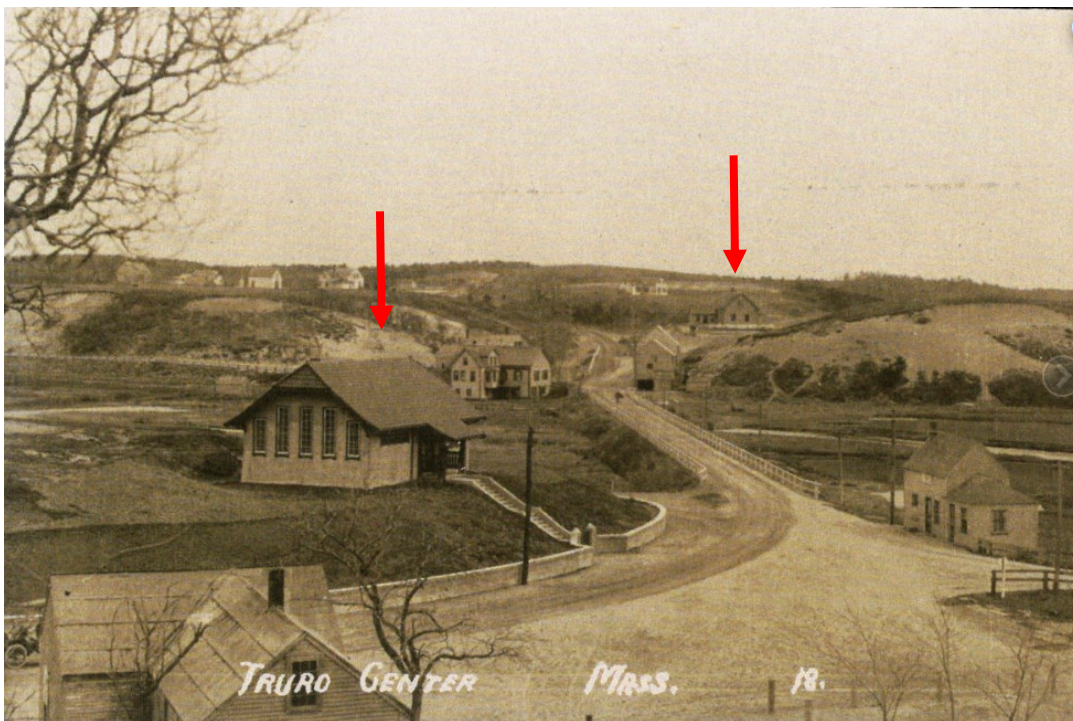


Figure 2. Ca. 1915 postcard view, looking south (Courtesy: Truro Historical Society). Extant resources include, from l-r, Cobb Library at 13 Truro Center Road and Wilder Elementary School at 8 Truro Center Road (arrows added).



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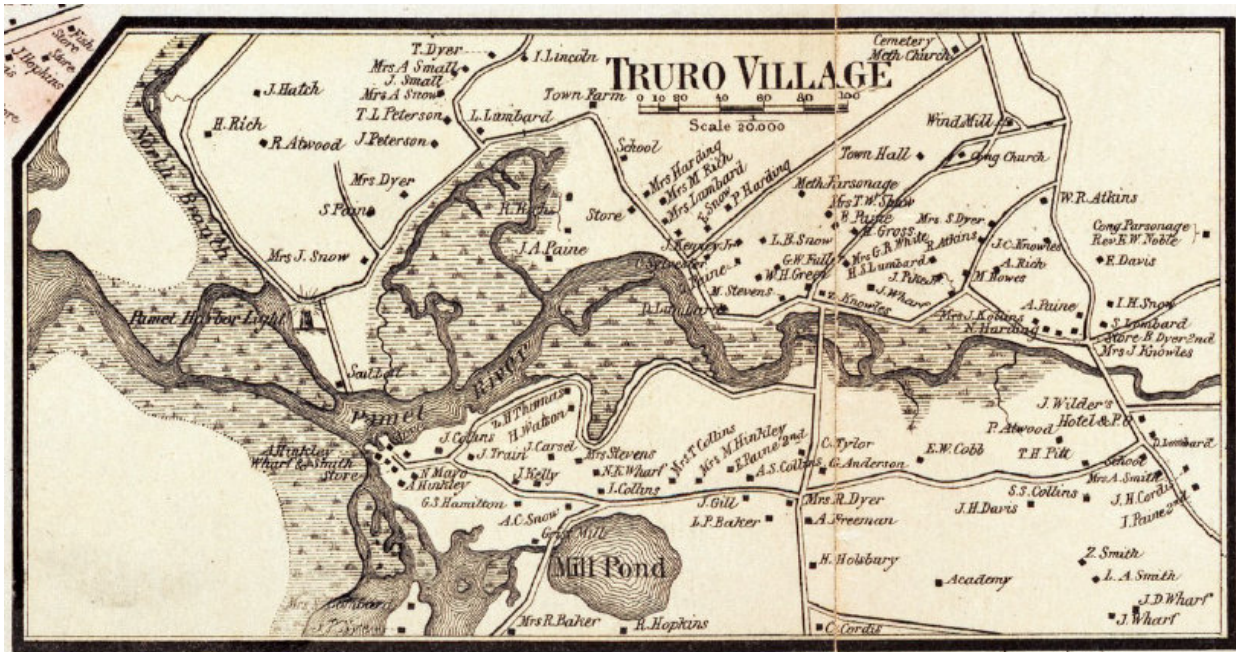


Figure 3. Inset map of Truro Village from 1858 Map of Cape Cod.



Photo 2. View from Truro Center Road, looking south.



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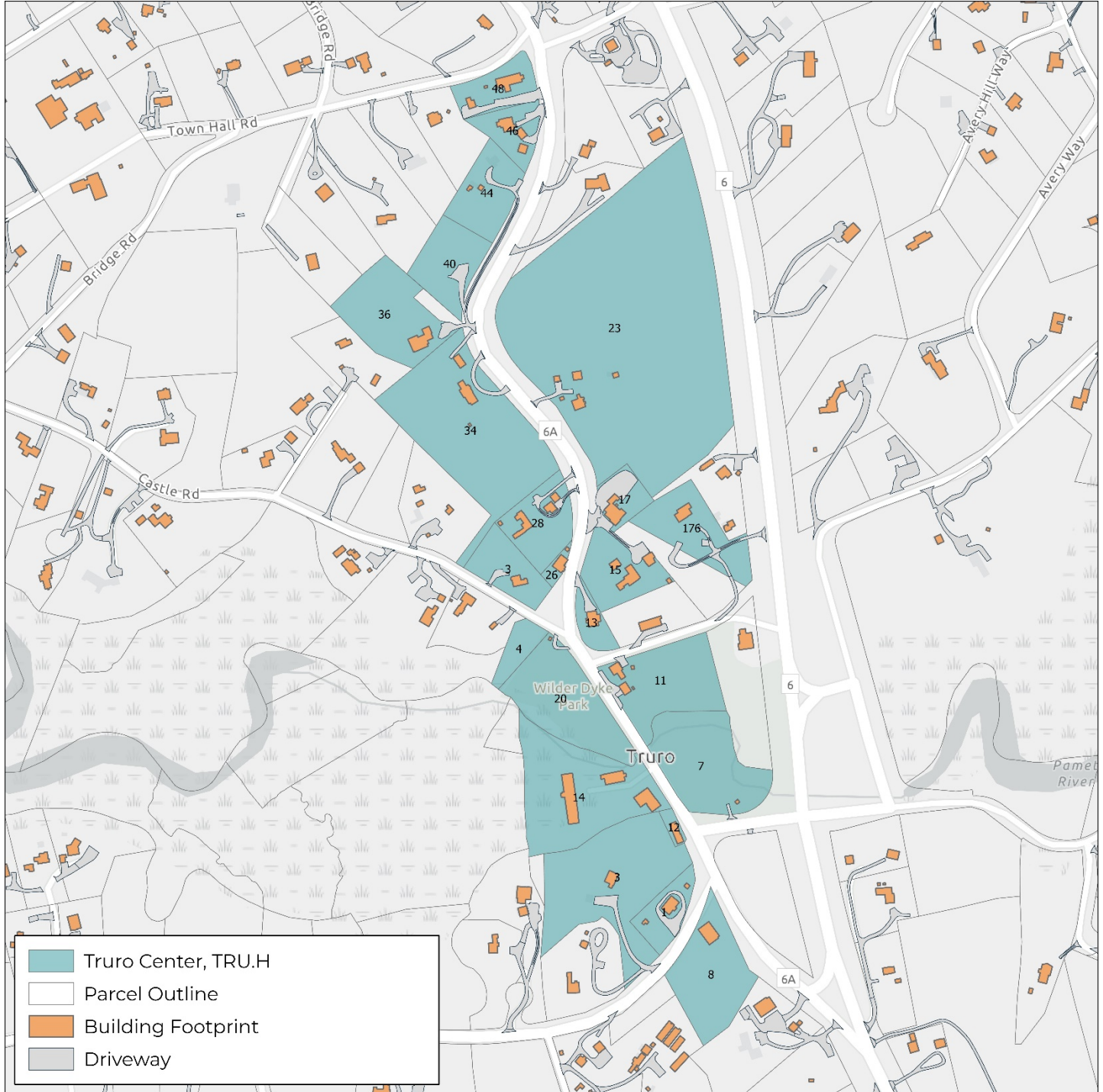
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## LOCUS MAP



Prepared for Truro Historical Commission by Cape Cod Commission.

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## DATASHEET

PHOTOS	ST#	STREET NAME	MHC B#	MHC AREA	MHC YEAR	ASSESS YEAR	HISTORIC NAME	STYLE, FORM, DESCRIPTIVE NOTES	MAP	PAR	EXT	NR C/NC
	3	CASTLE RD	111	H	1805 R		Paine, Samuel C. House	Federal, Three-quarter Cape Photo: 2019 Assessor See Form B TRU.111	50	147	0	C
	4	CASTLE RD		H	2015 C		Truro Veterans Memorial	Granite marker Photo: 2022 Site of Fire Station (1938, TRU.117), DEMOLISHED	50	152	0	NC
	1	DEPOT RD	1158	H		1988		Photo: 2016 Assessor (Office and 2-bed apartment)	51	18	0	NC
	3	DEPOT RD	1159	H		2005		Photo: 2020 Assessor (Single-family dwelling)	50	289	0	NC
	176	RT 6	393	H	1915 C (poss. older)		Lee, Margaret House	Greek Revival, gable-front See Form B TRU.393	51	70	0	C
	7	TRURO CENTER RD						Vacant	51	12	0	NC
	8	TRURO CENTER RD	113	H	1852		Wilder Elementary School/Truro Center Post Office	Greek Revival, side-gable, rear alterations/additions See Form B TRU.113	51	20	0	C
	11	TRURO CENTER RD	1160	H		1930		One-story cottage Photo: Assessor (undated) No Form B	51	10	1	C

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PHOTOS	ST#	STREET NAME	MHC B#	MHC AREA	MHC YEAR	ASSESS YEAR	HISTORIC NAME	STYLE, FORM, DESCRIPTIVE NOTES	MAP	PAR	EXT	NR C/NC
	11	TRURO CENTER RD	1161	H		1983		One-story, side-gable, office Photo: Assessor (undated) No Form B	51	10	2	NC
	12	TRURO CENTER RD	1162	H		1952		Two side-gable buildings connected by hyphen, real estate office Photo: Assessor (undated) No Form B	51	17	0	C
	13	TRURO CENTER RD	114	H	1912		Cobb Memorial Library	Craftsman, one-story, side-gable Clock and Chimes, TRU.911 (1930) National Register Ind. (2013) See Form B TRU.114	50	149	0	C
	14	TRURO CENTER RD	1163	H		2003		1 1/2-story commercial building, Jams Market Photo: 2018 Assessor No Form B	50	155	1	NC
	14	TRURO CENTER RD	1164	H		1971		One-story commercial block Photo: 2021 Assessor No Form B	50	155	2 to 6	C
	15	TRURO CENTER RD	115	H	1785	C	Snow, John House	Federal, Full cape, rear ells/additions Photo: 2019 Assessor See Form B TRU.115	50	150	0	C
	15	TRURO CENTER RD	115	H		1890	Converted garage apartment	Photo: 2019 Assessor Not dated in Form B, 1890 is Assessor date	50	150	0	C



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PHOTOS	ST#	STREET NAME	MHC B#	MHC AREA	MHC YEAR	ASSESS YEAR	HISTORIC NAME	STYLE, FORM, DESCRIPTIVE NOTES	MAP	PAR	EXT	NR C/NC
	16	TRURO CENTER RD	1165	H		1973		Truro Center Post Office Shares parcel boundary with 14 TRURO CENTER ROAD Photo: Assessor (undated)	50	155	7	C
	17	TRURO CENTER RD	116	H	1870	C	Marshall, Manuel J. Blacksmith Shop	No Style, additions Blacksmith Restaurant Photo: Assessor (undated) See Form B TRU.116	50	139	0	C
	20	TRURO CENTER RD		H			Town park	Vacant	50	153	0	NC
	23	TRURO CENTER RD	118	H	1805	R	Ryder, Soloman House	Federal, Full Cape Photo: 2019 Assessor Garage/shed (1998) See Form B TRU.118	50	135	0	C
	26	TRURO CENTER RD	112	H	1832	R	Eben Paine's General Store	No Style, one-story, side-gable See Form B TRU.112	50	148	0	C
	28	TRURO CENTER RD	110	H	1838	C	Paine, Amasa House	Federal, Three-quarter Cape, side ell Photo: 2020 Assessor See Form B TRU.110	50	138	0	C
	28	TRURO CENTER RD	110	H	1910	C	Marshall-Day cottage/garage	Colonial Revival Photo: 2020 Assessor See Form B TRU.110	50	138	0	C
	34	TRURO CENTER RD	109	H	1826		Knowles, John Creel House	Federal, two-story, hip roof See Form B TRU.109	50	134	0	C



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PHOTOS	ST#	STREET NAME	MHC B#	MHC AREA	MHC YEAR	ASSESS YEAR	HISTORIC NAME	STYLE, FORM, DESCRIPTIVE NOTES	MAP	PAR	EXT	NR C/NC
	34	TRURO CENTER RD	109	H	1900	C	Outbuilding	Photo: Assessor 2020 Not dated in Form B, MHC date is from current surveyor	50	134	0	C
	36	TRURO CENTER RD	1166	H		1965		Photo: Assessor (undated) No Form B	50	133	0	C
	40	TRURO CENTER RD	1216	H		2018		Postwar Traditional Photo: 2018 Assessor	50	295	0	NC
	44	TRURO CENTER RD	407	H	1923	C	Joseph, Arthur S. House	Vernacular, Four-Square See Form B TRU.407	50	126	0	C
	46	TRURO CENTER RD	1167	H		1960		Postwar Traditional Photo: 2020 Assessor Outbuildings: 1-story cottage (1973), 1 1/2-story cottage (2007) No Form B	46	284	0	C
	48	TRURO CENTER RD	108	H	1852		Obadiah Brown Elementary School/ Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church	Greek Revival, Meetinghouse See Form B TRU.108	46	283	0	C

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

As evidenced by the inset map of Truro Village in the 1858 *Map of Cape Cod* (Figure 3), the Truro Center Area was considered part of the larger Truro Village which comprised the land on both sides of the Pamet River. As such, Truro Center's historic development should be understood as interrelated with the development of Depot Road-Pamet Harbor (TRU.G), Castle Hill-Snow Village (TRU.L, Q), and the Hill of Churches (TRU.D). The eligibility of the Truro Center Area for the National Register should be considered in concert with the other two Areas surrounding Pamet Harbor. The Hill of Churches, while connected historically, is now physically disconnected from the other Areas.

Truro Center is recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Maritime History. The Area contains many buildings connected to Truro Village's historical development beginning as a small maritime village in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. With the rise of coastal and deep-sea fishing and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The full length of Pamet Harbor was navigable and from the 1830s into the 1850s, Pamet Harbor emerged as the economic and civic center of the town. As Truro's prosperity became linked to the Pamet River, the seat of government was moved from North Truro to the hill above Pamet River to the north (Hill of Churches, TRU.D). Economic prosperity linked to maritime activity led to the construction of many additional dwellings, especially during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

As a center of Truro activity, and the site where the original north-south road crossed the Pamet River, Pamet Center was the location for a number of commercial and institutional resources dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, many of which are extant. Truro Center includes the former Eben Paine General Store (26 Truro Center Road, ca. 1825-1840, TRU.112); the only extant blacksmith shop in Truro (17 Truro Center Road, ca. 1870, TRU.116), and three significant institutional buildings - two schools from 1852, and the 1912 Cobb Memorial Library (13 Truro Center Road, TRU.114, NRI 2013). The former school at 48 Truro Center Road (Obadiah Brown Elementary School, TRU.108) is also noteworthy for its adaptive reuse. It was moved from South Truro to this location in 1895 and converted into the first of Truro's two Catholic churches to accommodate Truro's growing population of Portuguese immigrants.

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Truro Center is also recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. Starting in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, maritime activity declined significantly, due in large part to Pamet Harbor silting up in the 1860s. This led to a decline in Truro's population that lasted into the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. The decline in maritime activity was eventually replaced by the rise of a seasonal/resort economy. The greatest impetus for this in Truro was the completion in 1873 of the Old Colony Railroad through Truro to Provincetown, which included a station on Pamet Harbor at the west end of Depot Road. The railroad was initially used to transfer goods from the canning and cold storage facilities associated with the fish processing, but soon became a method of transportation for summer vacationers inspired by Truro's beauty and tranquility.

In the Pamet Center Area, in addition to the ownership of many houses along Truro Center Road shifting from local maritime families to seasonal residents, the emergence of a seasonal economy was reflected in the conversion of the aforementioned blacksmith shop into a restaurant in 1848 (still in operation).

Truro Center is recommended as eligible under Criterion C at the local level. Taken together with Depot Road-Pamet Harbor (TRU.G) and Castle Hill-Snow Village (TRU.L, Q), these Areas comprise the largest concentration of historic buildings in Truro. In Truro Center, there are a total of 11 single-family dwellings, including five built before 1900. Two have the Full Cape form and two have the Three-quarter Cape form. All five pre-1900 houses are good examples of the Federal style. Non-residential resources include the two 1852 Greek Revival-style schools 8 Truro Center Road (TRU.113) and 48 Truro Center Road (TRU.108). The former Obadiah Brown School at 48 Truro Center Road also has alterations that are significant for the building's adaptive reuse in 1895 into a Catholic church, including a bell tower and new entrance vestibule. The most significant building in the Area architecturally is the Craftsman-style Cobb Memorial Library (13 Truro Center Road, 1912, TRU.114, NRI 2013). It represents the highest style example of Craftsman architecture in Truro.

Truro Center possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. There are few non-contributing intrusions, and the streetscape retains its historic character.