

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WTI.8
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Travelors Home - Tiasquam House - Howes House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Vineyard Open Land Foundation Business Office
<b>Address:</b>	1042 State Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	West Tisbury
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Tisbury;
<b>Local No:</b>	32-97;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1850
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Hotel or Inn; Single Family Dwelling House;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Community Planning; Conservation;
<b>Area(s):</b>	WTI.A, WTI.D
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (11/30/1982);
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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LHD 11/30/82

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

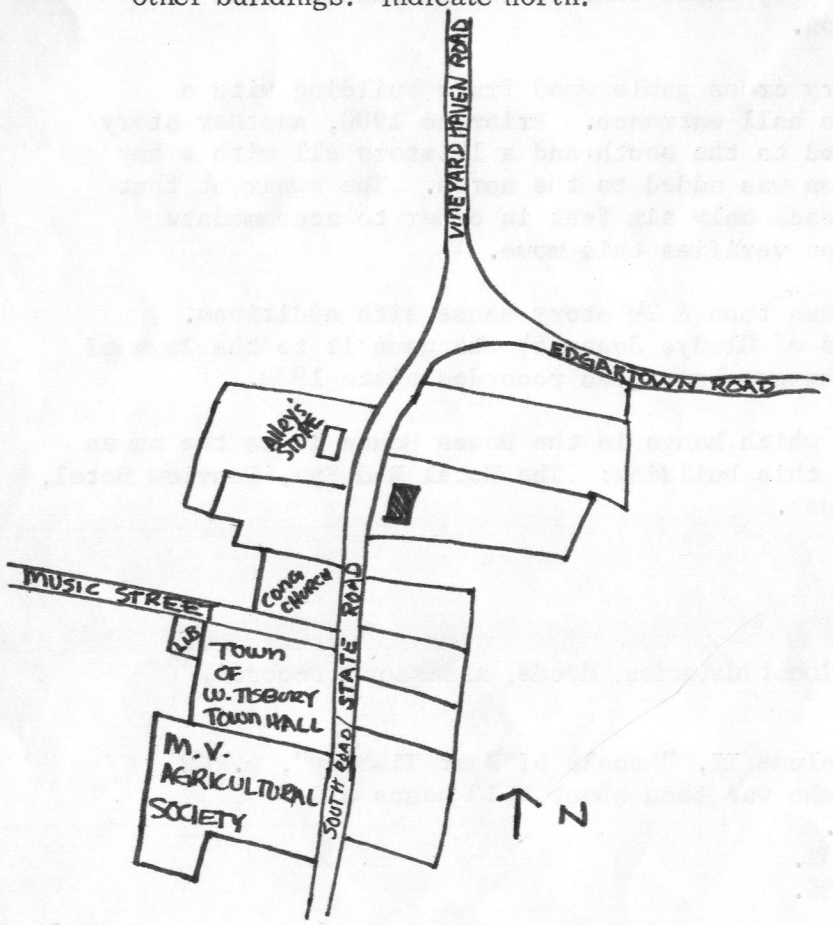
In Area no. <u>D.A</u>	Form no. <u>8</u>
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A (32-97) PL-W.T.15



Town West Tisbury  
 Address South Road  
 Name Howes House  
 Present use Office for Vineyard Open Land Foundation and Vineyard Conservation Society  
 Present owner Town of West Tisbury  
 Description:  
 Date ca. 1850  
 Source History of Martha's Vineyard, by Banks, Volume II, p.100  
 Style Vernacular

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric stained shingle  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features varied roofline; broken pedimented dormer window; several porch additions and extensions; bay window; varied fenestration: 2/2, 1/1, and 6/6  
 Altered extensive Date prior to 1900  
 Moved 6' from road Date 1900

5. Lot size:  
 One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre 1.6  
 Approximate frontage 165'  
 Approximate distance of building from street 30'  
 Recorded by Sally Cox  
Victoria L. DiStefano  
 West Tisbury Historic District Study Organization Committee/Martha's Vineyard Commission  
 Date 11/10/79

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use \_\_\_\_\_ as an Inn \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_ a succession of Inns \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	<u>  x  </u>	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	<u>  x  </u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>  x  </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This house is first mentioned in History of Martha's Vineyard by Charles Banks(1): "on the opposite side of the road from the old Cathcart house stands the building known in 1850 as the Traveler's Home, then kept by William Athearn and in later years called the Tiasquam House".

The records in the Registry of Deeds (3) shows that it was purchased by an Athearn in 1862 from a Silas Nickerson.

The original structure was a two-story cross gable wood frame building with a shallow granite foundation and a side hall entrance. Prior to 1900, another story was added, a two-story porch was added to the south and a 1½ story ell with a bay window and one story kitchen extension was added to the north. The owner at that time, a New Yorker, moved the house back only six feet in order to accommodate a front yard. The basement foundation verifies this move.

Sold to Joseph Howes in 1921 (4) it was then a 2½ story house with additions. The house later passed into the hands of Gladys Jones(5) who gave it to the Town of West Tisbury in 1976. No exterior changes have been recorded since 1900.

A photograph taken between 1890-1898 which hangs in the Howes House lists the names of former inns which were located in this building: The Hotel Red Eye, Seaview Hotel, Traveler's Home, and the Tiasquam House.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- (1) History of Martha's Vineyard, Volume II, "Annals of West Tisbury", p.100
- (2) Memories of Mr. Willis Gifford who was then about 9-10 years old.
- (3) Registry of Deeds Book 42, p.16.
- (4) Registry of Deeds Book 340, p.232.
- (5) Registry of Deeds Book 371, p.138.



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST TISBURY

1042 State Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D	8
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**Addendum prepared by PAL, September 2009**

**Property Name:** Howes House

**Map-Lot:** 32-097

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

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

There have been no significant changes to the property since the most recent inventory form was submitted.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

See Form A for WTL.D.

## Photograph



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