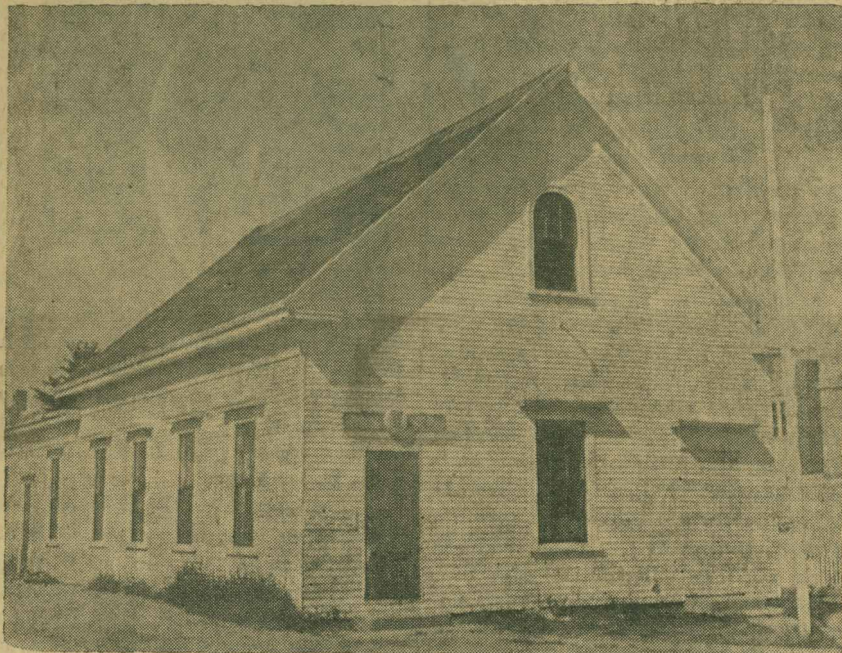


(Conant Street is in between Atlantic Avenue and Montello St.)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1958 - NEW BEACON

Progress and Victorian Landmark Come Face to Face



Readin', Ritin' and 'Rithmetic were drummed into many a local boy and girl here.

This week work will be begun to tear down another remnant of our Victorian age; the original Conant Street school, built in 1869, and most recently headquarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In its place will be additional parking space for the Bonnie Doone Restaurant, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Cabral.

According to records in the office of Francis Alves, Civil Engineer, the land on which the school now stands was owned by Abigail and Silas Loomis, and was bought by the town of Provincetown after Mr. and Mrs. Loomis had passed on. Richard E. Nickerson, acting as attorney for their estate conveyed the land to the town in 1869, and shortly afterwards the school was constructed.

Known to many as the "baby school," because first and second graders were taught there, the Conant Street School was in existence until about 1931. Mrs. Mary Rogers, who taught there from about 1928-31, tells us that in its last years, the school held only classes for retarded pupils. There were two schoolrooms, one holding the older boys,

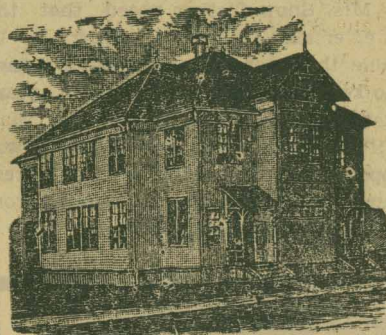
taught first by the late Mrs. Mary O'Neill, and after she went to Boston, by Mrs. Ethel Collinson. Mrs. Rogers had the class in the other room, made up of the younger boys and the girls. Each class had from twelve to fifteen students who were taught all the regular school curriculum, adapted to their needs, as well as arts and crafts. With the closing of the Conant Street School, the retarded classes were moved over to quarters in the Bradford Street School, now the Community Center.

During the lifetime of our town, many schools have come and gone. The first school seems to have been held as far back as 1795, when the lower floor of the Masons' House, built for King Hiram's Lodge, was made into two schoolrooms. That building stood until not too long ago at 119 Bradford Street.

There seem to have been three schoolhouses before 1828, when six school districts were created in the town and three additional schools built. One was near West Vine Street, one near Atlantic Avenue, and one near the Eastern School (still standing on

the corner of Howland and Commercial, and owned by the Morris Light Post, American Legion.) These six schools were ungraded and were used until 1844, when the Western, Center and Eastern schools were built. Each of these had three grades, Primary, Intermediate and Grammar.

Provincetown's first High School was established in 1849 and was held in the vestry of the old Methodist Church, who received a weekly rent of seventy-five cents from the town for the use of their building. A High School was

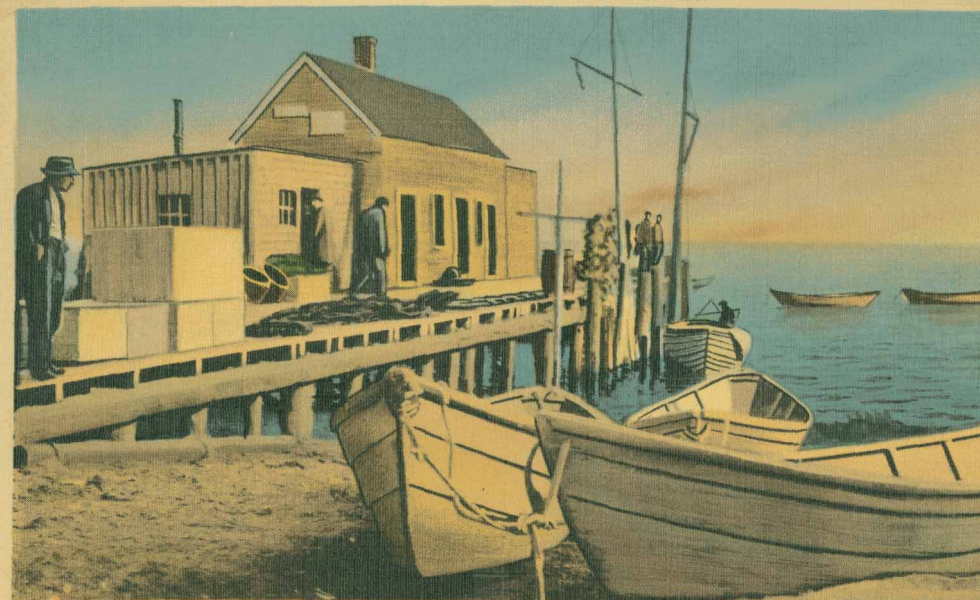


Old High School

erected on the hill in 1894, subsequently burning in a spectacular night-time fire in 1930 and rebuilt.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars sold their headquarters, the Conant Street School in May and are constructing a new home on Jerome Road. Mr. and Mrs. Cabral, who purchased the school property, which is adjacent to their Bonnie Doone Restaurant, are having the old building torn down to provide additional parking space for their customers.

FISH WHARF, PROVINCETOWN, CAPE COD, MASS.



47654

1935 - Same wharf as in foregoing photo card



ATLANTIC AVENUE, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

1921