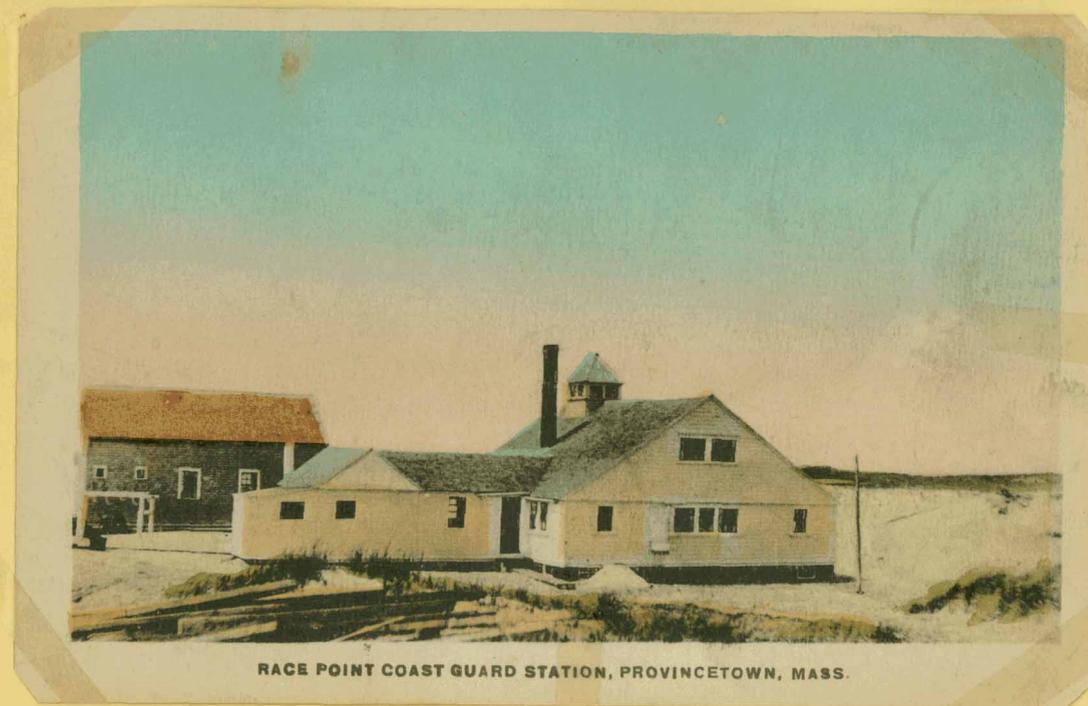




The Old Life Saving Station - - 1905



The Old Station - - 1908



The Old Station - 1907

December 3, 1883: The schooner Oliver Ames, of Taunton, bound from Gardiner, Maine, to Richmond, Virginia, with a cargo of ice, and having a crew of seven, stranded at half past two in the morning off Race Point Station, within a few hundred yards of the station. The weather was very tempestuous, the wind being fresh from the northward, with frequent snow squalls. The night also was extremely dark and the seas high and dangerous. The schooner was sighted by the westerly patrol from the station a few moments before she struck, but his signal flare was of no avail, as she fetched up on the bar while his signal flare was still burning. He hurried to the station and reported, and in a few minutes the lifesaving crew were out with their surf-boat. On attempting to launch in the heavy surf, the boat was thrown back on the beach full of water. Not discomfited by this the boat was quickly bailed out and a second attempt was made, but with the same result. The third time the lifesaving crew got well afloat, but as they were beginning to fancy themselves all right a heavy comber

took the boat and tossed it end over end and the crew were all thrown floundering into the surf. Fortunately two of the men had been left in reserve upon the beach, and with their assistance those in the water were hauled safely out. Seeing there was no chance of getting to the vessel in the boat in the darkness and against such a tremendous sea, the keeper ordered the beach apparatus brought from the station. The crew were gone only a few minutes but in that short time she had been driven over the bar much nearer the shore. Just as the shot was being readied to fire the vessel's yawl-boat was seen coming through the breakers. The lifesavers rushed in waist deep and drafted the small boat through the breakers. Only part of the schooner's crew were in it, and it was full of water. The sailors had brought a line ashore and a larger line was attached from the beach by means of which the lifeboat was sent out for the remainder of the crew. The shipwrecked sailors were revived with warm stimulants and sent on to Boston the next day. The schooner was salvaged four days later.