



A Coast Guard boat aids in the battle against the fire that swept through buildings on Macara's Wharf in Provincetown Saturday morning, during which two firemen were injured

and half a dozen others treated for smoke inhalation. Another picture on Page 2. (Coast Guard Photo)

Cape-tip landmark razed

Historic wharf burns

By NEIL NICKERSON
PROVINCETOWN — A spectacular fire virtually destroyed one of the last old shore-front landmarks Saturday, the 100-foot building on Macara's wharf.

The alarm was sounded at 11:20 a.m. It took more than an hour and a half for firefighters to control the conflagration. In charge of firefighters were Deputy Chief Joseph Trovato and District Chief of No. 3 District, James F. Meads. Fire Chief Russell Perry was out of town.

Two members of the department were treated for injuries, and at least a half dozen others were treated for inhalation of the intense black smoke.

Vaughn Cabral was treated by a physician for a bruise above the right knee, and John Crave was treated by

the rescue squad for a cut hand.

At the height of the fire, Coast Guardsmen from the Race Point Station manning the 44-foot patrol boat came up to the east side of the wharf and used the boat's fire-fighting equipment to assist firemen.

A fire watch remained on the scene for several hours to quell a further outbreak, but most of the two story building was destroyed.

In recent years, the building, divided into 22 units, had been used by fishermen for storage of fishing gear.

One of the fishermen, Manuel Henrique, owner of the dragger Sea Fox, said he lost two nets and other equipment with an estimated value of over \$3,000. Henrique said the gear was not insured.

Other fishermen lost

everything stored in the 17 other units known to be in use.

While the cause of the fire is unknown, Deputy Chief Trovato and District Chief Mead said its origin is suspicious.

In the past there have been itinerant sleepers on the wharf at night, and the chiefs feel that one may have left something smoldering Saturday morning which could have caused the blaze.

The fire started in the southern part of the building and swept north. Many lobster pots stored on the outside of the building were saved by being tossed overboard into the harbor.

Owner of the wharf is Joseph E. Macara, who also owns Land's End Marine Supply Co. Macara estimated loss of the building at between

\$7,000 and \$8,000. He plans to raze the remains of the burned structure and clean up the dock, which, he said, appeared relatively undamaged.

Macara's Wharf is about 100 feet east of the town-owned McMillan wharf and has been owned by Macara since 1943. When he purchased the property, Macara said, there was an old sail-maker, Provincetown's last, James Maguire using the building which Macara estimated had already been there for about 100 years.

It was once known as Hilliard's Wharf, having been owned by the J. D. Hilliard Co. for many years. For a long time prior to Macara's purchase of the wharf, it had been leased to the Higgins Lumber Co. which used it to land lumber.