



THE RAILROAD EXTENDED TO
'SCONSET IN 1884, WITH A DEPOT
BUILT TO THE SOUTH OF GULLY ROAD.

Many of the original shanties in Codfish Park
were transformed into bathhouses.

Codfish Park evolved without much intervention
from the Town of Nantucket, as a news article
from 1915 says: "No civil engineers have yet been
called in; no landscape gardeners have yet been
required; no architects of high technique have
been employed; no highfalutin specialists of any
sort have entered the evolution of the Park."



A FISHERMAN WITH A DRAY (WAGON) FULL OF FISH IN THE LATE 1880S
OR EARLY 1890S. GPN4025



FAMILY IN FRONT OF
CODFISH PARK FISH
HOUSE, c. 1926.

SC662-1

CODFISH PARK

⇒ HISTORY ⇐



AT THE EASTERN END OF NANTUCKET
ISLAND LIES CODFISH PARK, AN
IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE
VILLAGE OF SIASCONSET. HERE, LITTLE
HOUSES TELL BIG STORIES.

Sand moves around the island.
Storms and wave action cause
changes to the beach. A big
storm in 1841 washed away the
area where you are standing
now. Sand accreted throughout
the next four decades,
building up the beach. In
1886, landowner Henry Coffin
put the land in public trust.
Fishermen began to use this
area to launch dory boats. They
built fishing shanties and racks
for drying cod.



CHILDREN IN FRONT
OF 15 BEACH STREET,
A CODFISH PARK
BUNGALOW, c. 1920s.
SC665-28



CODFISH PARK ⇒ VERNACULAR BUNGALOW

The Codfish Park Vernacular Bungalow is a
version of the popular bungalow style seen
elsewhere in America in the early part of
the 20th century. Codfish Park Vernacular
Bungalows have low pitched gable or hip roofs;
exposed roof rafters; porches incorporated into
the roof or front and side elevations, many later
enclosed; windowed doors; and dormers.

Examples of Codfish Park Vernacular Bungalows

- 11 Bank Street
- 27 Bank Street
- 15 Beach Street
- 26 Codfish Park Road
- 32 Codfish Park Road



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'SCONSET TRUST
CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION SINCE 1984

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Historic images courtesy Nantucket Historical Association.

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SIASCONSET



PEOPLE RELAXING ON THE BEACH, c.1930S. SC642-L30

LABOR AND LEISURE

'Sconset is a popular vacation spot. In the 1870s, developers built cottage colonies and grand summer homes along Ocean Avenue, across the footbridge. Many of the people who lived in Codfish Park worked as cooks, domestic workers, drivers, groundkeepers, or otherwise in support of the summer resort economy.

By the 1930s, the neighborhood was a racially diverse group including African Americans, Caribbeans, Irish, and Cape Verdeans.

These working families transformed a mélange of shacks and shanties into a desirable neighborhood. There was a barber shop, concession, and other businesses. One resident of Codfish Park said in a 1996 article in *The Inquirer and Mirror*, of Black families: "We were confined to buying in certain areas. The realtors just didn't show you anything else."



JOHN SALVA'S BARBER SHOP, c. 1920. SC689-24

Like the very sands it sits on, Codfish Park is still changing. Today, historic buildings in Codfish Park are threatened by development pressures. New additions tower over the original buildings, overwhelming the neighborhood. Codfish Park's charm lies the simplicity of its older vernacular buildings.



CODFISH PARK IS ECOLOGICALLY FRAGILE

Violent storms in the early 1990s swept houses out to sea. As sea-levels rise and storms become more frequent, some houses in Codfish Park will have to be moved out of harm's way.



THE REMAINS OF A CODFISH PARK HOUSE BEING REMOVED AFTER A STORM IN 1998. PH05-40E

CODFISH PARK ARCHITECTURE

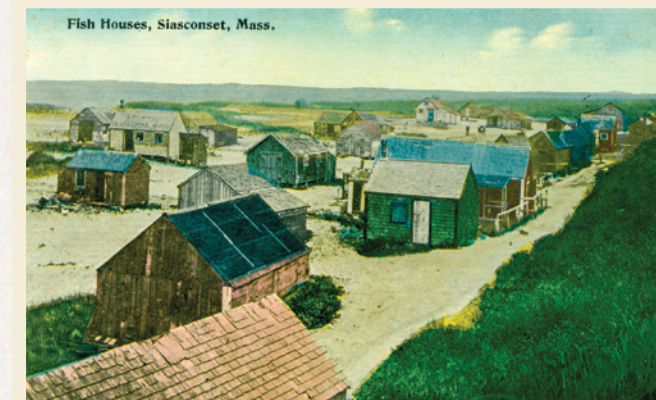
We can learn a lot about Codfish Park from looking at the buildings themselves. As you look around Codfish Park, consider the buildings. Is there ornate woodwork, or are they simple and unadorned? What can the landscape tell us? Are there outbuildings? Tall fences or hedges? Are the gardens formal? What sounds do you hear when you walk around Codfish Park?

Early Codfish Park structures were simple, rectangular-shaped sheds constructed of wood with shingled exteriors and topped with steep gable roofs. They were easily moved about and in some cases were attached to another shed to increase a new dwelling's size.

There are two dominant styles of original architecture you can still see today.



WOMAN IN FRONT OF A CODFISH PARK BUNGALOW WITH HIPPED ROOF, c. 1930S. THIS COTTAGE HAS SINCE BEEN REMOVED. SC642-L38



POSTCARD IMAGE OF FISH HOUSES, c. 1910s.
PC-CODFISHPARK-8

The Codfish Park Fish Houses were first built as uncomplicated structures, used seasonally. These houses are like the Fish Houses found above the bank along Front Street in 'Sconset. The defining exterior features include one-story steeply pitched gable roofs, narrow rectangular footprints, with gable-facing ends, and board and batten doors with small windows.

Examples of Codfish Park Fish Houses

5 Bank Street
15 Bank Street
19 Bank Street
21 Bank Street
8 Jackson Street

10 BANK ST., c. 1930, SINCE
DRAMATICALLY ALTERED.
P21359

