

Advocate  
March 27, 1975

thinking of the man who ordered the demolition of a national historic landmark, and we will never be able to accept it as a necessary act.

We are sincerely grateful for the gesture made by the United States Coast Guard in our behalf. From the beginning, we have expressed our willingness to cooperate with the Coast Guard in seeking a solution for this building. Our report to Rear Admiral Stewart for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Study clearly shows that. Both Lieutenant Thomas Schaeffer and Earl Bessey of the Cortell Associates will tell you that we also strongly endorsed the location of the Search and Rescue Station at the Atlantic Coast Fisheries site on the night of the hearing in Provincetown. Even though we did not agree on the disposition of the building at the day of the hearing, there was never any attempt on our part to use our position of difference to create a problem for the Coast Guard. Our efforts were sincerely supportive of the government choice of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries site, but necessarily differed regarding the location of the Trap Shed from an historical perspective.

Though we have perhaps been denied the opportunity to work out a challenging compromise between the old and the new, we continue to hope that the report which we provided for the Environmental Impact Study, mentioned earlier, will be an important contributive guideline for the construction of your station in the West End of Provincetown.

The Trap Shed remains a symbol of the essence of Provincetown. It was, perhaps, a kind of Herring gull among its architectural brothers, not very special in any way except that it was the last of a kind of building

that once proliferated along the waterfront as the Herring gull proliferates on the sand flats and the dunes. Ideally, we had hoped not to stuff our "gull" and put it landlocked apart from its habitat, but now, even the opportunity to retain the shape of the bird is lost. I hope that, although the Trap Shed is no longer an object in physical focus as you look out to sea, its remembered presence will act as a warning to us all not to treat our heritage lightly.

Josephine Del Deo, Secretary  
Historic District  
Study Committee  
Provincetown

Historic District Committee:

John Bell, Chairman  
Mary Avellar  
Paul Mendes  
George Bryant  
Phyllis Temple  
Edward F. Allodi

Truro

### Trap Shed

Copy of letter to  
Captain L.M. Scherer,  
Chief of Staff  
First District  
United States Coast Guard  
Boston, Mass.

Your telegram reached our committee at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21st. It was read over the phone to me at that time, and has since been received by mail. At approximately 6:00 a.m., Friday, March 21st, the Trap Shed was pulled down by the demolition crew under orders from Bernard Benkowitz. Most of the building now lies on the beach at the site. Many photographs have been taken of the destruction, and we will be glad to make these available to the Coast Guard if you request them.

The Historic District Study Committee wishes to thank you for your reprieve, which, we understand, was made at the request, not only of ourselves, but several government and state as well as local persons and agencies working together for the desired "stay of execution." In the irony of this moment, it is hard for us not to be bitter about the loss, since it was sustained at such a near point of salvation. We do not quite comprehend the