

WESTERLY ON COMMERCIAL STREET, "WAY UP ALONG," SHOWING PROVINCETOWN'S OLDEST HOUSE



Soper Street, right. -- 1925 -- Arrow: Capn Jack's Wharf. Octagon Inn is on right corner of Soper St.

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Sometime you folks, both local and regular summer visitors, wonder about the names of our narrow by-ways. Obviously some of them are names of people who had a part in the historic background of the Town. Soper Street is one case and the following item will show how the Soper's interest in the whaling industry fleet caused the private way to be called Soper Street. The family owned the land and dwellings in the area and also the beach property. The brig, Cadmus, of Provincetown, was built at Essex in 1836. She rated 115 tons, 74 foot length, breadth 19 feet, depth 9 feet. In March of 1845 the brig was registered as permanently of Provincetown and the Master was Robert Soper. The owners, Robert Soper, Samuel Soper, Stephen Nickerson, Isaac Small, Benjamin Small, Polly Small and Enos Nickerson, all of Provincetown. The brig had one deck, two masts, square stern and a billet head, with no galleries. She was previously registered August 21, 1840, at Marblehead, Mass. Later her Provincetown owners listed the whaler as a schooner with no changes in measurements. The Sopers had interest in numerous other vessels and by the records were high on the list of well known operators and captains of whalers, bankers and coasters.

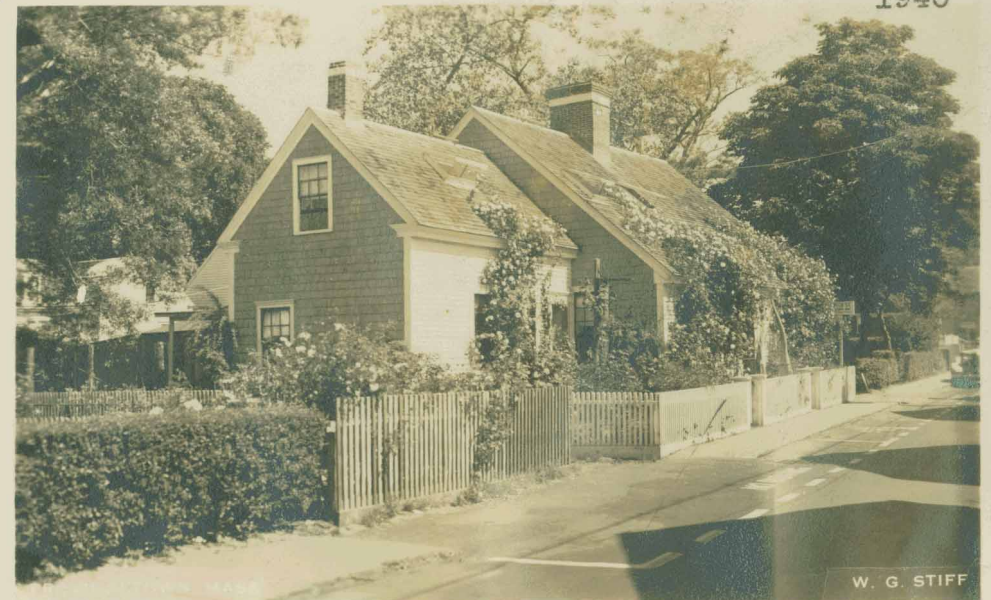
Cape Cod's world-famous cottages have been well-kept. This one, built in 1730, is Provincetown's oldest. Skylights are found in many Cape structures.

73:—The Oldest House, Provincetown, Mass.



Note whalebone gateway.

1940



Here's the old place again with Erickson Avenue on it's left.