

# MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B - BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BLVD  
BOSTON, MA 02125

### Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll	Negative(s)



### Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate

**Town** Provincetown  
**Place** (neighborhood or village)  
**Address** 296A COMMERCIAL ST  
**Building ID** 894  
**Parcel No. (PID)** 11-3-106-0  
**Mapbase #** 11-3-106  
**Building Area** 1614.593  
**Historic Name** Ross Moffett Residence  
**Present Use** Commercial - Lodging  
**Original Use** Residential  
**Date of Construction** 1820  
**Source** The Extremity of Cape Cod. Map, 18  
**Style/Form** Federal  
**Architect/Builder**  
**Exterior Material** Wood shingle  
**Foundation** brick  
**Wall/Trim** wood  
**Roof** Side Gable  
**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures**

### Major Alterations (with dates)

Skylights

**Condition** Good  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**  
**Acreage** 0.075  
**Setting**

**Recorded by** Vanessa Zeoli  
**Organization** Kise Straw & Kolodner  
**Date** (month/year) November 2003  
**Form Status**  new  update

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings in the community.*

296A Commercial St. is a 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, Colonial Revival-style, 3/4 cottage; side-gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, skylights; exterior clad in wood shingles with wood corner boards and trim; building sits on a brick foundation; fenestration includes 12/12 wood DHS windows with storms and wood trim, 6/6 wood DHS on right side façade, inoperable louvered shutters; primary entrance has a wood door surround with pilasters and dentil-like trim; brick stoop and patio; secondary entrance on right side façade; rear addition with irregular roof is lit by 6/6 wood DHS and 4/4 wood DHS.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

As per Josephine Del Deo (1977): "The home of Ross and Dorothy Lake Gregory Moffett was used by them for over fifty years as a residence and painting studio. Although Moffett painted in several other locations until 1964, his wife used the premises for her work as a painter and illustrator during most of the period from 1933 to 1975. Ross Moffett was one of the deans of American painting and lived in Provincetown from 1913 to his death in 1971. He was one of the very important painters to come out of the period of painting pre-eminence here from 1915-1960. The other two, Edwin Dickinson and Karl Knaths were his contemporaries, and Dickinson, also a Hawthorne student, was his closest friend. The group of painters just prior to Moffett clustered around Charles W. Hawthorne as the leader in that movement. Knaths and Moffett lived all their lives from 1920-1971 in Provincetown (See No. 8-P)

In addition to his contribution as a painter, Moffett was a local historian (see bibliography below) and an amateur archaeologist. He wrote many treatises of his archaeological findings on the Lower Cape and was appointed the first archaeologist for the Cape Cod National Seashore and when it was established. His great interest in this science was reflected in his painting from the middle of his career to the end. In 1959, Moffett began the conservation effort to save the 3,000 acres of the Province Lands for inclusion in the Cape Cod National Seashore. Others joined him in this, and the original tract of land reserved by the Plymouth Colony for fishing and hunting until the establishments of the Park was passed to the Federal government in 1962 intact. Thus his life was a remarkable combination of achievements: painter, historian, archaeologist and finally conservationist. Men such as Moffett have not been uncommon to this community. Donald B. MacMillan, a native son, William Henry Ryder, Nathaniel Ellis Atwood, Joseph Prosper Johnson and Dr. Vannevar Bush come easily to mind in their various fields of endeavor. Ross Moffett was certainly one of their number and deserves continuing recognition. CONT.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable County Atlas., 1880.  
Barnstable County Atlas., 1907.  
Cape Cod Directory, 1901.  
The Extremity of Cape Cod. Map, 1836.  
H.F. Wallings Co. Map of Provincetown Village. Atlas, 1858.  
Jennings, Herman A. Provincetown. or Odds and Ends from the Tip End. 1890.  
Resident Directory. W.F. Richardson & Co., 1886.  
Resident Directory. W.H. Hopkins, 1889.  
Moffett, Ross. "Art in Narrow Streets. Kendal Press, 1964.  
Ross Moffett Retrospective Catalog, Worcester, MA  
The Provincetown Advocate, articles on Ross and Dorothy Moffett, August 28, 1975.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*