

A Finding Aid to the Jirah Luce House Records

Record Unit 426



Finding aid prepared by Insley Julier in December 2012.

Revised August 2013.

Edgartown, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum
Gale Huntington Research Library
59 School Street
P.O. Box 1310
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-4441

Call Number: RU 426

Creator: Martha's Vineyard Museum. Director's Office

Title: Jirah Luce House records

Dates: 1977-1989, undated

Physical Description: 1 box + 1 map folder (0.677 cubic feet)

Language(s): The materials are in English.

Abstract: The collection consists of institutional records created by the Dukes County Historical Society relating to the restoration of the Jirah Luce House in Vineyard Haven in 1988-1989.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use and Reproduction Restrictions

Requests to reproduce material from this collection should be directed to the library's staff. Reproduction fees may apply.

Preferred Citation

Martha's Vineyard Museum, RU 426, Jirah Luce House Records, Box #, Folder #.

Acquisition Information

These institutional records were created by museum staff and found in the archives of the Gale Huntington Research Library.

Related Materials

See the Sydna White Research Papers, RU 427 for additional photographs and research materials on the Jirah Luce House.

Index Terms**Subjects - Names**

Jirah Luce House (Tisbury, Mass.)
Thomas Cooke House (Edgartown, Mass.)

Subjects - Topics

Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration
Historic buildings--Massachusetts--Vineyard Haven

Subjects - Places

Tisbury (Mass. : Town)
Vineyard Haven (Mass.)

Form/Genre Terms

Architectural drawings
Black-and-white photographs
Chemical analysis
Color photographs
Correspondence
Floor plans
Grant proposals
Negatives
Postcards
Research notes
Structural analysis

Contributors

Ann Beha Associates
Halperin, Marian R.

Biography/Historical Note

The Jirah Luce House, also known as the Ritter House, in Vineyard Haven was nominated and accepted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Built by a local carpenter between 1804 and 1809, the federal style building survived a disastrous 1883 fire in Vineyard Haven. Over the years, the building served variously as a home, rental housing, a retail store, and as office space for the school department. In 1976 the Jirah Luce House was purchased by the Martha's Vineyard Historical Preservation Society and in 1981 it was rented to the newly founded Tisbury Museum. Similar to the Dukes County Historical Society, (predecessor to the Martha's Vineyard Museum), the Tisbury Museum sought to preserve and interpret Vineyard history. By 1988, the Tisbury Museum had elected to merge with the Dukes County Historical Society. The Society purchased the Jirah Luce House in the spring of 1988 and shortly thereafter began planning for the building's restoration. The Society contracted with Ann Beha Associates, an architectural firm specializing in historic preservation and undertook structural analyses of the building, paint analyses and pursued funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to complete the needed restoration work. Ann Beha Associates also examined the Society's Edgartown property, including the Thomas Cooke House.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of institutional records created by the former director of the Dukes County Historical Society, Marian R. Halperin and other staff members. The records relate to the restoration of the Jirah Luce House in Vineyard Haven in 1988-1989. Materials include photographs and negatives, copies of the 1977 nomination and acceptance of the house on the National Register of Historic Places, correspondence with the architectural firm, Ann Beha Associates and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Historical Commission grant applications and pre-applications, a draft structural report, a 1988 paint study undertaken by Andrea Gilmore, an architectural conservator from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and accompanying paint swatches, copies of floor plans and other research materials. The collection also includes a site plan, first floor plan and section of the Thomas Cooke House in Edgartown, Massachusetts executed by Ann Beha Associates, June 13, 1988. The Thomas Cooke House is a historic structure on the Martha's Vineyard Museum's Edgartown campus.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically with architectural drawings listed at the end of the inventory regardless of date.

Collection Contents

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Images	1977-circa 1988, undated
1	2	Images	circa 1982, undated
1	3	National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form	circa 1977
1	4	National Register of Historic Places Acceptance and Certificate	1977
1	5	Report to the Building Committee	1988 January
1	6	Historic Structure Report (Draft)	1988 July
1	7	Paint Study Report	1988 October
1	8-9	Paint Study Munsell Color Match Swatches	circa 1988 October
1	10	Massachusetts Historical Commission Pre-Application	1988 November- December
1	11	Tisbury Historical Commission	1988 December
1	20	Historic Structure Report	1988 December
1	12	Massachusetts Historical Commission Grant Proposal Guidelines	circa 1989
1	13	Correspondence	1989 February- April
1	14	Massachusetts Historical Commission Full Application (Draft)	1989 April
1	15	Restoration Plan	undated
1	16	Report of Ann Beha Associates (Incomplete)	undated
1	17	Copies of Site Plans and Floor Plans	undated
1	18-19	Research Materials	undated
Cabinet	Drawer	Description	Date(s)
MAP 1	10	Thomas Cooke House, Site Plan, First Floor Plan and Section	1988 June 13