

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage

Nags Head, Dare County, DR0605, Listed 1/13/2006
Nomination by Beth Keane
Photographs October 2007, unknown photographer



Overall view



Overall view

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage

other names/site number Stinson's Ranch

2. Location

street & number 4300 West Soundside Road not for publication N/A

city or town Nags Head vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Dare code 055 zip code 27959

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u> </u> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage
Name of Property

Dare County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: Outer Banks cottage

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood
roof Asbestos
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
other Metal

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage
Name of Property

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County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1916

Significant Dates

ca. 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 443220 3977920
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date January, 2005

street & number 2001 Metts Avenue telephone 910-815-1096

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28403

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Billy Stinson

street & number 1718 South Elm Street telephone 252-756-7155

city or town Greenville state NC zip code 27858

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage
Dare County, North Carolina**

Narrative Description

The ca. 1916 Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is located on the Currituck Banks (also known as the Outer Banks) in Dare County, North Carolina. The Currituck Banks are part of a small maritime barrier peninsula incorporating the North Banks communities of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head, and Whalebone Junction. This sandy strip of the Outer Banks is separated from the mainland by the Currituck and Roanoke sounds, adjoining the expanse of the Albemarle Sound. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is located in the town of Nags Head on the west side of West Soundside Road, at the edge of Roanoke Sound.

West Sound Side Road is located just south of Jockey's Ridge State Park and marks the general location of the mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century resort development on Nags Head. Currently the road proceeds west about one-half mile off NC Highway 158, makes a sharp left-hand turn (toward the south) and proceeds parallel to the Roanoke Sound for approximately another one-half mile, and then makes a another sharp left-hand turn and dead ends in about one-quarter mile. Cottages dating from the 1920's through the present line both sides of the road. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is located at the southwest corner of the second turn in the road and sits out in the Sound by itself. Although originally built on a parcel of land known as Lot 12 of the W. J. Griffin Subdivision, erosion of the shoreline has resulted in the submersion of the lot by the waters of the Roanoke Sound and the cottage currently rests on pilings above the water. The side-gable cottage is approached by a wooden walkway, approximately fifty-five feet long, leading from the shore to a wide porch that encircles three sides of the one-and-one-half-story frame cottage.

A ca. 1953 documentary photograph reveals the water at the very edge of the front porch. At that time there was no bulkhead so the water rose and fell as the tide came in. The building was only a few feet above the water, on short pilings in the sand. An Ash Wednesday storm that hit the Outer Banks on March 7, 1962 took out the floor of the cottage. Shortly thereafter, the owners raised the cottage on pilings and added a one-story, south-side shed addition. The original wraparound porch was also rebuilt and cedar shake shingles were attached to the original weatherboard siding on the north, east, and west elevations of the cottage to provide additional protection against the elements. The weatherboards remain exposed on the west elevation as well as on the one-story addition.

The main entrance, consisting of a single paneled door, is centrally located on the north elevation and is flanked by two four-over-four sash windows. A second entrance is centrally positioned on the west gable end of the cottage, while a four-over-four window is positioned opposite this door on the east elevation. A small pump house with its own exterior entrance is attached to the southeast corner of the east gable end. Four-pane awning windows – one in each

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gable end and two on the north and south elevations – are located at the second story. The south-side addition includes four two-over-two windows with horizontal panes – one centered on both the east and west elevations and two on the south elevation. Wood storm shutters with strap hinges cover each window, as well as the entrances.

A wide one-story attached porch with exposed rafters, supported by square posts and enclosed by a simple picket balustrade, provides shelter and outdoor living space on the east, north, and west elevations of the cottage. A second walkway, approximately fifteen feet long, leads from the west side of the porch to a set of steps which descend to a small platform dock floating in the sound. The porch roof is covered with wood shingles, while the cottage roof is a combination of sheet metal and cedar shingles.

The interior of the Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is remarkably intact. The original main block of the cottage contains one large room downstairs, with the kitchen located at the east end. An open staircase ascends along the south wall to the second floor – again consisting of one large room. Pine floor boards and beaded board wall paneling are found throughout the main section of the cottage. Although acoustical tiles cover the ceiling on the first floor, the original beaded board ceiling remains exposed at the second level. The one-story addition includes two equal sized bedrooms separated by a small hall and a bathroom. Knotty pine paneling covers the walls and ceilings of the bedrooms.

The cottage remains simply furnished with much of the early furniture, including three iron beds in the second-level sleeping room. The rustic cottage has never been updated with modern mechanical systems. Breezes off the ocean and the sound provide the only relief from the summer heat. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage continues to serve its original purpose as a relaxing retreat from the complexities and rigors of contemporary life.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The ca. 1916 Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for architecture. The unpretentious side-gable, one-and-one-half story frame building standing on pilings over the waters of the Roanoke Sound is the last remaining cottage built during the transitional period of the early twentieth century when tourists began forsaking the sound side of the island for the lure of the beach. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage embodies the essential characteristics of the Old Nags Head style of architecture as defined by Old Nags Head Beach Cottage Row, a National Register Historic District established in 1977. The cottage's weatherboarded and shingled exterior, steeply-pitched roof, wood batten shutters, and wide wraparound porch define the distinct architectural features of an early-twentieth-century traditional Nags Head beach cottage. Built on a narrow strip of land subdivided by W. J. Griffin in 1910, the cottage has withstood repeated attacks by the elements over a span of eighty-five years. The cottage continues to serve its original purpose of providing a relaxing haven for its owners seeking to escape the demands of city life.

Historical Background

The first permanent white settlers, many of them from England, began to inhabit the Outer Banks in the 1700s, building their homes on the Roanoke Sound side of the island halfway between Hatteras and Corolla. Known as "Bankers," the early families built one-room shacks over the sound's waters and in a wooded mid-island area, "the flats," near the large dunes that loomed over the Nags Head landscape. They led a subsistence lifestyle with their survival dependent on their fishing, hunting, and farming abilities (Rountree, p. 4).

Francis Nixon, a Perquimans County planter, is said to have been the first to bring his family to Nags Head on vacation in the early 1800s; and by the 1830s, other wealthy planters from nearby counties began traveling to the barrier island during the summer months to escape the threat of malaria. They caught steamers at river docks, transporting their children, household slaves, cows, and chickens to the island. Most guests arrived via the *Neuse*, a steam packet that sailed regularly between Elizabeth City and New Bern with stops at Roanoke Island. Visitors disembarked on the west side of Roanoke Island, traveled overland to Manteo from where they would board a sailing vessel for the short trip to Nags Head (Rountree, p. 5).

Early resort development took place on the sound side of the island, facing the mainland across Roanoke Sound and Roanoke Island. In addition to the planters' shingled cottages with their wide piazzas and sheltering live oaks, small hotels including the Nag's Head Hotel, the Lowe's Hotel and the Ocean Retreat, catered to the more transient vacationers. The Ocean Retreat, built in the 1830s, provided accommodations for 200 guests. An 800-foot railway carried guests from the hotel to and from the beach. Although most of the summer visitors were

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from North Carolina, many came from Virginia, and some from the Northeast. A small tourist trade soon sprang up on the banks of the sound with the natives providing horses and carts, fish, and fresh vegetables for the tourists (Rountree, p. 5).

The early cottages built on the sound side were simple buildings, usually one or one-and-a-half stories, shingled or weatherboarded, but typically with a wide piazza, where much of the socializing took place. A typical day included a dip in the ocean before breakfast, perhaps some fishing or horseback riding, a mid-day dinner, an afternoon siesta, another swim, and a visit to one of the hotels for an evening of dance and entertainment (Bishir, p. 8).

Regular pilgrimages to the popular resort were interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War and a number of the buildings were destroyed along with the fortunes of many of the planters. Some of the families were able to hold onto their summer places, however, and soon resumed their annual sojourns to the beach. By the end of the nineteenth century, Nags Head developed into an informal and easygoing family resort. A new hotel and new cottages were built along the sound where the boats still anchored. With the construction of the Old Nags Head pier in the 1890s, passengers could disembark directly onto the Currituck Banks island. It became traditional for women and children to spend the summer at the beach with the husband joining the family for the weekends (Bishir, p. 10).

W. G. Pool, an Elizabeth City doctor, built an oceanfront cottage at Nags Head as early as 1855, but his family did not like the isolation of beachfront living. After the conclusion of the Civil War, he purchased an additional fifty acres of oceanfront property, subdivided the land into 130-foot-wide lots and then sold the lots for a dollar each to his neighbors back home. The families soon built cottages on the lots adjoining the beach and by 1885, thirteen small cabins dotted the sand at the ocean's edge (Rountree, p. 5).

The center of summer social life still revolved around the hotels on the sound side of the island and families continued to build cottages near the sound, as well as on the beach. Several new sound-side hotels were constructed in the early twentieth century including the Albemarle, a large boarding house that stood out over the sound on piers. An open pavilion, built in the sand in front of the hotel, soon became the center of evening social life, replacing the popular Lowe's Hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1903. Additional sound-side hotels included Hollowell's, the LeRoy Hotel, and the Arlington. Steamers, including the *Trenton*, the *Haven Bell*, and the *Vansciver*, began to bring many day trippers from Elizabeth City to Nags Head to enjoy a day of sun and surf (Bisher, pp. 18-19).

On July 22, 1909, Cassie Morrisette, owner of the Arlington Hotel, conveyed a tract of land measuring 150 feet by 200 ft, described as being on Chowan Avenue and adjacent to the sound, to W. J. Griffin for \$200.00 (Deed Book P, p. 3). On January 26, 1910, the State of North

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Carolina granted to W. J. Griffin a tract of land containing 6 5/8 acres on Chowan Avenue along the Roanoke Sound. The deed states that the part from Chowan Avenue to the sound shore was land and contained 2 1/2 acres, while the part from the sound shore to deep water is water and contains 4 1/8 acres (Deed Book P, p. 370). In March, 1910, Griffin subdivided a strip of property approximately 120 feet wide by 1900 feet long into thirty-eight lots, each measuring 50 feet by 120 feet, with fourteen lots on dry ground and twenty-four submerged lots. On August 25, 1916, he sold Lot #12, to J. W. Markham and his wife, Pattie for \$50.00.

Joseph Wallace Markham (b. 6-20-1877, d. 2-10-1949) was from Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County. He married Pattie Wilcox (b. 12-9-1870, d. 4-9-1943), also from Elizabeth City, on June 15, 1899. City Directories list his occupation as a traveling salesman in the mid 1930s and a farmer during the 1940s. The family included a daughter by the name of Margaret. The Markham family is credited with building the cottage as a family vacation retreat. On April 15, 1929, the Markhams sold the property to Eddie Virginia Albertson and his wife, Patti (Deed Book 12, p. 54). The deed mentioned that it was Lot #12 as shown on a certain plat of land deeded to W. J. Griffin by Cassie Morrisette and also part of the land granted to W. J. Griffin by the State of North Carolina (Grant No. 17487). The deed included the conveyance of the furniture in the said house.

Eddie V. Albertson (b. ca. 1894) married Ruebell Sanders (b. ca. 1901) on October 21, 1923. Eddie was the son of Frank and Sarah Albertson and came from a large Pasquotank family that included seven brothers and sisters. The City Directories of Elizabeth City listed his occupation as a farmer during the 1930s and 1940s. The family lived at 313 Martin Street in Elizabeth City and included a son, Edward V. Albertson, Jr. The Albertsons owned the cottage for thirty-one years until it was sold in 1960 to J. F. Hoggard, Jr. and R. J. Gatlin, both of Elizabeth City (Deed Book 97, p. 136). Again the furniture conveyed with the house.

Nags Head had undergone dramatic changes during the years the Albertsons owned the cottage. In 1927, a bill was passed in Congress authorizing the construction of a national monument to the Wright brothers at Kill Devil Hill and land was donated by local property owners for that purpose. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first flight, the cornerstone for the Wright Memorial was laid and by early 1931, actual construction of the memorial was in progress. (Stick, p. 246).

In 1928, a bridge over the Roanoke Sound opened, connecting Nags Head with Manteo on Roanoke Island. A year later, the first pilings were laid for a new bridge over the Currituck Sound to the north. Opening in 1930, this bridge connected the north beach at Kitty Hawk with the mainland. In 1931, workers completed a new paved road connecting Kitty Hawk to Nags Head, allowing cottage owners to drive directly to their summer homes for the first time. The

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bridges on either end of the barrier island gave anyone with an automobile access to the previously exclusive Nags Head resort (Rountree, p. 30).

Steps taken in the 1930s by both the state and federal government to protect the barrier island from erosion included the building of 115 miles of oceanfront dunes and 600 miles of sand fences and the planting of 141 million square feet of American beachgrass by the Civilian Conservation Corp. These measures were backed up by the State Livestock Act of 1935, banning the practice of open grazing on the island. These new bridges and roads, the fences, the dunes, and the monument to man's first flight resulted in an era of unprecedented growth. Increasing numbers of summer cottages and small motels were constructed on the beach side of the island during the 1940s and 50s (Eaton, p. 39).

The Hoggards and Gatlins turned around and sold the cottage on November 2, 1960 to W. J. Jennette (Deed Book 97, p. 138). The Jennette family is responsible for raising the cottage on pilings and adding the one-story bedroom addition, after a March 7, 1962 storm washed out the first-story floor boards of the cottage. Four years later, Jennette and his wife, Lina Belle, sold the property to Edward Lynn Stinson (b. 12-25-1940) and his wife, Virginia D. Stinson of Greenville, for \$5,750.00. Once again, the deed specifically conveys "all household and kitchen furniture contained in and on said premises consisting of all household effects" (Deed Book 123, p. 344).

The Stinson family, including parents E. H. Stinson and Margaret Trivette Stinson and brother, William ("Billy") Stinson and his wife, Sandra Matlock Stinson and their children Erin and Amanda, have enjoyed time spent at the cottage for the past forty-five years. They dubbed the cottage, "Stinson's Ranch," an ironic acknowledgement to the fact that all the land associated with it was underwater. The family took steps to halt the erosion by building a bulkhead and filling in the front part of the lot with soil. They were also responsible for adding shingles over the weatherboards to three sides of the cottage soon after acquiring it in order to provide additional protection against the elements (Billy Stinson interview, January 21, 2005). The family has been a true steward of the property, repairing material when necessary and replacing pilings as they deteriorate, but retaining the quintessential manifestation of an early twentieth century Nags Head beach cottage. The Stinson family continues to use the cottage.

In recent years, the Outer Banks has experienced a real estate boom, resulting in the construction of strip malls, restaurants, franchise hotels, and large, multi-family houses. The overzealous building of the last twenty years has seriously threatened many of the area's historic architectural resources. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage stands as a reminder of a simpler time when life moved at a slower pace and families could enjoy long summers at the beach, spending entire afternoons resting in hammocks under an expansive porch or fishing and crabbing off a pier in the Roanoke Sound.

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ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Nags Head's first tourists, traveling by steamer from the upper regions of the Albemarle, built their simple cottages at the edge of the Roanoke Sound. The sound side was protected from the sometimes severe northeast winds and damaging salt spray commonly experienced on the Outer Banks islands. The wealthy planters and farmers, looking to exchange the stifling heat of their inland farms for the fresh air and salt water of the Atlantic Ocean, constructed their cottages on tall pilings or on nearby hills, thereby providing some protection from high tides and shifting shorelines. The simply built cottages were devoid of any stylistic details and often constructed of readily available materials including lumber from Elizabeth City or other Albemarle locations and wood salvaged from shipwrecks. The waterfront colony built in the 1830s and 1840s on the edge of the Roanoke Sound became the first Old Nags Head settlement. The cluster of buildings included a number of cottages, a general store, a post office, a bathhouse, and a hotel (Bishir pp. 6-9).

The form and detail of the early cottages built at Nags Head were dictated by the unpredictable and occasionally extreme weather on the Outer Banks. They were also influenced by the existing structures in the region. Marimar McNaughton theorizes in *Outer Banks Architecture* that "many of the early Old Nags Head homes derived from what is known as the coastal cottage – a single-gabled, single-story house with a varied roofline to compensate for a shed porch on the front elevation and an enclosed shed addition on the rear." The hall-parlor wood-frame coastal cottages sat on brick or wood piers and were covered with weatherboard. A variation of the coastal cottage included a one-and-a-half-story building with a gabled roof interrupted by an extended dormer. The Old Nags Head version of this house was clad with shingles over a wood frame (McNaughton, p. 66).

Functional characteristics established during the early years assisted in shaping the construction of Nags Head cottages through the mid twentieth century, giving the area a distinctive style of building. Built high on timber pilings, well above the waves, the cottages featured unpainted weatherboards or wooden shingles and large wraparound porches. Wood batten shutters, hinged at the top and held open with a prop stick to capture the breeze, assisted in providing protection from the summer sun and from the rain and wind during fall and winter storms. The diagonal lines formed from the open shutters often mimicked the pronounced angles of the roof and porch. Wide single-story wraparound porches assisted in providing an extension of living space in the days before a controlled indoor environment (Bishir, p. 12)

By 1866, cottages began to appear on the ocean side of the island. Thirteen homes were moved from the sound side to the ocean side in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These original thirteen cottages, along with sixty additional cottages, many of them constructed by Nags Head builder Stephen J. Twine before the late 1930s, form the Old Nags Head Beach

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Cottage Row, a National Register Historic District. Established in 1977, the district stretches approximately one mile along the Outer Banks oceanfront. The Old Nags Head style, characterized by gabled wood-frame buildings covered in cedar shingles and set upon pilings embedded in the sand, is derived from this cluster of summer homes (McNaughton, p. 65).

The ca. 1916 Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage is the oldest cottage remaining on the Roanoke Sound. It was constructed as a modest vacation cottage for middle-class residents of Elizabeth City. The cottage retains the simple characteristics identifying it as an Old Nags Head beach cottage. The one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed structure originally contained only one room downstairs and an open sleeping area on the second level under the steeply-pitched roof. Weatherboards covered the exterior until the current owners added protective cedar shingles to three elevations in the 1960s. A 1962 south side, one-story, shed-roofed addition is also clad with weatherboards and is comprised of two additional bedrooms separated by a bathroom. Wood shutters over the windows and doors protect the interior from the elements during winter months. A spacious porch wraps around three sides of the cottage. The interior remains essentially unchanged with its original pine floorboards, beaded board walls and ceilings in the original section, and knotty pine paneling on the walls and ceiling in the addition. Early furnishings add to the ambiance of the cottage.

The remaining cottages built around the turn of the twentieth century on the sound side of the island were either moved to the beach side or succumbed to one of the numerous storms that periodically plague the Outer Banks. Those that were moved across the island to the ocean were often encased by later additions, making it difficult to determine their original form and plan. The Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage, standing on pilings over the waters of the Roanoke Sound, acts as a solitary reminder of the early-twentieth-century community that gathered every summer to enjoy the simplicities, pleasures, and recreational opportunities afforded by the Outer Banks.

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Section 9 – Bibliography

Bishir, Catherine W. *The Unpainted Aristocracy”: The Beach Cottages of Old Nags Head.* Raleigh, NC: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1977, 4th printing 1987.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Continuation Sheet
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**Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage
Dare County, North Carolina**

Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the boundaries delineated for parcel 006818000 on the accompanying Dare County tax map. The lot measures 170 feet on the north side, 120 feet on the west side, 168 feet on the south side, and 120 feet on the east side.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses all of the property historically and currently associated with the Markham-Albertson-Stinson Cottage.