Cultural Ecology of Siasconset through three periods:

from fishing shacks to sand castles

1800-1900

period 1

1900-1950

period 2

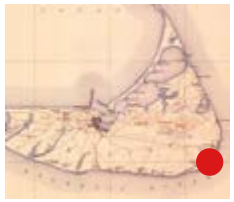
2000--2013

period 3

DES3332 Understand Cultural Ecology of Progressive Places
Final Presentation
MDess Qinqin Wu

Form of city and what is going on there

Cultural Ecology of Siasconset through three periods



The begining of each ancient dwelling was a single room-a rude boarded enclosure--used for shelter at night and in stress of weather by the fisherman who went there from the "Town".

summer visitors owned or rented house , returning year after year. They enjoyed island beaches and waters, jointed the social club, and provided their own quiet pleasures with little need for public entertainment.

On this island, the phrase “money is no object” is more than a figure of speech. Starter homes sell for $800,000 or more, a coffee shop breakfast for two can top $50, and carpenters routinely commute to work by airplane.

period 1

1900

period 2

2000

period 3

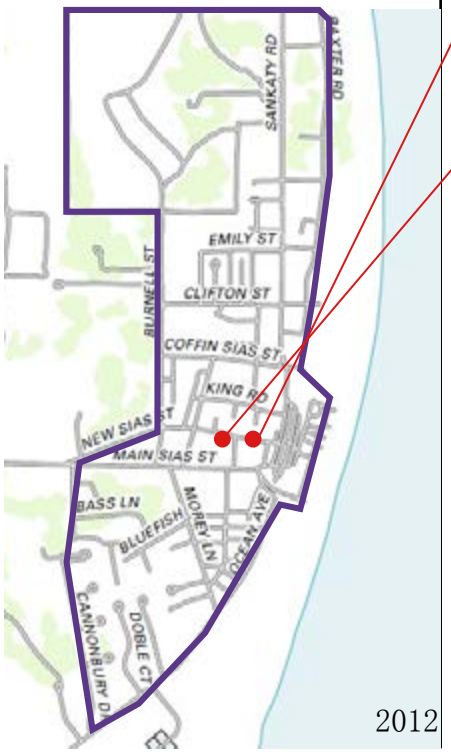
fisherman

artists

mass ourists

rich summer visitors

fishing shacks 1835



Wedding

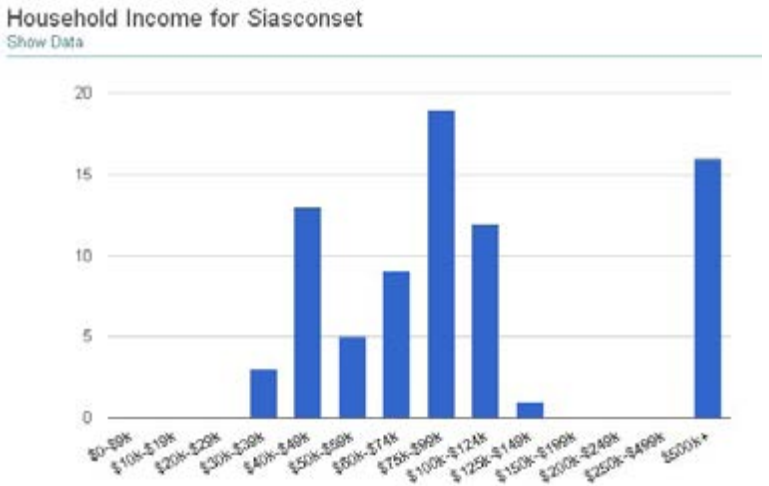
Casino

Union Chapel

trip advisor suggests things to do in Siasconset

Who lives there (census data)

	period 1 1880	period 2 1940	period 3 2012
Population	80-100		205
Housing Units	40-50		927
House value		$5139	$1200027
Rental price		$20. 2	$1000-1499
Annual income		$860	$62813
Occupation	Fisherman	Carpenter Labors	Sales and office Occupation
Average age		32.83	49.2
Education	non educated	primary school	bachelor degree
who visit here	artists	general tourists from mainland	retiree wealthy tourist buy house, occupy only in vacation



Housing Occupancy

	Siasconset, MA		% Massachusetts	U.S.
Total Housing Units	927, see rank	100%	2,808,254	131,704,730
Occupied Housing Units	105	11.33%, see rank	90.70%	88.62%
Owner Occupied	71	7.66%, see rank	56.52%	57.69%
Renter Occupied	34	3.67%, see rank	34.18%	30.93%
Vacant Housing Units	822	88.67%, see rank	9.30%	11.38%
For Rent	4	0.43%, see rank	2.37%	3.14%
For Sale Only	3	0.32%, see rank	0.89%	1.44%
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	1	0.11%, see rank	0.36%	0.48%
For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	805	86.84%, see rank	4.12%	3.53%
For Migrant Workers	0	0.00%, see rank	0.01%	0.02%
Other Vacant	9	0.97%, see rank	1.55%	2.77%

Changing identity of living in Siasconset

Cultural Ecology of Siasconset through three periods

Chaning life style associated with the houses

period 1 a fishing village,where fisherman lives in their fishing shacks on the seashore → Fishing make a living → surviver after the whaling industry depressed in main town.

period 2 a summer resort, which attracts artists and mainlnaders who seek for seaside cottage life. → Escape from city pastoral seaside life → recreation and a choice of natural life identity

period 3 a vocation town for super rich people staying their own private summer cottages. → Excluded island of elites → affordability, elite identity

pathwork appearance,
bold simple wild seaside life

quiet and
natural beauty

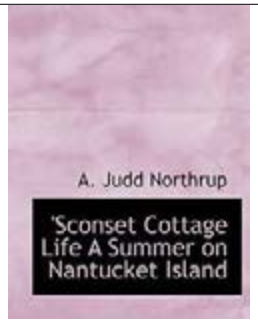
mostly nautical, quiet, urban
sophisticates and hip & trendy

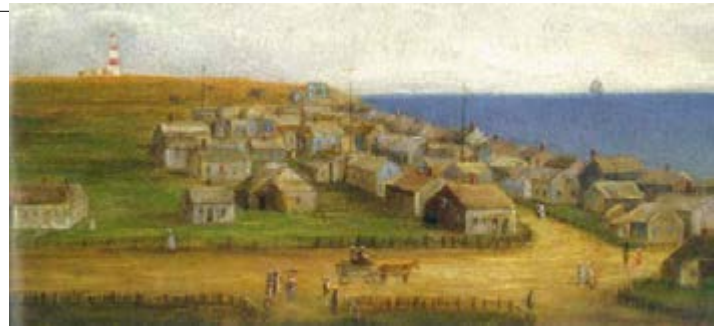
Changing meaning resides in the houses

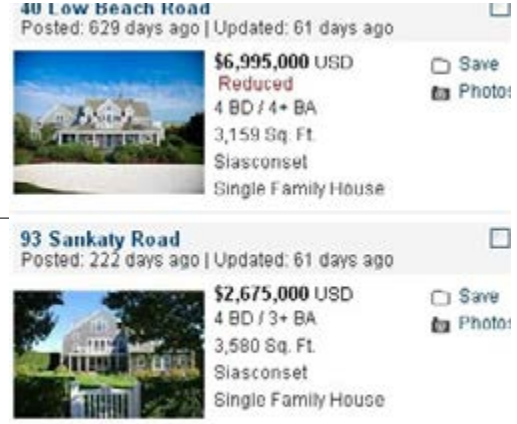
period 1 — make a living

period 2 — lifestyle, taste

period 3 — embodiment of conflict of wealth and value







Cultural disruption

period 1

Fishing

boom of whale industry

depression

period 2

Tourism

mass tourism

privately owned summer house

period 3

Real Estate

rich property

Sustainable development?

endagered property

Dependence on Nature Resoureces

Reshaping the Nature

Island's adaptation

promoting the of the superiority isolation from urban life

attracting wealthy tourists by limiting accessibility and restore the damaged buildings superior isolation of groups

?

Human

fisher man from main town

mass summer visitors ⟷ local folks

deeped pocket summer people ⟷ local folks

the depression make people lost their life for decades, untill the laborer(who are formerly fisheres) to establish house on the island.

residents began to adpat to the summer visitor;s life style .....serve their need in vacation. summer people support local economy.

Wealthy house owners are prepared to do anything to save their seaside property. while money could also establish their own municipal community.

Battles in control over place

locals are afraid of a losing control of preperty in wealthy community's hegemony

Don'ts

-no commercial use of any kind including walking tour for a fee
-no jogging
-no bicycles
-no use of cell phone
-no littering
-no picnicking

Dos

-walk
-foot-path open from 7:30am to Sunset year round
-"Eyes-Eastward" Concept-
-encourage viewing of seascape and not into Homes

public access to bluff walk

houses property owners :

"money is not an object "

locals

"we need to preserve the heritage"

preservation of the bluff

Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund Siasconset Trust

Local official conservation committee

relinish the beach

endangered life and house

endangered property

reject to their proposal

harmful to environment

sports and recreantial activities will be affected

houses are moving....

lighthouse is moving.....

the seashore is moving ....

Underlying forces

Cultural Ecology of Siasconset through three periods

19th century industrial process supplants craft
-age of the monoculture: authenticit&dominant hegemony
-modernity&the construction of meaning, created identity
-cultural construct: history, nature, heritage, agency.

mid 20th scientific progressivism
supplants tradition: new scale,mobilization,

21st Century values of environmental, social and economic sustainability to an even more pluralist and global society
-21st century communitarian values in a pluralist age
-countering the other pov
-progressive places

Monoculture | Modernization | Flux in constructing sense of place

1800 — period 1 — 1900 — period 2 — 2000 — period 3

civil war

booming in cars

global warming

Changes in physical environment

train
automobile
airplane
ferry

transporatations: mobility

Fishing

Fishing shacks

extension were made to hold home life

infrastructure pump
postoffice
pavement to road

Tourism

investor , cottage development

theatre
Casino
golf club

Real Estate

eclusion in ferry
high price

restore buildings .
Preservation as a strategy

value of real estate rise

Sustainability

public access to bluff walk

preservation on eroded seashore.

Agents of creating identity

fisherman

Edward Underhill
(developpers)

artists

Walter Beinecke

" I am not interested in preservation for preservation's sake: I want to make a profit !"

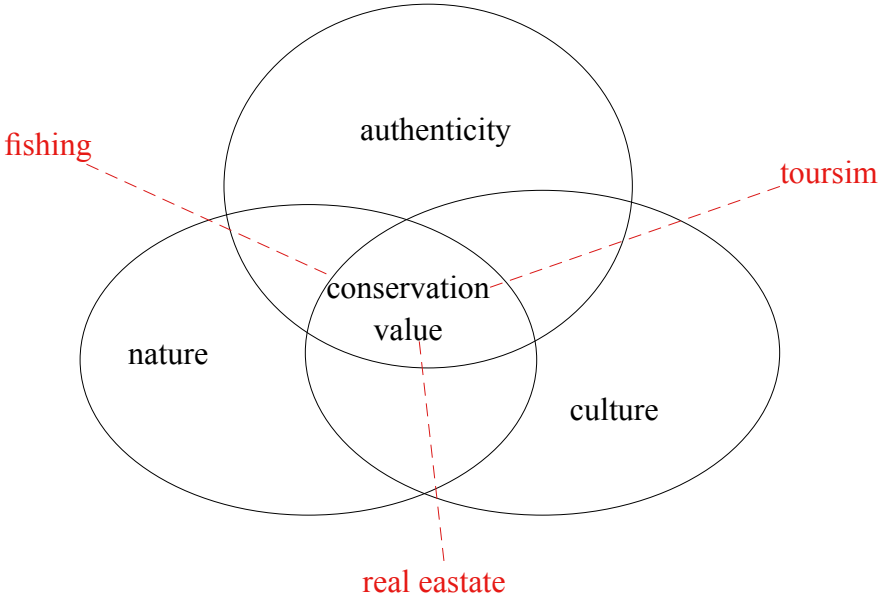
"whaling wives"

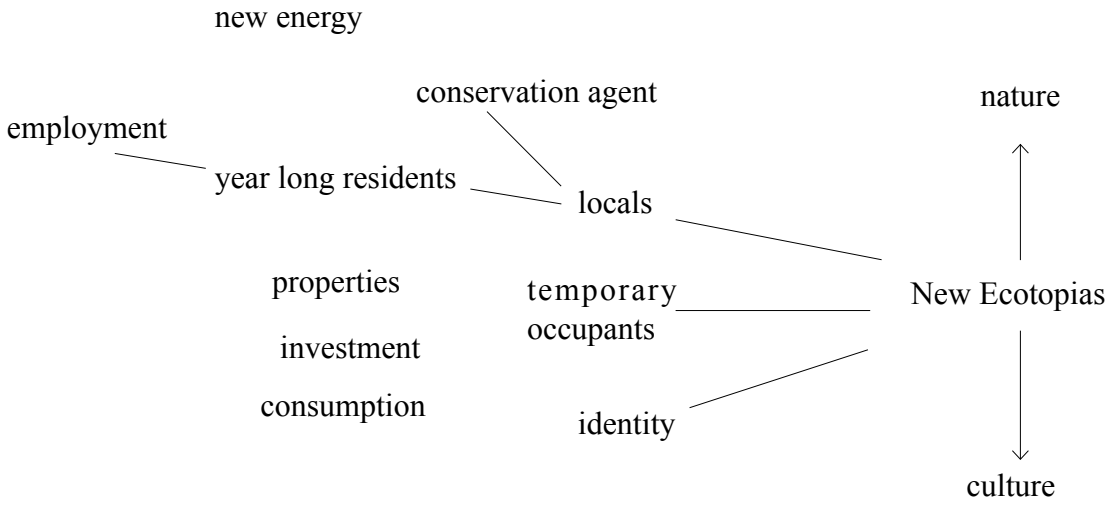
summer visitor
from mainland

summer houese owners(elites)

local conservation committee

Things should be considered for Siasconset's future:

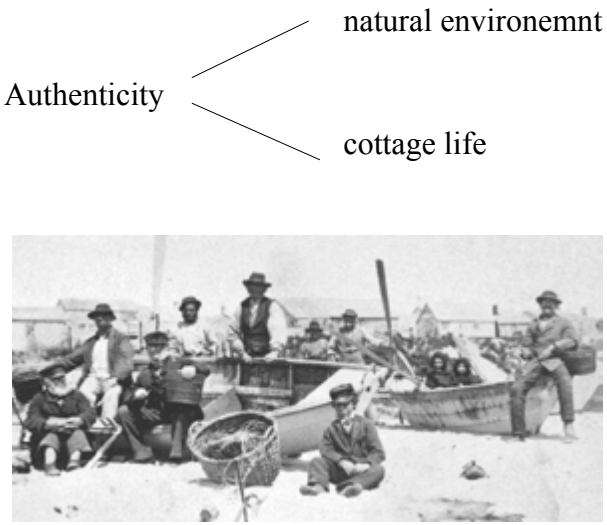




Should the culture leader cultivate a new value or for the place ?

Authenticity for the future

the gravity if authenticity shifts from physical building to the larger environment hold them



progressive place

progressive value

new Siasconset environmentalist !