

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Breakwater Hotel
1890s - 2008

1 box

BREAKWATER HOTEL

HISTORY

The Breakwater Hotel was built in the 1860s at the beginning of Long Neck (presently Penzance Point) to house workers at the Pacific Guano Company factory located farther along the road. The Guano factory went bankrupt in 1889 and Long Neck was bought by developer Horace Crowell. He moved the dormitory and turned it to face Great Harbor. In the 1890s it became a hotel and was sold in 1900 to Maria Bowman who later gave it to her daughter Annie (A.A.) Bowman. In 1924 Heloise G. Redfield became the general manager. In 1933 Annie Bowman sold it to Robert Baker and in 1940 Miss Redfield herself bought the hotel. She is the one proprietor who is most closely associated with the nostalgically remembered hotel. The hotel was bought in 1960 by the Marine Biological Laboratory and then demolished for future expansion of the Lab. The site is now used for parking.

SCOPE NOTE

The collection includes many brochures from the 70 years of the hotel's existence. There are postcards and a number of manuscripts of articles on its history, as well as the published versions of some of these. In addition there is a guest register for the Breakwater Hotel, 1921-1932.

BOX AND COLLECTION LIST

Brochures.

- a. Green tinted Baldwin Coolidge photo, 1898.
- b. Green tinted photo of beach, n.d.
- c. From A.A. Bowman, Proprietor (black and white drawings), n.d. Double-fold card. Ink drawing: "Early Morning Calm; Outlook from the Breakwater Hotel, Woods Hole. Cape Cod, Great Harbor 1929." 2 copies.

a. Cards. n.d.

- b. Brochures. Heloise Redfield, Proprietor. 1940-1960.

Brochures. Heloise Redfield, Proprietor. 1940-1960.

Postcard (color), with illustration of Hotel, n.d.

Postcard requesting information, 1949.

Manuscript. "Breakwater Summer" (Recollections of 1960) by Allan Swank, 2008.

Newsclipping. "Like an Obituary", *Falmouth Enterprise*, November 1, 1960.

Manuscript. "Breakwater Hotel" by James D. Redwood, see 9.

Article. "Verandas, Rocking Chairs, Footlockers and Miss Redfield" by James D.

Redwood. *Cape Cod Life Magazine*, May 1991, pp. 42-47.

Handwritten notes by Jennifer Gaines. Background information on Breakwater Hotel from John Valois, October 1997.

Photograph. Breakwater Hotel, c. 1890, by Baldwin Coolidge. Xerox copy.

Newsletter. *Mainsheet, The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum*, Spring and Fall 2008. Contains Part 1 and Part 2 of Allan W. Swank's "Reminiscences of a Summer at the Breakwater Hotel, 1960." See Item 6.

Guest Register (Norman T. Allen Collection) July 1, 1921 – September 14, 1932.
Stored in separate area, Woods Hole Library.

See also: Photographic file: Breakwater Hotel and Baldwin Coolidge Collection.
Woods Hole Reflections, p.126. Photo by Dottie Crossley.