

10 Sherburne Turnpike

NANTUCKET

A House History



A Brief History

10 Sherburne Turnpike, Helene C. Hindley, 1930



10 Sherburne Turnpike, 2018

In September 1929, Helene Clayton Hindley (1892–1984) purchased a 112' x 120' parcel of land on Sherburne Avenue from Marietta Ray and three other descendants of Thomas and Sophronia Hamblin, who had owned a farm in the Cliff area for many years. In February 1930, Hindley purchased an abutting parcel on Sherburne Turnpike. The area was familiar to Hindley, as her parents had built the house on the southeast corner of Lincoln and Highland Avenues, a short distance away. In the 1920s, there were only a dozen or so summer cottages in the area defined by Lincoln Circle, Capaum Road, Sherburne Avenue, and Sherburne Turnpike, where there are three dozen houses today. The Town of Nantucket's 1930 Valuation and Tax List includes Helene C. Hindley's dwelling valued at \$5,500 and two parcels of land valued at \$500 each. Hindley obtained a Massachusetts Land Court title for her property in 1931.

A summer resident of Nantucket for more than sixty-five years, Helene Clayton was originally from Connecticut, but she spent most of her life in New York City after her marriage to Charles T. Hindley. They had one son, John Clayton Hindley, born in 1919. Hindley designed the house she called *The Three Bears*, in reference to the three distinct building masses of succeeding size that made up the whole structure. The smallest, "baby-bear" section of the house was a garage on the west side, since removed, along with a portion of the "mama bear" middle section. The 1949 Sanborn Insurance Company map of the Cliff area clearly depicts the Hindley house before it was altered.

Charles T. Hindley died in 1956. In 1966, Helene transferred title to the property at 10 Sherburne Turnpike to her son, John. C. Hindley. He had served in Italy and France during World War II as an army major and was also a professional photographer who, for a time, had a studio on Nantucket. Some of his photographs of local theater productions in the 1940s and '50s are in the collection of the Nantucket Historical Association. A member of the Nantucket Yacht Club, Hindley was an avid sailor from a young age. According to a relative, "He was a bit of a wild child, and during Prohibition he would make a few extra dollars by sailing his Rainbow out of the harbor to meet rum runner boats in Nantucket Sound and ferry their liquid cargo into town. No one would suspect a little boy! I'm sure there were many fine parties at The Three Bears!" Hindley competed in the 330-mile Marblehead to Halifax race in his sloop *Sagre* in 1969 (*Inquirer and Mirror*, 7/10/69), and again in 1971. He died shortly after his return from the last competition. (*Inquirer and Mirror*, 8/19/71).

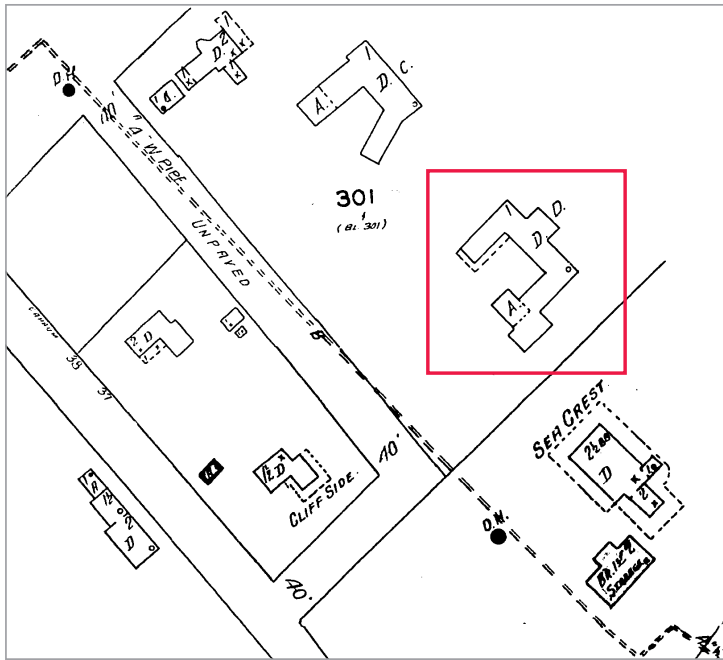
The Sherburne Turnpike property was transferred to John Hindley's wife, Virginia, in 1973. She and her mother-in-law summered on Nantucket together for nine more years, until Virginia died in 1982. The property then reverted back to Helene Hindley, who lived to be ninety-one. Niece Mercia Park Lee and nephew Robert C. Lovell inherited The Three Bears in 1986.



Helene Hindley photograph, courtesy of Mercia Lee



Passport photos, Helene and Charles Hindley, courtesy of Mercia Lee



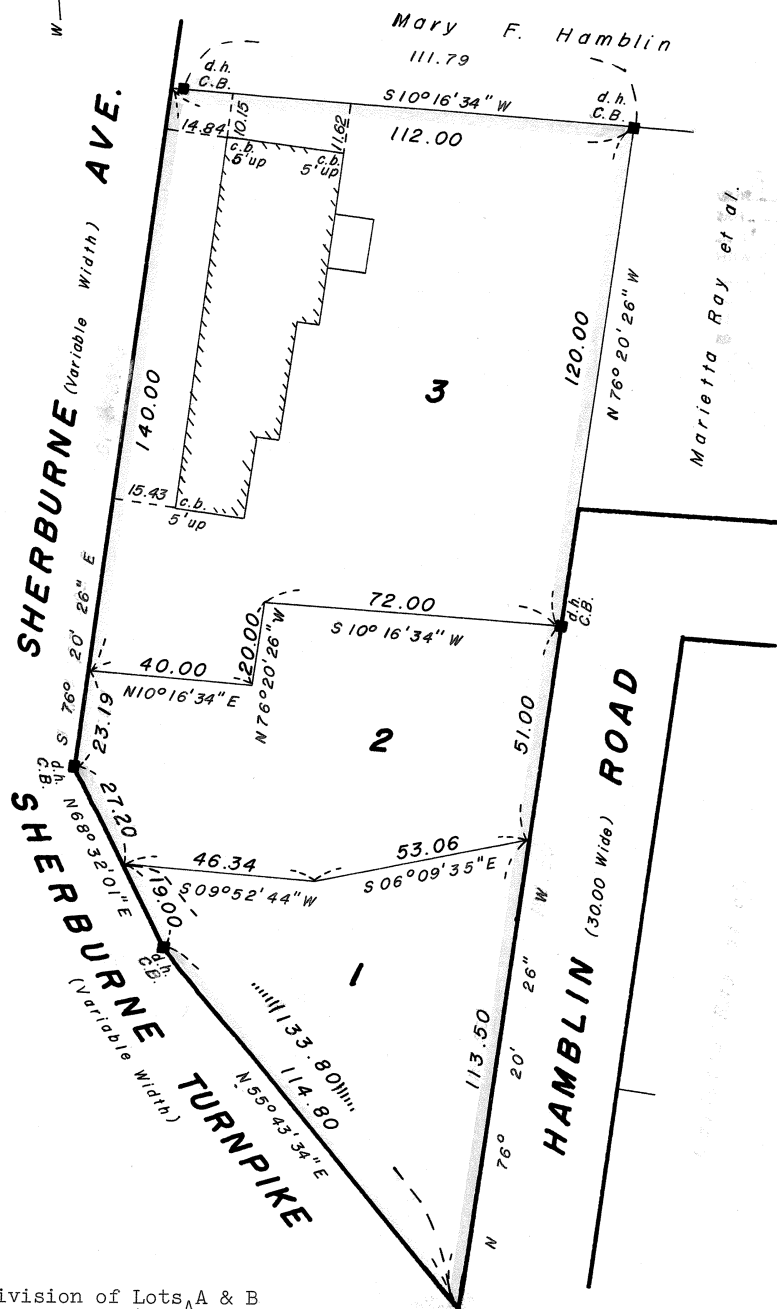
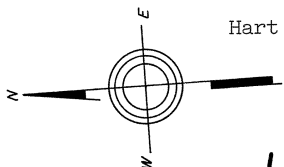
Sanborn Insurance Company map, 1949

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The Hindley property was subdivided into three parcels, as shown on plan 14101B filed with the Massachusetts Land Registration Office in 1985. Mercia Lee and Robert Lovell sold all three parcels to Catalina Realty Trust in July 1987; later that same month a revised subdivision plan, 14101C, was filed, creating lots 4, 5, and 6 in place of lots 2 and 3 on the earlier plan. The size of the house was reduced at that time, as mentioned above, allowing for the three houses west of 10 Sherburne Turnpike to be built on the property that once belonged to Hindley.

Hart - Blackwell & Assoc., Inc., Surveyors

14101^B



Separate certificates of title may be issued for land shown hereon as ...*Lots 1, 2 and 3.*.....
By the Court. *(Signature)*

FEB. 27, 1985

Recorder.

Copy of part of plan
 _____ *filed in* _____

LAND REGISTRATION OFFICE

FEB. 27, 1985

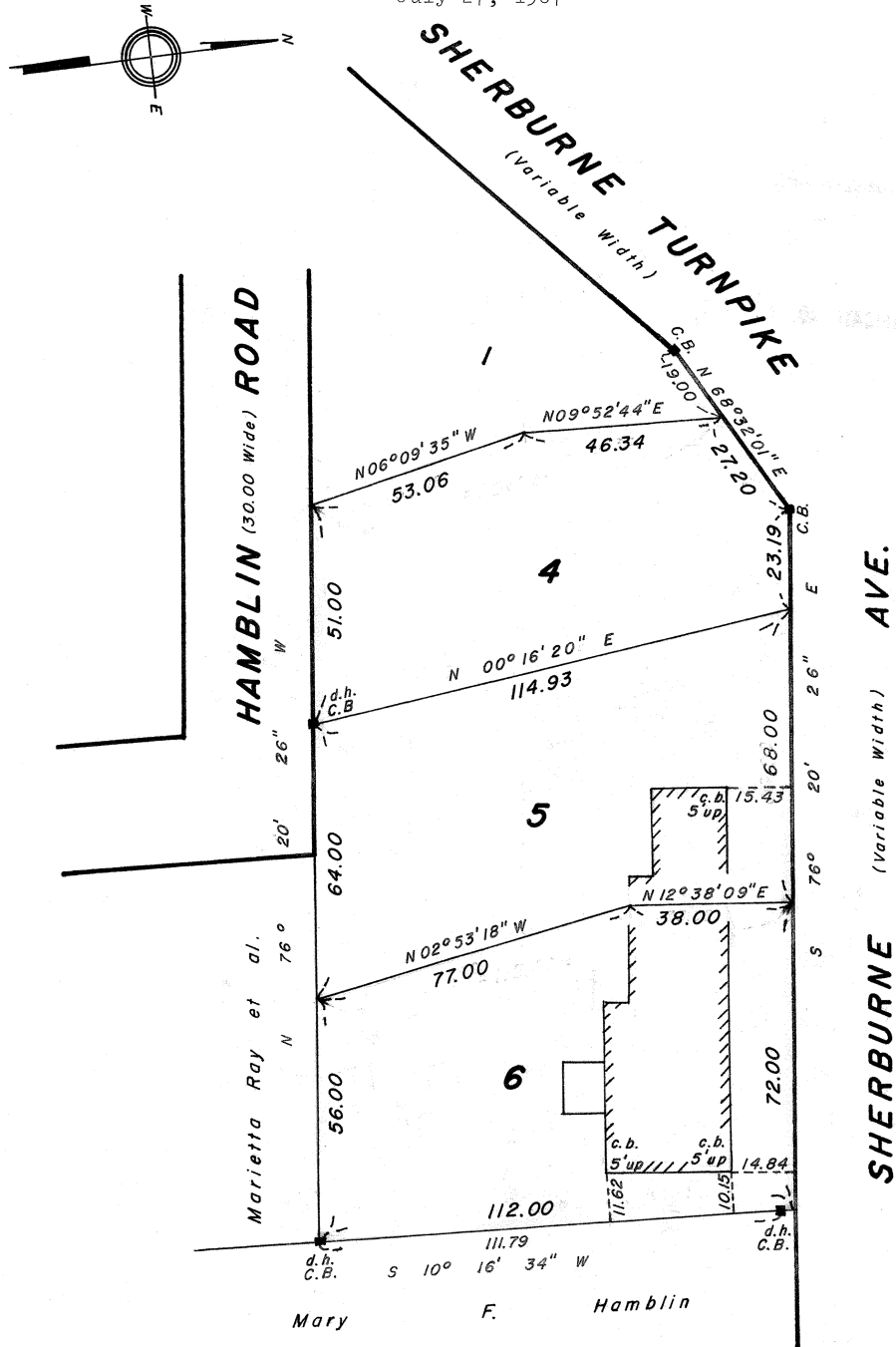
Scale of this plan 30 feet to an inch
Louis A. Moore, Engineer for Court

SUBDIVISION PLAN OF LAND IN NANTUCKET

Hart - Blackwell & Assoc., Inc., Surveyors

July 27, 1987

14101C



Subdivision of Lots 2 and 3
Shown on Plan 14101B
Filed with Cert. of Title No. 12404
Registry District of Nantucket County

Separate certificates of title may be issued for land
shown hereon as Lots 4, 5 and 6
By the Court.

Abutters are shown as
on original decree plan.

Copy of part of plan
filed in

LAND REGISTRATION OFFICE
SEP. 1, 1987

Scale of this plan 30 feet to an inch
Louis A. Moore, Engineer for Court

SEP. 1, 1987
VJF

Recorder.

The house once known as The Three Bears was sold separately to Joseph and Christine Donelan in 1993. The Donelans were longtime seasonal residents who owned several Nantucket properties and still have a summer home on the island. After retiring from the corporate world, Joe Donelan founded Donelan Family Wines in Santa Rosa, California, in 2008. Joe and Christine Donelan owned 10 Sherburne Turnpike for six years. They sold the property to its current owners in 1993.

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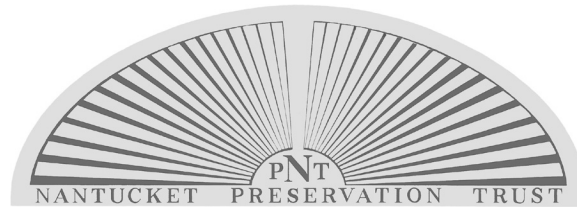


Joe Donelan

NANTUCKET PRESERVATION TRUST

*Advocates, Educates, and Celebrates the Preservation of
Nantucket's Historic Architecture*

*T*his brief history is an important contribution to the island's architectural record. Documentation is one of the ways the Nantucket Preservation Trust celebrates the more than 2,400 historic homes, farms, and workplaces that contributed to the island's designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. By providing owners of historic houses, island residents, schoolchildren, and visitors a broad spectrum of programs and projects, we encourage the preservation of irreplaceable structures, architectural features, and cultural landscapes. Lectures, walking tours, house markers, special events, and publications—including the house histories and neighborhood histories—define our unique work on Nantucket. We hope you enjoy the history of this house, its past owners, and its place in Nantucket's remarkable architectural heritage.



NANTUCKET PRESERVATION TRUST

Post Office Box 158 • Nantucket, MA 02554

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