

**Sturgis Library Archives  
Town and Local History Collection**

**Crocker Tavern Blueprints and Letters  
MS. 88**

**Extent:** 1 tube, shelved upright in corner with other vertical boxes and tubes

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of two blueprint architectural plans of the Crocker Tavern, located on Old King's Highway in Barnstable, Massachusetts, diagonally across the street from the Sturgis Library, and two letters pertaining to the history of the Tavern.

**Historical Information:** According to the Crocker's Tavern's website, the Tavern, "*built circa 1754 on Olde King's Highway, served as a stage coach stop, an inn, and important meeting place for some of our nation's earliest patriots. Cornelius Crocker, one of the wealthiest men on the Cape, was the first keeper of the Tavern. According to signed documents from the Barnstable Historical Commission, the activities that took place at the Crocker Tavern were "... instrumental in changing the boundaries of America, taking Canada from the French, and then helping to remove this country from England's dominance. Here is an actual structure which was once filled with our Colonial ancestors - lawyers, judges, farmers, merchants, mariners, Indians, slaves, men of honor and wealth and those of lesser means - all contributing to our heritage.*

*"Under the stewardship of Cornelius Crocker, the inn became the central meeting place for the Whigs (the Patriots) prior to, and during, the Revolutionary War. At the same time the Tories (the Loyalists) gathered less than 100 yards to the west on Olde Kings Highway at the Loring Tavern. The Whigs were led by James Otis, Jr., and 22 others including the Crockers, the Lothrop's, and John Davis. The Whigs who met at Crocker Tavern waged a courageous and uphill struggle because the moderate factions of Cape Cod sympathized and sided with the Tories. In order to align the Cape and it's villages in support of the patriotic cause, James Otis, Jr., the Crockers, and the other Whig leaders created a County Committee with regional representation. The purpose of the County Committee, which met regularly at the Crocker Tavern, was in Otis' own words "to meet and consult about what is most proper to be done in this day of difficulty.*

*"As a result, Barnstable and the other towns of the Cape eventually joined the ranks of the rebels. Thus, the patriotic campaign spearheaded at the Crocker Tavern did succeed, and it was a momentous occasion when the Cape militia gathered in front of the Crocker Tavern before marching to Lexington and Concord to fight for American independence."*

The Tavern has a reputation for being haunted, and has been featured in a number of books on haunted places on Cape Cod.

**Sources of Additional Information:** <http://www.crockertavern.com/>

**Access:** Unrestricted access. Credit Sturgis Library for reproduction.

**Acquisition:** Source and acquisition date unknown.

**Processed by:** Lucy Loomis, March, 2009.

**Contents:** 4 items

**Plans of the Crocker Tavern House, King's Highway, Barnstable, MA.** Measured for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities by John A Parker, Boston. 1938.

1. First Floor
2. Second Floor

**Letters from Wm. Appleton, Corresponding Secretary for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities to Miss Elizabeth Nye, Sturgis Library Librarian,** regarding the history of the Crocker Tavern.

1. April 22, 1932
2. April 27, 1932