

## **The history of this project**

*The continuing presence of historic properties in Massachusetts immeasurably enhances the quality of our lives; they help to establish our sense of place and to define the very character of our communities. To meet the challenge of preserving this important heritage, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) was established by the legislature in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. MHC website*

In 1982 the Town of West Tisbury designated a fourteen property historic district in the village center. Not long after the establishment of that historic district, the town's historical commission, using guidelines set out by the MHC, began an inventory of the entire town's historical and archeological assets. During that inventory over two hundred sites were inventoried and photographed. In the late 1990's the town's Historic District Commission and Local Historical Commission began the process of expanding the existing small historic district to include about one hundred more properties that are located along the five roads that enter and exit the village center. This proposed expansion was passed by a two-thirds majority vote at the town meeting in April of 2000.

When the Community Preservation Act was signed into law in 2005, funding became available for historic preservation projects. A proposal to update the West Tisbury Historic Resources Inventory and digitize all records was written by the Martha's Vineyard Museum and accepted by the West Tisbury Community Preservation Committee. A professional historic preservation team from the Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) in Rhode Island won the bid to conduct the upgrade of the records. Digital images were taken of all properties, additional information and historical notes about properties were added to the existing inventory forms, new maps created and properties eligible for National Register status were designated. Now all of this information gathered over the past forty years is available online through this link to the MHC website. <http://mhc-macris.net/>

You will need to have Adobe Reader installed on your computer to view these files. You can download Adobe Reader <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

## **How to access the website**

The Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) hosts the database known as the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). This database contains information from many towns throughout the Commonwealth. View this short video to learn how to access this database for properties in West Tisbury.

Access the tutorial on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOj0Qu4iJmA>

## **How to contact the West Tisbury Historical Commission with changes to the information found in this database**

The information contained in these records was gathered over a forty-year period. If you have information about your property that would be helpful in more accurately documenting its historic record, please send an email to the address below and a member of the West Tisbury Historical Commission will get back to you.

[lhc@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:lhc@westtisbury-ma.gov)