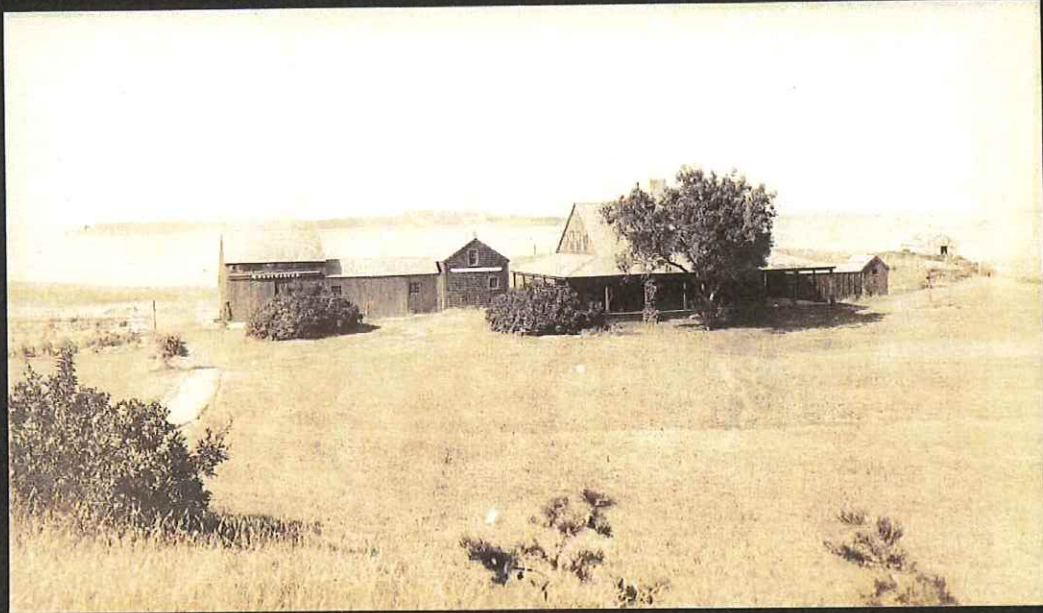




2002.055.049  
SMITH (?) ESTATE, NO. CHATHAM  
END OF KENDRICK RD.



**Description**

Original photo - Smith (?) Estate, No. Chatham, end of Kendrick Road.

**People**

Smith



Smith Farm

58 Shell Drive

Aug. 81

The eight inch door sill in the ancient part had crumbled to dust by 1801 when the new part was erected. These two rooms (the ancient part) one upstairs and one downstairs are now the back ell of the main house and the downstairs room is now used as the dining room. In this is one of the earliest types of fireplaces and of beehive chimneys. These two rooms are believed to be what was the very early home of one of the sons of our William Nickerson (founder of Chatham).

Bib: D. Allens papers. D.A. 43

68 Shell Drive  
P.O. Box 363  
N. Chatham, MA 02650

Chatham Historical Commission  
Town Hall, 549 Main Street  
Chatham, MA 02633

Gentlemen,

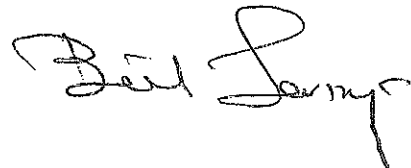
Some time ago we received a letter from you indicating a desire to have us assist you in completing your record of historic Chatham properties.

We purchased this great property in 1974 when taxes were low and people were concerned about keeping Chatham a small low profile town. Unfortunately this hope has not been achieved, and I suspect you may not feel any better about it than do we.

Putting aside personal feelings, I have attached some material pertaining to our house which you may find worthwhile. I have some remembrance that a small booklet describing our house was published at one time. I also think that someone took the material with him (her).

We purchased this property from Steve Smith in 1974. Steve and his wife Helen stopped by last month and we had a conversation concerning the history of this property. He is presently living in Maine, and sent me a number of pictures showing the material changes to our home. I suspect you might get more accurate historical data from him than from me, but what is attached is all that I have.

Sincerely,



P.S. Should you need a better copy of the enclosure I will be glad to bring to you for copying. ~~It~~ I think our home may be oldest here in Chatham

68 shell

1963 subdivision plan

Lot 50 → Land Reg: Book 19, Pg 117  
Cert of Title # 4247

- Cert of Title 60319

1983 - Willard Loring to Barbara K. Loring  
husband wife  
(Separation agreement)

1973

Stephen H. Smith + wife Helen  
to Willard S. Loring

Lot 50 - land court plan 5385-2, sheet 1

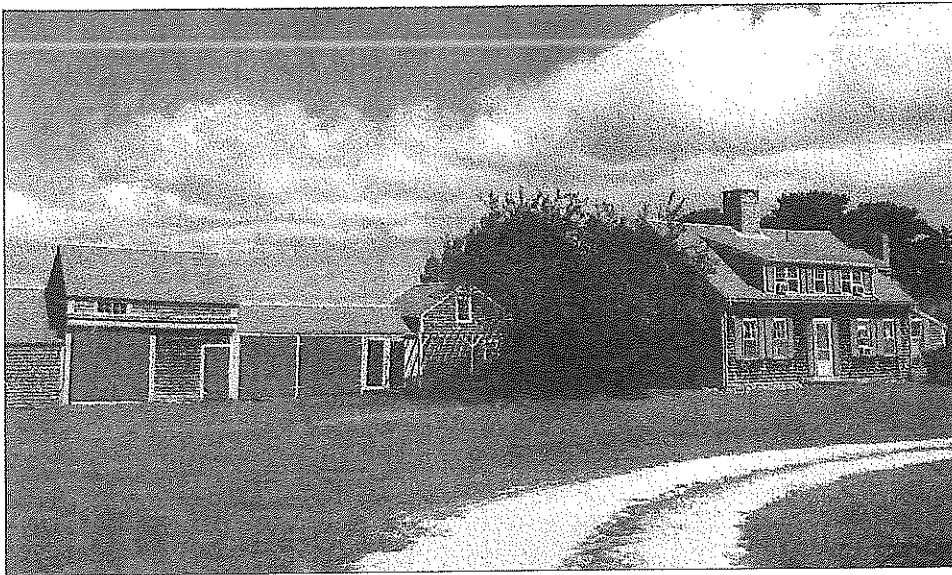
→ from will of Dorothea Smith

Brn. Probate Docket # 44797

cert of title 49325

CCT

CAPE HOUSE HUNT by Kathy Sharp Frisbee



KATHY SHARP FRISBEE

# At home with history in North Chatham

Waterfront home dates back at least 200 years

**Suggestions for a home review may be sent to:** Cape House Hunt, c/o Business Editor, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601. If you have questions, email kshrpfrs@gis.net. Home selection is made by Kathy Sharp Frisbee and does not imply any endorsement or warranty on the part of the Cape Cod Times.

- LOCATION:** 68 Shell Drive, North Chatham
- ROOMS:** 6 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 1 half-bath
- BUILT:** 1800 or earlier
- SQUARE FEET:** 3,017
- ACRES:** 2.76
- UTILITIES:** Oil heat, town water
- ANNUAL TAX:** \$13,895
- PRICE:** \$3,400,000
- PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT:** \$1,127
- CONTACT:** Barbara Waters, Chatham Real Estate, 860-989-6735

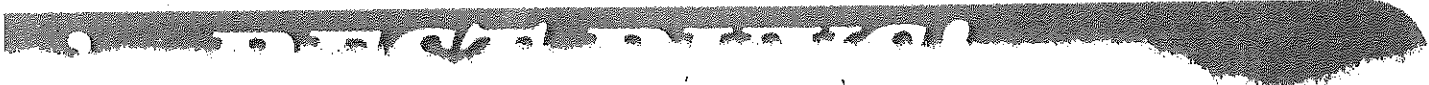
This North Chatham estate is a secluded escape and a touchstone to history, with Pleasant Bay views, a 500-foot private beach and access to the ocean.

The original full Cape with a full dormer, according to the Chatham Historical Society, "could date back to 1700 or before and is likely the property of a son of the first settler, William Nickerson." The interior's 12- to 20-inch-wide pine plank floors were known in the 1700s as King's planks, because they were reserved for the King of England, but colonists often snubbed that decree.

The home's massive oak structural timbers handcrafted with an adze, then tenoned and pegged into corner and chimney posts display aged patina and durability. The timber-framed keeping room has a large brick fireplace and beehive oven.

There are horsehair plaster walls, wide plank wainscoting, original wrought iron hardware and a huge brick chimney for five fireplaces that anchors the house on its stone foundation. There are modern adaptations, from tiled bathrooms with pedestal sinks, showers and tubs, to a large kitchen with a picture window looking out on the water, all reflecting the lives and times of those who lived here. Homes like this cultivate appreciation and value for historic architecture, for the stories they can tell us and for the owners, who knew they were privileged keepers of a cultural treasure.

Unlike most early Cape homes, this one has spacious rooms and abundant closets. Beyond an expansive outdoor mahogany deck with a hot tub are two joined antique barns for storage and guest room possibilities.



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CHA.580
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Howes, Solomon House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	68 Shell Dr
<b>City/Town:</b>	Chatham
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	North Chatham
<b>Local No:</b>	2-12
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1700
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Wood Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle Foundation: Stone, Uncut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 12:06 PM

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

2

580



Town Chatham (North Chatham)

Address 68 Shell Drive

Historic Name Solomon Howes House

Use: Present Residential

Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1700 Circa/ 1802

Source Chatham Historical Society

Style full Cape

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn

Major Alterations (with dates) wings 190

1924; shed dormer

Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 3.77 Acres

Setting House sits on a bluff ove

looking entrance to Crow's Po

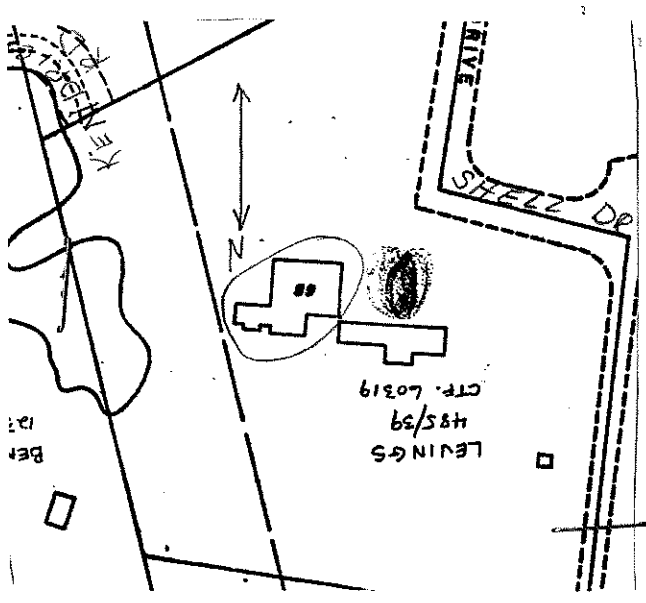
and Strong Island

Recorded by N. Pacun / D. Sawyer / C. Jenkins

Organization Chatham Historical Com

Date July 15, 1991

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Solomon Howes House of c1700/1802 is located at the end of Shell Drive on the shores of Pleasant Bay; it faces south in the traditional manner rather than toward the water. It is a five-bay full-Cape with new early 20th century wings extending from the rear portions of both side elevations, and a rear ell which is the original portion of the house. It rises 1 and 1/2 stories from a low stone foundation to a gable roof with center chimney and a partial shed-roof dormer. Exterior sheathing consists of wood shingle trimmed with cornerboards and a dentilated entablature with triglyphs. Windows are set in projecting frames that may indicate plank construction, and contain 6/6 sash. Facade windows are set one shingle course beneath the roofline. The center entry is simply framed. Side elevations display the typical early fenestration pattern of three windows at the first story with two in the attic. Despite some additions, this house remains as an unusually well preserved and detailed example of the traditional regional dwelling type, dating from the early 18th century. Its southern orientation, undeveloped bayside setting, and accompanying barn all help to illustrate the town's early historical relationship to the sea.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The earliest part of this house is now the ell, and it was probably built around 1700 or before. It was then a complete house and had its own beehive oven. The earliest documented owner is Solomon Howes who built a large addition onto the ell which became the main house, and this was done around 1802. (During some restoration work in 1972, a pipe was removed and French wallpaper was discovered behind the pipe, with the date of 1802 on the paper.) Howes was one of 7 children of Joseph Howes and his wife Eunice, and he was born in 1773. He married Elizabeth Ryder in 1797. (At that time and around the same period, there were large numbers of Howes, and at least 3 of them were named Solomon, so that the history of this house is not entirely clear.) Solomon later became blind, and family history indicates that Elizabeth was reported to have given him the smallest portion when cutting his meat.

The property was later owned by William H. Wentworth, who added to the house in 1906, and then by his son-in-law, James Stuart Smith, who put on another addition. Wentworth placed twin cannons at the edge of the property (the cannons were purchased from Daniel Webster Nickerson, an anchor dragger, who claimed they were from the pirate ship "Widdah" which went down off Wellfleet in 1717 with its captain, "Black Sam" Bellamy). This later helped give the name "Cannon Hill" to the property, when it was parceled out for new housing.

Wm. Leving is the present owner of the property which he bought in 1971.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

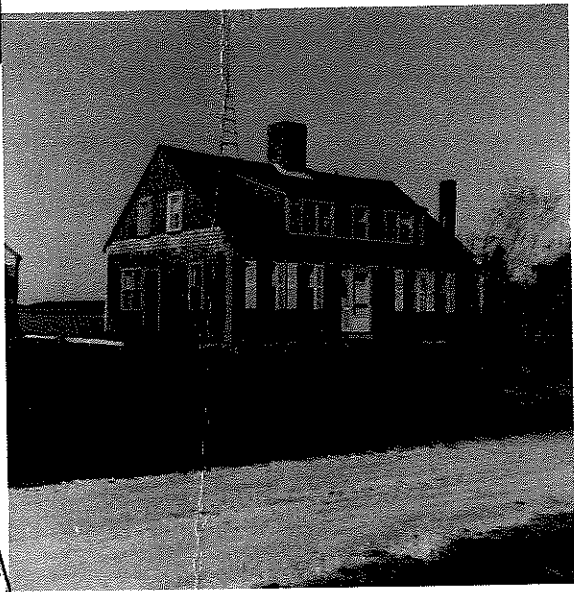
Wm. Leving, present owner  
 "Some Old Chatham Houses", Chatham Historical Society, Book No. I, 1962  
 Town Maps



FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Boston

In Area no. <del>#2</del>	Form no. <del>B-12</del>
------------------------------	-----------------------------



1. Town Chatham, Mass.

Address 68 Shell Drive.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present use Residence.

Present owner Willard S. Levings

3. Description:

Date 1700 (or before)

Source Historical Society

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric Shingles

Outbuildings (describe) 3 Barns, 1 Shed

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered Main house added Date 1802

Moved Els added in 1906 and 1924 Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

All private roads

6. Recorded by I. Thomas Buckley

Organization Historical Society

Date March 1976

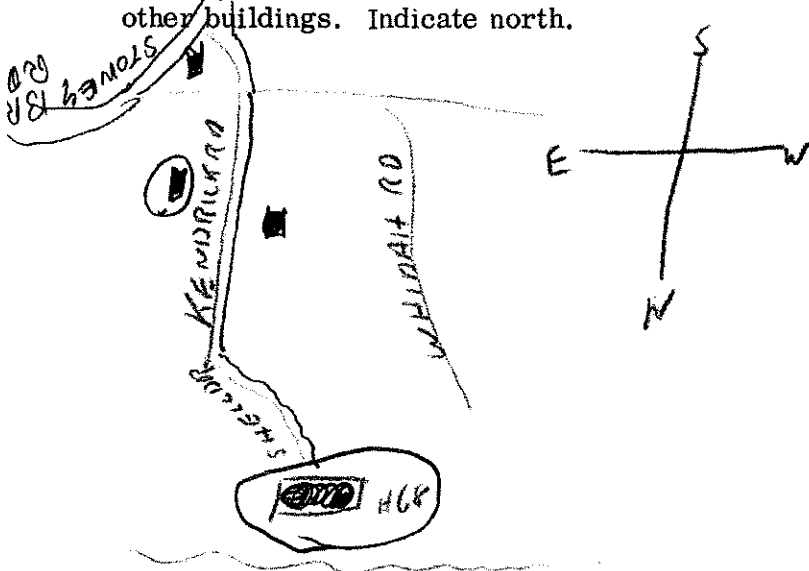
RECEIVED

APR 30 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



PLEASANT 1304

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

7. Original owner (if known) Solomon Howes

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- |                       |          |                            |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____    | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____    | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | <u>X</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____    | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____    | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____    | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | <u>X</u> |                            |       |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The ell of this house was built before 1700 and then in 1802 the larger part was added. The 1700 portion is believed to be the house of a son of the first settler of the town.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Chatham Historical Society Booklet # 1.  
Town of Chatham assaser's records- 1976.



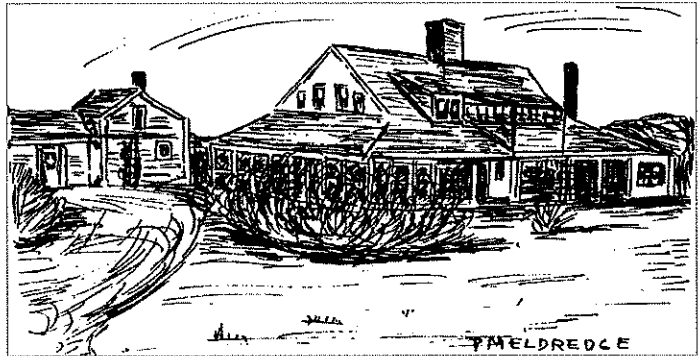
1700<sup>[5]</sup>

## The Solomon Howes House

Kendrick Road  
North Chatham  
Shore of Pleasant Bay  
1962 Property of Mrs. James Stuart Smith

What is now the ell was the original house here. It is supposed that this part is very old, dating back to 1700 or before, probably the property of a son of the first settler, William Nickerson.

This ell, much older than the main house, was complete in itself, paved around all four sides with large beach pebbles now overgrown with grass. It has an early type of beehive oven in the dining room.



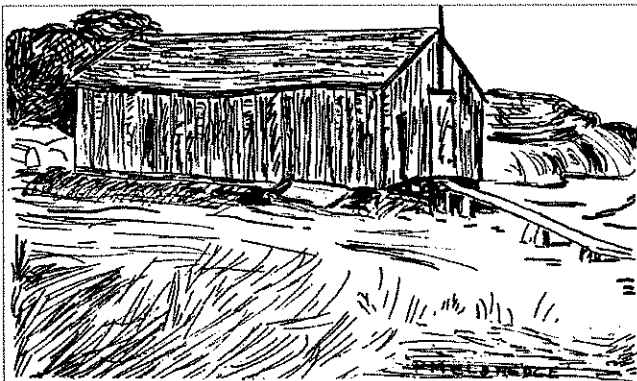
The main house was probably built in 1802 by Solomon Howes, when a mortgage was put on the house and land. The eight inch door sills in the ancient part had crumbled to dust by 1801 when the new part was being erected.

A picture taken in 1880 shows a large herb garden.

There are three "Quarter boards" on the buildings, "Wentworth", "Joseph A. Stover", and "Czarine." The latter was from a Russian vessel wrecked off shore about 1800.

William H. Wentworth, a former owner, put on the porches and made other changes in 1906 and his son-in-law, James Stuart Smith, made still further changes in 1924.

Daniel Webster Nickerson of Chatham, whose home was the large house next west of Chatham's Eldredge Library, was engaged in what is called anchor dragging.



They used a grappling iron with which they dragged the ocean's bottom, especially in the vicinity of wrecks, to pull up anchors which brought a good price at resale or to pull up anything else which they might fasten to.

His boat was the "Luther Eldredge" of which he was the captain. At one time he pulled up off Cahoon's Hollow, South Wellfleet, two cannons from the "Widdah" a pirate ship lost during a gale in 1717. The ship was commanded by the pirate, Capt. Bellamy, and carried twenty-three guns and a crew

of one hundred and thirty men.

<sup>[5]</sup> Oldest part early 1700's, Main house added 1802

These cannon were sold by Capt. Nickerson to Mr. Wentworth, who then owned this old house. When the cannon were being bargained for by Mr. Wentworth. Capt. Nickerson offered them to him for a certain flat price. Mr. Wentworth thought the price too high but offered to pay twenty-five cents a pound. The Captain agreed and the cannon were weighed. Mr. Wentworth found himself thereby paying considerably more than the first price which had been quoted to him.

A curved seat of brick with one of the cannon at either end for an arm rest was built by Mr. Wentworth on the low cliff near his house overlooking the entrance to Crow's Pond and Strong Island.

At the present time (1962) all except nineteen acres of this beautiful estate is for sale. It has been well laid out with nice roads and many lots demanding a gorgeous view of the entrance to Pleasant Bay. Roads with such names as Bellamy Road, Cannon Hill and Widdah Road should awaken a visitor here to the historic interest with which this area is saturated.

(TISBURY)

Scale 20,000

W. Adams

# NORTH CHATHAM

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 150 rods

Scale 20,000

N  
A  
T  
I  
G

O  
C  
E  
A  
N



1858 Atlas