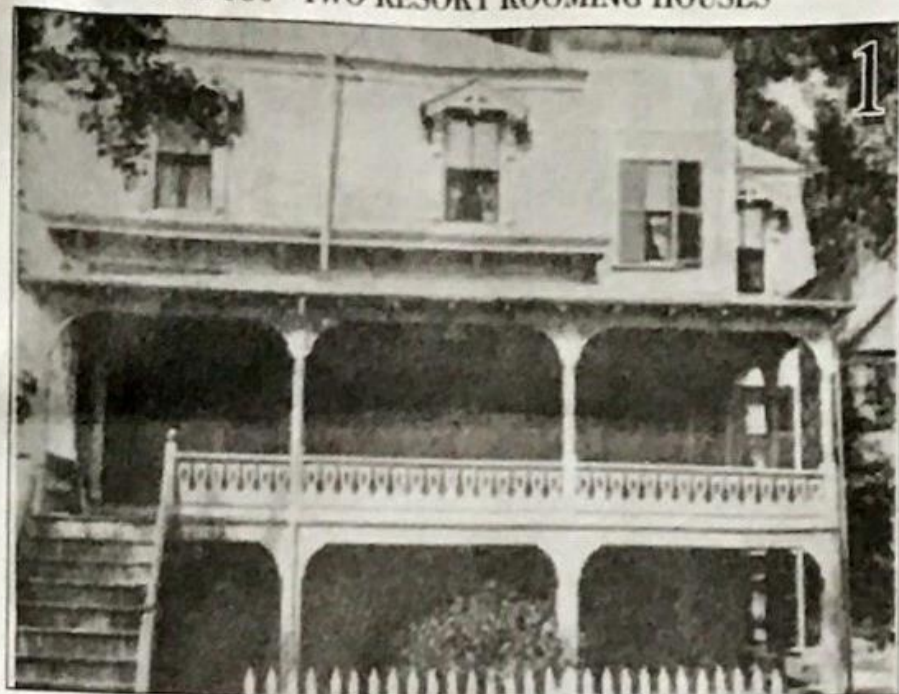


WINTHROP HISTORY WEBSITE: WIHAONLINE.ORG

**WINTHROP Then and Now**Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association  
By G. David Hubbard, Town Historian • Photos courtesy of Stephen F. Moran**ART 950 - TWO RESORT ROOMING HOUSES**

In 1875, Doctor Samuel Ingalls purchased forty three acres of land originally owned by the Wheeler estate between Shirley Street and what is now known as Winthrop Shore Drive. On this prime ocean front property he established the Ocean Spray resort community which included eight streets, all with names related to the sea - Neptune, Mermaid, Coral, Trident, Sea Foam, Waveway, Pearl and Dolphin Avenues. Each street was 30 feet wide with a 20 foot frontage from the street to the homes down each side thus ensuring a 70 foot corridor for the sea breezes to pass through and circulate among the cottages he had built. All cottages built there had a "T" shaped floor plan with porches on three sides. Although most of these buildings have been modified to varying degrees, one can still drive down these streets and easily identify many homes that reflect the original unique design. Each of these properties had a clause

in their deed prohibiting any alcoholic beverage from being consumed or brought onto the premises. This writer checked the current validity of this requirement with our previous Town Council, Joseph Harvey, who stated that while such a clause still appears on some deeds even today, it is no longer enforceable.

Along Winthrop Shore Drive, then called Crest Avenue, a few of the houses were converted into Inns or Rooming Houses. Also, along Shirley Street at the rear of Ocean Spray, several smaller Inns were established and two of these are featured in today's article. The first, located at 169 Shirley Street, was called The Coronet House which can be seen in the first picture as it appeared in 1900. The second picture depicts the same building as it appears today in 2012. Note how the original appearance of the porch railing and windows has been carefully preserved. The second such rooming house, as seen in the third

Hazelhurst which opened about 1900 with a dining room that accommodated 100 patrons. It was located at 11 Neptune Avenue, on the corner of Shirley Street, almost across the street from the previously named Coronet House. Picture four depicts this building as it appears today. Note that the roof line at the front of the building remains the same with the small triangular overhang which can still be seen on the right of the building.

Many such Inns and Rooming Houses existed in Winthrop from the 1880 to 1930 period of time. To date we have identified some 55 buildings which operated under 80 different names depending upon who the current owner was. We have written Then and Now articles on a number of them and as further information is obtained will continue to provide additional articles on them. If anyone knows of other such resort facilities that have existed in Winthrop, it would be appreciated if you would please advise us accordingly.

