

"When I undertook the accurate and authentic restoration of this ancestral home, little did I think that this would be the ultimate result; or those now dead whose unwitting devotion and care for this old place made possible its survival, so unspoiled; as to be considered worthy of National preservation."

For George Higgins, the Atwood-Higgins House had always been a summer retreat. When he inherited the property from his uncle Captain Edward Atwood, it became a lifelong passion.

George, a descendent of Richard Higgins, was born and raised outside of Boston, but he had vacationed on Bound Brook Island with his family as a child. His father grew up in Wellfleet, and had spent much of his childhood at this house as well.

After George was discharged from the army in 1919, he came to visit Bound Brook Island for the first time in many years, and was overcome by nostalgia.

Caption: George Higgins.

When Captain Edward learned of his nephew's fondness for the house, he decided to deed him half of the property. The captain passed away just three months later, and his wife Debbie made sure that George would inherit full ownership of upon her death. The future of the property was in his hands.

"... No altering in any way of the old house - - that much was out!"

George was resolute about maintaining the historic integrity of his ancestral home. He consulted with his father about every detail he could remember from childhood, down to the color of the paint on the walls.

In addition to restoring the 1730s house, George came up with a scheme to construct outbuildings on the property representing the Colonial period. The barn, cottage and country store were designed to create the feel of an early New England village.



May the future be kind to it, for here on these sunny slopes the cod was flaked, for winter, the seaweed banked the house, the storms and vicissitudes of life ebbed and flowed as did the sea that laps its shore line.



Caption: George's father Richard Higgins.

George spent the rest of his life traveling between Bound Brook Island and Boston, where he worked as a realtor. He and his wife Francis spent holidays and summers here entertaining guests and building on his vision.

Before George died in 1962, he transferred the deed for the house to the Department of the Interior. Now as he had hoped, future generations will be able to visit this house, and experience how people once lived on Capa Cod through the avec of his family.