

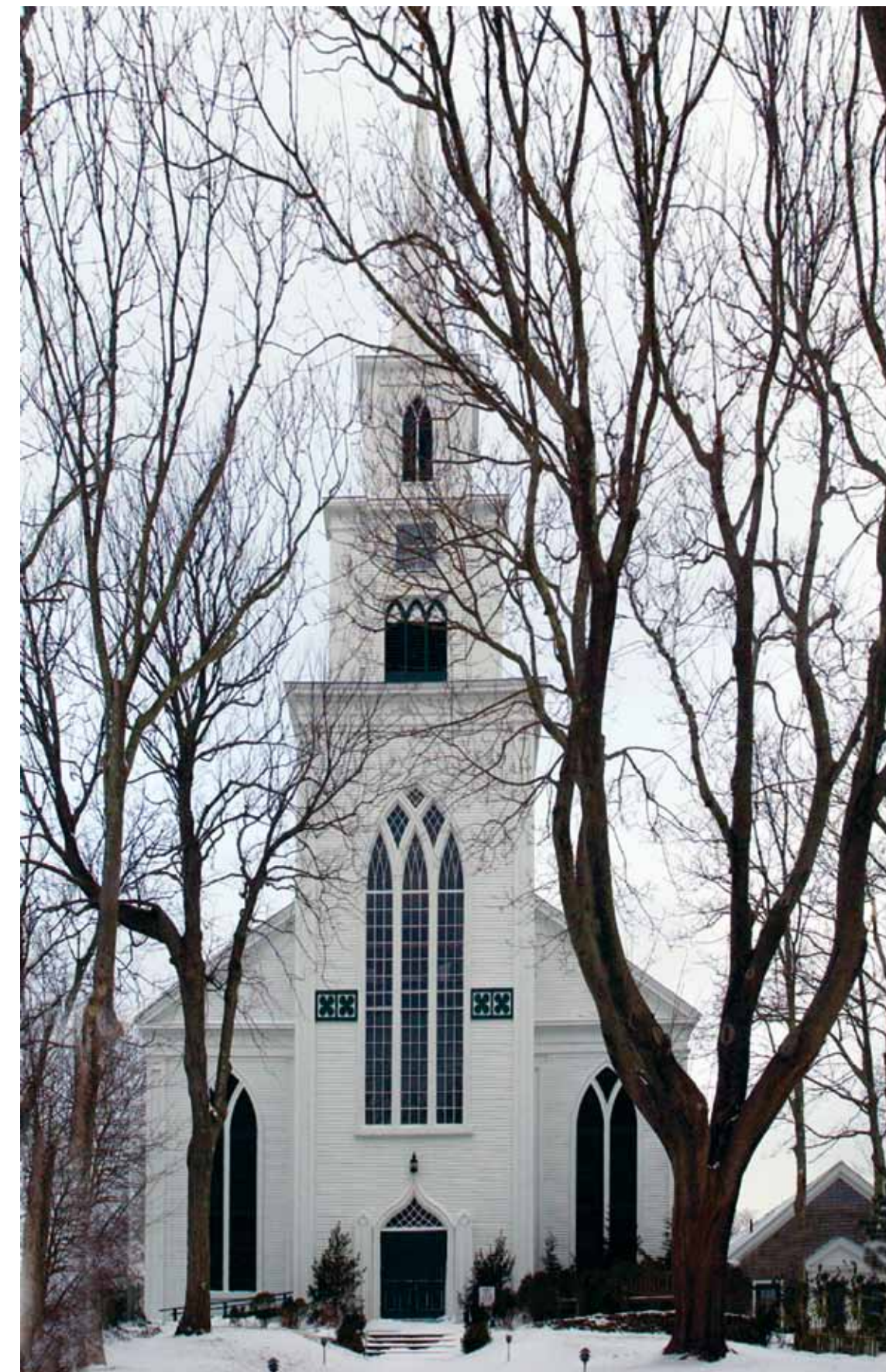
A white sailboat is beached on a grassy shore next to a calm body of water. The scene is captured at dawn or dusk, with a soft, hazy light in the sky. In the background, there are trees and another boat on the water. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

NANTUCKET

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY BY
CHARLES FIELDS



African Meeting House 16



17 First Congregational Church of Nantucket



Shifting Sands on Smith Point 10



11 19 Broad Street





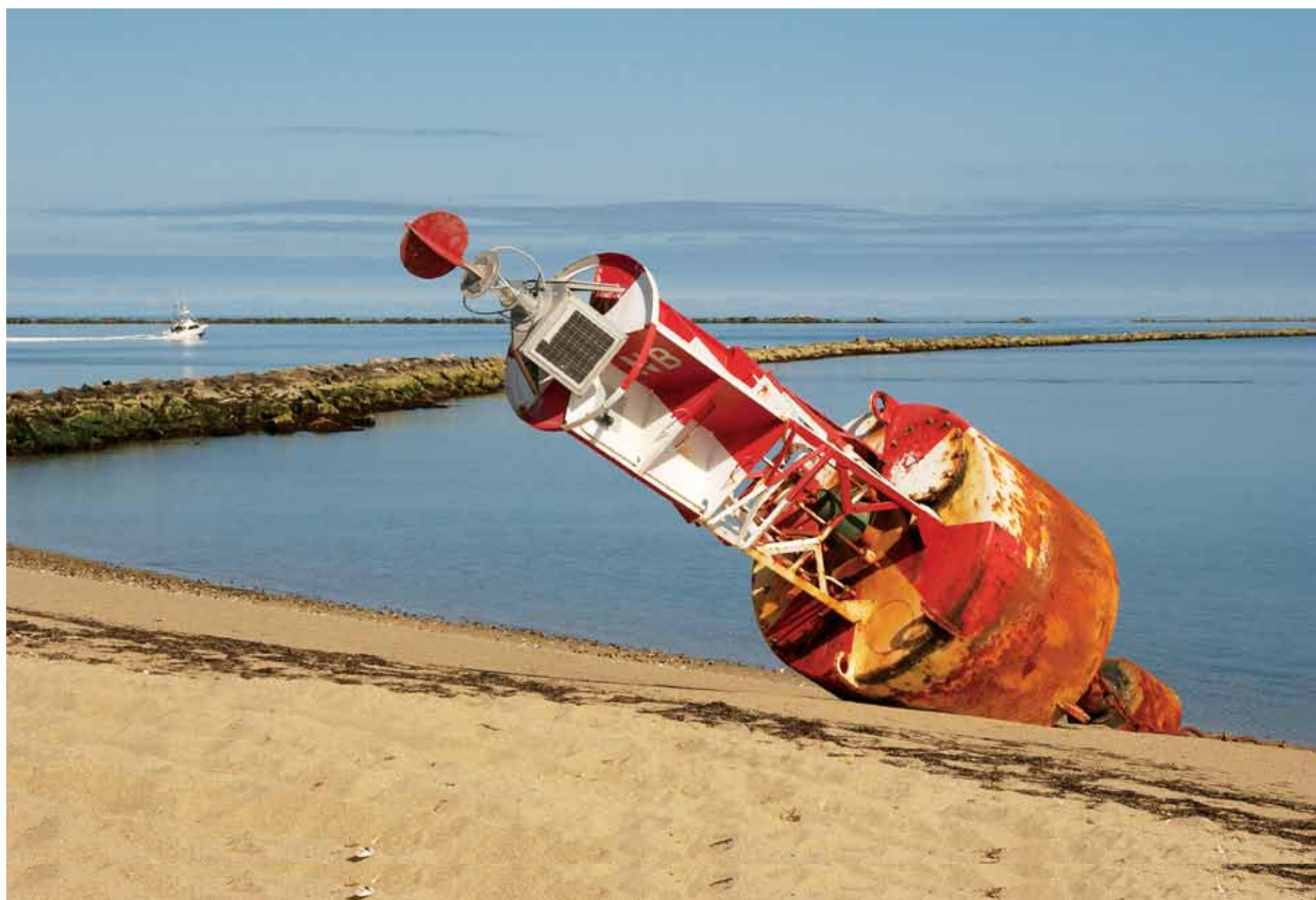


Ice Skating 80



81 Surf Casting, Eel Point





Washed Ashore 84



85 Sankaty Head Light, Siasconset



By the Shore 86



87 Catch



January Sunrise Brant Point Light 46



47 Surfside Beach



Mallards at Consue Spring 48



49 Waterfowl Enjoy One of Nantucket's Many Ponds



Miacomet Pond 50



51 Cranberry Bog, Milestone Road



"Rosie" on Ice 52



53 Nantucket Winter Water Abstract

PHOTOGRAPHIC CAPTIONS



2-3 "MV Iyannough", Seen From Easy Street

In a harbor that once greeted whaling ships returning from the ends of the earth waits the MV Iyannough, the Steamship Authority's fast ferry. Travel by boat remains a popular choice for day-trippers and locals alike, and since 1818, the Steamship Authority has been providing reliable service to and from the island. Ferries are truly Nantucket's lifelines, providing food and goods, which can prove difficult when foul weather prevails.



4 Nantucket Atheneum

The Nantucket Atheneum, the town's public library, was founded in 1834 and was one of the first buildings to be rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1846. Islander Maria Mitchell, the first woman to discover a comet and the first woman to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, was the Atheneum's first librarian. Mitchell wanted Nantucket's library to be a cultural center. Many important thinkers of the 19th Century, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, Lucretia Mott and Horace Mann were invited to speak at the Atheneum's Great Hall. That legacy continues today after the renovation of the Great Hall in 1996, where the library sponsors cultural events that are open to the public.



6 Opera House Cup Regatta

Nantucket's seafaring history comes alive during the annual Opera House Cup Regatta, held in August. The event rounds out Nantucket Race Week, a community tradition celebrating the excitement of sailboat racing. These catboats pursue one another on a clear summer afternoon, sails full in the bright sunlight.



8 Aerial View, Elevation 15,500 feet

From above, Nantucket's crescent shape emerges out of the still waters of the Atlantic, 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod. The island's 48 square miles contain more than 11,000 year-round residents, soaring to over 50,000 visitors during the summer months. Boasting a pristine coastline, thriving community and a rich history, Nantucket has remained a popular vacation destination since the demise of its whaling industry at the end of the 19th century.



10 Shifting Sands on Smith Point

Each year, several houses in the Smith Point section of Madaket are threatened by the Atlantic. While a handful of homes have been lost to the sea over the past several years, many others have been moved back from the bluff, or relocated to another part of the island. Erosion continues to be a problem that threatens Nantucket; it is constantly being reshaped as sands are swept into the sea.



11 19 Broad Street

Victorian-style houses can be found in the Old Historic District, though they are few and far between. The island's Historic District Commission oversees the architectural integrity of the island, by preserving homes in the Old Historic District and regulating the look of newly constructed buildings. Property



12 Jared Coffin House, 29 Broad Street

Named for the wealthy merchant who commissioned its construction in 1845, the Jared Coffin House is an impressive remnant of the success many Nantucketers hoped to achieve by setting sail. One of the island's oldest and most distinguished families, the Coffins date back to Nantucket's earliest days- first founding the island, and later becoming integral to the development of the whaling industry and its infrastructure. The Jared Coffin house has been operating as a guest-house for over a century-and-a-half, providing luxury accommodations to scores of visitors just a short walk from the bustling center of town.



13 Hadwen House, 96 Main Street

With its ionic columns and ornate furnishings, William Hadwen's Greek Revival home evokes the grandeur afforded to benefactors of the whaling industry during its heyday. Hadwen's home, now owned and maintained by the Nantucket Historical Association, was the product of his successful career as a jeweler and later, a whale oil merchant, in the mid-1800s.



14 Surfside

Nantucket's ocean beaches are among its primary attractions, with unspoiled views of the expansive Atlantic against a seemingly endless horizon. On any given day during the summer months, Surfside Beach is packed to the brim with vacationers fishing, swimming, or relaxing under colorful umbrellas. Evening brings spectacular sunsets on the western coast of the island, making Surfside an ideal spot to enjoy the spectacle.



15 Pocomo

This narrow strip of Pocomo beach juts into the serene harbor, offering spectacular views of one of Nantucket's most unspoiled areas. Lacking the hustle and bustle of beaches like Surfside, Pocomo offers a quiet alternative for those looking for a relaxing afternoon. The waters converging on its peninsula make for excellent fishing and windsurfing.



16 African Meeting House

From the beginning of Nantucket's history, Quakers played a key role in the island's development, primarily in instilling values of social justice among its residents. Their dedication to abolition in antebellum days aided in the construction of the African Meeting House in the 1820s, a place where Africans and African Americans could join together with their supporters to create a community of tolerance on the island. Now maintained as a registered historical property by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the structure stands as a reminder of Nantucket's diverse and inclusive past.