

STAMOS & STAMOS REALTORS
747 East Squantum Street, Squantum, MA
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SQUANTUM ROCKS . . . by Marie Stamos

There has never been a time in history when Squantum did not have great appeal. In primitive times it offered all one needed to sustain life as well as a protective geographical vantage point. The Peninsula offered(s): a temperate climate, rich soil, a bay full of fish, and fresh water springs.

Since its early beginnings, and up to its gentrification, if you will, Squantum, yes, this quiet, peaceful, low key community had been recognized, socially, as a rocking place. But the rocks of Squantum have had an equally fascinating appeal to the scientific community.

When I arrived in Squantum in the 70's I had a couple of small outcroppings of "Squantum Rock" on my property; one in the basement and one in the back yard. As I became more familiar with the area I realized that some basements were all Squantum Rock and, if one could possibly have rock envy, I had exactly that and was enchanted by a rocky hill on the property across the street from my then home. I did not realize then that I was looking across the street at my future home. The owner of the property, Fran Lawson, told me that geologists had visited those rocks many times because of the age of them and the uniqueness of them. She informed me that the composition of the rock was called pudding stone and they had glacial origins and were thought to be more than 250,000,000 years old.

Our "new" home is surrounded by great rock formations. When we were ready to build a garage and hired an excavator to prepare the land for the building project, we were confronted with a most unusual problem. What appeared to be a dirt hill with assorted shrubs, brush and trees was, in fact, a huge mountain of rock, the crest of which appeared to be basking, playful seals. The more we dug, the more rock we uncovered and a decision was made to let the mountain dictate the location of the garage. Our lot is located at a point where Bellevue Road, Knollwood Road and Seal Rock Road converge. We selected that rock formation for our cover photo and our daughter, Melissa, has chosen this site, weather permitting, for the performance of her wedding ceremony in early October (2004).

Rock seems to have a presence in every historical accounting of Squantum.

Squantum Park, located just beyond Nickerson Post, is a place of great beauty and by all accounts historically significant. It boasts a slate quarry, Chapel Rocks and, of course, Squaw Rock. Squaw Rock is said to be the place where in 1621 Squanto, Myles Standish's Indian guide and interpreter, introduced him to Squantum. Legend is that Musquot and his Squaw, Squanit, were divine greeters who taught [the people] how to build, create pottery from clay, plant, and care for and harvest their crops. The stones known as Squaw Rock and Chapel Rocks were of Musquot's creation, the latter having been dropped from the sky and the former being formed in the image of Squanit. (See Squaw Rock photo Circa 1929; see group photo and Squaw Rock lookout Circa 1908. Both photos are from Stamos & Stamos' collection.)

Peterson's Rocks are located at the foot of Bay Street. This picturesque rock grouping was originally known as Willoughby Ledge for Captain John Smith's birthplace in Willoughby, England, and eventually renamed for Captain Peterson an early settler. (See recent photo from Stamos & Stamos' collection.)

(Reference material: "Squantum In the State of Massachusetts" may be purchased from the Quincy Historical Society; "Quincy 350 Years" and "Quincy: A Pictorial History" are both out of print, but may be used at the Historical Society or can be checked out from the Quincy Public Library. Also used "SCAN")

If you have a Squantum story or Squantum photos you would like to share for possible future publication in this magazine, please call Marie Stamos at 617-328-9400.



Peterson's Rocks at bottom of Bay Street. (From Stamos & Stamos collection)

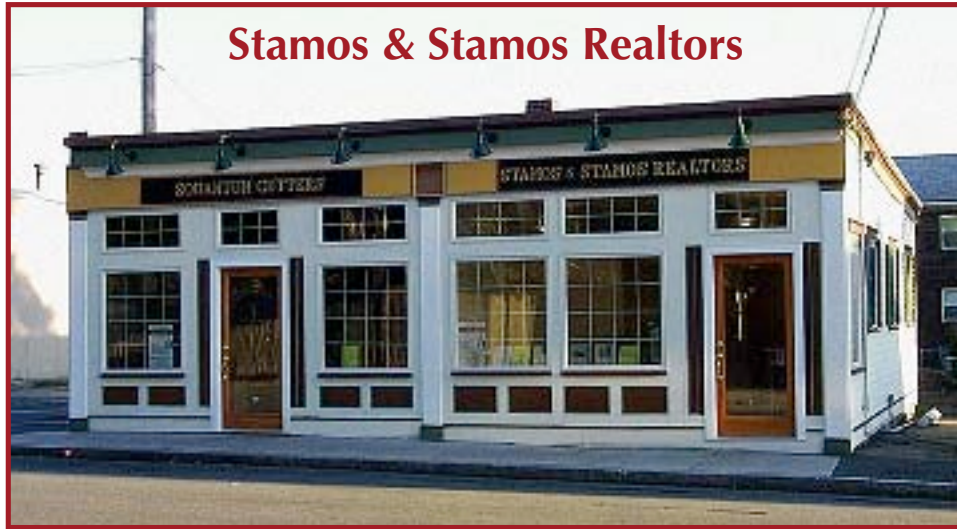


(Vintage photos from Stamos & Stamos collection)



Squaw Rock (c.1929)

Squaw Rock Lookout (c.1908)
(stairs and platform were removed in the late 1950s)



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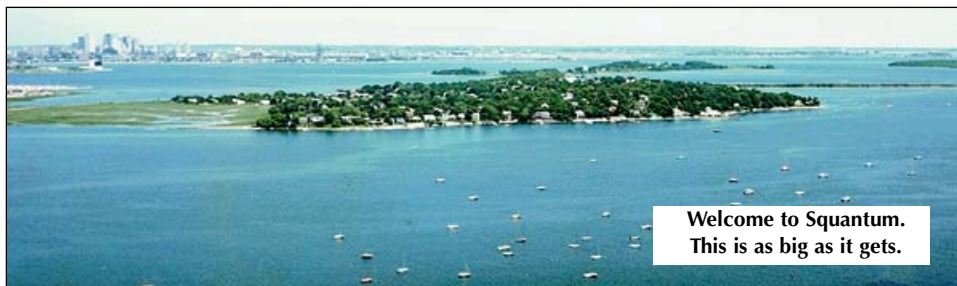
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REAL ESTATE

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Recently uncovered rock formation at the point where Bellevue Road, Knollwood Road, and Seal Rock Road meet. (From Stamos & Stamos collection)