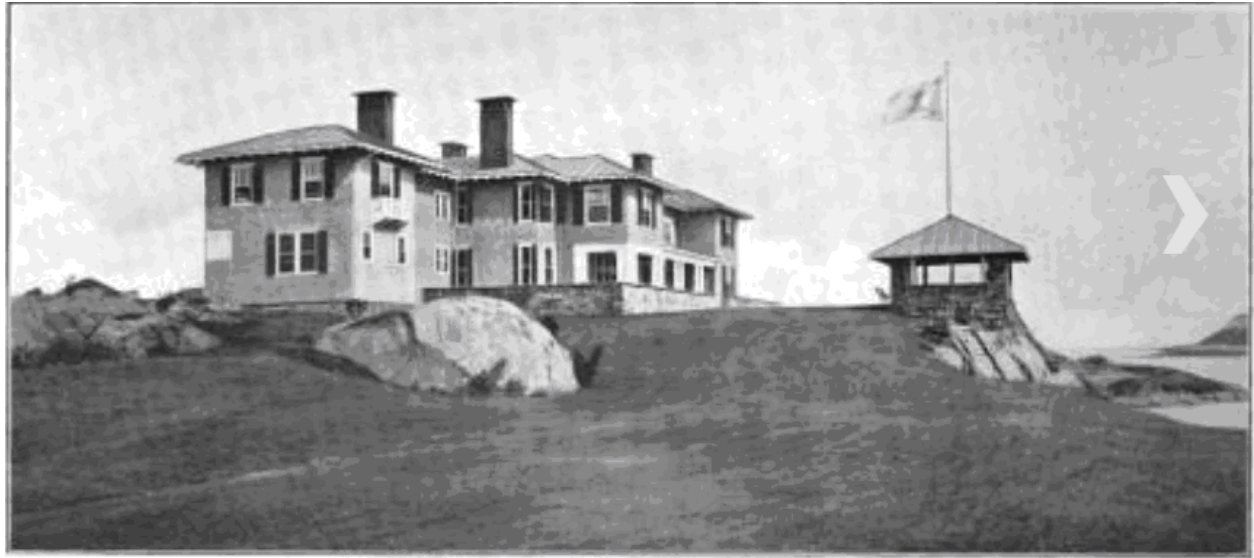


Calf Island, Boston Harbor



THE HOUSE AND "THE OVERLOOK"

Julia Arthur & Benjamin Cheney home, foundation - built 1902.

Photos & article from "Indoors and Out, the Homebuilders Magazine"

"The Moorings" An Unusual House in an Unusual Situation, being the Summer Home of B. P. Cheney, Esq., on Calf Island in Boston Harbor Designed by John A. Fox, Architect

THIS house, located on "Calf Island," one of the largest of the "Brewster" group, at the entrance to Boston Harbor and between "Broad Sound" and "Ship Channel," is designed for a hot weather refuge for a busy man of affairs and his family. The whole island is under his sole control and can only be reached by his yacht and launches. The main requirements to be fulfilled by his architect were to provide a very solid and weather-proof building in secluded, convenient and restful surroundings. What is commonly known as the picturesque in house design was ruled out by the natural conditions, for the angles of irregular wings and rambling roofs cannot but be vulnerable to wind and rain. The island, composed largely of ragged and precipitous rocks, is swept by every winter gale; the salt spray, and sometimes the crests of waves, being driven to the very doors of the house. This made necessary a simple, solid and weather-proof exterior, with a spacious and airy arrangement of the interior. The latter is marked especially by the large two-story hall and galleries that invite every summer breeze. The fine situation also suggested the "Overlook," a pavilion thirty feet square, at about sixty feet from the main house, almost overhanging the water at the highest part of the cliff, and some thirty feet above the level of low tide. The contour of the site and the exposure to the winter weather did not allow the main house to be placed any nearer the edge of the rocks. So this annex was devised to give a view down to the landing stage and boat moorings, and to welcome every whiff of salt air in the hottest of dog days. It also serves as a shelter for telescope, signal gun. The small buildings beside it are made up in part of the deck houses of vessels and signal flags. This structure, and all terrace and foundation walls of the house, fireplaces and chimneys, inside and out, are of local stone gathered from old walls on the island. They

are of great variety and beauty of color and quite regular in shape. The stone, being of the same formation as the cliffs, gives the house a fitting connection with its site. The boathouse and mess-house (the latter not shown) furnish additional quarters for boats, crews and other employees. The small buildings next the boat-house are made up of old deck houses and other wreckage, and were the home of a fisherman before the present ownership, and were purposely retained. The climate in winter being too severe for plastering, all interiors are finished throughout with press of natural color. The demand for a large supply of rain water compelled low pitched metal-covered roofs of considerable area. The construction is generally of wood and unusually heavy. The roof color is red, and the walls a light, warm gray. The blinds are a bright green. All terraces and landings are of granolithic. The House and its Stretch of Shore The natural finish of the rooms goes far to carry indoors the nautical surroundings of the house. Stair balustrades of cordage, ship's lanterns, numerous charts and relics cast up by the sea are proof that the house does not happen by its situation merely, but that it was designed in every detail to be a habitation fitly surmounting its rocky isle and to give scope to thrilling outdoor life amid the salt breath of Old Ocean.



THE DINING-ROOM



THE BILLIARD-ROOM



THE BOATHOUSE