



Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) Maggie Holtzberg, (CH) Claudia Heiman

Accession Numbers:

MH-01-12-FN

Fieldnotes

MH-01-15-D

Audio recordings

MH-01-15-CS

Photographic documentation

MH-01-15-M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: 7/3/2001 Contact Date: 7/19/01

Related Accession Numbers: - - - - -

Individual/Group/Event: Travis Turk, metal sculptor

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

Zip: [REDACTED]

County: [REDACTED]

Phone: Daytime: [REDACTED]

Evening: _____

E-mail: travis@travistuck.com

Website: www.travistuck.com

Contact person: _____

Title: _____

Location of Interview: Studio which will soon be moved to [REDACTED]

Street Address: _____

City: [REDACTED]

Zip: [REDACTED]

County: Dukes

Special Needs (including translation): _____

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): One of a kind weathervanes using the repousse technique.

Traditions noted for follow-up: _____

Other Possible Contacts: Marion Ives, Hawley, MA (made Hook Lobster's weathervane)

Summary Description: Called Travis Turk, on the recommendation of Tim Lynch whose Connecticut family has been in the weathervane making business for several generations.

Travis apprenticed himself to a Dutch sculptor in New York City in 1966.

Travis' weathervanes are done using the old method of repousse (pushed from behind). In the 1850s the use of molds were introduced. A cast iron negative mold was made from a wooden carving and then copper was hammered into the mold. Turk doesn't use molds. He makes paper patterns from freehand drawings. Then, as one would in making a garment, makes sections and cuts pieces of copper which will eventually be shaped and welded together. Although weathervanes are still being made by artisans, not many are doing it free hand (i.e., without molds.)

Turk has been in business for 31 years. With four people are working in the studio, he is booked for two years in advance. Among his customers is Stephen Spielberg, for whom he made a Jurassic Park dinosaur weathervane. He is currently working on a 10 foot long, three dimensional mountain lion weathervane for Penn State University to go up on their football stadium.

On Thursday July 19, Maggie, Claudia and Russell drove to Falmouth and took the Island Queen over to Oak Bluffs. Travis Tuck met us there in his green pick-up truck. We were treated to a tour of the island, with commentary by Tuck -- pointing out numerous weathervanes he had made. The first a stork for the local obstetrician, a quill for the Vineyard Gazette, the Perry Whaling ship for the Edgartown Town Hall, a gilded grasshopper for the local market and many more. We didn't get lunch until nearly 2:00 -- bringing sandwiches for the three artisans he has working for him. Tony Holand has been there the longest. He is a young fellow who takes the work very seriously. Travis called him the "heir apparent" and they are both very interested in applying for an apprenticeship grant.