

**FORM B - BUILDING**

AREA	FORM NO.
MMA	13

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills Center)

Address 261 Cotuit Road (Rte149)

Historic Name Gifford Farm

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1850 *Nancy Clark's research indicates 1790's (HH)*

Source County Registry

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric asbestos

Outbuildings barn

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

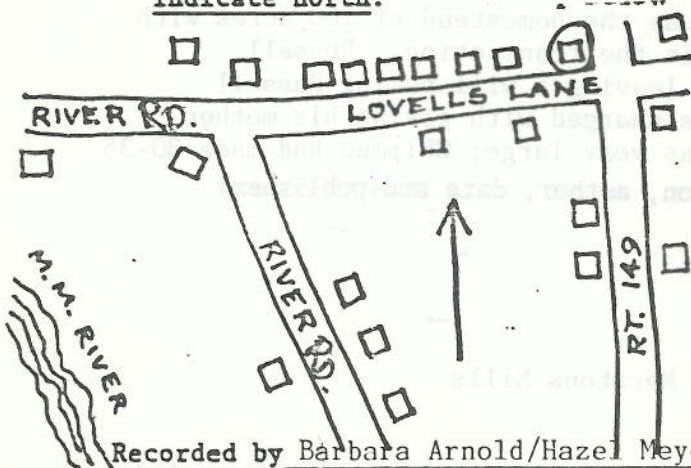
none

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 5

Setting residential at edge of village

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Barbara Arnold/Hazel Meyer

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1984 revised 1985

Photo #58-11-A13\*

58-10-A13

(Staple additional sheets here) 58-9-A13



**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)**

The Gifford Farm is an interesting and unusual example of the Greek Revival style in Barnstable. It is a full cottage rising 1½ stories to a gable roof; rather than the traditional five bay facade however, it is a double house with twin entries centered between pairs of windows. It is trimmed with wide cornerboards and a full entablature running beneath the eaves. It is distinguished by a central facade gable and a one story Doric porch. Windows contain 6/6 sash. Despite siding, the house retains all of its important features.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)**

Sue Davenport Johnson became sole owner of this parcel of 5 acres and buildings in 1974. She and her former husband, Robert, bought the holding from M&M George Gifford in 1970. This is a portion of the real estate received in 1950 from Mr. Gifford's parents, Lorenzo and Nora. Lorenzo purchased 6 parcels in 1919 from Louis Kleinsmidt and developed a large dairy herd, had a milk route, a slaughterhouse and a smoke house. This was the last working farm in Marstons Mills village. Mrs. Gifford was the post-mistress from 1926-1941 when the post office was located in a building on the premises. The farm was the social center of the neighborhood. Louis Kleinsmidt and his uncle purchased the homestead of 200 acres plus four other parcels from Caroline Bodge in 1898. The uncle died in 1912 leaving his estate to Louis whom he named as executor. A sister in Hanover, Germany assented to the will. On April 11, 1890 Caroline Bodge purchased two unsubdivided 1/3 parts of the estate of Sylvanus Bourne from two sons; on April 15, 1890, she purchased the remainder from the guardian of a minor son. The deeds describe the same five parcels. Sylvanus Bourne died in 1887. In 1882 Sylvanus Bourne purchased from Russell and Lydia Hinckley "for \$1 and other valuable considerations" all their real estate. Parcel I was the homestead of 200 acres with all buildings. Many other parcels were included in the transaction. Russell Hinckley's father, Chipman Hinckley, died in 1858 leaving a will naming Russell his executor. Russell received the estate and was charged with giving his mother and sister "reasonable maintenance" The estate was very large; Chipman had made 30-35

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)**

- Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.
- Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate.
- The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.
- Town Assessors Map 78/29
- Oral history: Sue Davenport Johnson, Cotuit Rd., Marstons Mills



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Barnstable

Form No:

Marstons Mills Center

A-13

Property Name: Gifford Farm

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

purchases of land from 1800-1842. Also, Chipman was the executor of his father's will. Nathaniel Hinckley who purchased land died in 1800 and had purchased land. Its difficult to determine which Hinckley bought the land and built the house. Nathaniel made his land purchases in the 1790's. Chipman bought land from 1800-1840. Given the date of the house, Chipman is the likely builder.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom