

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
MMA	31

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 80 BOSTON STREET BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills Center)

Address 51 Prince Ave.

Historic Name Crocker House

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION:

Date c 1800-1830

Source Registry of Deeds; atlases

Style federal Cape

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings small older barn now used  
as garage

Major alterations (with dates) large rear ell: c1950

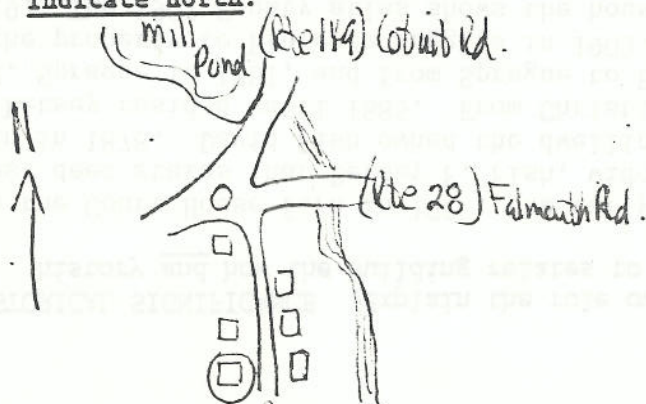
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Approx. acreage 1.5 077/002

Setting rural residential

SKETCH MAP

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 John O'Neil/Pat Anderson

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date May 1986

Photo #85-17-A31  
85-18-A31

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Crocker House is a full five bay Federal Cape enclosed by a steeply pitched gable roof with central stove chimney. It is sheathed with shingles and trimmed with simple cornerboards, window and door surrounds. The door has a transom, and windows contain 2/2 replacement sash. It is a typical example of its period.

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

Due to the Court House fire in 1827, the early deeds to this property are lost. The earliest deed states that Betsey F. Fish, widow of David, sold this house to Christina Hamblin in 1878. David Fish owned the dwelling to the south of this property also, in which Betsey resided until 1885. From Christina Hamblin, the property passed to William R. Sprague in 1881, and from Sprague to Esther Gregson in 1891. Esther Gregson sold the property to Florence Huggins in 1903. Oliver Crocker purchased the property in 1919. The 1907 County atlas shows the house in C. Huckins name. Chester Huckins was married to Oliver Crocker's daughter. They later moved to Osterville and in 1920, Oliver sold the house to Laughlin Crocker. Laughlin was sheriff of Barnstable County. Sheriff Crocker campaigned for state legislative prison reforms and felt that putting a man in jail for non-support only made the problem worse. The house was owned by Sheriff Crocker's widow, Wilhelmina, until her death a few years ago. James Crocker, son of Laughlin and Wilhelmina is the current owner.

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

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate.  
Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.