

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
MMA	5

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills Center)

Address Cotuit Road (Rte. 149)

Historic Name Old Post House

Use: Present vacant

Original dwelling, P.O., general store

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1897

Source County Registry

Style Colonial Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

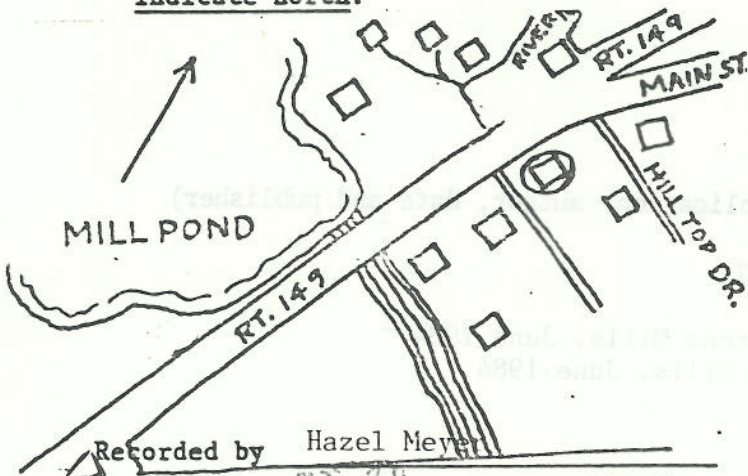
being renovated 1985

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage .65

Setting residential village area

To nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Hazel Meyer
 Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1984 revised 1985

Photo #57-13-A5

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Old Post House was built in 1897 in the Colonial Revival style. It rises 1½ stories to a gambrel roof running lengthwise to the street but also includes a cross section. The entry is located in the main section and is protected by a shed roof porch.

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

In 1897 Harriet Mecarta, widow, bought this piece of land with the intention of building a combination residence and general store and post office. She was post mistress at the time in a smaller building south of this one. Her granddaughter, Marian Oldham, says Mrs. Mecarta ran the P.O. at this location until 1923 or 1924 when Margaret Carver took over at her house on Main St. at Lovell Lane. Mrs. Mecarta continued the variety store until the mid-1930's. The plot of land came from the Josiah Hamblin estate; in 1875 Isadore Benson, eldest daughter of Josiah and wife of Revilo Benson, purchased the rights and title of the homestead estate from her sister and her mother. Isadore sold the land 22 years later to Mrs. Mecarta. Until the building was vacated in 1984 it was used for a variety of commercial purposes.

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

Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.
Town Assessors map. 77/11
Oral history: Miss Priscilla Higgins, Marstons Mills, June 1984 -
Mrs. Marian Oldham, Marstons Mills, June 1984