

Area	Form No.
MMC	22

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills-Plains)

Address Race Lane & Rte. 149

Name Barnstable County Fairgrounds

Ownership:

Public

Private

Present owner William Danforth

Type:

Park

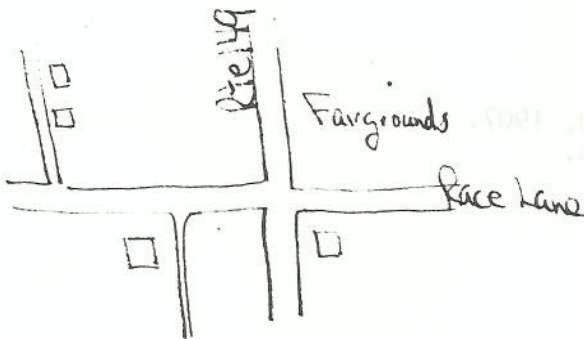
Green

Training Field

Boulevard or Parkway

Other open field

Draw map showing property's location
 in relationship to nearest cross streets
 and other buildings or geographical features.
Indicate north.



4. Description:

Date 1954

Size (approx. acreage) over one

Architect (if known) none

Location of Plans (if known) none

Setting rural residential

Current Condition unmaintained field

Recorded by Betty Goddard

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1985

Photo #86-3-C22

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

Describe topography and layout. Note components such as structures (bandstands, gazebos, sheds) monuments & fountains; landscaping features (formal plantings, bodies of water). Compare current appearance with original, if possible.

The former Barnstable County Fairgrounds is a large flat field which formerly had several permanent exhibit structures and a race track with grandstand. It is now a vacant field.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Discuss types of use, major period of use, evaluate importance within town.

The Barnstable County Fair was revived in 1954 after many years of inactivity. The fair, originally held in Barnstable Village, started under the auspices of the Barnstable County Agricultural Society in 1844. It increased in size and quality until 1920 when it started a period of decline and finally was ended in 1932. Its period of growth is well recorded on the County Atlases of 1880 and 1907. The revived fair was severely buffeted by hurricane winds in 1955. Fair goers stayed home and a financial loss resulted, but the fair continued the next year, offering interest and entertainment for all ages until 1973. The owners of the grounds did not wish to renew the rental contract so the fair was moved to Rte. 151 in North Falmouth.

Barnstable County Atlases, . 1858, 1880, 1907.
The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.