

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
MMC	23

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills-The Plains)

Address Race Lane and Rte 149

Historic Name Cape Cod Airport

Use: Present airfield

Original airfield

DESCRIPTION:

Date early 20th century

Source Town histories

Style n/a

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle, metal cladding

Outbuildings yes

Major alterations (with dates) _____

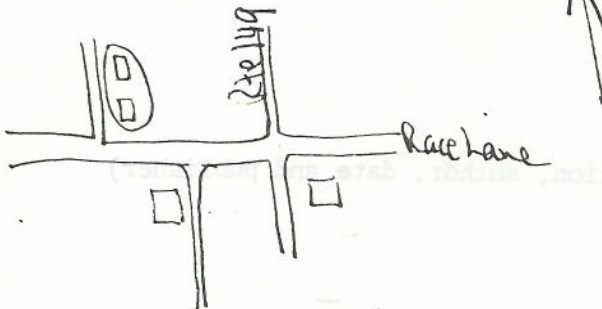
unknown

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage over one

Setting rural

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 Betty Goddard

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1985

Photo #86-1-C23

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Cape Cod Airport now consists of flat runway areas and two structures. These are a gable roofed hanger and a small windmill shaped tower.

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

"The age of air travel was foreshadowed in 1928 when the first airplane landed at the old racetrack on the site of the present airport. The plane was piloted by Alton B. Sherman, who later became manager of the airport. The field was first laid out by Charles Ayling; the airport was purchased by the Town of Barnstable in 1936 and is still known as the Barnstable Airport. It did not achieve any commercial importance until after its improvement by the Navy during WWII." (even Villages p. 129) Its position was usurped in the mid-20th century by the Hyannis Municipal Airport. The Cape Cod Airport at the "Plains" section of Marstons Mills is small and not very busy except in summer when many small private planes land and take off. However, it is quite old as airports go and still is a working airport. Air circuses featuring stunt flying and parachute jumping performed there in the early days of aviation. It was used by the aviation division of the old Massachusetts National Guard in its summer excercises. The area on the north side was used as a polo field, with stables and even a restaurant. Auto and motor cycle racing provided further excitement. Nearby Mystic Lake was sometimes used as a seaplane base in connection with the airport.

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

The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.

