

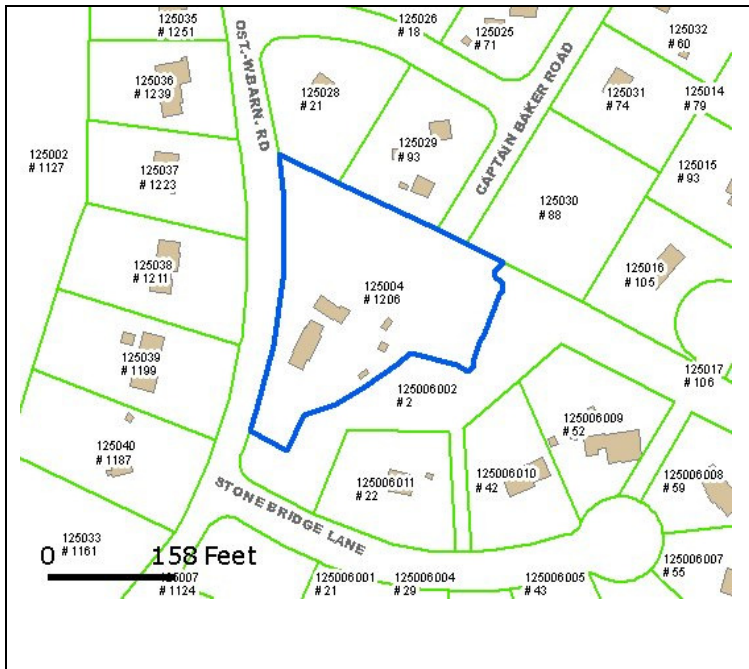
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould
Organization: MMHS, BHC
Date (month / year): May 2009

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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Town: Barnstable

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address: 1206 Osterville-West Barnstable Road

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: Single family residence

Original: Single family residence

Date of Construction: 1922

Source: Deeds 386/204; Barnstable *Patriot* 23 Oct 1922; Jan. 1923.

Style/Form: Colonial revival bungalow

Architect/Builder: Alton Blossom

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage and two sheds.

Major Alterations (with dates):

None

Condition: Original form slightly altered

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.47 Acres

Setting: Suburban, on busy road south of Race Lane, a main branch of the Skunknet River is banked at the rear.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[TOWN]

[ADDRESS]

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This is a one-story vernacular house in Colonial Revival style. The core is a rectangle 32' x 21', with 12-foot extensions at either end, all placed on a concrete block foundation. The exterior is shingle clad, with blue shutters and blue front door

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This was the home in the Marstons Mills "Plains" of the poet, naturalist and story-teller Hattie Pearl Blossom (1883-1970). She lived in this immediate area most of her 83 years, born at #1009 Old Falmouth Rd., the daughter of Abner⁷ Austin Jones (Thomas⁶, Abner⁵, Isaac⁴⁻³, Shubael², Ralph¹) and Harriet Finney Swift. In 1901 she married Alton W. Blossom (1881-1930), son of J. Howard Blossom and Ella B. Crowell of West Barnstable. Alton worked at a variety of jobs, including *The Barnstable Patriot*, repairing local roads, at the Twist Drill Co. in New Bedford, and in the cranberry bogs of Waquoit.

In 1922 the couple sold their home near the Ellis place on the Centerville Road in West Barnstable to Manuel Amaral and moved to the Frank Lapham House (at #1297) on the West Barnstable Road in the Plains while he built a five-room bungalow on the opposite side of the road on land they bought from neighbor Andrew Lawrence. A mortgage for \$1200 probably represents the cost of the house. By the end of January 1923 *The Patriot* reported "The Blossoms are now occupying their cozy new bungalow on the Osterville road."

Alton ran a poultry farm, and had an interest in The Oasis which served "Luncheons and Afternoon Teas" on the Old King's Highway in West Barnstable, and in 1926 advertised "We raise and fry our own chickens in Southern Style/Strictly Home Cooking". In June 1929 they opened a tea room, "Greenwood," here. In 1930 Alton got a permit from the town to open an eating place in Osterville called "Bayberry Cottage", giving up his job as custodian of the Osterville school. However he was killed by a drunken driver of a school bus in Nov. 1930. At the depth of the Depression, in 1933, the bank foreclosed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 387/555-6, 491/223, 497/430, 519/146, 595/139, 2073/322, 2255/34, 2890/185, 3491/263;

Plan 362/81.

Town of Barnstable Vital Records.

Hattie Blossom Fritze, *Fragments* (Yarmouthport: Register Press, 1959).

_____, *Horse and Buggy Days on Old Cape Cod* (Barnstable: 1966)

Barnstable Patriot 18 Feb. 1901, 6 March, 23 Oct. 1922, 29 Jan. 1923, 6 June 1929, 13 Nov. 1930, 12 March 1970.

Interviews with owner Richard Whitman 15 Oct. 2008.

Jones Genealogy, mss. Walter Hamblin, comp.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[TOWN]

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Historical Narrative, cont'd:

By then, Hattie had married Ernest Bismark Fritze (born 1870 in Nova Scotia to German immigrant, d. 1955). Fritze built some houses nearby, where they presumably lived. Hattie wrote poetry and observations about nature as a regular contributor to the *Boston Globe* under the name "the Woodsie One". These were collected in a booklet *Fragments* (1959). Her second book, *Horse and Buggy Days on Old Cape Cod* (1966) contains her amusing recollections of life in the area. In her last years she lived in the District VI schoolhouse which she had attended as a girl.

It was not until 1942 that the bank could sell the house, to Clarence F. and Christina C. Hill of Arlington MA. After Clarence's death in 1972 his widow sold it for \$34,500 to Audrey E. Belloni of Prince's Cove who sold it the next year for \$28,000 to Lois Joan Reed of Hanover MA. After her death in 1979 her estate sold it for \$36,650 to the current owner, boat builder Richard S. Whitman (b. 1946) of Cotuit. Whitman enlarged the property in 1982 by adding about two-thirds of an acre up to the ditch by the brook that feeds into the Skunknet River. Whitman has assembled here a collection of nautical items, including a couple of kedge-anchors and lobster pot buoys.