

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

30-29

Sandwich

MM N-10

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE

Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 347 ^{Santuit-} Newtown Road

Common Name: Benjamin Jones House

Present: Residence

Original: Farmhouse

Year of Construction: 1870

Assessor; local tradition; architecture

Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Benjamin Jones

Material:

Foundation: Mortared stone

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Horse barn to west.

Major Alterations (with dates): South wing added early 1900s (1913?); rear dormer and west side expanded 1950s?

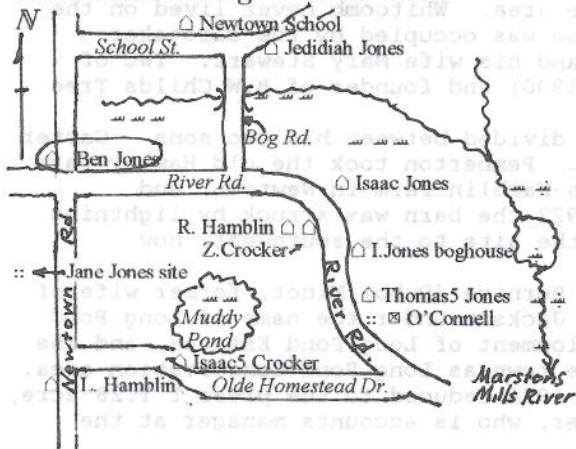
Condition: Close to original, with additions.

Moved no yes Date:

Acres: 1.28

Setting: Rural area west of bogs at headwaters of Marstons Mills River.

inventoried building and nearest intersection of natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by James W. Gould

Organization Marstons Mills Historical Society

Date (month/year) 30 Sept. 2000

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

The Benjamin Jones House is a one and a half story Greek Revival farmhouse laid in an "L" plan. The south ell may be an older structure like a Cape Cod cottage to which the north gable was added. This north gable has its end to the street, with a pair of windows to the left of a front door, which has a plain surround. Above is a pair of windows, and a gabled dormer facing south. The south wing also has a pair of windows to the left of a front door, again plain. Above is a gabled dormer. To the south is a one story gabled extension, built in the early twentieth century. Between this extension and the main core, on the southeast corner, is a screened porch. At the rear, on the west side is a shed dormer and a bulkhead entrance to the cellar, which is mortared stone. The house is clad in white cedar shingle, covered with vinyl on the east front. The trim is white, with green shutters. The roof is composition shingle topped with three chimneys, two brick ones at the peak of each gable of the main building, both rebuilt, and a third cinder block chimney at the rear. The only outbuilding is a 52 foot long horse barn of one story, originally a chicken coop, dating from the twenties.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

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.

Benjamin Jones (1785-1872), descendant of the pioneer Quaker Ralph Jones, whose sons were among the first settlers of the north end of Cotuit, may have built this house in its Greek Revival style by 1870 around an older family home. In 1811 he had married Mary⁶ E. "Polly" Hamblin (1783-1874) of the Plains, daughter of Lewis⁵ and Abigail Crocker Hamblin. His son Benjamin Jr. (1821-70) had probably been a successful sea captain, for he died at age 49 owning shares in 14 vessels as well as a homestead worth \$800 and 200 acres of woodland. The parents inherited his property, which went on their deaths shortly after (1873, 1874) to his sister Hannah (b. 1812).

Hannah Jones never married, but had an illegitimate child by an unknown father, Rose Emma Jones (1844-1904) who inherited the house. Rose married her first cousin once removed, Edmund⁷ Hinckley Hamblin (1837-1911), second son of Luther Hamblin and Caroline Crocker whose house was just to the south. Edmund farmed the area, including a cranberry bog. His wife added 35 acres to the south, the former Jane Jones Homestead on Long Pond. Rose was a large woman, and on her death in 1904, he couldn't get her corpse downstairs, so lowered it out of the upstairs window. A passerby shouted, "Ned, You can't do that!" He replied, "I can't? She's dead ain't she?" On Edmund's death in 1911 the homestead was valued at \$2200, with additional acres in Sandwich and Newtown. The couple had three children, but two boys died young, one, probably Milton⁸ (1865-82), was cutting wood up on Wakeby Rd. and bled to death before he could be rescued.

The farm was inherited by the only surviving child, May⁸ Hamblin (1874-1943). May never married, but moved to Osterville after selling the homestead and 86 acres in 1913 to Cotuit summer resident Franklin L. Whitcomb (1852-1949), manufacturer of railway wheels. Whitcomb added another 101 acres of neighboring farmland, creating one of the largest farms on Cape Cod, where he grew asparagus and cows that provided milk for the whole area. Whitcomb never lived on the farm, summering on Ocean View Av. in Cotuit, while the house was occupied by the caretaker farmer. At one time this was Canadian born Harold Childs and his wife Mary Stewart. Two of their children, County Corrections officer Campbell (1922-1990) and founder of B.W. Childs Tree service Braddock grew up here.

On Franklin's death in 1942, the 187 acre estate was divided between his two sons Carter and Pemberton, who had neighboring summer houses in Cotuit. Pemberton took the old Hawley farm and the oldest house in Cotuit, while Carter took the Jones-Hamblin farm in Newtown, and continued farming under a resident caretaker farmer. In 1922 the barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, but replaced by the new barn on the site to the southwest, now converted to a house.

In 1964 Whitcomb sold the farm to Cotuit developers, Bernice (Dubb) Minot, former wife of the marine architect Francis Minot and her husband Everett Jackson under the name of Long Pond Associates. The land to the west became the suburban development of Long Pond Estates, and the southern half, the Jane Jones homestead was acquired by the town as Long Pond Conservation area. The farmhouse was early separated onto 7 1/2 acres, and by 1976 reduced to the present 1.28 acre, and sold for \$43,000 to the present owner, Gail Frost Smoller, who is accounts manager at the employment agency Cape Cod Temporaries in Windmill Plaza.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable deeds 323/487, 358/49, 461/106, 780/410-1, 1267/386, 1290/311, 1344/770, 1347/855, 1364/257, 1401/357, 1443/915, 1963/37, 2341/160.

Barnstable probates 5715 (B. Jones), 16357 (E. Hamblin), 16358 (Rose Hamblin), 31744 (F. Whitcom).

Interviews with owner Gail Smoller 22 July 2000, local historian Charles E. Hamblin 28 March 2000; neighbors Mary Hall Hamblin 28 Oct. 1991, Seth Hamblin 7 April 2000. Jones genealogy by Walter Hamblin 19 Aug. 1989; Stephen Hamblin genealogy.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria*