

46-6

Sandwich

MM-N 11

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

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE
Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Photograph
(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5" black and white only)
Label photo on back with town and property

Address: 256 Bog Rd.

Historic Name: Jedidiah Jones Jr. Homestead



Use: Residence

Original Use: Farmhouse

Construction: 1814

Occasion of J. Jones to Hannah Bodfish
c. 1814; family tradition per great
grandson Charles Crocker.

Form: Half Cape

Builder: Jedidiah Jones Jr.

Material:

Exterior: Mortared dressed granite

Roof: Cedar shingle

Roof: Cedar shingle

Inventory building. Indicate north.

N

Race Lane Pondsville

Lynholm Mystic
Regency Dr. Lake

Turtleback Rd. Buonamici

School :: Middle Pond

Whistleberry Dr.

School St. J. Jones Jr.

James Fish
Crocker

Bog Rd.

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn to
west, c. 1850?

Major Alterations (with dates): Modernized and kitchen
wing extended 1913; West wing built c. 1970

Condition: Much altered

Moved no yes Date:

Recorded by: James W. Gould

Organization: Marstons Mills
Historical Society

Acres: 2.5

Date (month / year) 8 April 2000

Setting: Rural area, to SE of junction of Bog
Rd., School St. & Old Mill Rd.

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 original house, a half Cape Cod cottage, is at the east end of this complex of dumbbell plan. It is on a 25 x 20 dressed and mortared stone foundation with a full height entrance into the basement on the southeast corner. The back basement, 10 x 20 is unusually large, with dressed stone walls. Both the original center chimney and a later brick stack have been removed, and footing cannot be seen. Ceiling consists of wide pine boards supported by full round pine sleepers. The first floor has three rooms whose flooring, doors and walls date from 1913, except for the southeast room where original wide pine floor boards, chair rails and mantel are visible. The attic is reached by a 1913 replacement staircase on the west wall. Heavy principal rafters are spaced about three feet apart, joined by wooden pins. All windows of the building have been replaced. A yard wide granite front doorstep has been moved about 25 feet to the new entrance.

West of the oldest portion the former kitchen wing was replaced in 1913 by a single story kitchen wing, with door in the east bay, with another granite slab doorstep. At the west end of this was a pantry and bath, which were incorporated into the next unit. At the west end of the house is a two story modern saltbox Colonial Revival of two stories, built about 1970.

There is one outbuilding, built about 1850?, a wood frame barn of two stories high, shingled, with sliding barn door on the north side.

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.

The house has remained in the same family for 186 years. It was built by Jedidiah⁶ Jones (1794-1858, Jedidiah⁵, Simon⁴, Isaac³, Jedidiah², Ralph¹) in 1814 for his wedding to Hannah Bodfish (1793-1880). Unlike earlier houses, this faces northwest, on the south side of the ancient way from Newtown to Pondsville. The location is above a spring at the southeast corner, though this source was replaced by a well. Behind the house is a rarity, a large erratic glacial boulder, since the stone for the foundation was brought from West Barnstable by sled over the winter snow. The land on which it was built was deeded by his father as part of the homestead he had bought from Abraham Crocker (b. 1758) in 1800.

The Joneses first child Eliza (1816-1902) was born here. She married neighbor Stephen⁷ Crocker (1816-91, Ezekiel⁶, Joseph⁵, Benjamin⁴, William³⁻⁴, Joseph², William¹) who bought the Backus homestead on the west side of Long Pond, where they lived (see MM N-9). Their only child Cora (1858-1911) inherited this house, and married her distant cousin (fourth, once removed), James Harvey Crocker (1850-1928). James built the sawmill across the road that gave Old Mill Rd. its name. He assembled 500 acres of land nearby, including a bog south of this house, whose cranberries provided the major family income. The 1856 atlas shows it as G. Jones, which appears to be corrected in the 1858 map to J. Jones.

The 1880 atlas shows the house of F.P. Jones, son of Jedidiah. When Frederick Jones (1828-1900) left for the Klondike Gold Rush in 1896, the bank foreclosed on "Uncle Fred's" property including the bog south of his house, and his nephew James bought all from the bank for \$1200.

James and Cora lived in the house he built at 193 School St.. James is remembered as an old man with a long white beard. Before their deaths Cora and James gave this old house and 500 acres to their four children, Chester, Harvey, Ernest and Mary, who married Raymond Sinnet. Mary lived in her parents' house, Ernest moved to Centerville, while this house was taken by the other two sons. Harvey (1884-1963), who never married, was a carpenter who never could use enough nails, remodelled the house in 1913. An unusual feature was early installation of a 32 volt electrical system from four shelves of Edison batteries powered by a gasoline engine in the basement. During World War II Ernest worked for Morse Twist Drill in New Bedford.

Chester Arthur Crocker (1881-1962), named for the President, married Alice Savery, daughter of Samatrass Savery of Cotuit. Chester was 21 years Selectman of the town from 1929-50 and kept the family bog growing cranberries until its sale in the 1950s. He was at one time barber in Osterville, and ran a clothing and shoe store. In 1951 Chester visited the namesake town of Barnstable, Devon.

The James & Cora Crocker legacy was not broken up until the 1970s when Ernest finally bought Alice's third of the house for \$1200, credited Harvey's estate for the same. At this time Ernest's son Charles Francis Crocker (b. 1921), the present owner, became full owner, and built the west wing, and moved here from Centerville. After service in the Signal Corps in World War II Charles took a BS in Engineering Physics from Univ. of Maine 1947, worked for General Electric in Lynn 12947-72, then for Electric Corp. of America in Cambridge 1962-72. He is a computer genealogist of the family. He and his wife Priscilla Tyler (1922-85) have three sons, David (b. 1954), BS from Caltech who developed woodturning machinery for Bantam Co.; Allen (b. 1956) a display specialist for Sears Roebuck, and Robert (b. 1958), supervisor of computer drafting at Electric Boat Yard in New London CT.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable deeds 4/252B, 68/136-7, 236/353, 330/93, 1252/517.

Barnstable probates 4313 (Jedidiah Jones), 22277 1/2 (James Crocker).

Interview with owner Charles F. Crocker 8 April, 8 June 2000.

Walling maps of 1857 and 1858; Walker Atlas 1880.

Leonard, Andrea, *A Crocker Genealogy* (Balto.: Heritage, 1995), pp. 87, 93, 111, 129.

Obituary of Chester Crocker, *Barnstable Patriot*, 22 Aug. 1962.

Barnstable Town Report 1950, pp. 7-8.

