

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

45-25

Sandwich

MM N-14

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

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE

Town (Marstons Mills)

905

950 River Road

Name: Stephen & Ruhamah Hamblin House

Use: Residence

Original: Farmhouse

Construction: 1880

Barn. Deeds 148/100, 165/474

Style: Greek Revival

Builder: Stephen Crocker Hamblin

Material:

Foundation: Mortared stone

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Two story barn to southeast.

Major Alterations (with dates): Stone lined furnace room under back ell 1885? Bay on east side 1885? Deck added 1960s. Back ell raised 1972-3.

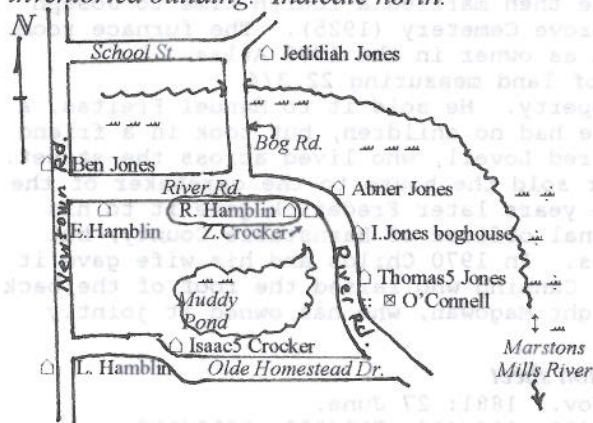
Condition: Close to original, with additions.

Moved no yes Date:

Acres: 1.03 (44,670 sq.ft.)

Setting: Crest of rural upland north of cranberry bogs of Muddy Pond conservation area; at south end of Bog Rd.

relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or 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 house is a mirror image of the house to the south, built at the same time, a two story vernacular Greek Revival, front-gabled, with front entry on the right (west) side of three bays. The basic plan is rectangular, on a mortared stone foundation, and a one story bay on a brick foundation added on the east side. There is a two story back ell on the south end on a stone furnace room, with access by a bulkhead on the south side. The second story, gabled until 1973 when dormers raised the roofline. The exterior is clad in cedar shingle with white trim. The roof is composition shingle.

The two story barn, situated about 100 feet southeast, is roughly contemporary with the house, a simple gabled structure on a rectangular base of mortared stone, clad in shingles on vertical boards, with barn doors on the north end, a one story lean-to, without foundation for tractors, added before 1938 on the west 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 and its twin were built in the fall of 1880 by Stephen⁷ Crocker Hamblin (1851-1881), sixth child of Luther⁶ Hamblin and Caroline Crocker, whose house is on Newtown Rd. to the southwest. Stephen Hamblin bought two pieces of cleared land totalling over six acres from his aunt Cynthia (Jones) Hamblin in 1879 and 1880, but there is no reference to a building on them, nor does the Walker atlas show any in 1880.

Hamblin was the principal cranberry bog builder for the Cranberry King A.D. Makepeace, in 1879 on the Folger/Santuit Bog, then in 1880 on the Wan(kin)co Bog. The main focus of his energy was on the development and management of neighboring bogs like Baker Bog surrounding this house, named for his principal investment partner, George F. Baker. In Aug. 1880, Makepeace was pricing lumber and windows, and bought 1200 bricks, far more than would be needed for the bog houses he was building. In Oct. he paid B.F. Crocker & Co. \$688.57 for lumber, and Hamblin and neighbor Orrin Mecarta for tools, turf & cartage. On Nov. 9 two wells were driven. Total building costs were \$1,524.23.

Makepeace had been living on his farmhouse at the west end of Hyannis until this time, but moved out permanently. In June he paid Hamblin for his own board and for three others. Sometime later he moved to West Barnstable, to the Makepeace Cranberry House at 2454 Meeting House Way (Rt. 149) in West Barnstable was moved from this area, though it cannot have been the Isaac Jones house, which still stands in ruin across River Road (see inventory). It is possible that this house was built at the same time.

Stephen had married in 1878 to Virginia born Ruhamah (Powers) Makepeace (1835-1925), widow of Alvin, brother of Abel Makepeace. Ruhamah was again widowed by Stephen's death in 1881. Without children by Stephen, she sold house, barn and other buildings on 6½ acres on the Newtown Road near the house of the late Isaac Jones for \$1000 to her son by her first husband William T. Makepeace in 1885. In 1887 Ruhamah remarried to the retired whaling master Capt. Seth⁷ Nickerson (1814-92) of Cotuit until his death five years later. She then married a fourth time to Joseph A. Baker of W. Harwich, with whom she is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery (1925). The furnace room may have been added by William T. Makepeace, who is shown as owner in the 1909 Atlas.

In 1901 Makepeace sold the house on a small piece of land measuring 22 3/4 and 4 2/3 rods on the road, which matches the current property. He sold it to Manuel Freitas, a Portuguese immigrant from Fayal in the Azores. The couple had no children, but took in a friend from Terceira in the Azores, Mary Mello, who married Winfred Lovell, who lived across the street.

On Freitas's death in 1944 the public administrator sold the house to the caretaker of the Whitcomb Farm, (Frederick) Howard Childs for \$2000. Five years later Frederick gave it to his son Campbell Childs (1922-90). Campbell became correctional officer of Barnstable County, but ran this farm, raising pigs, chickens, cows and vegetables. In 1970 Childs and his wife gave it to their daughter Carolyn and her first husband Arthur J. Canning who raised the roof of the back ell in 1973-4. After their divorce, she remarried to Dwight Magowan, who has owned it jointly with Carolyn since 1985.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

A.D. Makepeace diaries 1880: 8 July, 4-9 Aug., 9, 14, 24 Nov.; 1881: 27 June.

Barnstable deeds 127/303, 132/514, 148/100, 165/474, 300/450, 636/496, 752/358, 1059/188, 1492/68, 3747/21, 4389/159.

Barnstable probates 8005 (S. Crocker), 29337 (M. Fraters).

MHC Form B #WBB 51, 2454 Meetinghouse Way, W. Barnstable by M. Wirtanen.

Hamblin Genealogy by Prof. Stephen Hamblin; William Makepeace, A Genealogy of the Makepeace

Family (Boston: David Clapp, 1858), p. 52; The Nickerson Family (Nickerson

Family Assn., 1997), IV: 130, 131; III: 276.

Interviews with owners Carolyn and Dwight Magowan 29 July 2000; Doris Childs 10 Oct. 2000;

Mary (Mello) Casaza, neice of Mary (Mello) Lovell 15 Oct. 2000.

Atlases 1857, 1880 (no buildings), 1909 (p. 21a).

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