

27-17-000

Cotuit

MM N-28

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

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

Photograph



Santuit-
982 Newtown Rd.

Robello/Reid Farm Caretakers
Caretakers House

Residence

Farmhouse

Construction: 1920

Barnstable Deed 343/457

Eclectic Vernacular

Builder: John Rogers & Charles L.
Hamblin for Joseph Robello

Material:

Concrete

Wall/Trim: White cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates): Full shed dormer pre-1970; Two story addition on W. end 1991.

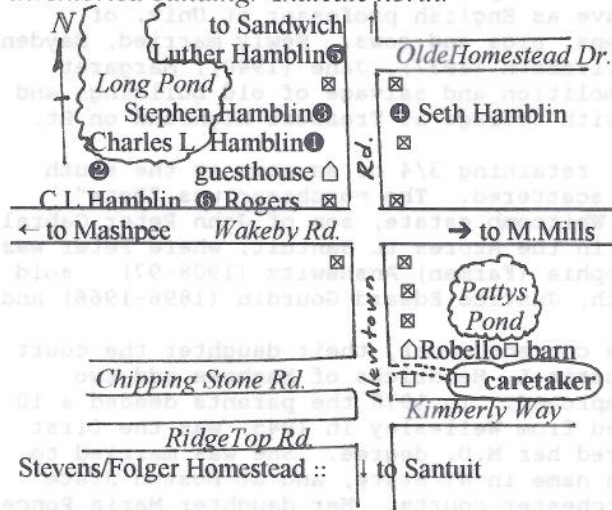
Condition: Greatly Altered

Moved no yes Date:

Acreeage: 2.69 in Newtown, 1.7 in Cotuit=4.39

Setting: At end of dirt road off Newtown Road, southwest of Patty's Pond and drainage to cranberry bogs.

numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by: James W. Gould

Organization: Marstons Mills
Historical Society

Date: 10 Nov. 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 Caretaker's House is a one and a half story Greek Revival house on a rectangular concrete block foundation, with full-width shed dormers on both sides. The original core is at the east end, with entry door on the gable end, was two rooms over two, which is the pattern of Azorean vernacular that was being built in the first decades of the century. Dormers were expanded before 1968, and the house was extended westward at full height in 1993. The composition roof has two brick chimneys at the peak, the center one from the original fireplace. All outbuildings have been demolished: to the north, a barn with pigsty on the east end; two long chicken houses to the west on concrete slabs. A former gardener's cottage to the southeast, called "Camp Stupid", has been converted to a residence at 48 Danielle St.

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 property lies athwart the precinct division between Cotuit (1.7 acres south) and Newtown (2.69 acres in Marstons Mills to the north). The house lies the northwest corner of a subdivision between Newtown Rd. and the sluiceway running from the south end of Patty's Pond through cranberry bogs to Lovell's Pond. Before 1850 this land was part of the 32 acre Stevens farm which extended from the Mashpee line to Pattys Pond, with the old Homestead on the west side of Newtown Road, on the south corner of today's Ridge Top Rd. (open space parcel 27-142-5).

To pay debts of the Stevens estate the west half of the William Stevens Homestead and barn was sold in 1853 for \$412 to Joseph Folger (1823-1911). Stevens's son Asa sold the east half on the same day for \$175.91 to Folger. He was a local farmer who had come on a whaling ship from Fayal in the Portuguese Azores as a boy, and married in 1847 to Cynthia Baker, daughter of Cotuit Highground farmer Abijah Baker Sr., an sister of Abijah Jr. who built a house west of Lovell's Pond.

In 1917 Folger's son sold the farm to Azorean immigrant Jose "Joseph" Botelho Robello (1868-1961), who built the Reid House immediately north. It is unclear whether this house already existed as one of the Stevens or Folger outbuildings, but is called by local people "a twin" of the Reid house, though of very different style, suggesting construction at the same time, by 1920, by the same builders, John Rogers and Charles L. Hamblin. None of the atlases of 1857, 1880, and 1907 show a building here, though they are not detailed enough to show barns. Robello was the last surviving founder of the Holy Ghost Society, and a fado singer. When he became caretaker of the Rothwell family's Maushop Farm in Mashpee, the Robellos moved from here. Local residents tell stories about the house as a gaming house and speakeasy, with valet parking in the front field until a police raid closed it down.

This property was bought by Cotuit summer resident, Boston lawyer Horace Sears, who left his whole estate to his secretary Harry Bailey. This became the home of the caretaker of the Reid farm, first to the Pierce family, then to Lawrence "Larry" Rogers (1914-84), a finish carpenter who built the cockpits of Wianno Seniors, who converted the neighboring Reid's barn to living quarters. Then it was rented to another Azorean farmer caretaker Pete Cabral (1913-62).

After Bailey sold the farm in 1931 to John A. Reid, who in 1937 sold this south part of 25 acres to Robert "Bob" or "Fergie" Hayden, III (1910-81), recent Bowdoin graduate, and son of a dentist who had summered in Cotuit Highground. Hayden found a partner for "The Farm" in a former Newtown High School classmate, Prof. John Baumer, on leave as English professor at Univ. of Hartford. Here they grew hay and raised turkeys, chickens, pigs and cows. Newly married, Hayden moved into the house where they raised five children, Elizabeth (1937), Jane (1940), Margaret (194), Cynthia and Robert Jr. In 1937 Hayden began demolition and salvage of old buildings and soon became the leading mover of buildings on mid-Cape with storage at Treasure Highland on Rt. 28 opposite Putnam Av.

Hayden moved to Cotuit in 1951, and sold the farm, retaining 3/4 of an acre at the south end of Patty's Pond, where Bob and his wife's ashes are scattered. The purchaser was "Pete" Anthony Peter Cabral (1913-62), farmer caretaker of the Whitcomb estate, son of John Peter Cabral and Mary Gloria Frazier who had come from St. Michael's in the Azores to Santuit, where Peter was born. He died here in 1962 and his second wife Helen Sophia (Farmen) Anshewitz (1908-97) sold the farm. It was purchased by the neighbors to the north, Justice Edward Gourdin (1896-1966) and his wife Amalia.

The house was given by the Gourdins in 1967 to the current owner, their daughter the court psychiatrist Dr. Elizabeth Gourdin (b. 1924), who had Curtis L. Hendricks of Mashpee add two stories on the west end in 1991 when the interior was improved. In 1978 the parents deeded a 10 foot access strip to Patty's Pond. Dr. Gourdin graduated from Wellesley in 1945, was the first black admitted to McGill Medical School where she received her M.D. degree. She was married to the musician Robert Chesnut, but practiced under her own name in NY state, and at Boston State Hospital in Dorchester, and as court psychiatrist in Dorchester courts. Her daughter Maria Ponce Chesnut Corman is the current occupant.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable deeds 40/273, 54/515, 353/458-9, 400/253, 526/527, 944/450, 1182/404, 1367/516, 2482/169, 2763/131, 3203/266, 3838/186, 4126/3-9, 8479/139, 11414/79.

Barnstable probate 3083 (Stevens); Barnstable building permits 17448, 34446.

Interview with current resident Maria Corman 22 Nov. 2000; former residents Jane (Hayden) Uenoyama 13 Nov. 2000, Sheila (Rogers) Dishman 7 Nov. 2000; neighbor Ed Gourdin Jr. 21 Nov. 2000.

Atlases 1857, 1880, 1907.

Hayden's "The Farm"
from north
c1937



Robert Hayden
w/ Elizabeth
c1937