

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

27-14

Cotuit

MM N-29

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building



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

Address: 950 Newtown Rd.

Historic Name: Robello/Reid Farm

Uses: Present: Residence

Original: Farmhouse

Date of Construction: 1918

Source: Barnstable Deed 343/457

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

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

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Mortared stone

Wall/Trim: White cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Three: barn east; garage/antique shop south; cottage SE.

Major Alterations (with dates): Modernized 1970; Additions on E. & N sides, 1975, 1979.

Condition Altered

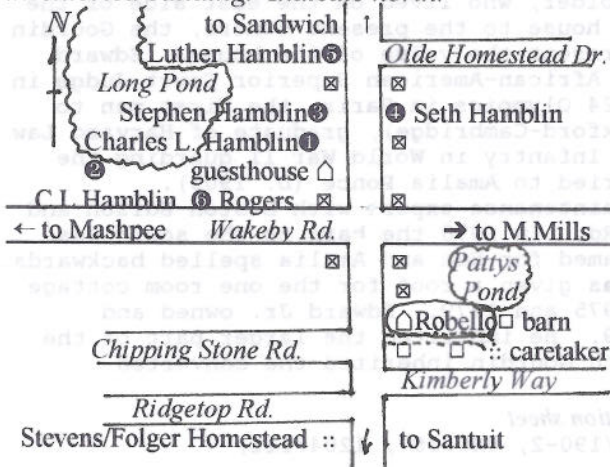
Moved  no  yes Date:

Acreage: 6.93

Setting: East side of Newtown Road, west of Patty's Pond.

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in 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: 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 Reid House is a Colonial Revival house of two stories, gable end to the street, with a single story gable extension to the west, on the left side of which the pedimented front door issues, flanked by side-lights. To the right of the doorway is a pair of windows. On both south and north second stories are full length shed dormers. In the middle of the west wall of the first floor south is a shallow three sided bay window. A one story cross gable extends northward, with separate entrance on the east side. The east end of the main house is extended eastward by an open porch onto which the back door opens. The exterior is cedar shingle painted white, with white trim, and black shutters of vertical boards. The foundation is mortared rounded stones. The roof is composition, with two brick chimneys, one at the peak, and another outside the east end.

There are three outbuildings: 1) Directly south is a two car garage converted to an antique shop with addition of a shed extension to the south; it is clad like the main house; 2) Southeast is a one story gabled cottage clad like the main house; 3) To the east is a two story gabled barn converted to a residence, clad in vertical barn-red boards; at the west face is an entry door under a hip roof, with a three sided shallow bay window to the right.

### 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 Robello house was built in 1918 in a rural area of Newtown west of Patty's Pond, in an area known as Carsley's Field. In the mid-nineteenth century this was part of the Stevens Homestead, which was sold in 1853 to the successful Azorean Portuguese immigrant Joseph Folger, whose house was on the west side of Newtown Road. In 1917 Folger's son sold the property with buildings (barn?) to a second generation of Azorean immigrant, Joseph B. Robello (1868-1961). Jose was son of a gentleman sheep farmer of Livramento, Sao Miguel, and was a fine fado singer. He was one of the founders of the oldest Portuguese American groups in America, The Santuit Holy Ghost Society, which built its clubhouse on the site of the CVS on Rt. 28, and was its last surviving trustee at his death at age 93. The house was probably built for him by his brother in law finish carpenter John Rogers and Rogers's son-in-law Charles L. Hamblin.

Robello sold the farm to the wealthy Boston lawyer Horace Sears, who hired as farmer Willie Christie Rennie (1887-1956), the son of his Ocean View property Thomas D. Rennie about 1919. The farm raised vegetables, which were trucked to Sears's Weston mansion, as well as chickens, pigs, guinea fowl, hay and milk from seven cows. On Sears's death in 1923 the property was left to his former secretary Harry L. Bailey. Bailey sold the part south of the pond to the moving man Robert Hayden, and this part of six acres to John A. Reid.

John Alexander Reid (d. 1942), immigrated from Scotland where he was born at Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire. He was no relation to the Rolloson's Scots caretaker John Reid. He came to U.S. on the same ship with Thomas Rennie. John came with his wife Jane J. (d. 1950) and one child, Georgia Eliza (b. 1901), who inherited the house. She was a personnel trainer, married several times, living in Joliet IL, Roselle NJ, Philadelphia before returning to work in Boston. In 1953 this property was sold to Ruth O. and Louis E. Devolder, who lived on the east side of the pond. In 1963 the Devolders sold the six acres of this house to the present owners, the Gourdin family (pron. Gur-deen). The mortgage of \$6000 may represent the value of the house. Edward "Ned" Orval Gourdin (1898-1966) of Quincy was the first African-American Superior Court Judge in Mass., winner of a silver medal for long jump in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, the first man to jump over 25 feet (1921, at Harvard-Yale meet against Oxford-Cambridge), graduate of Harvard Law School, and U.S. Attorney 1936, Col. in command of 372d Infantry in World War II guarding the tunnels of New York City, and later Hawaii. He was married to Amalia Ponce (b. 1903).

In 1963 their son Edward Jr. (b. 1935), an auto maintenance expert with Boston Edison and his wife Barbara built their own house at #916 Newtown Rd. In 1970 the barn to the south was torn down and replaced with the Lamaden Antique Shop, named for Ned and Amalia spelled backwards. At the same time the old root cellar to the southeast was given a roof for the one room cottage now there. Additions were made to the main house in 1975 and 1979. Edward Jr. owned and operated the Foster Garage on Rt. 130 in Mashpee 1970-89. He inherited the larger part of the estate, and daughter the court psychiatrist Dr. Elizabeth Gourdin inherited the converted farmhouse on the hill (see separate history).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

- Barnstable deeds 40/276, 353/458, 400/253, 456/190, 573/190-2, 840/387, 1204/111, 2227/187, 3116/349, 5531/316, 1835/307.  
Barnstable probate 26243 (G. Reid).  
Interviews with Reid niece Allison Audibert 8 Nov. 2000; owner Edward O. Gourdin Jr. 9, 21 Nov. 2000; former tenants Francis Rennie 10 Nov. 2000; Sheila Rogers Dishman 9 Nov. 2000; George Pierce 19 Jan. 1997.  
Jacksonville FL *Florida Times-Union* 19 Dec. 1999 from Internet [www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/121999/met\\_15711551.html](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/121999/met_15711551.html)

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