

28-10-1

Cotuit

MM N-3

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



(neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE  
Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 715 <sup>Santuit-</sup>Newtown Rd.

Historic Name: Prof. Stephen F. Hamblin House

Present: Residence

Original: Summer home

Year of Construction: 1927

Deed Reference: Barnstable Deed 441/321

Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Charles L. Hamblin

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Red cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garden shed NE  
and cottage to east.

Major Alterations (with dates): Winterized c. 1950.

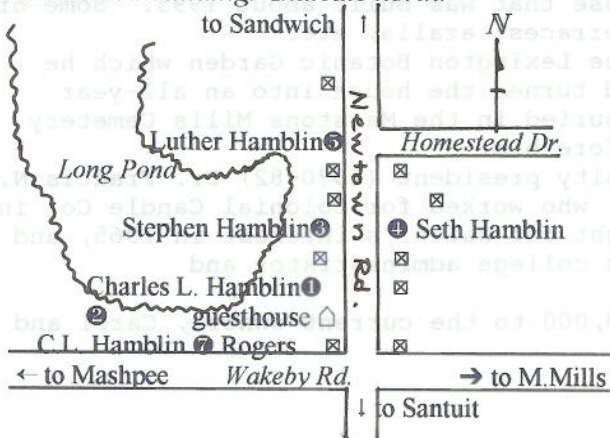
Condition: Exterior close to original.

Moved  no  yes Date:

Acres: 1.53

Setting: On bluff above southeast end of  
Long Pond, NW of junction of Newtown and  
Wakeby Roads.

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: 30 March 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 Stephen Hamblin House is a one and a half story bungalow, side gable with centered entry on the street side (east) through an enclosed gabled entry porch. Both north and south ends of the principal gable are jerkin headed. At the north end is a screened porch under a shed roof, with open wooden deck beyond. The exterior is clad in red cedar shingle, with white trim. The roof is composition shingle, with a single brick chimney at the southeast.

There are two outbuildings: 1) To the NE, a small garden shed NE, and 2) to the east, a one room cottage with concrete block chimney outside the east wall.

### 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.

This was the principal summer residence and study of Harvard Professor of Landscape Design, and Director of Harvard Botanic Gardens Stephen Francis Hamblin (1884-1965), who was born just north of here to a family that had been in the area from the earliest days (his father Ezekiel<sup>7</sup>, Luther<sup>6</sup>, Lewis<sup>5</sup>, Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>). An acre and a half of vacant woodland above Long Pond was given to him by his father in Dec. 1926. The house was built by Stephen's brother Charles<sup>8</sup> Luther Hamblin (1889-1974), who built his own home and nudist colony immediately south of here. In 1947 Stephen bought the southern part of the property from his brother Seth.

Hamblin was author of four books: *Book of Garden Plans* (NY: Doubleday, 1916), *Man's Spiritual Contact with the Landscape* (Boston: Badger, 1923), *American Rock Gardens* (NY: Orange Judd, 1929), and *Handbook of Wildflower Cultivation* (with Kathryn Taylor, Toronto: Macmillan, 1963), and 300 articles. As expected, Stephen's profession led him to planting of a variety of ornamental shrubs and trees, which still survive. In the lot immediately to the south he laid out a series of terraces planted with wild flowers. Although this lot was placed in conservation, Stephen's heirs maintained that the small plot was separated from the larger town conservation area to the north, and were able to break the conservation restriction, and sell the lot for a house that was built about 1995. Some of Prof. Hamblin's planting can still be seen on the terraces: azalia, etc.

When Hamblin retired in 1949 as director of the Lexington Botanic Garden which he founded in 1931 he came to the Cape permanently, and turned the house into an all-year residence. He died here in 1965 at age 80, and is buried in the Marstons Mills Cemetery. His wife Nellie Jane Newell (1884-1962) had died before him.

Two sons had grown up here, Lock Haven University president (1970-82) Dr. Francis N. Hamblin (b. 1917), and MIT engineer Walter (1925-93) who worked for Colonial Candle Co. in Hyannis. They inherited the house, and Francis bought out Walter's interest in 1965, and used this as a summer home for 25 years while he was college administrator and international educational consultant.

In 1991 the house was sold by Francis for \$170,000 to the current owners, Carol and James W. McClelland of Centerville.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable deeds 441/321, 702/367, 7594/228.  
Barnstable Probate 41257 (Stephen F. Hamblin).  
Interview with nephew, Charles E. Hamblin 18 March 2000.  
*Boston Globe* 8 April 1965.  
Letter of Francis N. Hamblin 7 July 2000.

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