

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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Town Barnstable

Place (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address 998 Route 149

Historic Name Nellie A Perry House

Uses: Present Farmhouse

Original Residence

Date of Construction 1902

Source Assessor's date

Style/Form Vernacular

Architect/Builder Ansel E. Fuller

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone in core; concrete block additions

Wall/Trim Cedar shingles

Roof Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Two-car garage SE of house;
Small garden shed E of house.

Major Alterations (*with dates*)

1954-5 Addition, south side
1961 Addition and dormer, west side
1971 Addition of one room, southwest

Condition Much altered

Moved No Yes **Date**

Acreage 1.09 acres

Setting Close to state highway in semi-rural area



Recorded by James W. Gould, Holly Hobart

Organization Marstons Mills Historical Society
Barnstable Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*) September, 2007

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 core of the house is a steeply gabled vernacular farmhouse on a fieldstone foundation; a shed roof extends the length of this core on the north side; a bay with two windows juts from the south side of the core about three feet, now enclosed in the south addition in 1954-5. A shed roof dormer was added to the core in 1961. To the west side of the core has been added a series of rooms under gabled roofs. The original chimney has been replaced by a brick stack at the east end, and a wide brick chimney between the west end of the original and the west addition.

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 vernacular house was built in 1902 for Nellie A. (West) Perry (1868-1938), perhaps by her carpenter/housewright neighbor and relative, Ansel E. Fuller. It lies about 100 yards west of the site of an older house belonging to Robert Cammett. During much of the 19th century, Robert and later his son, Wesley G. Cammett, were the successive owners of a 65½ acre parcel extending from Route 149 to Shubael's Pond. The lot on which 998 Route 149 stands is a subdivision of this Cammett parcel. The road leading to the now-vanished Cammett house is mentioned in two of the deeds to 998 Route 149. Its foundation lay to the east of what is now 144 Roseland Lane.

From 1902 until the 1930s, this house was owned by Nellie Perry, a relation of the Fullers who lived across the road. In her later years, Nellie became a dependent of the Town of Barnstable Department of Public Welfare and her house was taken by the Town after her death in 1938 to cover the \$1193.68 that it had spent on her support and care. The Town sold the house to William and Gertrude Thew of Lakeville, MA in 1939, along with 35 acres of farmland to the east which extended back to Shubael's Pond.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book and Page numbers: 19-131, 56-418, 55-437, 75-526, 84-490, 132-382, 132-534, 258-283, 286-215, 542-262, 816-151, and 9879-232.
 Barnstable Vital Records in town reports.
 Interviews with owners Ed Thew, 8/21/2007, Gertrude Thew, 10/6/2007; Jo Knowlton, 8/8/2007; local historian Barbara Hill 8/8/2007; Lois Perry 10/8/2007; Benjamin Perry 10/23/2007.
 Walling Map of 1856 (R. Cammett); Walker Atlas 1880 (R. Cammett).

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

Property Address

BARNSTABLE, 998 ROUTE 149, MARSTONS MILLS

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Historical Narrative, cont'd

About 200 yards north of the house lay Roseland Dance Hall, a large (about 50' x 100') one-story structure whose gable end faced the highway under a gabled porch over double doors. The interior was unpartitioned, with a wooden floor. The hall was managed by a Hyannis woman named Elnora Rose. Here, Cape Verdeans from as far as Wareham and Onset enjoyed dancing to visiting orchestras like Chick Webb's, whose vocalist was Ella Fitzgerald. In later years, music was provided by local "mixed-up bands" made up of banjo, guitar, violin, and drums. Customers brought their own liquor. Saturday night was wide open from 5 p.m. to one a.m., when it closed. Order was maintained by a state policeman named Dempsey, who was 6 foot 4, tough, and a boxing teacher. The dance hall closed down in 1940. The 1944 hurricane blew the building down, but Robert Hayden, Sr., straightened it up and William Thew used it to raise broiler chickens, and Bill Knowlton to raise eggs. It was demolished between 1957 and 1970.

In 1945, between the dance hall and the Nellie Perry House, the Thews had Harold Jones of Marstons Mills build a new house (now 1024 Route 149). Unable to pay the mortgage due to a drop in the price of broiler chickens and a rise in the price of chicken feed, the Thews declared bankruptcy. The house and 26 acres was sold for the amount owed to the feed company (\$13,000.00), to William "Bill" Knowlton (1926-1976) of Newton. He was a graduate of Norfolk County Agricultural School, and he started a farm raising egg-laying chickens in the old dance hall. At peak he was raising 6,000 to 8,000 hens and delivering the eggs around the local area in his car. In 1970, he sold the ten acres on which the dance hall once stood back to his carpenter neighbor, Eddie Thew, who created the Roseland subdivision of ten houses. In the same year, Knowlton built a new home overlooking Shubael Pond at 151 Knowlton Drive, and sold the house to Leo (1914-1995) and Esther Murray. Leo was a retired electric generator operator. Knowlton served as town representative, and he and his wife Jo were generous supporters of the Marstons Mills Public Library, including its addition which was moved from Osterville.

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Title Search**998 Route 14****Nellie Perry House**

9879-232 From Gertrude C. Thew, widow of William A. Thew to George W. Thew, Edward
10/11/199 A. Thew, and Emily A. Hemmila
5

2 acres, W by the road

N by Thew

E by Thew and lands formerly of Calvin Fuller

S by lands formerly of Calvin Fuller

816-151 From Allen F. Pierce and Helen M. Pierce to William A. and Gertrude C. Thew
2/25/1952

“...land with buildings”

551-262 From Board of Public Welfare for the Town of Barnstable to William A. and
4/24/1939 Gertrude C. Thew

The Board of Public Welfare “took possession of the real estate hereinafter described on the 25th day of August 1938 as the property of Nellie A. Perry a person who at the time of her decease was actually chargeable to said Town of Barnstable. to reimburse said Town of Barnstable for expenses incurred for said Nellie A. Perry in her lifetime provided no administration upon the Estate ... was taken within thirty days of her decease on said 19th day of June, A.D. 1938.”

“... land with the building thereon...”

“...for the purpose ... of taking possession of the above described real estate ... the property of the late Nellie A. Perry, a person who, at her decease on the 19th day of June, A.D. 1938, was actually chargeable to the said Town... and further for the purpose by them declared of selling and conveying so much of said real estate as may be necessary to reimburse the said Town...for expenses incurred in the sum of \$1193.68 for the aid, assistance and support of the said Nellie A. Perry in her lifetime...”

286-215 From Edward M. Harding to Zephaniah Perry of Nantucket
10/4/1907
\$1.00

“...a certain parcel of Cleared and Woodland situated on the road from Marstons Mills to West Barnstable and bounded and described as follows: Viz:-Commencing at the Southwesterly Corner thereof by land of Calvin H. Fuller, then Northerly by the said road until it Comes to the road leading from the Main road to my house; thence Easterly by land of Wesley G. Cammett to land of the said Fuller, thence Westerly by said Fullers land to the first Mentioned bound. Containing two acres be the same more or less.”

258-283 From Wesley G. Cammett to Nellie A. Perry of Barnstable

9/29/1902

\$38.00

“...a certain parcel of cleared and woodland situate at the Plains in Barnstable, Mass, and bounded and described as follows: Commencing at a Stake and Stone at the Northwest corner of the premises hence Easterly by land of the Grantor to a fence, hence Southerly by fence and land of the Grantor to a corner of the fence hence Westerly by fence and land of the grantor and land of Willard Perry to a road leading from the town road to the home of the grantor, hence Northerly by said first named road to the first named bounds, containing two acres more or less.”

No mention of buildings in this deed. Willard Perry owns the lot to the south of Nellie, currently owned by the Thew Family.

132-534 From Robert Cammett to Wesley G. Cammett

2/7/1884

\$100.00

“...with all the buildings thereon”, 65 1/2 acres.

“...at the Southwesterly part of the “Plains Fields” so called, ...being the same premises conveyed by deed of Warranty from said Robert Cammett to said Wesley G. Cammett dated April 21st A.D. 1879”

132-382 From Robert Cammett to Wesley G. Cammett

4/21/1879

\$400.00

“...with all the buildings thereon.”

“...being the same conveyed by Nathaniel Burgess to said Robert Cammett dated July 23, 1864 and conveyed by deed from Robert Cammett to said Wesley G. Cammett dated July 25, 1864 and recorded ...as Book 84 Page 490.

84-490 From Robert Cammett to Wesley G. Cammett

7/25/1864

\$450.00

N by Chipman Whelden
E by Shubael's Pond
S by John Goodspeed
W by the road leading from Marstons Mills to the West Barnstable Meeting House

“...containing 65 ½ acres...with all the buildings thereon.”

75-526 From Nathaniel Burgess of Sandwich, Master Mariner to Robert Cammett of Barnstable.

7/25/1864

“is all the property mortgaged to me by Robert Cammett by deed dated April twentieth, 1854”, Book 437, Page 458.

This is a satisfaction of mortgage transaction.

55-437 From Robert and Cynthia Cammett to Nathaniel Burgess of Sandwich, Master Mariner

4/20/1854

\$250.00

with

interest

A five-year mortgage on Cammett's land.

N by Chipman Whelden
E by the Pond
S by John Goodspeed's
W by the road

"...65 ½ acres with the buildings thereon"

56-418 From Eldred and Mary Ann Baker of Sandwich to Robert Cammett

4/11/1854

\$450.00

N by Chipman Whelden
E by the pond
S by John Goodspeed
W by the road

" 65 ½ acres with the buildings thereon"

19-131 From Mary Wing Shove of Sandwich to Eldred Baker

12/8/1835

\$500.00

"...the Southerly part of my Plains Field, so called and is bounded as follows, beginning at a stake and stones by the road that leads from the West Meeting-house in Barnstable to said Marstons [sic] which is about seventy four rods from the Northwest corner of aforesaid Marstons fields by a [unreadable] so called, and sets from said stake and stones East forty one degrees South by a range of stakes to the [remains?] of an old ditch fence which is about thirty eight rods from Shubael Hamblen's lands by the Pond, then sets Southerly by said old ditch fence to the Pond which course if continued would strike Zacheus Hinckley's Dwelling house and then is bounded Easterly by said Pond, Southerly by the lands of Philemon Goodspeed as the fence now stands and Westerly by the road leading to the aforesaid Meeting house... and contains sixty five acres and one half..."