

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

**Town:** Barnstable

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

## Photograph



**Address:** 346 Route 149 (middle tower)

**Historic Name:** Robert Parker Middle House

**Uses:** Present: Single family residence

Original: Chicken house

**Date of Construction:** 1934

**Source:** Barnstable deed 1013/56

**Style/Form:** Vernacular

**Architect/Builder:** Robert A. Parker

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Clapboard and T1-11 vertical siding

Roof: Composition shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Small hen coop west.

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Converted to residence, 1957;  
Two-story addition on west side, 1997.

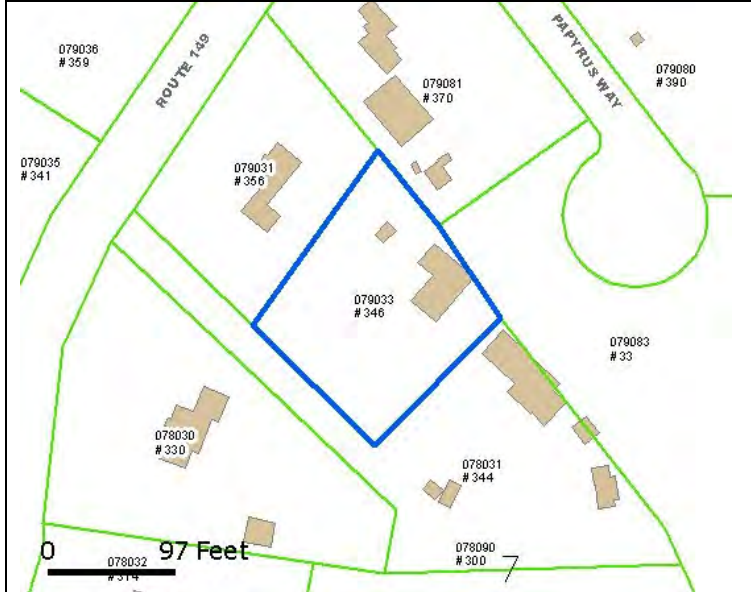
**Condition:** Greatly altered.

**Moved:** no | X | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.48 acres (21,300 sq. feet)

**Setting:** Clustered in compound with several rural buildings.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** J. W. Gould

**Organization:** Marstons Mills Historical Society;  
Barnstable Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): September, 2009

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

346 ROUTE 149,  
MARSTONS MILLS, BARNSTABLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

A vernacular wooden structure in an L plan. On the east side the original core is a one-story gabled structure on a concrete block foundation 44 x 24, with a cross gable on the north end, clad in cream white clapboard. In the northwest side a two-story gabled addition on a 18 x 16 concrete foundation is clad in T1-11 vertical siding painted barn red.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

This was built as a chicken house in 1934 by carpenter Robert Alan Parker (1908-85), married to Jean<sup>10</sup> Louise Gifford (1912-97) (Lorenzo<sup>9</sup> William<sup>8</sup>, Edward<sup>7-6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5-4</sup>, Gershom<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2-1</sup>), niece of US congressman Charles L. Gifford. Robert Parker ran a chicken farm next door until 1951, when the farm was struck by the poultry disease. Parker was bankrupted by the decimation of his flock, and got work on the Nickerson duck farm in Chatham for two years. Returning to Marstons Mills in 1954, Robert converted the old chicken house into a rental unit in 1957. Among the lessors was Richard Burnham. It was also the home of Claire and Donald Melix's son David Leon (b. 1955). In 1979 Parker subdivided the original chicken farm, and sold the core of this house on lot #2 in 1981 for \$33,500 to Douglas R. Lindley of East Dennis. In 1985 Lindley and his wife Gretchen sold it back to the Melixes for \$60,000. The Melixes sold it in 1990 for \$93,000 to the current owners, teachers Michael I. (b. 1950) and Carol Jean O'Toole (b. 1955). They raised four children, Barnaby (b. 1982), Grace (b. 1984), Madeleine (b. 1988) and Tristan (b. 1990) here. In 1997 they added the two story addition.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Deeds 508/353, 354, 1013/56, 1119/230, 3242/223, 3678/100, 4718/22, 7072/245; Plan 151/83.

Interviews with Claire Melix and her sister Linda Fermino 17 Sept. 2009, current owner Carol O'Toole 21 Sept. 2009.

Gifford family tree by J.W.Gould 11 March 2006, based on Winifred Dick and Earlene MacDowell, "Descendants of Edward Gifford" (1999).