

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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Photograph



Town: Barnstable

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address: 533 Old Falmouth Road

Historic Name: George Allyn Homestead

Uses: Present: Single family residence

Original: Farmhouse

Date of Construction: 1830

Source: Wedding of George Allyn to Asenath Hinckley, 30 May 1830: town vital records. p. 280.

Style/Form: Full cape

Architect/Builder: George Allyn, mason

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Mortared fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

3-car garage SE; shed SW.

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Major modernization c. 1917-1921; dormers added, center chimney replaced with small brick stack; staircase reversed; entry hall and second floor redone; addition to kitchen wing.

Condition: Close to original with modifications.

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.53 acres

Setting: Semi-rural, on busy secondary road formerly the main road from shire courthouse and Town House to Falmouth.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould, R. Frazee

Organization: Marstons Mills Historical Society,
Barnstable Historical Commission

Date (month / year): May, 2009

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

533 OLD FALMOUTH ROAD, 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:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This is a full Cape Cod house, 5 bays wide by 2 rooms deep, on a mortared fieldstone foundation measuring 30 x 37, with a kitchen ell to the rear on the same foundation 20 x 22, with a more recent extension 25 x 20 on a brick foundation. The exterior is unpainted cedar shingle, with white trim. Windows on three sides of the ground floor have splayed frames. The five bay facade facing the road has a centered entry door with a large pane of glass that probably dates from early XXth century. There is a dentilled cornice on the front. There is a long shed dormer on the north second story, and two gable dormers on the south roof. The original center chimney has been replaced by a small brick stack. The roof is composition shingle.

On the interior all four main rooms have chair-rails and wainscoting, and thin paneled doors with XIX century fittings, including butt hinges. Three fireplaces have been sealed, but retain original mantels. The northwest parlor mantel has raised pilasters on each side. Below the east side of the main hall is a root cellar about 15 x 15 lined with mortared fieldstone. Above it are floor joists made of whole oak logs still covered with bark, which support wide whitewashed floorboards. The roof is supported by rafters that are both hewn and sawed. The current staircase, rising on the west side of the new chimney is modern, rising from the hall, rather than from entry. A closet on the east side of the hall shows evidence of former risers of a stairway. Where the second floor is visible there are wide hand-planed white pine floorboards. The underside of the roof is not accessible for inspection.

The largest outbuilding lies southeast, a one-story shed roofed garage with three portals. A small wooden shed lies to the south, east of the foundation of the former barn.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

Several sources refer to this as the George Allyn Homestead. We believe it was built at the time of Allyn's marriage to Asenath⁷ C. Hinckley (1807-87) on 30 May 1830. She was daughter of Zaccheus⁶ (Timothy⁵, Benjamin⁴⁻³, Samuel²⁻¹) and Sarah Hinckley whose homestead was across the road on Round Pond, and from whom she inherited this land. George (1804-92), was the son of Benjamin Allyn and Abigail Annable, whose families associated were associated with the town since earliest settlement.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 230/364, 355/84, 21146/268; Probates 3671, 3673, 10748, 14327, 14333, 26225.
Town of Barnstable vital records.
Barnstable Patriot 8 Feb. 1853, 1 April 1884, 24 March 1885, 29 June 1901, 10 Oct. 1904, 28 Nov. 1904, 29 March 1915, 7 Aug. 1924, 20 Aug. 1925.
Walling Map 1856 "G.Allen", Walker Atlas 1880 "G.Allen".
Interview with current owner Alva E. Roberts 16 April 2009.
Site visit by Robert Frazee and James W. Gould 17 April 2009.

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Historical Narrative, cont'd:

In a deed of 1857 George Allyn is called a Master Mariner. George was an abolitionist active in the Free Soil Party which favored elimination of slavery in the new states. For a whole decade (1858-1867), he was town Constable, calling the annual Town Meeting at the Town House nearby. Evidence of his farming were public notice of having fattened a pig to 354 pounds in less than a year, and a fair prize for his beans. He and Asenath had four children who were born here: clipper ship captain Clarence Howard (1848-1932), Sarah A., wife of William T. Bursley, Lydia F., wife of Civil War veteran Joseph H. Holway, Almirah (1834-1919), wife of Alpheus Linnell, and Nellie Frances (d. 1919), wife of Deacon George S. Fish. Clarence was remembered by Dr. Harris as the last deepwater master from Hyannis, a lover of art, music and the classics, who was mate of the Donald McKay built ship *Glory of the Seas*, and became master of the clipper *Expounder* for a decade.

When George was 80 they moved to their daughter Sarah's home, and rented this house. First, their clipper ship son painted it. They advertised it as "a good old-fashioned house, Barn and other outbuildings with five acres." Asenath died in 1887, and George died five years later at age 87 of a fractured hip. Both are buried in the West Barnstable cemetery. The house was inventoried at \$500 in 1894.

The house was sold at auction for \$100 to teamster Max Pearlstein (1866-1904), born in Germany, the son of Simon and Anna Pearlstein. He ran a trucking business that included moving a Crosby-built boat from Osterville to Boston where it was shipped to Jacksonville. He was killed in 1904 when a heavy lathe being shipped from Osterville to be loaded onto a railway car crushed him. His widow sued the railroad and won \$2000 damages plus \$250 for suffering afterward. He was buried in Dedham. The house and land at "Osterville Plains" were appraised for \$600. His family had moved into the house from Nantucket in 1901. He left four minor children, Jennie Martha, born 1895, Minnie, born 1898, Ida, born 1900, and Dora, born 1902. His widow Annie Bennett, daughter of Barnard Bennett of Boston, opened a ladies clothing store in Hyannis in 1914 on the corner of Ocean and Main Streets. The Pearlstein family moved from this house to Ocean Street in 1915 and leased it to Louis Newburg(h) who sublet it to the Perrys and Maccombers.

In 1917 the Pearlsteins sold the house for \$1000 to Richard Alger Macomber (1872-1938) who had moved here with his wife Edna May Perry (1891-1975) and her brother Joseph, children of Abram Perry of South Dennis and Florence Ellis of Brewster. Richard was born in Fall River, son of Manuel Macomber and Louise Manchester. Edna and Richard had seven children: Elsie M, who married Alvan H. Crocker of Forestdale, bulldozer operator Alger Richard, b. 1911, auto mechanic Andrew Freeman Lovell (1914-94), Charles Henry b. 1915, cesspool cleaner Joseph Philip, town parks employee Roger E., and Alva E. (b. 1931).

Richard served as a surveyor of roads until 1924, when he became superintendent of the new town dump nearby on Osterville-West Barnstable Road. He ran a successful business of hauling garbage and cesspool cleaning until his death in 1938. His inventory included six trucks, an auto, a tractor, an incinerator, a cow, and two houses, one on River Road worth \$7000, and this house/office worth \$3300. His widow Edna applied to carry on the business of "trucking, garbage collection and cesspool cleaning", and ran the business from her office here for a third of a century, until 1970, when she sold it to Philip McCartin of Osterville.

The house is now the residence of the only surviving child, Alva E., who married Kenneth Roberts, an auto mechanic from New Hampshire, in 1966.

The house has always been within the Marstons Mills district known as The Plains, but at various times this area has been called West Barnstable, and has been served by RFD Osterville.