

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

45-18

Sandwich

MM N-16

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

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE

Newtown (Marstons Mills)

860 River Road

Name: Abner Jones House

Status: Abandoned

Original: Farmhouse

Construction: 1785

Marriage to Anna Fish 16 Dec. 1785;  
Deed 19/80.

Form: Full Cape Cod

Builder: Abner Jones

Material:

Foundation: Mortared stone

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: One story residence  
to east, built 1969.

Major Alterations (with dates): Expanded to double  
house c. 1830s?

Condition: Ruin

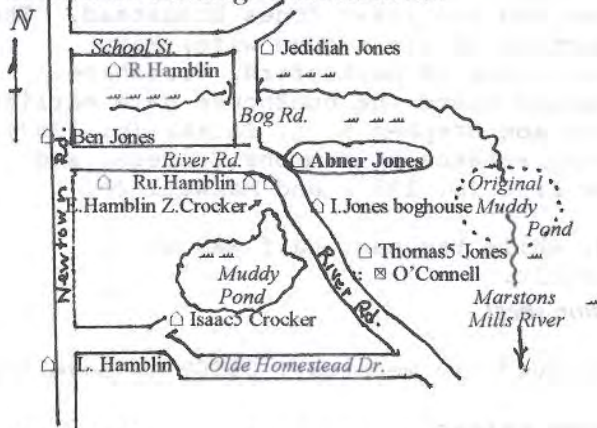
Moved  no  yes Date:

Acreage: 6.7

Setting: Rural upland above cranberry bogs of  
Muddy Pond and headwaters of Marstons Mills  
River.



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 (month / year) 1 Oct. 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 Abner Jones house is a one and a half story full Cape Cod barn-like building on a rectangular plan, the front facade facing south toward River Road, and gabled extension to the east. At some time late in the nineteenth century it was a double house for the Mecarta family, one living in the original Cape to the west, and the other in the east wing. The east part has a three-sided bay window on the south side, and entrance to the left. The west part had a square root cellar lined with nineteenth century bricks which have been set into the fireplace of the 1969 house. The foundation is mortared stone. Each half had a fireplace and central chimney. It is clad in cedar shingle with no visible paint on the trim.

Ten feet from the northwest corner is a mortared stone foundation, about 10 feet deep. The original barn lay about 100 feet to the east. Between this and the house is a modern bunkhouse on concrete blocks, moved here in the 1960s. A hundred yards farther east, on the crest of the hill is the one story residence built in 1969. Below this, to the southwest, on River Road is the site of the Isaac Jones boghouse (see MM N-15).

### 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 full Cape Cod cottage is believed to have been built by Abner<sup>5</sup> Jones (1761-1844) (Isaac<sup>4-3</sup>, Jedidiah<sup>2</sup>, Sandwich Quaker pioneer Ralph<sup>1</sup>), perhaps on his marriage to Anna Fish (1764-1835) on 16 Dec. 1785. In 1835 he divided the house and barn with his only son Isaac<sup>6</sup> Sprague Jones (1801-66), trader and farmer. Isaac had married Abigail "Nabby" H. Hamblin (1808-94), 11th of the 15 children of Lewis<sup>5</sup> (Benjamin<sup>4-3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>). Isaac was a pioneer cranberry grower on 1 1/2 acre at Muddy Pond (SE), an acre on Old Newtown, and 5/8 next to A.D. Makepeace's Baker Bog. Isaac built the storage shed that has been moved 100 yards south for Marion Oldham (see MM N-15).

Isaac's wife Nabby continued to live here until her death in 1894, but the whole property was inherited by his only child, Lydia Ann (1832-1923) who married Orrin Mecarta (1844-1923). They lived in the west side of the Jones homestead, sharing it with her brother-in-law the postmaster Dennis Mecarta and his wife Harriet A. Crocker until they built and moved to the Post House in Marstons Mills village. Orrin and Dennis had come from Harwich, and Orrin took over running the bogs.

Again, on Lydia's death the estate went in the female line to the only survivors, the family of Harriet and Dennis's daughter Minnie Emily Mecarta, who died in the flu epidemic of 1919. She had married the chauffeur Winfred Boyden Lovell (d. 1948) of Wakeby, by whom she had the present owner Marion Lovell (b. 1909), a school teacher married to William Oldham of Providence. Marion inherited the Isaac Jones homestead. The other half of the estate went from Winfred to the daughter by his second wife, Mary (Freitas/Fratus), Kathleen who married Clarence Farrar, born in Castleford, Yorkshire. Clarence and Kathleen built the new house in 1969, having moved the bunkhouse here earlier in the sixties. The property is now occupied by their son Stephen R. L. Farrar (b. 1957), librarian at Woods Hole and graduate student in library science at Simmons College, and his wife, archivist Judy Wineland, and their two sons Eric (b. 1997) and Maxwell (b. 2000).

The original Cape was torn down in the fifties, while the east half was still occupied. It was abandoned after the new house was built.

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

Barnstable deeds 19/80, 1171/167-8.

Barnstable probates 5217½ (I. Jones), 11418 (A. Jones), 20471 (O. Mecarta), 31309 (W. Lovell), 33857 (Mary Lovell).

Photo of house late XIX cent., in possession of Stephen Farrar.

Barnstable assessment 1888, town report 1888, p. 164.

Walter Hamblin, Genealogies of Jones and Crocker families, 18 Aug. 1989.

Interviews with Marion L. Oldham 17 May 1996, 26 July, 15 Oct. 2000, owner Stephen Farrar 2 Oct. 2000, local historians Charles E. Hamblin, Vivian & Wilbur Cushing.

Walling map 1857 "I. Jones"; Walker Atlas 1880 "Mrs. N. Jones" (Nabby), 1909 p. 21

"O. Marcarta" [misspelled, and misplaced].

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