

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Form numbers in this area | Area letter |
| 25-28; 906 | MMD |

Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills-The Ponds)

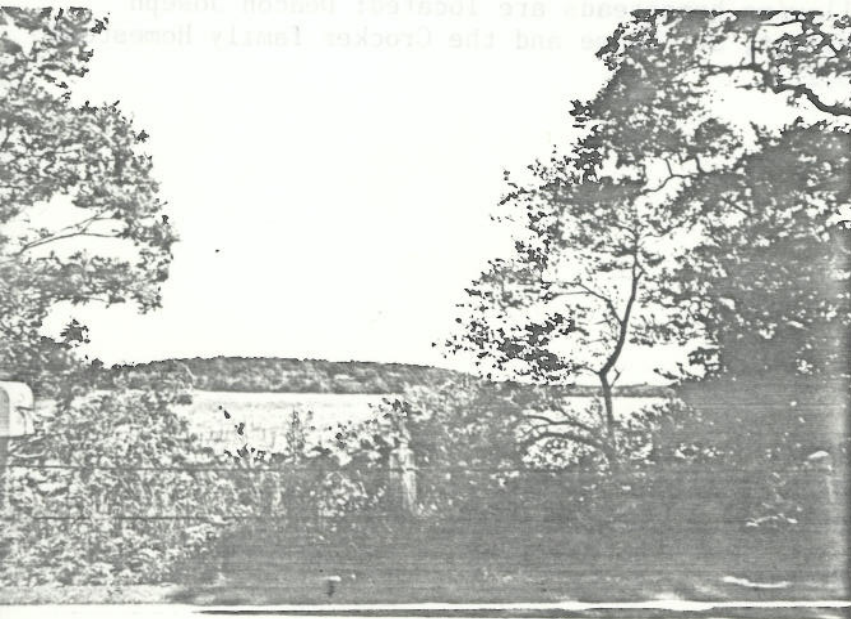
Name of area (if any) The Ponds

General date or period 18th and 19th
centuries



Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

See attached map.



Recorded by Patricia J. Anderson

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1985

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Location (Town, Range, Lot, etc.)

Name of area (if any) The Ponds

Approximate date of period (18th and 19th)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

This area of Marstons Mills is known as the Ponds, also Indian Ponds and Pondville, because of its proximity to several large ponds Mystic, Middle and Hamblin. Except for Wequaquet Lake in Centerville, these are the largest bodies of fresh water in the town. The soil in the area is unsurpassed in Barnstable and is composed of friable loam free from stones. It is said to be the best soil outside of the Connecticut Valley in the state. The ponds were used by farmers during the 17th and 18th centuries to wash their sheep and water the flax. Early settlers in this area included the Crockers, Joneses. Deacon William Crocker of West Barnstable left 100 acres at the Ponds to his grandsons when he died in 1692. The last will and testament of Deacon Crocker states "...I give and bequeath all ye rest of my lands att ye ponds to my grandsons, viz. to Nathaniel... Samuel... and Thomas to be divided between them and to their and each of their heirs and assigns forever." This 100 acre parcel was later divided amongst many of Deacon Crocker's descendants and is probably where the following homesteads are located: Deacon Joseph Crocker, Jr. House, Benjamin and Eunice Wright, Jr. House and the Crocker family Homestead later owned by William Wright. (MMD-25,26,27).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.
Otis, Amos. Geneological Notes of Barnstable Families. 1888.
Trayser, Donald. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.
The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.
Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate

Town of Barnstable
Village of Marstons Mills
Area D-The Ponds
a.k.a. Indian Ponds

