

FORM B – BUILDING

Date March 2009

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

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
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Town: BARNSTABLE

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address: 1009 Old Falmouth Road

Historic Name: Abner Jones Homestead

Uses: Present: Single family residence

Original: Single family residence

Date of Construction: 1901

Source: *Barnstable Patriot* 1 April 1901, three different references

Style/Form: American Four-Square

Architect/Builder: Edward W. Childs

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Mortared fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Wooden shed, north

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

One story addition SW, 1989; two story addition NE, 2000

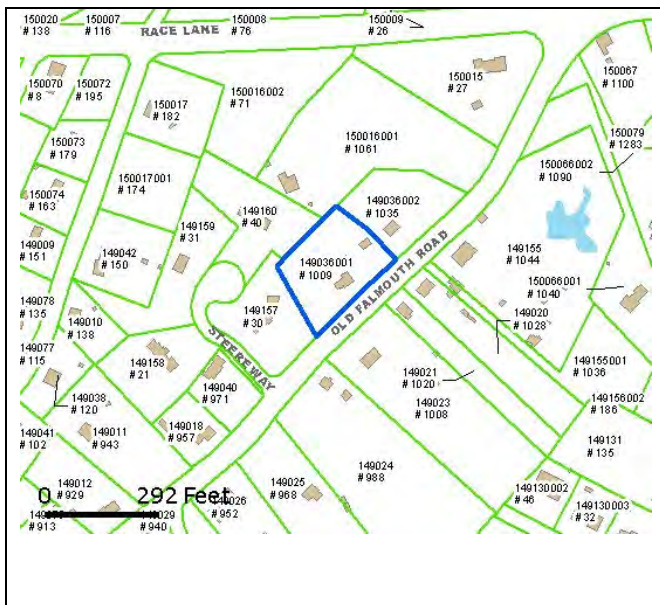
Condition: Original altered by additions and decorations

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

Acreage: 1.26 acres

Setting: Semi-rural/suburban, on major secondary road

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould

Organization: Marstons Mills Historical Society;
Barnstable Historical Commission

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

1009 OLD FALMOUTH ROAD, MARSTONS MILLS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 two story American four-square house on an old fieldstone foundation measuring 24 x 22, with hopper roof. There are two recent additions: a one story room to the southwest, with entry door toward the street, and a two story ell extending from the northeast corner. The original cedar shingling of the facade has been replaced with quoins and brick-colored clapboard.

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.

Although previous owners variously call this Centerville, Osterville or West Barnstable, the oldest deeds locate it in the Plains, an area now considered to be in Marstons Mills.

Since the early nineteenth century this was the site of the homestead of Abner⁷ Austin Jones (1818-1895)(Thomas⁶, Abner⁵, Isaac⁴⁻³, Jedidiah², Ralph¹). When he died he left three minor children who were probably born on this site: Abner I., Thomas Maitland and Hattie, who was the poet and writer Hattie Blossom Fritze. The house was probably not in good condition, as shown by its appraisal with 19 acres for only \$300. The house and land were sold at auction in 1896 for \$325 to liveryman Everett⁸ P. Childs (1859-1931). Childs was the youngest son of Civil War veteran Simeon⁷ C. Childs (David⁶, Job⁵, David⁴⁻³, Thomas², Richard¹). Simeon had served with his son, Edward W. Childs, in the "Cadet" Regiment, Mass. 45th commanded by Col. Codman of Cotuit in the the North Carolina battles of Kinston, White Hall and Core Creek. His son Simeon Jr. died in the siege of Petersburg in 1864 serving in the 14th Massachusetts Light Artillery. Simeon Sr. died at this house, the oldest citizen of Centerville. Everett ran stage lines to West Barnstable, and barges for high school students, and consequently had much interest in the town roads, for which he served as Surveyor and Commissioner. He briefly owned the Marchant store in Hyannisport and ran an ice business. The property remained in the immediate family, including the father Simeon and brother Edward.

Everett and his family moved into the Jones place in 1901, as reported in three separate items in the *Patriot*, and confirmed by a newspaper found in the wall. The builder probably reused lumber from the old place, following a standard Sears Roebuck four-square plan. Carolyn Hughes, who grew up here, was told that the top floor came from a motorcycle shop across the street. Everett and his wife Nancie Lovell Coffin had five children: Evelyn 1896, Edward 1888 who died an infant, Aurie 1890 who married Bernard S. Ames, "Vernon" 1896, who served in the merchant marine in World War I, Marion 1892, a nurse in France after the war, later married Joseph Daniel of Osterville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 231/427, 269/320, 272/394, 296/220, 310/519, 330/585, 377/570, 616/109-110, 1234/7, 5339/79, 5867/68, 6654/229, 7620/345, 7961/1797, 8138/48, 10926/207.

Barnstable probate 11756 (Jones).

Barnstable building permits 32712, 49991.

Barnstable Vital Records.

Walling map 1856, Walker Atlas 1880.

Interviews with current owner Tracy Barnes, and past residents Carolyn Hughes Thifault and Scott Hughes, 21 March 2009.

Barnstable Patriot: 5 Oct. 1895, 1 April 1901, 25 May 1914, 5 March 1923, 13 June 1929

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Historical Narrative (cont'd)

In 1914 Everett moved to Bumps River Rd. in Osterville, and sold the house to West Barnstable orchardist James A. Stevens (1872-1923) who lived here while he built the village store (1921). It may be he who planted the apple and pear trees that stood here in the interwar period. In 1921 Stevens sold the house and land to Abner Isaac "Ike" Jones (1877-1955), whose family had lost it when he was 18, in 1896. He had just married Mary (Waite) Steere; they had no children, but her interests were acquired by a son Philip W. Steere, a military man and judge in Las Cruces NM.

After World War II, the Joneses had moved to Fairhaven, and subdivided the property, selling the house with 5+ acres on both sides of the road to Pearl E. Hughes, wife of a Somerville-born William J. Hughes who ran a restaurant supply business on Cape Cod. The Hugheses subdivided the property in 1985 and sold the house in 1987 to local developer and lawyer Philip W. Steere Jr. for \$125,000. Steere sold the house in 1989 to Thomas J. Florence for \$73,500. Florence added the one story room on the south end. From Florence in 1991 it went through several corporate ownerships until it was bought from Kevin M. Welsh and his wife Lynn for \$124,000 in 1997 by the current owners, the builder Philip G. Jepson (b. 1964) and his wife Tracy A. Barnes (b. 1974), instructor in cosmetics at Cape Cod Technical College. He has added the two story addition on the northwest corner.