

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town Barnstable

Place (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Photograph



Address 72 River Road

Historic Name Vroom House

Uses: Present Single family residence

Original Single family residence

Date of Construction 1913

Source Barnstable Patriot 10 Feb 1913; Deed 393/434

Style/Form Colonial revival

Architect/Builder Willard Wing

Exterior Material:

Foundation Poured concrete

Wall/Trim Clapboard

Roof Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
Garage E; two cottages SE.

Major Alterations (*with dates*)

Modernized

Condition Little of original remains

Moved No Yes **Date**

Acres 0.99 Acres

Setting Suburban, on edge of village, on keyhole lot set back from busy road going west to Newtown.

Sketch Map



Recorded by J. W. Gould

Organization Marstons Mills Historical Society,
Barnstable Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*) May, 2009

BUILDING FORM**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** *see continuation sheet*

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

This is a three story gabled Colonial Revival residence, clad in gray clapboard with white trim and brick-colored shutters. The modern core is nearly square (30 x 34) on a concrete foundation. The three bay ground story has a single car garage at the left, and centered doorway under a porch supported by two plain columns. The second story has a small open porch over the entry, between paired windows. The third story has two projecting open balconies under full-length dormers. At the rear of the second story (north) is the remnant of the original one-story gabled wing 38 x 18, much altered.

There are three outbuildings: 1) a two story two-car garage with gambrel roof and stucco cladding, adjoining the house to the east. 2) a one story gabled cottage to the southeast, clad like the main house. 3) farther south is a third gabled one-story cottage which replaced the former stable.

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.

In January 1913 Willard Wing of Reading MA, who had married Henrietta Jones, the daughter of Hercules Jones (1827-1915) of Marstons Mills, bought 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ acres on the north side of the road to Newtown (now called River Rd.) from George and Christina Bodge. This lay opposite the Elliott Backus house, and east of the William T. Makepeace house at the back of a lot over 500 feet deep. Wing built this house with the west side over the line onto Makepeace's land, an error that was rectified in 1927 by transfer of 0.073 acre (deed 445/264-5).

In 1923 Wing sold the house to Makepeace's daughter Gertrude E. Vroom, wife of Ralph Waldo Vroom (1888-1950) of Lynn. His brother Hubert H. had married Gertrude's sister Grace, living in San Diego, where Makepeace died. It seems probable that the Vrooms rented the house from Wing. The Vroom apple orchard was large enough in 1923 to have the Farm Bureau put on a thinning demonstration. Ralph did some plastering, and was active in the Masons, as president of Liberty Hall Association, on the Library board, and as founder of Boy Scout troop 55, of which the Vroom's only child, Lawrence, was Scribe.

After 40 years' association with the house, in 1953 the widowed Gertrude Vroom sold the house to auto mechanic Allen Frederick Pierce (1924-1989) and his first wife Helen M. Corellus of Marthas Vineyard whom he had met as a fellow TB patient in Pocasset. Allen was son of Helen Jane Hall (1892-1977) and William Bassett Pierce (1887-1949), who was the son of George W. (1852-1904) and Clara A. Pierce (1856-1914) of Marstons Mills. Allan served in the Army during World War II. About 1960 Allen built a garage on the former Loring Jones and Warren Hanson Sonoco gas station on the northwest corner of Route 28 and the Osterville-West Barnstable Road. The Allen F. Pierce Conservation Area of seven acres west of the river is a memorial made by his mother about 2005 when she sold it to the town for conservation at a reasonable price under the Land Bank program.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 321/51, 393/434, 445/264-5, 848/510, 1201/126, 1202/290, 2296/77, 2298/78, 3024/88, 11046/167, 15299/319; Plans 20/27, 547/79.

Town of Barnstable building permits 23997, 63185, 63625, 64671, 64771, 80478.

Town of Barnstable vital records.

Barnstable Patriot 22 April 1912, 19 Feb., 9 July 1923, 4 Oct. 1928.

Interview with owner Edith Makina 2 Oct. 2008, town Land Bank coordinator Lindsey Counsel 21 Oct. 2008; local historian Wilbur Cushing 4 Nov. 2008.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

Property Address

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Historical Narrative, cont'd:

In 1963 his wife Helen gave her rights to this house to Allen's second wife Sylvia Irene (Plummer) Mitchell (1929-2008) and the house was sold to Edward F. (b. 1924) and Margaret M. Barry (b. 1925). In 1976 the Barrys sold it to Curtis W. Campbell who immediately sold it for \$33,000 to Donald J. and Elizabeth A. Bisson of East Sandwich. Three years later, in 1979 the Bissons sold it to Robert S. Lane for \$63,000. In 1982 Lane added three box stalls in the barn. His wife, accountant Edith Makina (b. 1952 in Angola of Portuguese parents) acquired half interest in 1997 and full interest in 2002 for \$45,000. She divided the property in half (Plan 549/79) and sold the front (west) half to the developer John M. Falacci for \$256,000. He built four houses on the site (56,536 sq. ft.) in 2003 and 2004 at a cost of \$166,272 each. In 2004 Makina had Old Colony Builders of Mashpee make a large three story addition to the south side of the house, costing \$195,000. A swimming pool and water garden were added in 1994.



106 River Road from East.

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Additional Photographs:



72 River Road Garage