

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

80-7

USGS Quad

Sandwich

Area(s) Form Number

MM-N 27

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

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE  
Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 370 Mystic Dr.

Historic Name: Littlefield Gunning Shack

Uses: Present: Residence

Original: Hunting Lodge

Date of Construction: 1916

Source: Barn. Deed 344/324

Style/Form: Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Melvin W. Littlefield

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete/ concrete block

Wall/Trim: Shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Two: two car garage to south; garden shed to SE.

Major Alterations (with dates): Converted to bungalow style summer home 1946; painted white 1952; doubled in size 1964 by additions of one story on north and two on the south ends.

Condition Completely altered

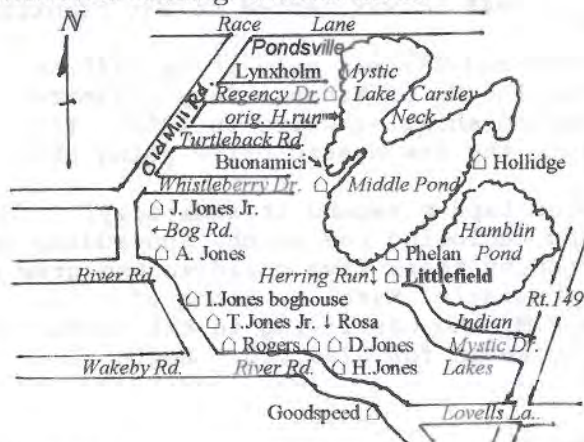
Moved  no  yes Date:

Acreage: 2.1

Setting: In rural setting between Middle Pond and Hamblin Pond.



natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or 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) 18 Nov. 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 current Kavanagh house is an eclectic style house of two stories, with Colonial Revival touches. The plan is rectangular, with gable front to the street under roofs of different angles, the north one almost 45 degrees, the south one less steep. The four bays on the west front present an enclosed porch on the north, a simple entrance door under an open gable, and two single windows to the right. The back entry, on the south side is under an open gable. To the right are broad picture windows under a lattice arbor. The north end toward the pond is one story, with series of windows on all three sides. The original core foundation is cement, and the additions are on concrete blockss. The exterior is clad in cedar shingle painted grey, with white trim. The composition shingle roof has a single brick chimney at the peak.

There are two outbuildings, both clad like the main house: A gabled two car garage to the south, the west half converted to a one room living space, with an open deck at the rear to the south. The other outbuilding is a small garden shed, lying to the SE.

### 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.*

Local owner Louis A. Kleinschmidt who had bought the Bodge Farm in 1908 sold this small piece of land between Hamblin (or Griegson's) Pond and Mystic Lake in 1916 to Melvin W. Littlefield and his wife Nina of Lynn. This was immediately southwest of the house which Lynn manufacturer Phelan had built a house in 1915, and were probably friends of the Phelans. The original structure was no more than a one-room hunting shack, unheated, and used during duck-hunting season. It was probably built by some local handyman/carpenter. A photo taken about 1920 show a vernacular style cottage with shed dormer on the length of the north side, over an open porch.

Eight years later, in 1924 Littlefield sold it to John J. McManus and his wife Katherine of Medford, and sold it in less than two years to two Osterville men Charles R. Hinckley and the stone mason Joseph W. Tallman. Sometime before 1946 it was given a bungalow appearance by railing in the front porch. In 1946 it was rented to Ben Franklin (see photo).

The shack was essentially unchanged when Hinckley and Tallman sold it in 1945 to Boston food broker John H. Kavanagh and his wife Katherine M. of Waban. They converted it into a summer cottage on the same footprint, painting the shingles white in 1952. The former dirt road from Marstons Mills was converted into the new Mystic Drive going thru Maddalena's Indian Lakes development.

In 1963-4 the Kavanaghs had local carpenter George Lapham expand it radically, modernizing it, and doubling the size by expanding and enclosing the porch, and adding two stories onto the south end. The property was inherited by their five children who grew up here summers, Diana Potter of Walpole, John Jr. of Auburndale, Karol K. Bibbs of Cambridge, Lorraine V. Kavanagh of Pelham, and Kevin F.M. who was living in the house. In 1996 the siblings sold their shares (in fourtieths) to Kevin for \$230,000. Kevin continues in the family food brokerage business.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*see continuation sheet*

Barnstable deeds 233/192, 264/360-1, 270/417, 297/321, 344/324, 403/229, 413/471, 530/194, 627/149, 10062/24.

Photos of Kavanagh family in the house.

Interviews with owner Kevin Kavanagh 11, 23 Nov. 2000; neighbor Bruce McHenry 23 Oct. 2000.

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