

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

46-3-4

Sandwich

MM-N 19

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



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

Address: 170 School St.

Historic Name: Newtown Schoolhouse #9

Present: Residence

Original: School

Date of Construction: 4 March 1839

Source: Town Records Vol. 8, p. 120.

Form: Vernacular

Architect/Builder: Town of Barnstable

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (with dates): Converted to residence
c. 1902 on new foundation, porch & chimney;
NE room added 1982; garage ell 1996.

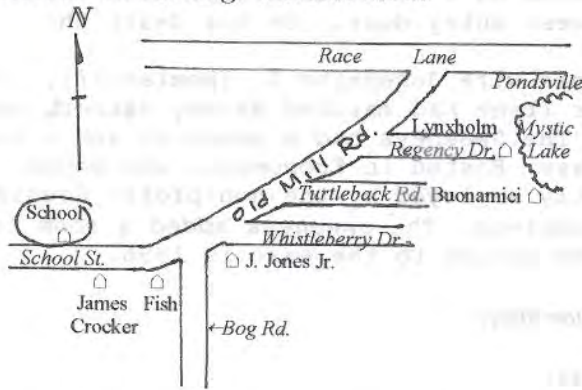
Condition: Much altered

Moved no yes Date:

Acreage: 1.96

Setting: Rural area, west of junction of Bog Rd.,
School St. & Old Mill Rd.

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) 31 May 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 Newtown School has been converted into a one story gable ended house, with an ell extending eastward at the back, forming an L plan. Mortice and tenon joints are in the plates, and the floorboards of two rooms show screwholes where the back to front desks were fastened. A photo in the house, like that attached, shows two entry doors on the south, the west one having been closed when the front was enclosed with a porch. On the south end of the gable is a screened porch under a hipped roof, with entry door into the house on the right. The back ell is under a cross gable, with back door facing south, and a one car garage at the east end. The foundation is concrete block. The house is clad in natural white cedar shingle, with green trim. The roof is composition, with a brick chimney on the east side of the peak near the middle.

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.

On 5 March 1838 town meeting Art. 20 authorized a committee to be appointed to investigate the request for a school in District #9, and Luther and Nathaniel Hinckley and George Jenkins were appointed. At town meeting of 4 March 1839 Art. 16 authorized \$250 to build the school, the district to be assessed for the cost. The school probably opened 4 Nov. 1839, the customary starting date, ^{being} the first Monday in November, after fall harvest.

The school was closed in June 1901 when it had only 14 students for eight grades. It was closed "to provide better instruction, rather than to save money..." for "good class work became impossible." The last day of school was to have been Sat. 28 June 1901, but its last teacher had died ten days earlier, after an illness. He was Edward T. Bearse of 604 Main St. Santuit, born 3 July 1881 to Osborne Warren Bearse and Belinda Jones Gifford. Edward had always wanted to be a teacher, attended Elizabeth Lowell High School near his home, and Hyannis Normal School. He took over Newtown School on New Year's Day of 1901. On May Day he left a may basket on a young lady's doorstep and hid in a nearby bog, but came down with a severe cold, and died of pneumonia on 19 June, at age 19.

The property reverted to the James H. Crocker family, who lived in the John Hamblin house across the street. It was inherited by James's son Harvey Francis Crocker (1884-1963) to whom the core owes its present form. Harvey, with a reputation of a carpenter who could never use enough nails, placed the schoolhouse on a new foundation, with chimney moved forward, added the front porch and closed the west entry door. On his death the house and two acres of land was valued at \$1500.

It was sold in 1964 to Michael J. Sweeney and his wife Josephine L. (Demianoff), of Hillbright Terrace in Yonkers NY. Josephine's sister Irene had married Harvey Sennett, and lived across the street in the John Hamblin house. The Sweeneys had a daughter and a son Michael who is the current owner, a graduate of U. Mass. Boston in Economics, who moved here in 1980 to work on energy issues. He is currently employed by the non-profit Housing Assistance Corp. providing homing for the poor and homeless. The Sweeneys added a room to the northwest corner in 1982, and two bedrooms and the garage to the east in 1996.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Barnstable town records Vol. 8 , pp. 84, 109, 120, 144.
Barnstable deeds 1307/396-7, 5839/45; Land Court cert. 119,476, 120,670.
Barnstable probate 40,416 Harvey F. Crocker.
Interview with owner Michael Sweeney 15 Oct. 2000.
Barnstable Town Reports 1901, pp. 115, 121, 125, 144; 1902 pp. 125, 131, 144.
Winifred Dick & Earlene MacDowell "Descendants of Edward Gifford" mss. 1999, p. 5.
Photo in Marstons Mills Historical Society, copy attached.
Walling map 1857 "School".

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