

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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Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould

Organization: MMHS, BHC

Date (month / year): June, 2009

Town: Barnstable

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address: 1585 South County Road

Historic Name: Bremner House and Garage

Uses: Present: Residence

Original: Residence

Date of Construction: 1922

Source: Barnstable deeds 386/322, 376/524

Style/Form: Craftsman bungalow

Architect/Builder: Unknown, probably local

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Poured concrete

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Workshop and garage northwest.

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Library added on south side.

Condition: Somewhat altered from original.

Moved: no | X | yes || Date _____

Acreage: 1.38 acres

Setting: Rural, at junction of ancient road to Centerville (now Bumps River Rd.) and South County Rd. connecting Marstons Mills and Osterville.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[TOWN]

[ADDRESS]

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E

62

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.

The house is a two story side-gabled Craftsman style building, measuring 36 x 24 with front porch on five square pillars. On the second story there is a shed dormer with belcast eaves. The south end of the porch is enclosed as part of the 18 x 24 "Library". At the rear of the northwest corner is an extension with belcast eaves. The exterior is shingle clad, with cream colored trim.

To the northwest is a large outbuilding on an H plan, a two story side-gabled Craftsman style garage, 72 feet wide facing the road, 48 feet of which are four openings for vehicles, and 12 feet on each end a gable with French doors on the ground level. The gables extend 49 feet to the rear. It is shingle clad with cream colored trim, and blue shutters. The second floor is reached by a staircase from the south side.

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.

These were two of three buildings built in 1922 on 2½ acres for Osterville landscaper Alexander N. Bremner (1890-1961) and his wife Elizabeth Glancy. The land without buildings was bought by Bremner in 1922 from the sisters Frances and Minerva Baxter (Barn. Deed 386/322). It lay west of the junction of South County Road and the west end of the ancient road from Marstons Mills to Centerville, now known as Bumps River Road.

Alexander Nicholson Bremner was born in Caithness, Scotland, and came to Boston in the early 1900s. He worked on an estate in Newton/Wellesley area, where he met his wife, Elizabeth Jane Glancy, whose parents had immigrated from Ireland. They were married in Osterville in 1915, and had four children born there, the first two Elizabeth and Francis (1921-c.1992) born in the Goodspeed House nearby, David (1923-1996) and Robert (b. 1926) born in this house. In Scotland Bremner had been an active athlete, and participated in the half mile in the Caledonian games in Boston. His son believes that he helped train Johnny Kelley who won the Boston Marathon in 1935. Bremner was a member of the Masonic lodge, also a coal dealer in Marstons Mills 1926-7. He used the garage for his coal and landscaping trucks. His son believes he laid out the Osterville ball field. At Christmas 1928 he played Santa at Marstons Mills Liberty Hall. In the summer of 1929 Bremner rented his house and moved to "a portable house" across the road. The family moved to Chatham in 1930. He died in Orleans in 1962 of stomach cancer which his family attributes to the poisons to which he was exposed. He is buried in Orleans with his wife and children.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Deeds 386/322, 376/524; Land Court Certificate 74081; Land Court Plan 13104.

Interview with former owner Holbrook Davis July 2008; letter from former owner Joel Davis 28 July 2008.

Barnstable Patriot 8 April 1926, 20 Oct. 1927, 27 Dec. 1928, 11 July 1929.

Interview with current owner Barbara Cazeault 7 Aug. 2008; former occupant David Crosby 6 Aug. 2008.

Interview with Robert S. Bremner, son of the original owner, 6 July, 23 Aug. 2008.

Otis, Amos, Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Historical Narrative, cont'd:

At the end of 1929 Bremner sold the three buildings to his neighbor Edward Kirk Davis (1880-1955) (deed 470/152). Davis, head of the Canadian aluminum processor Alcan, returned to the Osterville area where his ancestors had been among the first settlers (Dolor¹ Davis, Simon², James³, Joseph⁴, Silas⁵, James⁶, Perley⁷, Edward⁸). The house was used as the office for management of land. Davis had his personal office on the second floor of the garage, where he died at his desk on 5 March 1955.

The house was occupied by Davis's son Joel until 1971 when it was lent to his Osterville classmate David Crosby (b. 1927) who had become principal of Centerville Elementary School and his wife Barbara (b. 1924), who became Chair of the Barnstable Historical Commission.

In 1978 the Davis heirs sold the house and garage to the current owners, Osterville roofer Paul Cazeault (b. 1937) and his wife Barbara (b. 1939), for \$62,500 (LC cert. 74081). The driveway to the garage is shared by the Cazeaults on the south and Blokkers on the north side. The Cazeaults have not altered the house, but their son Paul Jr. converted the office in the garage into an apartment with a kitchen; this is now occupied by their son Russell.