

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

75-10

BRN 1806  
N 1106

MM A-47

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Town Barnstable



Neighborhood or village) Marstons Mills

Old Post Rd. 41

265 Baxter Neck Rd.

Name "Fox Hill"

Present Residence C.D. Putnam

Original Summer home Whittiers

Year of Construction 1921

C.D. Putnam

Form Cape Cod

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Shingle

Roof Shingle on wood

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures four:  
garage w/ 2d story studio (1921) NE;  
boat/bathhouse, SW (1922); pumphouse  
(1921) SE; Carriagehouse (1921) NE  
Major Alterations (with dates) c. 1952

bay window to S replaced by full Cape  
front.

Condition Excellent

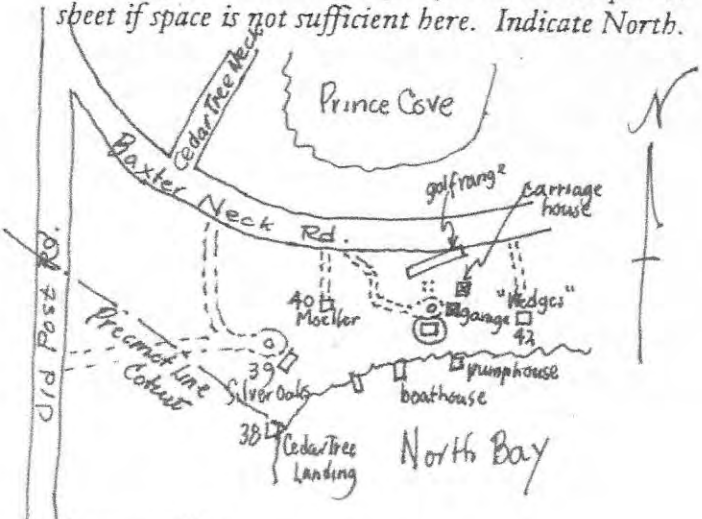
Moved  no  yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 9.3

Setting Waterfront, on bluff, south  
side of Baxter's Neck. looking south  
on North Bay

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by J. W. Gould

Organization Cotuit Historical Society

Date (month/day/year) 20 July 1992

NOV 24 1993

BRN 1806

# 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 modified Cape Cod cottage of 10 rooms, 1½ stories high. The original full Cape faced the water, replaced c. 1952 by a bay window. The basic plan is a Z, with the Cape Cod core in the middle, with living room and large fireplace on the south, bedroom and hall behind. The west wing extends in a hall past 2 baths to west bedroom. The east wing contains stairway, dining room, study to SE with bath behind it, and kitchen to north. 4 bedrooms upstairs.

The exterior is shingle with white trim and yellow shutters with fox-head cutouts. Garage of 1921 has 2d story studio added c. 1957; farther NE is carriage house with 2 wide openings to W, unchanged since 1921. At the waterfront are a pumphouse at the base of the bluff which sent spring water to watertower NW of garage; 2 story boat/bathhouse (1922), with one room above, once screened on all sides, and one story extension to E with 3 bath-houses. Two hole golf course to the north, with range wsw-ene 160 yards, built by Whittiers with water sprinklers, abandoned c. 1973. At low tide are 2 steel rails for 2 masted schooner.

Large rhododendrons on turnaround were planted 1921.

For Whittiers' guest house (1925) see "Wedges", OP 42

## 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.*

"Fox Hill", named for the mound to the north which had 3-4 red fox dens, was built in 1921 for Walter Rufus Borden Whittier (c.1865-1937), owner and manager of cotton mills in Lowell and Silver Lake Mills in Chattahoochie GA and his wife Miriam Fletcher (1872-1943). This was the first house built on Baxter Neck. Among his boats were sailing canoes with 2 masts and outrigger seat, built in early 20s in Germany for Paul Butler, a stockholder of Whittier mills in GA who stayed here; one is now at Mystic Seaport, another in Whittier barn. "Venture" was his big catboat; motorboat built by Manny Crosby during the depression, named "Dahinda" meaning bullfrog from its sound; a smaller motorboat "Fox", and larger "Nama" on which Whittier slept in front of the house, awakened by cook George who brought him hot doughnuts for breakfast. The shortest of the 4 docks built for Camp Candoit extended from the shore here, 1942, removed 1944.

Whittiers sold the house in 1946 to Mrs. Charlton D. Putnam, divorced wife of Olmstead landscaper who had worked on Fenway and Providence greenbelt and set up his own firm in Dayton. She had Olmstead Bros. landscape this entry drive 1949, placing splitrail fence and clump of dogwoods at entrance, dogwoods along drive and east side of property. On her death 1980 aged 94, it was inherited by her son Charlton Putnam and his wife Claire. He was one of the founders of Barnstable Conservation Foundation (now BARN.Land Trust).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

C.D.Putnam 20 July 1992

James & Nancy Whittier 22 Aug. 1993

Olmstead inventory of Barnstable gardens, summer 1992, Barn.Hist.Commission

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