

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 30 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills-Timberland)
 Address 1411 Osterville-West Barnstable Road
 Historic Name Benjamin & Isaac Crocker, Jr.
Homestead

Use: Present farmstead/ veterinarian office
 Original farmstead

DESCRIPTION:

Date c1800
 Source Registry of Deeds

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings renovated old barn (now offices)
three other large structures

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date n/a

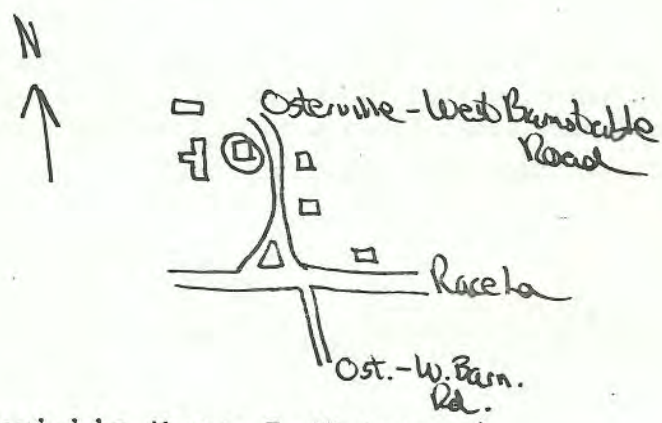
Approx. acreage 13.15

Setting residential

Photo # 117-23-MM B46

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Martin E. Wirtanen
 Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.
 Date June 1986

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Crocker Homestead is a full five bay, 1½ story Cape cottage enclosed by a gable roof with large central chimney and two gabled dormers on the front slope. It is sheathed with shingles and trimmed with narrow cornerboards and fascia. Windows contain 12/12 sash, while the dormers contain 8/8 sash. The entry is protected by an enclosed, gabled porch with a four light transom. The cottage sits on a painted brick foundation.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The Crocker family, and later owners of this property in the "Plains" area were involved with farming, livestock and associated land use. The "Plains" area was used for growing of corn by the native American population when European colonists arrived in Barnstable in 1638. By the early 18th century, the early settlers had started to develop the potential that the area offered for agriculture.

This property is north of the area known as Skunknet or Skonkonet, a once wooded area which stretched from Bumps River to the old town building on Oak Street and Old Stage Road. Many early deeds and wills refer to woodlots in the area also known as Timberland. The road which is the east boundary of the property was referred to as the "mail route" between the villages of West Barnstable and Osterville in early deeds. Also on the east of the "mail Route" road, 200' north of Race Lane, was the location of the Plains schoolhouse for nine grades with one teacher. This was the second schoolhouse on the site. The old Barnstable map of 1831 surveyed by John G. Hales shows a schoolhouse in the location. This 1831 map also shows the present West Barnstable-Osterville road going northerly past the schoolhouse and then going westerly at Rte. 149 by Popple Bottom Road where the marker for Major Micah Hamlin is located (WBB-911). The present town map shows this road in dotted lines as an ancient way.

The Crocker family was known to have owned land in the area of Mystic Lake and the "Plains" since Deacon William Crocker (1612-1692), a first comer, willed 100 acres to three of his grandsons at the "Ponds". There was no positive family line of Benjamin Crocker that sold

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate:

Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.

John G. Hales Map. 1831.

Trayser, Donald G. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.

Otis, Amos. Genealogical Notes on Barnstable County Families. 1888.

The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.

Historical Significance (cont)

the parcel to Isaac Crocker, Jr. back to Deacon William, due to lack of a death date. Benjamin⁵(b. 1749) married Deliverance Childs in 1778. He was buried in the Marstons Mills Cenetery as was Benjamin. Amos Otis, in his history of the Crockers, was not sure if the line went back through Samuel⁷ and Job² to Deacon William, or William³ and Joseph² to Deacon William.