

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

078106

Cotuit

E

52

## Photograph



**Town:** Barnstable

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

**Address:** 168 River Road

**Historic Name:** Alton Fuller House

**Uses:** Present: Single family residence

Original: Single family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1904

**Source:** Barnstable Deed 268/124

**Style/Form:** Folk Victorian

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Cement block

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two car garage

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Additions 1979, 1986

**Condition:** Original form with additions

**Moved:** no | X | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.47 Acres

**Setting:** Suburban west end of village, on busy road to Newtown.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** J. W. Gould

**Organization:** Marstons Mills Historical Society,  
Barnstable Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2009

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

168 RIVER ROAD, MARSTONS MILLS  
BARNSTABLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY

Area(s) Form No.

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\_\_\_ 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:

The original core is a two-story vernacular Folk Victorian house with a steeply pitched gable roof with two shed dormers on the east side, and an open porch across the front to the street. To this have been added a glassed-in porch on the east, a gabled extension at the rear (northwards), to which have been added shed roofed extensions on the east and west. It is clad in gray stained shingle with white trim

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The house was built in 1904 on the north side of the road to Newtown, now called River Road, on a five and a half acre lot that was the north part of Crosby Field, originally a twenty acre parcel that Capt. Nathan Crosby had sold in 1823 to Silas Goodspeed, Robert Francis and Arthur Marston. The Crosby property was the site of the original Moses Goodspeed house. That unbuilt lot was purchased from Elliott C. Backus by Henry<sup>10</sup> Alton Fuller (1859-1930) of Cotuit. He was son of steamship Capt. George<sup>9</sup> Henry Fuller (Ansel<sup>8</sup>, Mathias<sup>6,7</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Mayflower passenger Edward<sup>1</sup>) and Esther<sup>8</sup> Nickerson (Daniel<sup>7-6</sup>, Seth<sup>5</sup>, Samuel<sup>4-3-2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>). It is possible that the house was built by his carpenter uncle Ansel (1843-1924). Alton, as he was called, probably went to sea as a young man, never married, and became caretaker of the Wesson estate in Cotuit for 25 years. He returned to this house occasionally, but probably rented it and lent it to friends like future sheriff Laughlan Crocker on his return from France in the Great War.

In 1922 Alton sold the house to Frederick Riehl (1872-1933) and his wife Elizabeth Seitz (1871-1945). Riehl was caretaker of the Wianno estate of the typewriter executive John T. Underwood. After Elizabeth's death the house and 5½ acres was sold to Rose Danzer of the Bronx, who sold it soon to Charles M. and Hilda F. Kalweit in 1947. The Kalweits sold off a small portion to Robert G. and Alice Elskamp in 1950. Unable to pay their mortgage, the bank sold the house and 5½ acres at auction in 1959 to Hudson Kalloch of Centerville and John Bernard Jr.. They were leasing it to Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Evans when it was sold in 1966 to Eli and Cecile V. Cohen of Medford. In 1973 the Cohens sold it for \$35,500 to Anthony Pawlowski of Cumberland MD who subdivided it, and sold the house on the .46 acre lot to George L.(b. 1938) and Lavinia (b. 1939) Quinn of Hyannis. They built an unfinished addition to the rear. In 1976 the Quinns moved to Centerville and sold the house for \$22,000 to the current owners Kenneth J. and Ellen (Sprague) White of Yarmouthport.

In 1979 the Whites enlarged the kitchen, and in 1986 they had Rohr Construction Co. of Sandwich make the 16 x 16 addition of a bedroom and bath at the rear for \$13,000. The porch was enclosed about 1998.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Town Book 2/251, [county] 268/124, 385/470, 376/596, 667/111, 841/115, 1030/19, 1977/253, 2033/127, 2385/222; Plan 281/47  
Town of Barnstable building permits 21545, 30207, 2007/08030.  
Town of Barnstable Vital Records.  
*Barnstable Patriot* 1 Feb. 1915, 8 Dec. 1919, 24 April 1930.  
Fuller family tree by J.W.Gould rev. 4 Oct. 2008.  
Interviews with owner Ellen White 15 Oct. 2008; local historians Vivian and Wilbur Cushing 4 Nov. 2008.