

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town: Barnstable

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Photograph



Address: 330 Route 149

Historic Name: Parker Farmstead

Uses: Present: Single family residence

Original: Single family residence

Date of Construction: 1934

Source: Barnstable Deeds 508/353, 498/213

Style/Form: Vernacular eclectic

Architect/Builder: Robert A. Parker

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Large garden shed under shed roof to east of house.

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Two rooms added on south side, 1946;
Room and garage added to north, 1948.

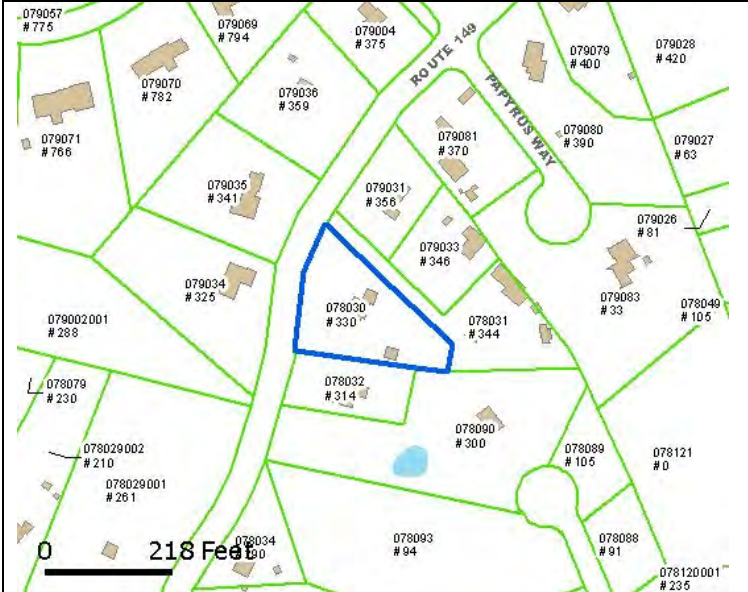
Condition: Major additions to both ends

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.02 acres

Setting: Set well back from state highway, close to village center.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould

Organization: Marstons Mills Historical Society;
Barnstable Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): August 2009

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

330 ROUTE 149
MARSTONS MILLS, BARNSTABLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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:

This is an eclectic vernacular farmhouse of one and a half stories, side gabled core 22 x 28, clad in cedar shingle with blue-gray trim. The front entry (west) has a short shed roof porch, and a half circle window in the door. At the peak is a small brick chimney. At the south end there is a gabled extension of one one-story 22 x 14, with a large brick chimney at the south end. On the west side there is a shed extension for a kitchen. On the northeast corner a gabled extension 10 x 20 was added at a lower level, and a 10 x 20 garage attached, both with concrete block foundations.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1933 the local farmer Lorenzo⁹ Gifford (1878-1952)(William⁸, Edward⁷⁻⁶, Joseph⁵⁻⁴, Gershom³, William²⁻¹), brother of US congressman Charles L. Gifford, and his wife "Nora" Senora Warner (Pierce) Gifford gave this land, an apple and pear orchard of about three acres to their second daughter Jean Louisa Gifford after her marriage in 1931 to Robert Alan Parker (1908-85). With the help of a carpenter friend from Maine Robert built the core of the house. Robert Parker ran a chicken farm here until 1951, raising as many as 12,000 chickens at a time, which were dressed here and sold to local stores and clubs like Oyster Harbors. A capon house lay closest northeast, east of that a picking house, and farther east the large grain storehouse. North of these were two long laying houses, now #346. Brooding houses were east of this house.

In 1950 the farm was struck by the poultry disease that had spread from the Clear Lake Duck Farm across the road. The state sent in dump trucks to pick up dead birds. Parker was bankrupted by the decimation of his flock, and got work on the Nickerson duck farm in Chatham for two years. The house was rented to Laura O'Neill. Returning to Marstons Mills in 1954, Robert built #346 for his family, giving the main house to his eldest daughter registered nurse Claire Louise (b. 1932) who married Donald Leroy Melix (b. 1929) in 1952. Donald Melix is a direct descendant of Massasoit (Leon Melix, William Melix, Martha Scott, Sarah Leonard, Susan Prince, Hope Quam, Hannah Weicum, Benjamin Tuspaquim, Annie, daughter of Massasoit). Having given up the poultry business in 1954, Robert Parker took to carpentry, fixing up buildings on the property, and serving as custodian at Cotuit and Marstons Mills schools. The Melixes have lived in this house since 1959.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Deeds 498/213, 508/353, 354, 933/555; Plan 151/83.

Interviews with owner Claire Melix and her sister Linda Fermino 17 Sept. 2009.

Gifford family tree by J.W.Gould 11 March 2006, based on Winifred Dick and Earlene MacDowell "Descendants of Edward Gifford" (1999).