

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

126015

Cotuit

E

59

## Photograph



**Town:** Barnstable

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

**Address:** 1297 Osterville-West Barnstable Road

**Historic Name:** Amos Ellis House

**Uses: Present:** Single family residence

**Original:** Single family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1913

**Source:** Barnstable deeds 321/547, 328/322.

**Style/Form:** American foursquare

**Architect/Builder:** Amos Ellis

### Exterior Material:

**Foundation:** Mortared stone

**Wall/Trim:** Cedar shingle

**Roof:** Composition shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

**Major Alterations (*with dates*):** None

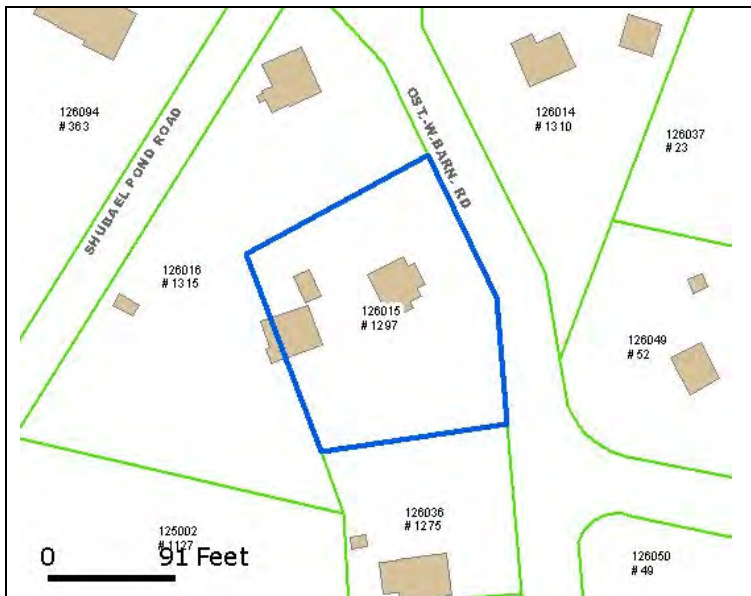
**Condition:** Original form slightly altered.

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

**Acreage:** 0.66 acres

**Setting:** Suburban, on busy road south of intersection of Race Lane and Osterville-West Barnstable road,

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



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

**Organization:** MMHS, BHC

**Date (*month / year*):** June, 2009

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

[TOWN ]

[ADDRESS ]

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This is an American Foursquare style house on a 24 x 28 foundation, with hip roof, and one story enclosed entrance porch toward the street (east) under a hip roof. The unusual foundation of mortared field stone is probably the work of the Barnstable mason Thomas Jones.

## 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.

The house was built in late 1913, as shown by the purchase in May of that year of an acre of vacant woodland from Nathan C. Hamblin by Amos F. Ellis, and his procurement of a mortgage by early January, 1914, from Wellfleet Savings for \$1000, which probably represents the cost of the house. Earlier Ellis and his wife Clara May Keyes had bought seven acres in East Sandwich in 1906, but Clara died by 1910. Amos and his second wife Cora E. had two children in Centerville in 1911 and 1912, before they moved here, and their third child Henry Roger Ellis was born here in 1917.

In 1920 Ellis sold the property to Lester Q. Fuller of Chatham and his wife Idella M., who paid off the mortgage and sold it in 1922 to the local plumber Frank Trafford Lapham (1900- 1970) who grew up nearby as son of the cranberry grower Arthur W. Lapham and his first wife Elizabeth Dewar. Frank had done his plumbing apprenticeship in Eastham where he married Beatrice Moody (1885-1979, daughter of Fred L. and Luella Moody). Beatrice was the first librarian of Marstons Mills Library.

Although no deed can be found, Frank Lapham appears to have given title to his sister Elsie Lapham (1897-1977) who married William Almond Jones (1895-1941), a general contractor who had his house and business on Main Street in Barnstable village, and was elected to the state legislature as a representative.

In 1943, Elsie, as guardian of her brother's children and in her own right, sold the house for \$2594 to the present owners, the Howes family. Since the death of the initial owners, Chester and Mariana Howes, it has been and is currently owned by Chester and Joyce Howes.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 321/547, 377/449, 602/340, 12552/228-9; Plan 362/81.

Town of Barnstable Vital Records.

*Barnstable Patriot* .

Interviews with local historian Patricia Jones Anderson 22 Oct. 2008.