

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
MMA	42

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills Center)
Address 2117 Main Street
Historic Name Capt. Oliver Crocker House

Use: Present dwelling
Original farmstead

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1853-1858

Source Registry of Deeds/Atlases

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle and clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

large rear ell (S) added, 1966; attached garage added to E of ell, 1985; greenhouse and deck added c1980
Moved no _____ Date n/a

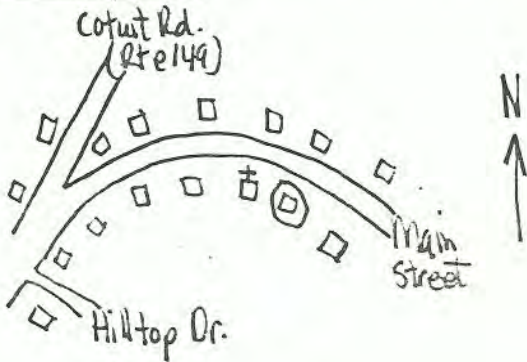
Approx. acreage 1.41 078-058

Setting next to church (NR) in village center

Photo #86-10-A42

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 Vivian Cushing

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 Capt. Oliver Crocker House is a well preserved example of the Greek Revival style, whose major alterations/additions have been confined to the rear. Like so many other local examples of the style, it is a 1½ story cottage consisting of a three bay sidehall gable end section, extended by an elongated side wing. Both sections have entries which are framed by pilasters and lintel shelves; the main gable end entry is slightly more elaborate. Trim consists of corner pilasters carrying a frieze.

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

See continuation sheet.

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

- Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate. --
Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.
Town of Barnstable. Annual Reports, Vital Records: 1898, 1909, 1940.
Otis, Amos. Genealogical Notes on Barnstable County Families. 1888.
Trayser, Donald G. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.
Deyo, Simeon. History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. 1890.

Oliver Crocker, born Aug. 24, 1822, son of Ezekiel and Deborah (Jones) Crocker, was married on May 30, 1846 to Nancy Jones, daughter of Benjamin Jones. On March 28, 1853 he purchased 7 acres of land, adjoining the "meeting house yard" on the road leading from Marstons Mills to Osterville, from Andrew Phinney. No buildings are mentioned in the deed. The 1858 map shows his house there, so he built between 1853 and 1858.

Capt. Oliver Crocker "went to sea at 17 years of age and followed whaling 25 years, making 4 voyages in the Arctic Ocean and others in the Pacific and Indian Oceans." (Deyo, page 427). He died Aug. 18, 1898 leaving his homestead to his widow, but granting his son, Oliver A. Crocker the right to live there to care for his mother. Oliver A. was also named executor of his father's will. There seems to have been some unhappiness with the situation as Nancy several times petitioned to the courts to have Oliver A. removed as executor, but the courts always dismissed the petitions and Oliver A. did submit his official accounts of estate business to the Probate Court as his duty required.

Nancy Crocker died Feb. 12, 1909 and Oliver A. came into possession of the house in a deed dated May 6, 1912.

Oliver A. Crocker was born about 1853 and married 3 times. He was a farmer and cranberry grower. He died, a suicide, on April 22, 1940, having outlived all his wives. His heirs, (3 daughters), sold the homestead in a deed dated April 2, 1942 to Ruby F. Perkins. Mrs. Perkins for a time ran her home as a boarding house, providing food and shelter for many persons, and especially for a number of young men who came into the village to work at the Clear Lake Duck Farm.

On Oct. 15, 1956 Mrs. Perkins sold the homestead to Philip D. Sherman, the present owner. In 1966 the large barn behind the house was torn down and the boards used to build a spacious room on the south side of the house. Mr. Sherman, a florist for many years, went into the ministry and for about 14 years was not living in Marstons Mills. The house was rented out for part of that time. In 1980 Rev. Sherman and his family returned to the Mills to live in their house. He re-activated the small, unused church building next door which had originally been the Methodist Episcopal Church. This is now a thriving community church.

A small greenhouse and deck have been more recently added to the structure of this house, on the south side, and a new, attached garage built on the ell to the east.