

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Form Number

44-6

Sandwich

MM N-15

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE

Photograph



Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 830 River Road

Historic Name: Isaac Jones Boghouse

Status: Present: Residence

Original: Cranberry Boghouse

Date of Construction: c. 1850 [1963]

Owner: Owner, Marion Oldham

Style/Form: Vernacular barn

Architect/Builder: Isaac Jones/ Marion Oldham

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Two story studio/
Garage to south

Major Alterations (with dates): Moved 100 yards south
and placed above a new ground floor.

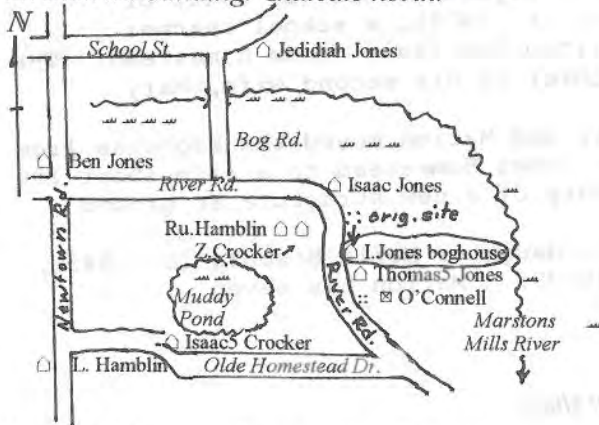
Condition: Greatly altered.

Moved no yes Date: 1963

Acres: 2.57

Setting: Rural upland above cranberry bogs of Muddy
Pond and headwaters of Marstons Mills River.

natural feature. Label streets including route
numbers, if any. Circle and number the
inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by James W. Gould

Organization Marstons Mills
Historical Society

Date (month / year) 28 July 2000

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

The former Isaac Jones Boghouse is a two story barn-like building on a rectangular plan, the front facade facing west toward River Road. The foundation is concrete block, with the first floor abutting the hillside behind the house. It is clad in cedar shingle with barn-red trim. The centered entry door is enclosed by an unpainted wooden shed/porch. There is a pair of sliding glass doors on the south bay of the west facade. The gabled roof is irregular, dropping off slightly on the north end, and covered with composition shingle. At the south end is an exterior brick chimney, added recently. A few feet to the south is the only outbuilding, a two story studio/garage, on a rectangular plan, on concrete block foundation set into the back hillside. It is clad with vertical plywood siding. A one car door opens on the south side, the entry door and large plate glass window on the west.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

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 current owner, Marion Lovell Oldham, aged 92, with a good memory, moved the boghouse in 1963 from about 100 yards north, where it faced River Road next to the great oak tree. At the time she believed that it was 100 years old, an inheritance from cranberry grower Isaac⁶ Sprague Jones (1801-66) (Abner⁵, Isaac⁴⁻³, Jedidiah², Ralph¹). Jones was a pioneer cranberry grower in the area, and would have built such a storage shed at the height of his business.

His whole property was inherited by his only child, by Abigail "Nabby" H. Hamblin (1808-1894; Lewis⁵, Benjamin⁴⁻³, John², James¹), Lydia Ann (1832-1923) who married Orrin Mecarta (1844-1923). They lived in the west side of the Jones homestead, sharing it with her brother-in-law the postmaster Dennis Mecarta and his wife Harriet A. Crocker. Orrin and Dennis had come from Harwich, and Orrin took over running the bogs.

Again, on Lydia's death the estate went in the female line to the only survivors, the family of Harriet and Dennis's daughter Minnie Emily Mecarta, who died in the flu epidemic of 1919. She had married the chauffeur Winfred Boyden Lovell (d. 1948) of Wakeby, by whom she had the present owner Marion Lovell (b. 1909), a school teacher married to William Oldham of Providence. Marion inherited the Isaac Jones homestead. The other half of the estate went from Winfred to the daughter of his second wife, Mary (Freitas), Kathleen who married Clarence Farrar.

In 1963 Kathleen and Marion divided the property, and Marion moved the boghouse from its original location by the big oak tree south of the Jones Homestead to a site about 100 yards south on River Road, placing it as the second story of a new structure at ground level.

Marion's three heirs are her son James (b. 1946), daughter Merle Bisburg (b. 1943), and children of her deceased daughter Marcia Vann (1940-99). Marion has seven grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

- Barnstable deeds 1171/167-8.
- Barnstable probates 5217½ (I.Jones), 11418 (A.Jones), 20471 (O.Mecarta), 31309 (W.Lovell), 33857 (Mary Lovell).
- Walter Hamblin, Genealogies of Jones and Crocker families, 18 Aug. 1989.
- Interviews with Marion L. Oldham 17 May 1996, 26 July 2000.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*