

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area 1-19, 801, 901-905 29-45	Area no. A
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1. Town Barnstable
Name of area (if any) Marstons Mills Center
3. General date or period late 1600's to 1900
4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? No, Colonial, Greek Revival Georgian
in condition? No, poor to excellent
in type of ownership? No, Private & Public
in use? No, Residential & Commercial

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

See Attached

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____ MHC Photo no. _____
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6. Recorded by Patricia J. Anderson
Organization Barnstable Historical Commission
Date July, 1985

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

Marstons Mills was called by the Indians, Mystic, also spelled Mistick or Misteake, which means "stream or still waters". The stream which flows through the village and the ponds to the north from which the stream originates were called Mystic by the Indians. The largest pond is still called Mystic Lake. The first white settler to inhabit this area was Roger Goodspeed, who migrated from the area now called Cobb's Hill in Barnstable Village, in 1653 (See Form #'s C-89-92).

This area of Marstons Mills called Marstons Mills Center has always been the heart of the village. From the early beginnings of Marstons Mills this area has been the nucleus of the settlement. The Marstons Mills River, called Goodspeed's River during the Colonial Era, with its grist mill (See Form #A-2) and fulling mill (See Form #A-11 & 902), the first on Cape Cod, played a vital role in this village's development.

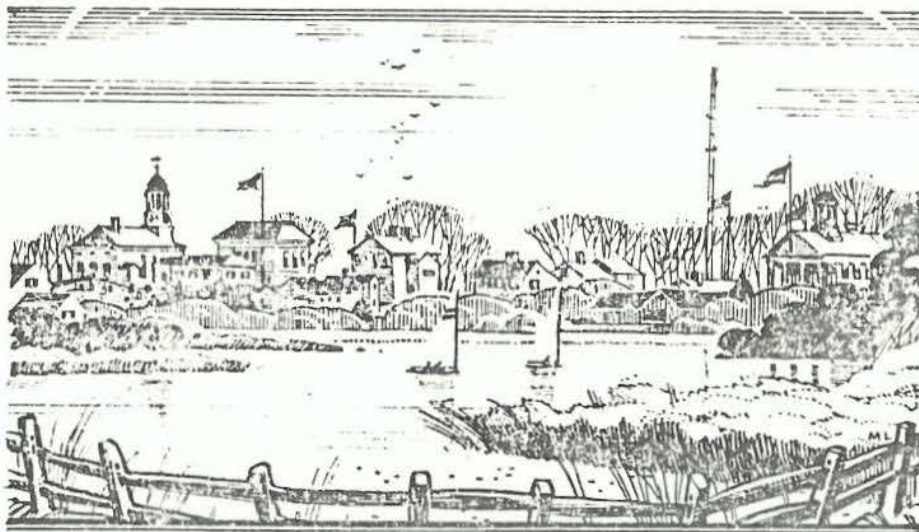
The first settler named Marston was Benjamin, who came from Salem in 1738 and ran the fulling mill which had been built in 1689. Benjamin Marston married Lydia Goodspeed and it is from their descendents that Marstons Mills received its current name. Nymphas Marston (1728-1788), the first of that name, was prominent in civic affairs during the 1700's and a justice of the Court of Common Pleas. The second Nymphas Marston became an influential lawyer and later Judge of Probate 1828-1854. Charles Marston, brother of the second Nymphas, was a member of the Senate, high sheriff and Indian Commissioner for Mashpee. George Marston, son of Charles, became a Representative, Judge of Probate and Attorney General of Mass. 1879-1883. A succession of Marstons ran the grist mill for over a century after Benjamin's arrival. Settlers came from as far away as Plymouth to have their corn ground. The old mill was not used after C. 1920 and it blew over during a severe windstorm C. 1930.

Several important community buildings are located in this area of the Mills. The Marstons Mills Methodist Church, now called the Community Church, (See Form #A-17) was moved by oxen from Yarmouth to land on Main Street donated by Allen Marston and Ebenezer Scudder. Members came from Osterville, Cotuit Port as well as Marstons Mills. The church building was sold in 1970 and converted to a dance studio and later a day care center for preschool children, however after a decade the building was once again rededicated as a house of worship.

Liberty Hall, built in 1859 nearly opposite the church (See Form A-16), has been used for a variety of functions through the years, village Dramatic Club, meetings, dances, parties, auctions, etc...any event that needed a large hall was held here.

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

Barnstable County Atlas 1885, 1880, 1907
Trayser, Donald G., Barnstable-Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town, 1939.
The Seven Villages of Barnstable, 1976.
Deyo, Simeon, History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1890.
Marston, Nathan, W., Esq., Marston Genealogy, 1888.
Town of Barnstable Clerks' Records, Town Hall, Main St., Hyannis, Mass.
Registry of Deeds-Barnstable County
Registry of Probate-Barnstable County
Town of Barnstable Assessors' Records, Town Hall, Main St., Hyannis, Mass.



Panorama of Barnstable, Mass., Cape Cod 1965
nitarian Church, Maritime Custom-House Donald G. Trayser Memorial Museum,
ost Office, County Complex: Radio Antenna, Court House & Registry of Deeds.
William & Harry Kerr, Charles Clagg, Publishers. Line drawing by Marsden Lore.

Hist. Sig. Cont.

Marstons Mills Library founded on August 22, 1891, was housed in a tiny, one-room building (See Form #A-15) built in 1894. As the village grew so to did the library building and today with several additions serves over 300 registered patrons with well over 6,000 books.

Many of the homes in this area are typical of a farming community during the mid 1800's. The Greek Revival style of architecture, so popular on Cape Cod between 1820-1860, is prevalent in the center of Marstons Mills.

Marstons Mills Cemetery and Hearse House are also located within this area. The cemetery contains the graves of the early settlers of Marstons Mills--Hinckleys, Goodspeeds, Marstons, Laphams and also the remains of the early inhabitants of Cotuit--Crockers, Hawleys. The Marstons Mills Hearse House, one of two surviving hearse houses in Barnstable, was built in the late 1800's. Although the horse-drawn, village hearse is no longer stored in the small rectangular building, the hearse house stands on its original location adjacent to the cemetery's entrance as a visual reminder of the village's past. (See Form # A-19 & 801)

Town of Barnstable
Marston's Mills Village
Area-Marston's Mills Center

