

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

Town: Barnstable

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Photograph



Address: 344 Route 149 (back house)

Historic Name: Robert Parker Back House

Uses: Present: Single family residence

Original: Hen laying shed

Date of Construction: 1934 (1974)

Source: Barnstable deed 1013/56

Style/Form: Vernacular ranch

Architect/Builder: Robert A. Parker

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: T1-11 vertical siding

Roof: Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two sheds to east

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Converted to residence;

Addition on west side

Condition: Greatly altered

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

Acreage: 0.74 acres (32,600 square feet)

Setting: Clustered in compound with several other rural buildings.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: J. W. Gould

Organization: Marstons Mills Historical Society;
Barnstable Historical Commission

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

344 ROUTE 149,
MARSTONS MILLS, BARNSTABLE

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:

A vernacular gabled wooden structure of one story, on a concrete block foundation 72 feet long and 34 feet wide, combining two rectangles that are former chicken sheds. The eastward one is under a gabled roof, with an eastward extension. The westward one is under a shed roof. The whole house is clad in T1-11 vertical siding painted tan, with cream colored trim. A brick chimney rises from the center of the east wing; a brick chimney is on the face of the west wing.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Built as a chicken house in 1934 by carpenter Robert Alan Parker (1908-85), married to Jean¹⁰ Louise Gifford (1912-97) (Lorenzo⁹William⁸, Edward⁷⁻⁶, Joseph⁵⁻⁴, Gershom³, William²⁻¹), niece of US congressman Charles L. Gifford. Robert Parker ran a chicken farm next door until 1951, when the farm was struck by the poultry disease. Parker was bankrupted by the decimation of his flock, and got work on the Nickerson duck farm in Chatham for two years. Returning to Marstons Mills in 1954, Robert converted two old chicken houses into a residence for his family, including his daughter Linda Oehme (b. 1943) and his granddaughter Charlene St. Peter (b. 1956). Charlene kept a pair of horses here. In 1979 Parker subdivided the original chicken farm, setting this house off on lot #3 with a 30 foot right of way to the street. After Parker's death in this house 1985 and his wife's in 1997, the house was sold to mason Bruce W. (b. 1954) and Kim E. Mitchell (b. 1961). Kim mortgaged it in 2006 for \$277,900 to a French lender Serge Athedeer, who abandoned the house, leaving all of his furniture in the house. He had assigned the mortgage to the Federal National Mortgage Association which foreclosed and sold it at auction. It was bought in 2008 for \$ 303,713 by the current owners Brian and Linda Besserer of Grapevine TX. Linda (b. 1962) is the fifth child of Claire and Donald Melix who own the main house at #330. Brian is a pilot for United Parcel Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Deeds 1118/230, 11563/222-4, 19152/284, 21315/148, 23264/235, 23286/324; 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).