

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Date (month / year) July, 2007

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

173-004

Cotuit

E

14

Town Barnstable

Place (neighborhood or village) Marstons Mills

Photograph



Southeast elevation

Address 2 Oak Street

Historic Name Town House

Uses: Present Christian school and recreation center

Original Town meeting house

Date of Construction 1837

Source Town records Vol. VIII, p.73

Style/Form Vernacular Greek revival

Architect/Builder Abraham Fuller, Amial Jenkins,
Ebenezer Wheldon Jr.

Exterior Material Cedar shingle

Foundation Dressed granite and concrete slab

Wall/Trim Cedar shingle

Roof Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Two:

gabled shed 40x80 (1971); gabled office 25x38 (1969)

Major Alterations (with dates)

1881: 30 ft. added at rear;
Building converted to classrooms 2001

Condition Altered, interior modernized

Moved No Yes **Date**

Acreage 2.24 acres

Setting Major road intersection at geographical center of town

Sketch Map



Recorded by J. W. Gould, Ph.D.

Organization Marstons Mills Historical Society
Barnstable Historical Commission

MM E-14**BUILDING FORM****2 OAK STREET, MARSTONS MILLS, BARNSTABLE, MA****ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** *see continuation sheet**Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The Barnstable Town House is a vernacular Greek Revival building of a story and a half with a finished attic. The 40 foot wide gable end faces southeast, under a low pitched roof with cornice returns. In the second story is a pair of windows, each with four lights. The centered entrance has a broad entablature without ornament above the door flanked by tall single-paned lights. The foundation, measuring 78 x 40 is dressed granite around a concrete slab. The roof is composition shingle. The building is clad in cedar shingle presently painted cream color. At the rear of the south side is a 10 x 24 addition of an office under a shed roof.

The interior is divided approximately in half, with the east end divided into two classrooms, and the west end undivided.

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.*

In 1837 the town had been holding its town meetings in the new (1832) county courthouse, and voted "to build a town house" (Art. 17, 6 March 1837). The building committee headed by Ezra Crocker reported that it be built within a half a mile of Daniel Parker's house in the approximate center of the town. A contract was made with Abraham Fuller, Amial Jenkins and Ebenezer Whelden Jr. to build it by 1 Oct. 1837 for \$1095. The total cost of \$1252.63 included \$34.25 for the 55 rods bought from Seth Parker Sr. near his house (Deed 20/157). After 43 years of use, it was decided that there was need for space to provide "refreshment on Town Meeting days" (Art. 22, 7 March 1881). The town considered building a new town house, but resolved to add 30 feet to the back of the 1837 building for this purpose. \$2050 was appropriated in 1881. The exterior shingles of the original building can be seen in the attic, as well as the hand-hewn rafters and wide pine roof boards. In 1883 the town bought an additional quarter of an acre to the north of the town house from Charles Ellis.

After 89 years of use the town decided to build a new town hall on Main Street in Hyannis in 1926 (Art. 33). However, the old Town House was kept for 20 years, perhaps for town equipment such as snowplows. In 1947 it was sold for \$1111.11 to the Moore brothers, Raymond "Hank" and G. Winthrop "Win", who were Chrysler dealers in Hyannis (Deed 671/433). Win used it to store Dodge and Plymouth autos.

In 1960 Hank Moore sold it to local builder R. Arthur Williams (Deed 1091/74) who used it as a carpentry shop, and leased space to other builders like Paul Lebel. In 1969 Williams built a 25 x 38 office to the southwest, on the same lot, and in 1971 built the 40 x 80 shop building to the rear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Elna Nelson, "Old Town House Site", National Register Form D, March 1985 (recorded site only, without buildings).
 Barnstable Town Records: Vol. VIII, pp. 38, 44, 55, 51, 72, 73; Vol. XIV, pp. 492, 499, 513, 527; 1894 Art. 17, precinct 4.
 Barnstable Town Report 1926, p. 71, Art. 33.
 Barnstable Deeds 20/157, 671/433, 924/336, 1091/74, 10497/99.
 Barnstable Building Permit 52910.

The Seven Villages of Barnstable, 271.

Oral interviews with Stanley Moore (son of former owner), lessee Paul Lebel, village natives Wilbur Cushing and Taisto Ranta

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

Property Address

BARNSTABLE, 2 OAK STREET, MARSTONS MILLS

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Historical Narrative, cont'd

In 1996 Williams sold the property with the three buildings to his neighbor to the west, Christ Chapel, for \$280,000 (Deed 10497/99). In 2001 Herbert Vollman of Centerville made \$45,000 worth of alterations to create classrooms in the front, and a youth recreation room in the rear (Building Permit 52910). The classrooms are leased to Veritas Academy, a classical Christian elementary school founded in 1989. The kindergarten and first grade are there in 2007.

Oak Street, which this building faces, was originally Clay Hill Road, known as the place where all vehicles would become mired. In 2007 the town building department located the building in Marstons Mills, but precinct lines voted in 1894 (Art. 17) make "the town-house" a point on the boundary between Centerville and Marstons Mills.

Additional Picture



North elevation with shed addition