

**FORM B - BUILDING**

AREA	FORM NO.
MMD	27

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills-Ponds)  
 Address 1295 Race Lane  
 Historic Name Crocker family homestead  
 (William Wright House)

Use: Present dwelling  
 ±  
 Original dwelling, farm

**DESCRIPTION:**

Date 1780  
 Source Seven Villages  
 ±  
 Style Federal

Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric shingle; clapboard  
 Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) renovated c. 1984

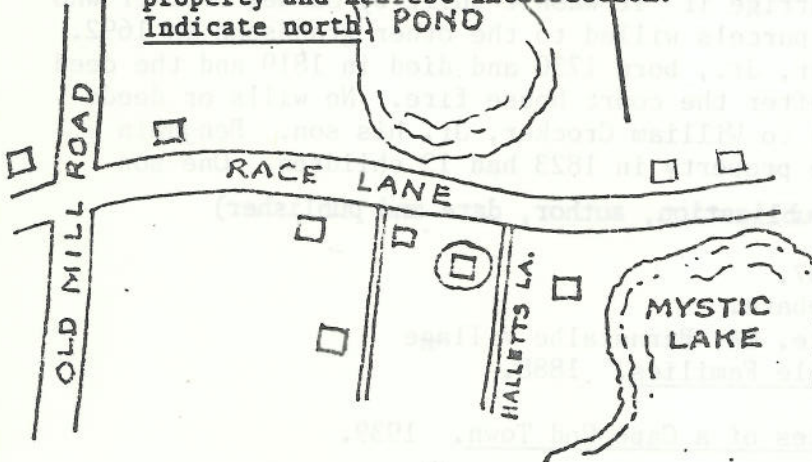
Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 2.83

Setting rural residential

Photo 84-18-D27

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 Martin Wirtanen  
 Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.  
 Date 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and  
evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Crocker Homestead of c. 1780 is a 3/4 Cape cottage sheathed with shingles and clapboards and enclosed by a gable roof with off-center entry. The entry is framed by pilasters and headed by a five pane transom. Windows have projecting frames and contain 6/6 sash. The house is extended by a rear ell.

The house is located on the south side of Race Lane close to the northwest shore of Mystic Lake one of the Indian Ponds.

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

This house is probably located on part of the 100 acres of land that Deacon William Crocker of West Barnstable left to his grandsons all the "Ponds" in his will of 1692. The 100 acres was to be equally divided and in title deeds this parcel contained 35 acres which would have been a third of the inheritance. Of the three grandsons, Samuel was known to have a farm at "Pondville". Nathaniel lived at the Crocker homestead in West Barnstable on Rte. 149 (WBB-65) and the third grandson Thomas had interests in Cotuit where his father Josiah had property and probably lived. Samuel Crocker (1697-1769) son of Samuel the grandson, may have inherited the property. His will in 1769 directed that his three daughters were to divide the estate. They were Anna Crocker and two others married to Hope Davis and John Jones. He also listed an heir Ebenezer Jones, a grandson who married Ruth Hamblin and a son Noah born in 1724. Present Marstons Mills history maintains that this house may be the oldest in the precinct, but can find no document to support this or what family may have built it. From 1769-1823, when William Crocker, Jr. of West Barnstable sold the 35 acres and buildings to Benjamin Wright, Sr. it could have been built by a Jones or Davis or some other family related by marriage if it wasn't built by Samuel Crocker who died in 1769. Also it could be one of the parcels willed to the other grandsons in 1692. Of interest is the fact that William Crocker, Jr., born 1730 and died in 1819 and the deed is dated 1823. It was probably rewritten after the court house fire. No wills or deeds were located from David Crocker (1697-1764) to William Crocker, Jr. his son. Benjamin Wright and his wife Sarah who purchased the property in 1823 had 13 children. One son

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

- Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.  
Barnstable County Registry of Deeds and Probate.  
Sturgis Library, Geneological Notebooks, Rte. 6A, Barnstalb Village  
Otis, Amos. Geneological Notes of Barnstable Families. 1888.  
THE Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.  
Trayser, Donald. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Barnstable (Marstons Mills)	27
Property Name: Crocker Homestead	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Benjamin Wright, Jr. became owner of the property in 1823 on the east of this at 1251 Race Lane. Another son William Wright, born 1801 became well known after an amazing experience on the whaler Essex. He shipped on the whaler in 1819. In 1820 while in the south Pacific the ship was sunk by a huge whale. All crew took to three boats and when a small rock island was sighted, three men, one being William Wright, chose to stay on it. They survived, were picked up in 1821, and arrived home in 1822. Seth Weeks of West Barnstable was also one of the trio. The Nov. 1960 Yankee Magazine had an article on the whaling ship Essex and its crew and photos of the William Wright house on Race Lane.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom