

29-7-1

Cotuit

MM N-5

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard



Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE
 Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 611 ^{Santuit-}Newtown Rd.

Historic Name: Luther Hamblin Homestead

Uses: Present: Residence

Original: Same

Date of Construction: 1836

Source: Barnstable Deed 24/37 (Feb. 1835; Owner, Seth Hamblin.

Style/Form: 3/4 Cape

Architect/Builder: Luther Hamblin

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Three: Large barn to west; shed NW; small shed WNW.

Major Alterations (with dates): Extended on south side and westward; interior modernized c. 1956.

Condition Exterior of core is close to original.

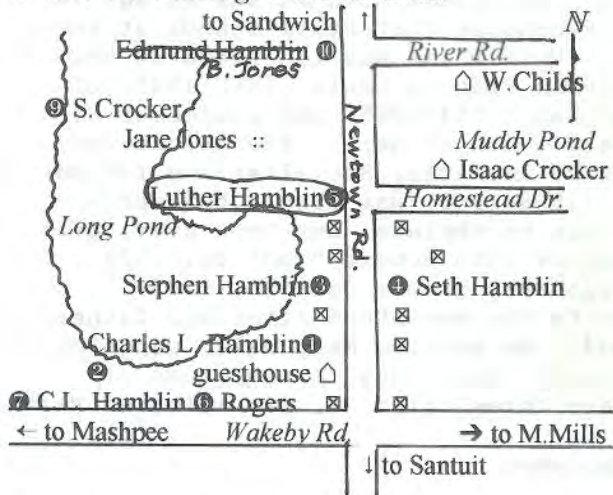
Moved no yes Date:

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Setting: Rural area west of Long Pond, south of town Long Pond Conservation area; at junction of Newtown Road and Olde Homestead Drive.

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or 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: 3 April 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 Luther Hamblin House is a three quarter Cape Cod cottage of one and a half stories high, dating from 1836, and a back kitchen of eighteenth century origin which was moved from a site to the north of this, and added to the southwest corner between 1836 and 1875. The structure has been considerably altered c. 1956 by extension of the south side and construction of a fireplace in the south living room, by addition of a bathroom to the back of the kitchen, and westward extension in place of the former woodhouse and rootcellar.

The exterior is cedar shingle with brick chimney at the peak of the roof. There are three outbuildings: 1) A large gabled barn of same date as the main house lies to the west; 2) A large shed to NW; 3) a small cornhouse NNW.

The interior layout is typical of a Cape: the centered doorway opens into a small entry with stair, a doorway right into the formal parlor, left into the former bedroom/sewing room, now enlarged into a living room. At the back (west) is the largest great room, with fireplace in the middle, and Cape Cod cellar at the south end; at the north end a small burning room. At the southwest corner the kitchen extended westward, with the original door close to the main house. The kitchen (c. 1860-74) has been extended westward over the former root cellar, replacing the old woodshed.

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 house is now the second oldest in Newtown, after the Isaac Crocker House immediately east on Muddy (then Crocker) Pond (MM 104). It was built in 1836 by yeoman farmer Luther Hamblin, twelfth of the 15 children of Lewis Hamblin (Benjamin⁴, John², James¹) of The Plains, and his wife Abigail Hamblin of Forestdale. Luther had married Caroline Crocker, daughter of cordwainer Ezekiel III (Deacon Joseph⁵, Benjamin⁴, William³, Sgt. Joseph², William¹) and Deborah Jones, whose house was 300 ft. northwest of this. The house was built on 25 acres of cleared land with no buildings, east of Long Pond which Luther bought in Feb. 1835 for \$250 from Ezra Crocker of Santuit.

The Hamblins' first child Ezekiel was born in 1835, later lost at sea, and before the birth of their second child this house was built close to the road from Santuit to Ponds ville. When Caroline's mother Deborah Jones Crocker (1792-1875) became infirm Luther moved part of her old Crocker house 300 feet from northwest of here to form a kitchen at the southwest corner of the original house. The present back door on the north side was the end of this small house. This kitchen probably dates back at least two generations, well into the eighteenth century.

Luther and Caroline raised seven children here, the oldest died at sea at age 16; Edmund married neighbor Rosa Jones and lived in the farmhouse that still stands at the northwest corner of River and Newtown Rd. (MM N-10). This house was inherited by the youngest child, Ezekiel 2d (1854-1937) who married Helen Francis Lewis (1862-1941) of Connecticut. They had five children, the eldest Stephen (1884-1965) was professor of horticulture at Harvard, and built a house immediately south of here. The second son, Charles Luther (1889-1974) was the principal builder of the area, Socialist and founder of nudist colony on Long Pond. The youngest son, Seth (1898-1960) was also a builder who built his own house across the road to the south of his birthplace, but took over the family homestead. They had three sons, cranberry farmer Seth Robert "Ted" (b. 1921), builder Charles Edward (b. 1922), and adopted son cranberry grower John (b. 1943).

Seth's son Seth (b. 1921), or "Ted", succeeded to the homestead after his father's death, modernized it and made the extensive additions. He married Mary Hall, daughter of Gyda Gunderson who ran the Scandinavian Shop in Santuit. Mary runs the Antiques of Tomorrow shop on Main St. Santuit. Seth and Mary have three children, psychologist Martha (b. 1949), William (b. 1951), and David (b. 1960).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Barnstable deeds 24/37, 600/64, 762/363-5.

Barnstable probates 288 (Ezekiel Crocker), 11653 (Caroline Crocker Hamblin), 25768 (Ezekiel C. Hamblin).

Interviews with owner Seth Hamblin 7 April 2000; his local historian brother Charles Hamblin 18 March 2000.

Hamblin Genealogy comp. by Prof. Stephen Hamblin mss. w/ Mary Hall Hamblin; Andrea Leonard, *A Crocker Genealogy* (Balto.: Heritage Books, 1995), pp. 63, 93.

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