

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

103-001	Cotuit	E	15
---------	--------	---	----

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

**Town** Barnstable

**Place** (neighborhood or village) Marstons Mills

## Photograph



**Address** 995 Route 149

**Historic Name** Ansel Fuller Homestead

**Uses: Present** Residence

**Original** Farmhouse

**Date of Construction** 1870

**Source** Assessor's Office, architectural style

**Style/Form** Mansard with vernacular additions

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

**Foundation**

**Wall/Trim** Cedar shingles

**Roof** Composition

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures** Small barn to NW; original barn and silo collapsed around 1980.

**Major Alterations** (with dates)

North wing, 1870

South wing, 1892

**Condition** Unpainted

**Moved**  No  Yes **Date**

**Acreage** 14.75 acres

**Setting** Between a rural highway and Middle Pond



**Recorded by** James Gould, Holly Hobart

**Organization** Marstons Mills Historical Society,  
Barnstable Historical Commission

**Date** (month / year) October, 2007

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**  *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The Ansel Fuller Homestead has a Mansard style core of two stories, with two two-story gabled wings extending north and south from the core. The Mansard portion is nearly square. The north gable extends 16 feet from the middle of the core, while the south gable extends the same distance from the back. The front (eastward) entry toward the road is covered by a shed roof. At the rear (westward) is a one-story extension under a shed roof.

The French Empire Mansard style was popular in the local area after the Civil War, following Charles C. Bearse's construction of the first Mansard mansion, "Sandanwood", in the Little River area of Cotuit in 1863. Examples in Marstons Mills are 370 Route 149 and **xx** Prince Avenue.

**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.*

According to the owner, Barbara Fuller, the core of the house dates back to the late 1790s or 1800, but it burned down in 1868, when "Ma" Olive B. (Hamblin) Fuller (1844-1909) left some wet clothes on a rack next to the stove when she went down to check how the cranberrying was going in the bog south of the house. The clothes caught fire and almost completely burned the house down. It was rebuilt by Olive's husband, Ansel E. Fuller (1843-1924), helped by the local men, in the latest Second Empire style, complete with Mansard roof. Some charring from the fire is said to be still visible in the pantry. Olive and Ansel were married June 10, 1868. An undated clipping from the time of the fire says, "In Osterville, the residence of Mr. Ansel Fuller was entirely consumed by fire with its contents. The only things saved were Mr. Fuller's pension papers, which he had placed behind the clock on the mantle. He had some 50 bushels of potatoes in the cellar."

The south wing was added at the time of the marriage of Calvin "Sundown" Hamblin (1812-1898) and Mary Fuller in 1892. Calvin and Mary lived for a time in this wing, sharing the house with Ansel E. Fuller and Olive and three children, but Calvin eventually bought the house across the street.

The house was inherited in 1924 by the three children of Olive and Ansel E. Fuller: Ansel Austin, known as Austin (1874-1946), Calvin Hamblin Fuller (1869-1959), and Caroline Dorothy Coleman (d.1937) of Cotuit (Probate 20660). In the inventory of the estate, the house and 16 surrounding acres were valued at \$3500.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**  *see continuation sheet*

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds: Deeds 612-32, 448-382, 295-180; Probates 20660, 30204.

Barnstable Vital Records in Town Reports and Record Books.

Interviews with village historian Wilbur Cushing, neighbor Ed Thew, owner Barbara Fuller by her cousin Justine Dionne of Mashpee, October, 2007.

Bunnell, Paul J., Cemetery Inscriptions of the Town of Barnstable, Massachusetts and Its Villages 1600-1900, Bowie, MD, Heritage Books, 1995.

Walker Atlas 1880.

Hamblin Genealogy, compiled by Walter Hamblin, 2002.

Fuller genealogy chart compiled by J. W. Gould, 2007.

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, 995 ROUTE 149, MARSTONS MILLS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

E

15

**Historical Narrative, cont'd**

In the family tradition of shared homes, Calvin lived in the south half with his wife and two children, while Ansel Austin lived in the north half with his wife and three children. Caroline sold her share to Ansel Austin in 1927 (Deed 448-382). Ansel Austin left his 2/3 share to his youngest child, Alfred Austin Fuller (b. 1919) and his wife Barbara Weeks Fuller (Deed 612-32), who lived here all their lives, raising two sons, Alfred Jr., (b.1943) and Harold (b. 1945). Alfred farmed the property, raising milk cows and cranberries. He and Barbara were active members of the Santuit Grange.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Town

Property Address

BARNSTABLE, 995 ROUTE 149, MARSTONS MILLS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

E

15

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Title Search****613-32  
3/23/1944****From Ansel A. Fuller<sup>10</sup> to Alfred A. and Barbara W. Fuller (his son and daughter-in-law)**

His 2/3 interest in property "...formerly owned by ... Ansel E. Fuller..." (his father).

E by the road from Marstons Mills to West Barnstable  
 S by land and cranberry bog of Calvin H. Fuller and Caroline D. Coleman  
 W by land of Mark Budd and Middle Pond  
 N by pasture land formerly of Ansel E. Fuller

“,,together with all cows and contents of barn...”

“Reserving ... a life estate for Ansel A Fuller and his wife Rose C. Fuller, they both to have a home in the premises...”

**448-382  
9/22/1927****From Caroline D. Coleman to Ansel A. Fuller (her brother)**

Her one-third interest in the real estate formerly owned by Ansel E. Fuller, deceased (her father).

**295-180  
6/28/1909****From A. Austin Fuller, Calvin H. Fuller, and Caroline D. Coleman to Ansel E. Fuller (their father)**

“... all the real estate ... in Barnstable and Sandwich ... of which our mother, the late Olive B. Fuller died seized and possessed of ...”

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Town

Property Address

BARNSTABLE, 995 ROUTE 149, MARSTONS MILLS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

E

15

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Fuller Family****Mathias<sup>7</sup> (Mathias<sup>6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>)****b. 1769****m. Thankful Bodfish****ch.****David b. 1805 m. Olive Bragg****Ansel B. b. 1808****Seth****Jonathan Bodfish****Joe Crocker****Lydia Smith d.y.****Mary Smith****Abram****Ansel B. Fuller<sup>8</sup> (Mathias<sup>7-6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Matthew<sup>2</sup>, Edward<sup>1</sup>)****b. 1808 d. 1892****m. Sophia C. Goodspeed b. 1805 d. 1866****ch.****George Henry b. 1836****Ada May b. 1854****Ansel E. b. 1843 m. Olive Bassett Hamblin****Ansel E. Fuller<sup>9</sup> (Ansel B.<sup>8</sup> .... Edward<sup>1</sup>)****b. 1843 d. 1924 Carpenter****m. Olive Bassett Hamblin (Calvin "Sundown" Hamblin, Lewis Hamblin) b. 1844 d. 1909****ch.****Calvin Hamblin b. 1869 m. Mary A. Hallett****Ansel Austin b. 1874****Caroline Dorothy b. 1875 m. John Ambrose Coleman****Ansel Austin Fuller<sup>10</sup> (Ansel E.<sup>9</sup>, Ansel B.<sup>8</sup>, Mathias<sup>7</sup> ... Edward<sup>1</sup>)****b. 1874 d. 1944****m. Rose Cartier b. 1876****ch.****Elizabeth Dorothy b. 1901****Orrin Ansel b. 1911****Alfred Austin Jr. b. 1919 m. Barbara Weeks**