

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
MMA	12



Town Barnstable (Marstons Mills Center)

Address 271 River Road

Historic Name Goodspeed House

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION:

Date c.1653

Source Seven Villages of Barnstable

Style Vernacular cottage

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

roof raised if early date is correct.

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage over one

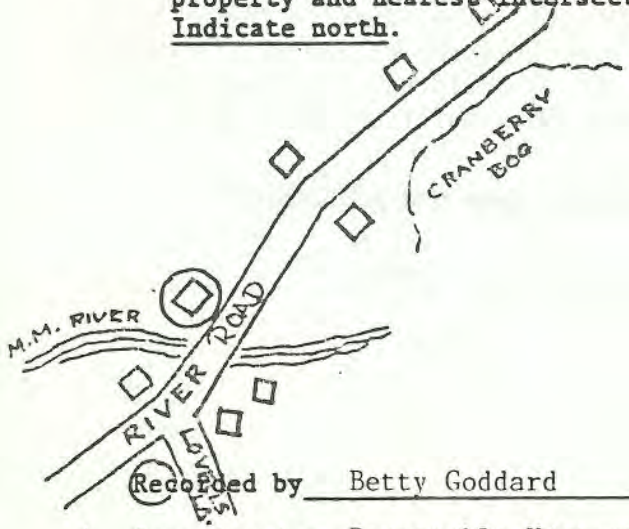
Setting residential village area

Photo #85-15-A12*

86-16-A12

86-17-A12

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 Betty Goddard

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1983 revised 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Goodspeed House dated at 1653 does not reflect that early date in appearance. It is a full five bay cottage rising $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories to a gable roof. Its asymmetrical facade indicates that it may have originated as a half Cape. The entry has a surround with projecting lintel while windows have simple surrounds and contain 6/6 sash. The house is extended by a rear ell. A barn also sits at the rear of the house.

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

Tradition affirms this to be the oldest house in the village dating from 1653; this is not confirmed by its current exterior appearance. Roger Goodspeed is thought to be the first settler in Marstons Mills. He was granted land near the river, now Marstons Mills River, in 1653, a six acre house lot which later increased. He came from Barnstable Village and settled on his grant with his family. The river was then known as Goodspeed's River and the small settlement was known as Goodspeed's. His lands were later increased. The original farm remained in the family into the 18th century at least. According to Trayser, Goodspeed was one of Barnstable's first comers, a large land holder and a prominent man. Otis calls him the ancestor of all the Goodspeeds in the country. He died in 1658 leaving a wife, four sons and two daughters. The family multiplied and long was prominent in Mastons Mills and surrounding villages as well as in many distant places. Roger Goodspeed settled in Barnstable in 1639 and married Alice Layton in 1641, two years after his arrival from Devonshire, England. His children were three sons and three daughters. In 1653 he came across to Mystic (now Marstons Mills) on the South Side, becoming neighbor to the Ashumet or Nashpee Indians. Permission was granted for a fulling mill to be built on the river where the "Goodspeeds resided" (MMA-11) Roger died in 1685. Ebenezer his son lived to a great age and resided at Mystic and inherited the estate of his father. The home then descended from father to son. Ebenezer left 13 children. The home went to Moses, then to Seth, to Allen, to another Seth. The later Seth built ships, erected his home on the shore of East Bay.

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

The Seven Villages of Barnstable. 1976.

Trayser, Donald. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.

