

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number

45-2

USGS Quad

Sandwich

Area(s) Form Number

MM N-20

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

**Photograph**

(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5" black and white only)  
 Label photo on back with town and property  
 address. Record film roll and negative numbers  
 here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form  
 over this space. Attach additional photos to  
 continuation sheets.

Place (neighborhood or village) BARNSTABLE

Newtown (Marstons Mills)

Address: 981 River Road

Historic Name: Ellis Hamblin House

Uses: Present: Residence

Original: Farmhouse

Date of Construction: 1838

Source: Barnstable Probate 41090 inventory

Style/Form: Three Quarter Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: Ellis Hamblin

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Cedar shingle

Roof: Composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: One story guesthouse  
 to south.

Major Alterations (with dates): Modernized c. 1968.

Condition: Greatly altered

Moved  no  yes Date:

Acreage: .92

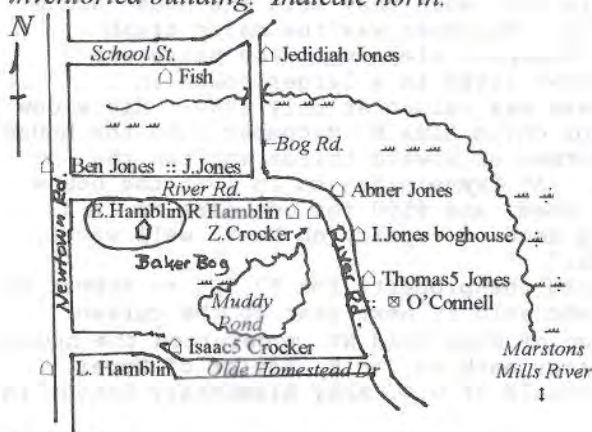
Setting: Rural upland north of Makepeace  
 cranberry bogs & Muddy Pond conservation area.

Roll Negative(s)

8584	9
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**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 (month / year) 13 Oct. 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 Ellis Hamblin House is a three quarter Cape Cod cottage of one and a half story that has been much altered, with several irregular additions. The gable ends are extended on west and east ends with a lower roofline, and a gabled room is attached to the southeast corner over a garage. On the west end is a three sided bay window, and an back entry porch on the southwest corner, with a concrete block chimney outside the kitchen. The exterior is white cedar shingle, originally stained red, but now natural, with gray-green trim, and black shutters. The roof is composition, with a brick chimney on the east end. At the back, to the south is a one story guest cottage of irregular pattern, clad and painted like the main house.

### 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.*

This house was built in 1838 by yeoman farmer Ellis<sup>6</sup> Hamblin (1806-71), son of Lewis<sup>5</sup> Hamblin (Benjamin<sup>4</sup>-3, John<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>) of the Plains, where he was born. He married to Newtown-born Cynthia<sup>7</sup> Jones, daughter of parents of long-time Newtown families, Lemuel<sup>6</sup> (Nye<sup>5</sup>, Jedidiah<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Jedidiah<sup>2</sup>, Quaker pioneer Ralph<sup>1</sup>) and Zylpha Meiggs. The house shows up in the estates of Ellis<sup>6</sup> Hamblin (1806-71) and his wife Cynthia (Jones) and their only heir and son Henry<sup>7</sup> Freeman Hamblin, by whom the homestead is known to living people. Ellis and Cynthia had four children, two boys Ellis Jr. and Lemuel who died young, the oldest, Abigail ("Abbie Liza", 1838-1908) who was insane. On Ellis's death in 1871 the whole property went to his wife Cynthia. On her death six years later the house and buildings valued at a mere \$300, a cranberry bog worth \$100 and additional woodland \$125 went to the two surviving children Henry and Abbie.

Henry was active as a supervisor of works for the Cranberry King Abel D. Makepeace who opened the Baker Bog south of this house in 1877. In 1881 Makepeace signed a contract with Hamblin to clear the Wankinco Bog in Wareham, one of his most successful properties, which is still producing.

By 1889 Henry had been appointed guardian of his 50 year old insane sister Abbie and sold (mortgaged?) her half of the house and property to his first cousin and neighbor Ezekiel for \$225. On Henry's death in 1922 he had outlived two wives, Olive Ann Fish (1842-1903) and Elinor Jane Goodspeed (1838-1921) as well as his elder son Henry Decker Hamblin (1868-1920) and two infant daughters. By Olive he had seven children, of whom four survived, all born in this house: "Flora" Cynthia Florence (1864-1951) who married William Henry Cahoon (Calhoun) of Marstons Mills, Betsey Freeman (1866-1953) who married William F. Adams of Osterville, David Ellis (1872-1942) of Cotuit, and Adeline Elizabeth (b. 1876) who married Robert Tabor Bowman of West Falmouth.

Although Henry's house and 25 acres of land were only appraised for \$700, the administrator sold them in 1923 for twice that price to the neighboring cranberry grower William F. Makepeace, who had succeeded to the Cranberry King's pioneer Baker Bog to the south of this house.

The Makepeace company retained the cranberry bogs in 1931 when they sold the house alone to Richard A. Macomber (pron. "Macumber") of Marstons Mills. Macomber was the major trash collector of the area, involved in garbage collection and cesspool cleaning. The house was evidently rented out, for the Macomber family of six children lived in a larger house in Osterville. At Richard's death in 1938 the eight room house was valued at only \$800. His widow Edna M. Macomber of Osterville, guardian of Richard's minor child Alva E. Macomber sold the house in 1945 for \$300 to Tyyne and "Winnie" Winslow Childs, brother of Howard Childs who ran the Whitcomb Farm (Ben Jones House) at the end of River Road. At Tyyne's death in 1965 the house was valued at \$1500, plus \$1000 for the garage, \$75 for a shed, and \$500 for one acre of land. The inventory reads: "dwelling was built in 1838, badly in need of repair, no heat, well water, small Cape Cod cellar, house contains eight rooms and bath."

In 1966 the Childs's heirs Winslow Jr. and Esther sold the property for \$7,500 to Robert B. and I. Marie Sherman of Willimantic Dr., Marstons Mills, who sold it next year to the current owners, the Johnston family. Marian and Rozier C. Johnston of Glen Head NY. modernized the house. She became sole owner in 1985, and in 1991 she gave a quarter each to Jan E. Taylor of Upper Marlborough MD, A. Michelle Smith of Chicago, and Rozier Donald of U.S. Army Elementary School in Augsburg, Germany.

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

Barnstable deeds 187/208, 399/221, 478/457, 658/49-50, 1323/972, 1368/1121, 4768/260, 7437/113.

Barnstable probates 5870 (E.Hamblin), 9537 (C.Hamblin), 19855 (H.Hamblin), 26225 (R.Macomber), 41090 (T.Childs).

Diary of A.D.Makepeace 9 Sept. 1881, 11 July 1882.

Interviews with local historians Wilbur Cushing 25 May 2000, Charles E. Hamblin 28 March, 3 Aug. 2000, neighbor Seth Hamblin 3 April 2000, former postmaster Loring Jones.

