

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

75-X01

074/004

OP

MM

40

A-46

Town Barnstable



Place (neighborhood or village) Marstons Mills/  
Cotuit line

Old Post Rd. 40

Address 231 Baxter Neck Rd.

Historic Name William Moeller house

Uses: Present residence Slifka

Original residence, Moeller

Date of Construction 1978

Source William T. Moeller

Style/Form Ranch/ Solar

Architect/Builder Peter Brown, Yarm'port  
builder McDonald

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Shingle

Roof Comp. Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures 40 foot pier built by Moeller c.19

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition original

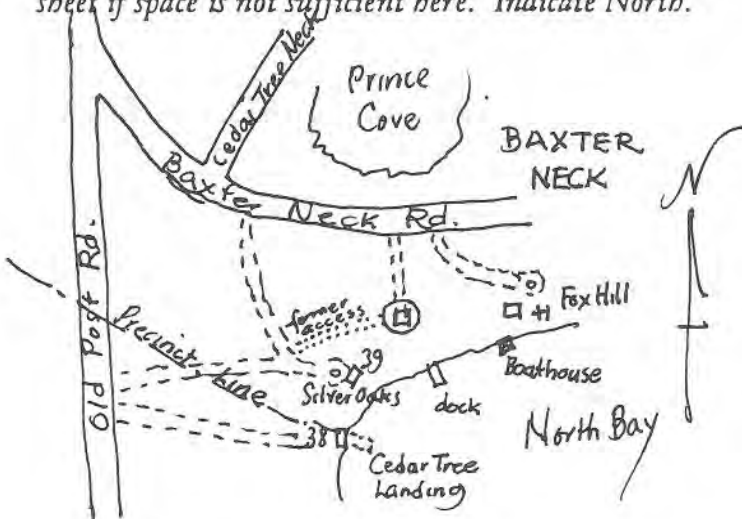
Moved  no  yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 16.09

Setting Waterfront on North Bay, in  
woodland at head of Baxter Neck

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by J.W. Gould

Organization Cotuit Historical Society

Date (month/day/year) 21 July 1993

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.* Ranch style house of two stories, entered from north on top level, into living room with glass on two sides facing south to use solar heat from the waterside. The floor plan is an ell, with master bedroom with picture windows on the water, east, and kitchen, utility room & garage in wing to north. On the lower level are 3 bedrooms, 2 baths & rec room. The interior has redwood trim and Welsh brick floor. Exterior is shingle with white trim. Open deck on water side.

Until 1977 access was on road across the Halenbecks' and Ammens onto Old Post Rd.

### 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.* Earlier owners included Nymphas & Charles Marston, Rev. Phineas Fish and Prof. James Metivier (see OP 39 cont). On a one acre lot bought from Metivier in 1904 Mary Isabel (Hanson) Waterhouse widow of Francis A. Waterhouse Jr. headmaster of Boston English Highschool, and herself a teacher & head of Newton Teacher School 1872-4, built a shingle sty summer house (deed 268/415). Her son Francis A. III sold it in 1939<sup>(258/241, 254/312)</sup> thru Hel McLellan's associate Sally Sawyer to Otto L. Halenbeck (1869-1944), retired transport head of Socony to protect the house of his son Arthur to the south (OP 39), and for a guest house. Although beach was paved by Camp Candoit in World War II, Halenbecks summered in both houses 1942-3. After Otto's death his widow Clara L. (Miller) gave it to her son (663/491), who sold it to Ralph David Hinckley of Osterville (708/424), then to E.K. Davis<sup>Davis</sup> who rented it for a decade to "the Wooly Girls", founders of the Wool Shop: Esther "Herky" L. Herschenroeder, Janice Upham (d.1988) & her sister Charlotte<sup>Davis</sup> (no relation to them). They called it "Wits End" c.1950 after Robert Benchley's column of that name. Ralph Cahoon made a painting of the site for their annual picnic, titled "Woolshop Outing". Davis tore down the 1904 house in 1977 and sold the lot to William T. Moeller, retired VP of Andrew Juergens lotion firm of Cincinnati, who built this house. He sold it in 1988 to Richard B. Slifka of Weston who on board of national multiple scleriosis society. Hurricane Bob of Aug. 1991 did much damage to dock and to deck.

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

Esther Herschenroeder 6 Sept. 1992  
Barbara Halenbeck Hess of Osterville 22 July 1993  
William T. Moeller 26 July 1993  
Joel Davis 13 Aug. 1993  
Metivier family reunion 24 Aug. 1993  
Barnstable deeds cited above  
Letter of Walter Beckwith, Prin. Salem State Normal School, 11 Feb. 1903 to Isabel Waterhouse with notes of her biography in F.A. Waterhouse IV file.

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