

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town Barnstable

Place (*neighborhood or village*) Marstons Mills

Address 37 Old Falmouth Road

Historic Name Ellis House

Uses: Present Residence

Original Residence

Date of Construction 1928

Source Barnstable Assessor; Deed 438-408

Style/Form Vernacular

Architect/Builder Arthur M. Ellis

### Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete blocks

Wall/Trim Cedar shingle

Roof Composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Workshop to south.

Major Alterations (*with dates*)

Addition to east side; porch enclosed; bath added north.

Condition Altered and modernized.

Moved  No  Yes Date

Acreage 1.00 acres

Setting Suburban, on main road from Marstons Mills to Centerville.

### Photograph



### Sketch Map



Recorded by James W. Gould

Organization Marstons Mills Historical Society  
Barnstable Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*) March, 2008

**BUILDING FORM****37 Old Falmouth Road, Marstons Mills, Barnstable****ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**  *see continuation sheet*

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

This is a basic folk style gable-fronted building. It rests on a 23 x 34' concrete block foundation, without basement. A bathroom projects from the north side. It is clad in white cedar shingle with gray trim. The roof is composition shingle. There is an open wooden deck outside the front entrance on the west side. There is a one-story workshop to the south, shingled.

**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.*

In 1926, John Nunes Duarte (1872-1949), a farmer from Fayal in the Azores, whose farmstead was on the corner of Old Falmouth Road and the West Barnstable Road (now Route 149), cut off this acre from his farm and gave it to his wife, Mary Gloria (Silvia) (1872-1954), also from Fayal, and their eldest daughter Mary Louise (1898-1996) (Deed 438-408). The house was built soon after this, anticipating the marriage of Mary Louise in October, 1928, to Macomber Sanitation Service worker Arthur Melville Ellis Jr. (1905-1947), who built the house with the help of friends.

After her mother died in 1954, Mary Louise gave joint title in 1977 to herself and her younger son, Edward James Ellis (b. 1937) (Deed 2611-53). While Edward lived in Yarmouth, the house was occupied by Mary Louise and her elder son, Francis Ellis (1929-1981), known jocularly as "the mayor of Marstons Mills". He rode about town on a bicycle, picking up discarded cans and bottles for recycling. He is said to have taken a bath in Hamblins Pond wearing all of his clothes, including an overcoat. A chronic alcoholic, he died at age 51. After a kerosene fire, the pantry was converted to a bathroom.

In 1992, Edward sold the house to a neighbor, John D. Kesten, for \$60,000 (Deed 8265-346). Kesten enclosed the front porch and modernized the house. Five years later, Kesten sold it for \$89,000 to the current owners, Lois E. (b. 1957) and Wayne (b. 1949) Adams (Deed 10878-73). Wayne runs a cabinet making shop in the rear building.

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

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Deeds 265-468, 311-30, 438-408, 2611-53, 8265-346, 10878-73.

Town of Barnstable Vital Records.

Interviews with Edward Ellis, March 21, 2008; his uncle, John N. Duarte, Jr., October 11, 1998, current owners Lois and Wayne Adams, March 21, 2008; village historian Barbara Hill, March 21, 2008.

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, 37 OLD FALMOUTH ROAD, MARSTONS MILLS

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**North side of house**