

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
CTA	62

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

see attached map

UTM REFERENCE 19/379240/4609940
USGS QUADRANGLE Cotuit, MA
SCALE 1:25,000

Town Barnstable (Cotuit)
Address 131 Main Street
Historic Name Nelson Rhodehouse House
Use: Present dwelling
Original dwelling
DESCRIPTION
Date c1858
Source Registry of Deeds
Style Greek Revival
Architect Charles L. Baxter (builder)
Exterior Wall Fabric flushboard
Outbuildings barn
Major Alterations (with dates) none
Condition excellent
Moved no Date n/a
Acreage 2.7 9/9
Setting residential
Recorded by Patricia J. Anderson
Candace Jenkins
Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.
Date 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Nelson Rhodehouse House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant primarily for the high quality of its Greek Revival style architecture. The property thus meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Nelson Rhodehouse House is quite a sophisticated example of the Greek Revival style. It is a 1 and 1/2 story cottage facing gable end to the street, with its entry located in the southeast corner where the facade is cut-away to form a recessed porch. The house is flushboarded to simulate masonry, adding to its understated elegance. A broad entablature encircles the house creating a classical effect. Other details include corner pilasters, a raking cornice, and windows with wide surrounds and projecting lintels and sills with 2/2 sash. A barn sits at the rear of the property, attached to the house by a shed. An exceptionally handsome wooden picket fence sets the property off from the street.

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

In 1858, Charles L. Baxter, housewright, sold a parcel of land with a house thereon to Nelson Rhodehouse, a mariner from Sandwich. Baxter had acquired the vacant parcel only a few years earlier, thus pinpointing the date of construction. Given Baxter's profession, it is likely that he constructed the house himself.

During the Civil War, Confederate privateers caused large losses for Barnstable merchant ships. Both men and ships were captured; among the former were Nelson Rhodehouse, Franklin and Daniel Percival, Francis M. Hinckley and several others. After the war, the Alabama Claims Commission received large bills from Barnstable mariners for property destroyed.

After Nelson Rhodehouse's death, his widow, Rebecca, became the owner of this property. Rebecca died in 1900 and her two daughters, Catherine and Melinda, inherited all property, owning jointly until 1907 when Catherine conveyed her portion to her sister. Melinda continued as owner of this house and land for many years. In 1955, the executor of her estate sold the property to the current owner, Preston Wright.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.
Trayser, Donald G. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.
Records of the Santuit and Cotuit Historical Society.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 1/27/87
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Barnstable MRA
State Barnstable Co., MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Methodist Church

Entered in this
National Register for Keeper

Alonzo Byers 3-13-87

Attest

72. Osterville Baptist Church

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/18/87

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/18/87

73. Osterville Community Church

Substantive Review for Keeper

Attest

74. Phinney, William and Jane, House

Entered in this
National Register for Keeper

Alonzo Byers 3-13-87

Attest

75. Rhodehouse, Nelson, House

Entered in this
National Register for Keeper

Alonzo Byers 3-13-87

Attest

76. Richardson, John, House

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/18/87

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/18/87

77. Robbins, Joseph, House

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 11/10/87

Attest

Beth L. Savage 11/10/87

78. Round House

Entered in this
National Register for Keeper

Alonzo Byers 3-13-87

Attest

79. Sampson's Folly--Josiah Sampson House

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/18/87

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/18/87

80. Santuit Post Office

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 11/10/87

Attest

Beth L. Savage 11/10/87

87000308

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rhodehouse, Nelson, House (Barnstable MRA)
Barnstable County
MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 27 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88

Date Due: 2/26/87 - 3/13/87

Action: ACCEPT 3-13-87

_____ RETURN

_____ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
 Reviewer _____
 Discipline _____
 Date _____
 _____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
 _____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Barnstable, Mass. MRA

Nelson Rhodehouse HSL. CTAL6Z

131 Main St. 1985

Facing W



Barnstable, MA MRA
 Nelson Rhodehouse House
 131 Main St, Cotuit
 Assessors' Map
 Scale: 1"=100'



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000271