

FORM B - BUILDING

Barnstable, MA MRA

<u>AREA</u>	<u>FORM NO.</u>
OVA	3

JAN 27

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Barnstable (Osterville-Main St.)

Address 1322 Main St.

Historic Name Herman Isham House

Use: Present Office

Original residence, farm

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1747

Source Osterville Historical Society

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, shingle

Outbuildings large barn, shed, greenhouse

Major Alterations (with dates) None

Condition good

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

Acreage 56.68A 119/6

Setting rural/residential area north of  
village

Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Barbara Crosby

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1986

Photo #95-4-A3

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 assessors' map

<sup>14</sup>  
A 383 970 / 4610660  
B 383 970 / 4610560  
C 384 050 / 4610570  
D 384 050 / 4610680

UTM REFERENCE D 384 050 / 4610680

USGS QUADRANGLE Cotuit, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

### **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Isham House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant primarily as a fine example of a Georgian style cottage with a particularly elegant swelled console entry treatment. It is enhanced by retention of several outbuildings and surrounding rural landscape. The house 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 Isham House is a fine example of a Georgian style cottage with a full five bay facade and central chimney. It rises 1 1/2 stories to a gable roof and is extended by a one story rear ell. Its symmetrical facade is organized around a center entry with heavy pilastered surround and swelled consoles enframing a rectangular transom with radiating muntins. Windows have simple surrounds and generally contain 6/6 sash which is probably a 19th century replacement. An exception to this is in the attic story where some original 12/6 sash remains. The Isham House is one of only three houses in town to employ the elegant swelled console entry treatment.

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

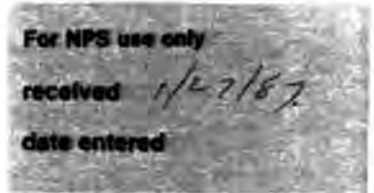
Little is known about the original owner of this house and the Isham name is not common in Barnstable. Its best known occupant was Seth Weeks, last survivor of the ill fated whaler "Essex" which was sunk by a large whale on November 20, 1820. Herman Melville developed the story of "Moby Dick" around this tragic event. Weeks was also master of one of the last of Barnstable's whalers in 1847. He died on September 12, 1887 at age 87.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.  
Trayser, Donald. Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town. 1939.  
Barnstable, A Little Guide to Some of Her Historic Scenes. 1939.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Barnstable MRA  
State Barnstable Co., MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |   |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 51. Hallett, Seth, House   | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 9/18/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 9/18/87</u>  |
| 52. Hallett, Capt. William, House                                      | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 9/18/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 9/18/87</u>  |
| 53. Harlow Homestead   | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 9/18/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 9/18/87</u>  |
| 54. Hawley, Gideon, House  | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 3/13/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 3/13/87</u>  |
| 55. Hinckley, Capt. Joseph, House                                      | <del>Entered in the National Register</del> f/ Keeper | <u>Shelene Byrum 3/13/87</u>   |
|  | Attest  | _____                          |
| 56. Hinckley Homestead   | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 9/18/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 9/18/87</u>  |
| 57. Hinckley, Nymphus, House   | <del>Entered in the National Register</del> f/ Keeper | <u>Shelene Byrum 3/13/87</u>   |
|  | Attest  | _____                          |
| 58. Hinckley, S. Alexander, House                                      | <del>Substantive Review</del> f/ Keeper               | <u>Patrick Andrews 9/18/87</u> |
|  | Attest  | <u>Beth L. Savage 9/18/87</u>  |
| 59. Hyannis National Guard Armory Battery D of the 685th AAA Battalion | <del>Substantive Review</del> Keeper                  | _____                          |
|  | Attest  | _____                          |
| 60. Isham, Herman, House   | <del>Entered in the National Register</del> f/ Keeper | <u>Shelene Byrum 3/13/87</u>   |
|  | Attest  | _____                          |

Return

87000295

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sham, Herman, House (Barnstable MRA)  
Barnstable County  
MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 27 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 2/24/87 - 3/13/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 3-13-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in  
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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Barnstable, Mass. MRA

Herman Isham House OVA3

1322 Main St. 1977

Facing N



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000271