

FORM B - BUILDING

Barnstable, MA MRA

AREA

FORM NO.

HYC	78
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Barnstable (South St. - Hyannis)

Address South and Pearl Streets

Historic Name Capt. Rodney J. Baxter House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1850

Source Seven Villages of Barnstable

Style Octagon

Architect after Orson S. Fowler

Exterior Wall Fabric concrete

Outbuildings Octagonal carriage house

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 1.15 326/11

Setting residential, 19th century

Recorded by Candace Jenkins

Organization Barnstable Historical Comm.

Date 1986

Photo #6-14A-C78

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 amp

UTM REFERENCE 19/393000/461510

USGS QUADRANGLE Hyannis, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Captain Rodney J. Baxter House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as the home of a noted and respected sea captain, and as one of the finest examples of the octagan style (retaining even its matching octagonal carriage barn) in the entire state. It thus meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Distinctive octagonal shape. The Baxter House is a two-story octagon with 18" thick concrete walls. It is trimmed with a bracketed wooden cornice and a wooden verandah with spindle turned posts and a decorative iron balustrade. A second entry has a simpler bracketed hood. Fenestration on most bays consists of paired windows with 2/2 sash and shutters. The interior of the house contains two large square rooms at the center of each floor, flanked by smaller rectangular rooms, with leftover triangular spaces used for closets. This plan was one illustrated by Fowler. A matching stuccoed, octagonal carriagehouse stands east of the main house; it is distinguished by a cupola and double doors with strapwork headed by a semi-circular fan, also with strapwork.

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

Rodney Baxter, sea captain, took food to sufferers in the Irish famine of 1847. His fore-and-aft schooner, the "American Belle," made the shortest Western passage across the Atlantic for that type of vessel. He took the "Flying Scud" from New York to Marscillus in a record nineteen days. Captain Baxter, seeing the developing pattern in the use of steam, later ran packets between New York and New Orleans. He retired from the sea in 1868 and died in 1888.

His house, built in central Hyannis in 1850, is one of the most unusual in the village. Inspired by Orson S. Fowler's contemporary publication, "The Octagon House, A Home for All," it is an intact example of this rare style, and is enhanced by retention of an unaltered octagonal carriage house.

According to County Atlases, Capt. Baxter was still owner of the house in 1888, while a Mrs. J. Baxter was listed as occupant in 1907. The house is presently owned by a great-granddaughter, Susan Godnoy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

The Seven Villages of Barnstable, pp. 126, 157, 326.

Barnstable Assessor's Records, Map 326.

Fowler, Orson S., The Octagon House, A Home for All. 1848 and 1853, reprinted 1973 by Dover Publication.

Frost, Jack - A Cape Cod Sketch Book.

Cape Cod Sunday Times. "Home Shaped Baxter's Life." Sunday, August 8, 1983.

Barnstable County Atlases. 1858, 1880, 1907.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|
| 21. | Baker, Nathaniel, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 22. | Baker, Capt. Seth Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrews</u> 9/18/87 |
| | | | Attest | <u>Bert Savage</u> 9/18/87 |
| 23. | Baxter, Charles L.,
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 24. | Baxter, Capt. Rodney J.,
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 25. | Baxter, Shubael, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrews</u> 9/18/87 |
| | | | Attest | <u>Bert Savage</u> 9/18/87 |
| 26. | Baxter, Capt. Sylvester,
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Patrick Andrews</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | <u>Bert Savage</u> 3/13/87 |
| 27. | Bearse, Capt., Oliver,
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 28. | Bearse, Capt. Allen H.,
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 29. | Blish--Garrett House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 30. | Building at 237--239 Main
Street | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/13/87 |
| | | | Attest | |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Baxter, Capt. Rodney J., House (Barnstable
MRA)
Barnstable County
MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 27 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88

Date Due: 2/20/87 - 3/12/87

Entered in the
National Register

Action: ACCEPT 3-13-87

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- 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

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<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

Capt. Rodney Baxter Hx. H YC78
South & Pearl Streets 1985
Carriage house



Barnstable, Mass. MRA

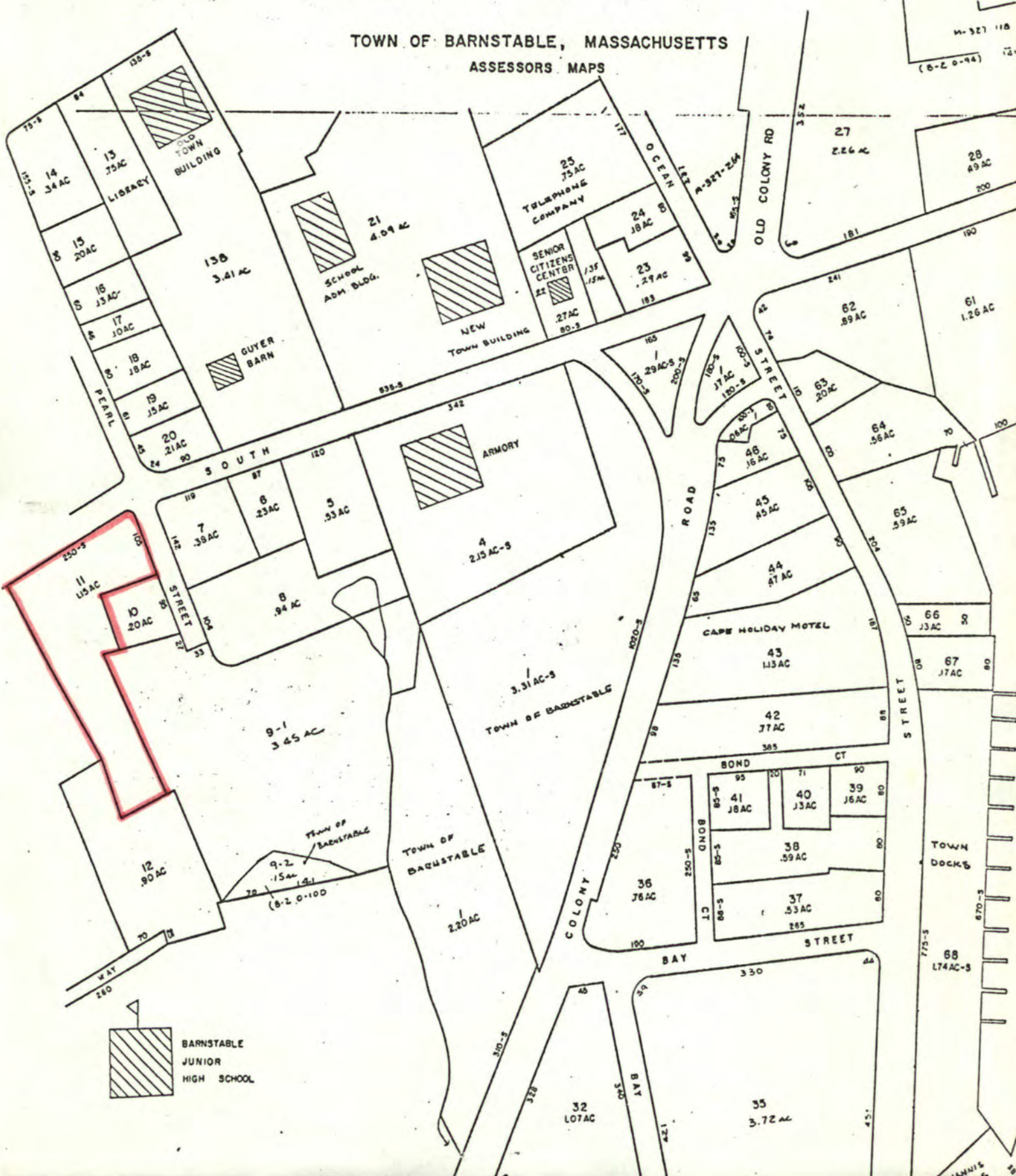
Capt. Rodney Baxter H&L HYC 78
South + Pearl Sts. 1985
Main house, facings

1985 5/14

Barnstable, MA MRA
 Capt. Rodney J. Baxter House
 South and Pearl Streets, Hyannis
 Assessors' Map
 Scale: 1"=100'



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS
 ASSESSORS' MAPS



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000271