

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	TIS.107
Historic Name:	Mill House, The
Common Name:	Merry House
Address:	Main St
City/Town:	Tisbury
Village/Neighborhood:	North Tisbury
Local No:	6-C-16
Year Constructed:	1750
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial; No style
Use(s):	Other Industrial; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Industry
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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A(6-C-16)

Town Tisbury, MAAddress Main StreetHistoric Name The Mill HouseUse: Original ResidentialPresent ResidentialOwnership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Mrs. Joseph Merry

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1750

Source _____

Style _____

Architect unknownExterior wall fabric shingleOutbuildings mill, carport

Major alterations (with dates) _____

carportMoved House & windmill Date 1886Approx. acreage 1.41Setting Set back approximately 450 ft.from Main Street on a heavily wooded lot overlooking the harbor.Recorded by Virginia BellWilliam Street Hist. Comm./Organization M.V. CommissionDate March 1980

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Mill House was put together in three parts. First was Aunt Molly's "small cottage", built about 1750. She kept a sailor's tavern there in Revolutionary War times. Later, Grafton Luce bought the cottage from Aunt Molly's legatee, Matthew Merry, and then had his mother's house moved from Lake Tashmoo and attached to the cottage. General A.B. Carey bought the property from the heirs of Grafton Luce, and in 1886 he bought a windmill that was on top of the hill behind his house. Later in the year, he had the windmill moved down hill and attached to his property.

There are conflicting stories about the history of the windmill. The original mill on the top of Mill Hill was built by Timothy Chase, a miller. He was Aunt Molly's brother, and his home was next to hers down the hill on the harbor. However, Mrs. Norris and the Martha's Vineyard; A Short History and Guide by E.R. Mayhew both say that the mill on Mill Hill was originally built on Spring Street near Association Hall, and was moved twice. It was first moved to the top of Mill Hill, and then in 1886 down to General Carey's property. In 1901 Mrs. Norris wrote that "it was built by Lothrop Merry about ninety years ago and there are those now living who saw it erected."

The Mill House is presently owned by William H. Snow.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Banks, Charles Edward, The History of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Volumes II & III, Dukes County Historical Society, Dukes County, Mass. 1966.

Mayhew, Eleanor Ransom, Martha's Vineyard: A Short History and Guide, Dukes County Historical Society, Dukes County, Massachusetts, 1956, 1966.

Norris, Martha D., paper written for the Sea Coast Defence Chapter, D.A.R., July 16, 1901.

"Old Houses in Vineyard Haven", Tercentenary pamphlet.

