

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	TIS.107
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Mill House, The
<b>Common Name:</b>	Merry House
<b>Address:</b>	Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Tisbury
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	North Tisbury
<b>Local No:</b>	6-C-16
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1750
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial; No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Industrial; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Industry
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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*Pl. N. T. M.*

Area <u>6</u>	Form no. <u>107</u>
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A(6-C-16)



Town Tisbury, MA

Address Main Street

Historic Name The Mill House

Use: Original Residential

Present Residential

Ownership:  Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Mrs. Joseph Merry

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1750

Source \_\_\_\_\_

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings mill, carport

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

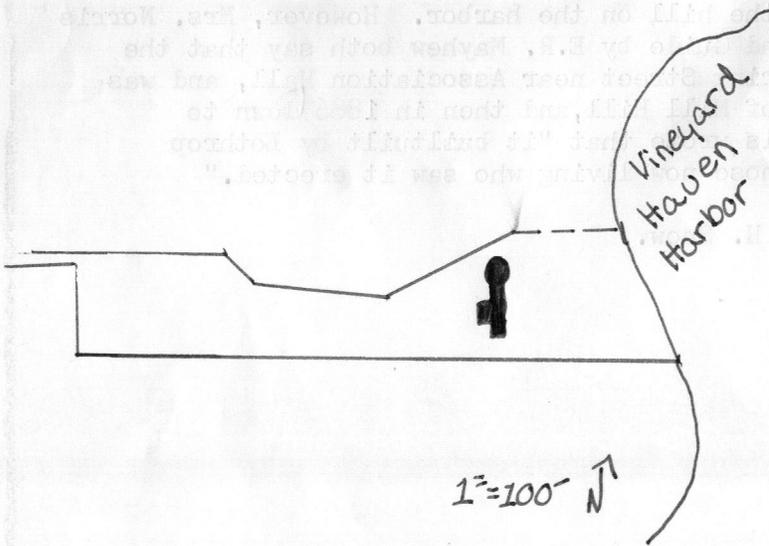
carport

Moved House & windmill Date 1886

Approx. acreage 1.41

Setting Set back approximately 450 ft.

from Main Street on a heavily wooded lot overlooking the harbor.



Recorded by Virginia Bell

William Street Hist. Comm./

Organization M.V. Commission

Date March 1980

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Historic Name: The Mill House  
User: Original: Residential  
Present: Residential  
Ownership: Private individual

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.

