

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

35-016-002	Sandwich		SDW.48
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**Town/City:** Sandwich

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): East Sandwich, Old County Road Area

**Address:** 16 Old Mill Road

**Historic Name:** Nye, Timothy House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1716

**Source:** Nye family records

**Style/Form:** Colonial/Full Cape

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone, cement facing

Wall/Trim: shingles

Roof: ridge

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** barn (1924)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

wing, in line with facade (c. 1800)

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no      yes      **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.12

**Setting:** Old County Road follows the original route of the Old King's Highway which here followed native American trails meandering along the southern edge of Scorton Marsh. The Cape Cod Railway was extended through this area in 1854. Several important, well-preserved 17th, 18th, and 19th century houses, some accompanied by period outbuildings and fields remain, with a concentration around the former Nye mill site. Elsewhere, scattered historic houses, some fields, and one large cranberry bog help to convey the area's agricultural origins.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Don Bayley

**Organization:** Sandwich Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Nov / 2011

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

16 Mill Road, built by Timothy Nye, is a five by two bay Cape that rises 1 and ½ stories from a low stone foundation to a gable roof with center chimney. It is shingled, simply trimmed, and extended by a side wing (c. 1800) with secondary entry. There is a kitchen ell which was added more recently. Windows contain 6/9 sash. The house overlooks fields and a pond to the rear. The house is similar to 23 Old County Road (SDW.24) with a keeping room with the original fireplace and an oven in the back of the fireplace, not at the side. The central keeping room originally had 10 doors providing access to all the bedrooms, parlor, buttery, pantry, outdoors, etc. In the summer, all doors were kept open for maximum air circulation; in the winter they were closed to keep the heat in. There is a small, round "Cape Cod Cellar" under the oldest section accessible via a trap door in what may have been the buttery room (where provisions were stored).

Many of the other early houses in the area were built by members of the Nye family in the vicinity of town's second grist mill which was built by Benjamin Nye, the area's first settler. The Nye homes in the area include Benjamin Nye's at 85 Old County Road (SDW.31: 1685); The Joseph Nye III House, 82 Old County Road (SDW.30: 1765); 108 Old County Road (SDW.32: 1740) which served as a tavern and shop operated by Joseph B. Hall in the first half of the 19th century and a dairy farm in the late 19th century; and 122 Old County Road (SDW.33: 1768) built by Jabez Nye.

Between roughly 1750 and 1850 this area was a busy country village with the Nye gristmill, a carding mill, a tavern with stage coach stop, a general store, a cobbler, hatter, tannery, two blacksmith shops, a boat shop, post office and about 8 farms. People came from Sandwich Center via County Road and from South Sandwich via Mill Road. In old documents the Nyes sometimes referred to Mill Road as "the road to Falmouth." Until after 1847, Old County was the only road to Barnstable village.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

Timothy Nye (about 1685-1761) inherited his father Caleb's house and real estate, but no description of that dwelling has turned up. We tentatively attribute the present house to 1716 when Timothy married Mary Freeman. At the same time his first cousin Ebenezer was building 267 Rte 6A (SDW.49), Benjamin, son of Jonathan built 74 Old County (SDW.47) and Benjamin son of John built 108 Old County (SDW.32). The 16 Mill Road property passed in the Nye family line to Edmund (1722-1775), then to Moses (1769-1861). Moses' son Warren (1809-1844) died early. For his second wife he had married in 1837 his cousin Chloe H. Parker, (1814-1881), a granddaughter of Moses' sister Sarah. Chloe married (second) Owen Phinney in 1846, and on the map of 1857 the property is shown as a double residence of M. Nye and O. Phinney. It may have been at this time or earlier in the 1800s that the in-line wing was added. Phinney inherited the home in 1861 and, in 1892, his children sold to John Armstrong, a farmer. In *A Sandwich Album*, by John and Rosanna Cullity, there are photos taken ca. 1902 by Delia Nye of Armstrong's daughters Ruth and Marion in front of the house. In 1919, 16 Mill Road was sold to John B. Hendricksen and still remains in the Hendricksen family. From 1936 to 1939 they operated a popular Norwegian Coffee House there.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Cross, Timothy A., Sandwich Historical Commission, Massachusetts Historical Commission Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) Form B, 4/7/1972

Cullity, John and Rosanna, *A Sandwich Album*, The Nye Family of America Association, 1987

Hendricksen, John W., current owner

Lovell, Russell. Sandwich. *A Cape Cod Town*. Town of Sandwich Archives and Historical Center. William S. Sullwold Publishing, Inc. Taunton, Mass. 1984.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS)  
SDW.O: Old County Road Area

Massachusetts Marriages, 1633-1850 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

*Nye Family of America*, Nye Family of America Association, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reunion, 1904

Town of Sandwich Archives and Historical Center. Nye Family Records; Historic Asset Files