

FORM A - AREA

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

15, 26	Marion	MRN .AD	see data sheet
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Photograph



703, 701 Mill Street

Town/City: Marion

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Gifford's Corner

Name of Area: Gifford's Corner

Present Use: Residential

Construction Dates or Period: primarily 1900 to 1940

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:
Two recent buildings, some replacement materials

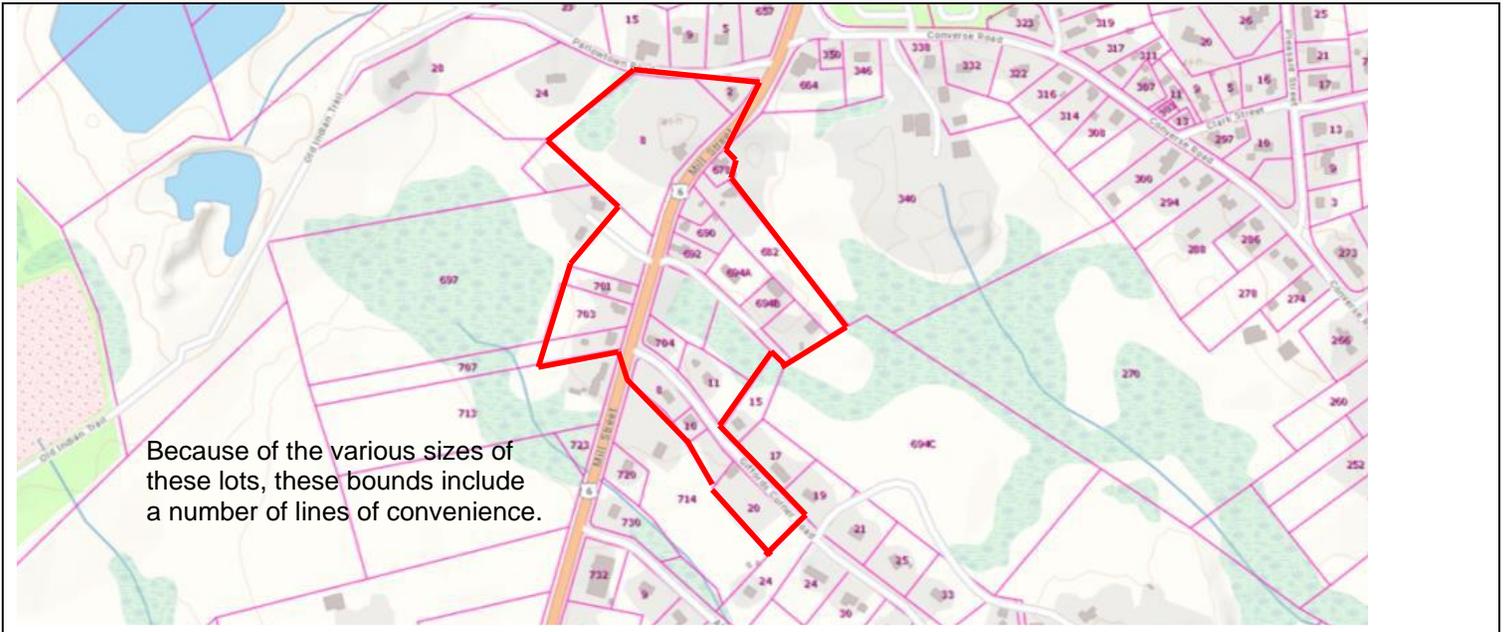
Acreage:

Recorded by: Jennifer Doherty and Claire Dempsey

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): March, 2021

Locus Map (*North is Up*)



see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

GIFFORD'S CORNER

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

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- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

INTRODUCTION

Gifford's Corner is located southwest of Marion Center, the historic core of settlement in Marion, along the primary north-south road in this vicinity now known as Mill Street and frequently referred to in deeds as the road to Mattapoisett. By the mid-19th century, houses were constructed in increasing density along this roadway, and although the earlier history of landholding here is unknown, by this time there were few large landowners in the area, and it appears that few were farmers, but were engaged in a range of maritime occupations. Rather than subdividing their parcels in large pieces, smaller lots were sold one at a time forming a small residential cluster by the turn of the 20th century south of the intersection with Converse and Parlowtown roads. At that time, Azorean and later Cape Verdean immigrants began to settle in the area, adding to the residential development, purchasing existing buildings and building new ones. These residents pursued a range of blue-collar occupations, often as construction laborers or gardeners on the large estates around Marion. By 1940, there were as many as 29 buildings in the vicinity, though some may have been used as outbuildings and others have been lost. Later 20th century development in the area was in the form of larger property subdivisions of inland parcels, adding single-family dwellings to the east of the area in the 1980s. Today the area retains its residential feel, with two commercial buildings just outside the bounds of the area.

In the text that follows, properties that are also covered in MHC B forms are so indicated by the inclusion of their MHC number.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The 1855 map of Marion shows three houses near Gifford's Corner: 678 Mill Street, 8 Parlowtown Road (formerly 681 Mill Street), and a house south of Giffords Corner Road that is no longer extant. The **James and Elizabeth Wittet House (678 Mill Street, MRN.43)** is likely the oldest. The Blankinship family owned a large parcel of land in the area that deeds indicate included the Wittet House as well as those at 694B and 694C Mill Street. The house at 678 Mill Street is on the 1855 map as the residence of sailmaker James Wittet, who acquired parcels of land in the area from Job Blankinship and John B. Blankinship in the 1830s and 1840s; both parcels mention buildings, suggesting the house stood before Wittet's ownership. Additional acreage was added to the Wittet House in the 1860s when it was acquired by Rufus F. and Frances M. Briggs. Briggs worked as a blacksmith, and his square house lot is frequently mentioned in abutting deeds into the early 20th century.¹ The **Bethuel and Jane Dexter House (8 Parlowtown Road, MRN.44)** was likely the next building added here in about 1817. Dexter was a ship carpenter and married to Jane Blankinship, who may have been his link to the area. The property's next long-term owner was Albert Tabor, whose parents occupied the house in the 1870s; Albert Tabor's father Bartholomew was a peddler. The house was later recast as a Queen Anne cottage and owned by summer visitors from New York and Chicago. The third house in the vicinity, located to the southeast of the intersection of Mill Street and Giffords Corner Road, was owned by Nathan Briggs (d 1870) who reported his occupation as both mariner and farmer. The house and 20-acre parcel were later owned by Edward W. Gifford, for whom the area was named. Gifford acquired the parcel in 1879/1881, and its bounds roughly included most of the properties on the south side of Giffords Corner Road, two parcels on Mill Street, and the properties at the end of Abel's Way.² Gifford's house was set back from the road; it appears the house has since been demolished.

¹ PCRD 200:207 (1838); 232:213 (1849); 326:117 (1863/1865); 919:570 (1868/1905).

² PCRD 477:38 (1879/1881).

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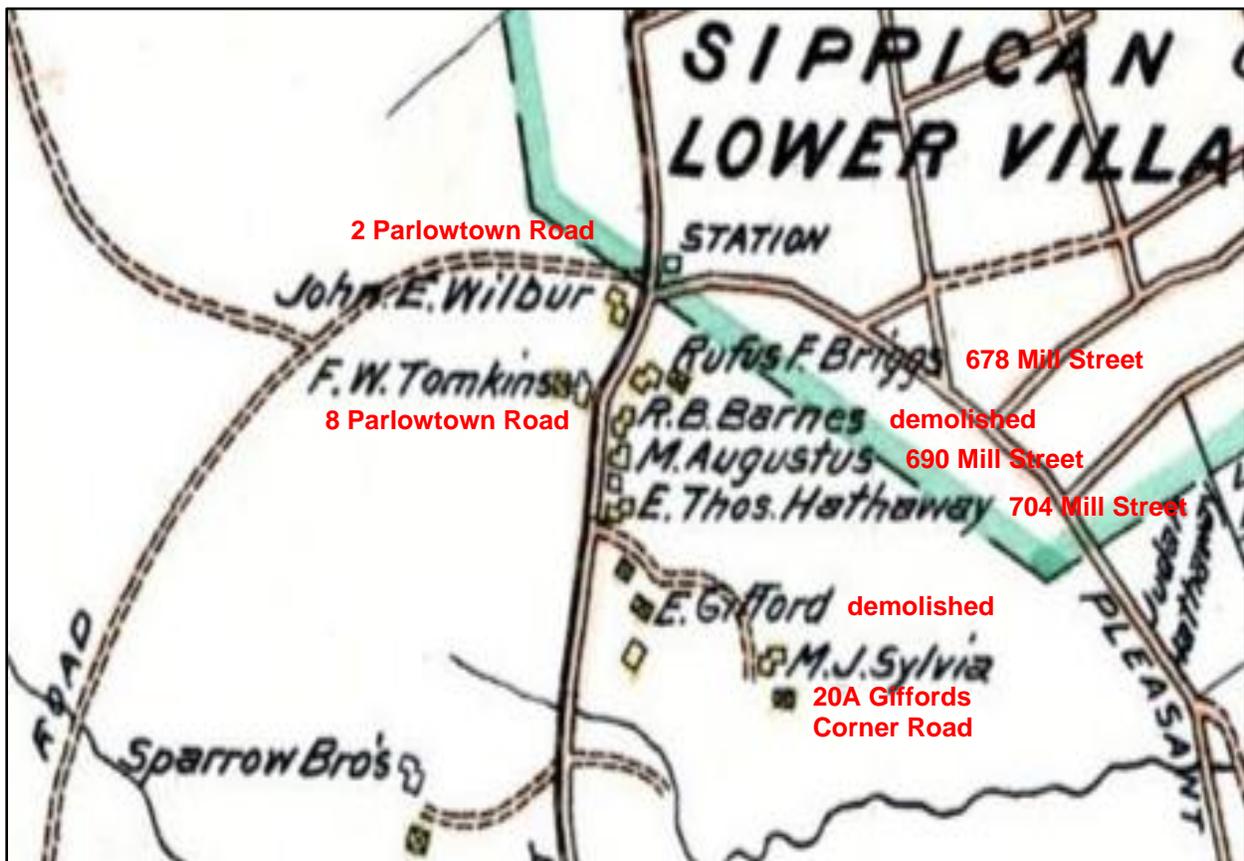
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Gifford's Corner in 1855, left, and 1879, right. The house at 8 Parlowtown Road is marked #1, that at 678 Mill Street is #2. Note that #3 was a house in the area of the present-day Gifford's Corner Road, since demolished.



Gifford's Corner in 1903.

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The early decades of the 20th century brought the subdivision of land and the construction of houses to Gifford's Corner, and because this development was incremental, research was time-consuming and the story complex and sometimes challenging to follow. A short summary of the construction dates here will help orient the reader to the more detailed story of land exchanges and owners and occupants in the paragraphs below. By 1903, one house had been added on the west side of Mill Street (now **2 Parlowtown Road**) and three on the east side of Mill (including **690 (MRN.410) and 704 Mill Street**), land that had formerly been owned by the Blankinships. In the 1910s, land to the south owned by Gifford was sold and developed with two houses at **10 and 11 Giffords Corner Road**, while a lot for **692 Mill Street** was divided from that at 690 Mill. Land on the west side of Mill Street had been purchased by East Marion developer Amos Delano, and two houses were constructed there in the 1920s (**701 and 703 Mill Street**); a third house (**707 Mill Street**) was added next door on a narrow lot sold off by owners of land to the south. In the 1930s, more Blankinship land was developed on a spur stretching east from Mill (and still known as Mill), where houses were built at **694 B and C Mill Street**, while a second house was added on the large lot that had been associated with 678 Mill Street, later known as **682 Mill Street**. As can be seen on the 1941 Marion USGS map below, there are more buildings indicated there than have been identified during this research.

The area's first Azorean residents

Shortly after 1900, several of the new houses, as well as some of the earlier dwellings, were purchased and occupied by Azoreans and later by Cape Verdeans, with the area becoming the core of Marion's earliest but not its largest neighborhood of immigrants from Portugal's island colonies. It appears the first Portuguese resident in this vicinity and in the town of Marion was Marion J. Sylvia (1849-1924) who lived at 20A Giffords Corner Road (not documented). In 1880, he purchased the present lot from Hannah J Hiller, identified in the deed as the former homestead of Jonathan Dexter, who was marked at the house on the 1855 Walling map.³ Other island immigrants came to the neighborhood in the years after 1900, most, like Sylvia, from the Azores. Manuel Augustus and his family purchased land and built a house at **690 Mill Street (MRN.410)** between 1900 and 1903 (see below). Earlier houses were sold to Portuguese immigrants during this period as well. In 1906, the Briggs estate conveyed the house at **678 Mill Street (MRN.43)** to Manuel T. Brazil (1875-1945). Brazil and his wife Lucy C. Brazil (1881-1921) were natives of the Azores. Census records list Manuel T. Brazil and two of his sons as laborers; a third son was a gardener at a private estate; and a fourth son, a carpenter. The house was in the Brazil family until 1923. The house at **8 Parlowtown Road (MRN.44)** was sold to Cape Verdean Christian Monteiro in 1915. Sometimes known by the surname Monte, Christian was a laborer at private estates and at the Kittansett Club. He married Leichandrina Marshall and they had two children; their daughter Mary succeeded them here. Some of the houses added in these decades were initially occupied by white Massachusetts-born families, but these were often soon sold to Azoreans or Cape Verdeans. Over time, it became more common for the first owners to be Portuguese, and as will be seen below, the proportion of Portuguese grew with the neighborhood.

Land development 1890-1920

Much of the land on the east side of Mill Street was, as noted above, owned by the Blankinship family and used as a woodlot. However, around the turn of the century, several pieces were subdivided off by Lizzie W. *Rickerton* Allen (b. 1850-1934) and her husband, John Mitchell Allen (1842-1912). Son of Marion mariner Henry Allen, John reported his occupation as surveyor in 1865, when he was 22, and a merchant clerk five years later. His Withey biography noted he was trained at the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard and worked as draftsman at the firm of Ware & Van Brunt before establishing his own architectural practice in Boston, later returning to his hometown of Marion. He and his family were in New Bedford in 1880 where he reported his occupation as architect, and in 1900 in Marion he was again reported as a surveyor. In 1910 he described himself as in real estate, "buying and selling."⁴ There are numerous entries in the PCR

³ PCR 460:131, 1880

⁴ Ancestry.com: Find-A-Grave; Massachusetts, US, Marriage Records, 1840-1915; US Census 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910. Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects*.... Barnes, Bruce. "Three Victorian Architects of New Bedford," paper for the New Bedford Preservation Society, no date. <http://www.nbpreservationsociety.org/docs/Three%20Victorian%20Architects.pdf>.

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grantor and grantee indexes for the Allens, and many of the parcels they sold in this area eventually went to Azoreans and Cape Verdeans.

The Allens' first sale was a small 150' by 100' lot sold in 1897, but that lot was not developed until after it was purchased by John Silva who constructed a house before 1920 at **11 Giffords Corner Road**. Silva (b. ca. 1876) was an Azorean immigrant. He was listed as white in the census and was living alone, working as a laborer. Its later history and occupants are not currently known.⁵ The second Allen sale in this area was in 1899 for a small lot between 682 and 690 Mill Street, a parcel of a fifth of an acre where Robert and Lucinda Barnes built a house that stood probably until the 1960s. Barnes (ca 1843-1913) had worked in a boot factory in Weymouth before relocating to Marion; he later worked as a house painter. After his death, the property was mortgaged to fund repairs, and was eventually lost by the family. The owner of the Barnes house from 1938 to the 1960s was Antonio or Antone Santos, a Cape Verdean identified as Black. Santos first lived at 707 Mill Street (see below) before moving here. By 1940, Antone was a construction laborer.⁶

In 1900, the Allens conveyed the west portion of the present-day lot for the **Edwin T. and Alice M. Hathaway House (704 Mill Street, MRN.411)**. Edwin Thomas Hathaway (b. ca. 1878) only owned the property briefly; he worked as a day laborer. After an intervening owner, who united the east and west halves of the lot, the property was purchased by Joseph M. and Caroline E. Sylvia in 1920. Sylvia (b. ca. 1878) was a native of Cape Verde and worked as a laborer and later a gardener at a private estate. His wife, Caroline E. Sylvia (b. ca. 1885), was from St. Kitts in the British West Indies, but census records indicate that she spoke Portuguese. Joseph was identified variously as Black and white, Caroline as mulatto and Black.

Also in 1900, the Allens conveyed a parcel to Manuel Augustus (sometimes Augusta, 1873-1943), the second Azorean living in this vicinity who built the house at **690 Mill Street (MRN.410)**. The Augustus family was only at the house for a few years; in 1906, Augustus sold the property to Maria Serpa. Serpa and her husband Antone Serpa were also Azorean and may be related to the Augustus family. Antone Serpa worked as a gardener at a private estate. The Serpas split the property around 1909 and conveyed the Augustus House and the north part of the lot to Azorean Manuel Gracia Rose of Mattapoisett. In 1920, he was living with his wife, Mary (also Azorean) and their three children; Rose worked as a gardener. In 1912, the Serpas sold the south section of the larger parcel to Manuel Craveiro, who built the house at **692 Mill Street** and whose family held the property until 1948, though the occupants are unclear. Manuel died in 1918 and little could be learned about him. His Azorean wife Isabel (1883-1970) appears to have relocated to New Bedford, where her daughters were employed in the cotton mills and a son-in-law was a sausage maker.⁷

The parcel at the corner of Mill Street and Parlowtown Road was also developed between 1900 and 1903. Earlier owners included Russell G Grey and Robert B Hiller, and the house (**2 Parlowtown Road**, formerly known as 671 Mill Street) was added by Sarah Etta Burlingame Wilbur (ca. 1862 – by 1924) and her husband John E Wilbur (b 1846). She came to Marion from Scotland CT, where her father was a farmer and she worked in a cotton mill; he had lived in Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and Rochester. They married in 1887 and came to Marion where he worked as a mason.⁸ Wilbur sold the property to Mary Brazil (1906-1989), daughter of Manuel and Lucy Brazil who lived across the street at **678 Mill Street** (see below) in 1924, though the final signing and submission of the document was delayed until 1927 when Mary reached her majority. Mary married Edmund Valley (b ca 1900) in 1929, and they were shown on Mill Street in 1930, he employed as a boiler maker and both were identified as Negro. In 1940, they were residing on South Street with retired cotton manufacturer Robert Cummings and his daughter, where Mary was employed as a cook and maid; Edmund

⁵ PCRD 738:468 (1897); 1140:5 (1912). Ancestry.com: US Census 1920.

⁶ Ancestry.com: Barnes in Llibschoen family tree https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/21581200/person/19519589053/facts?_phsrc=fNA3&_phstart=successSource; Plymouth Probate, Barnes, #22012; US Census 1880, 1900, 1910. PCRD: 1707:312 (1936) 1519:59 (1926); 952:453 (1907); 776:158 (1899).

⁷ PCRD 31043:107 (2005), 2893:472 (1961); 2344:1 (1954). 5005:521 (1948), 1134:163 (1912). Ancestry.com: US Census 1930, 1940; US Social Security Death Index.

⁸ PCRD 649:455 (1889); 2772:801 (1900). Ancestry.com: MA Marriage Records; MA Census 1855, 1865; US Census 1850, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920.

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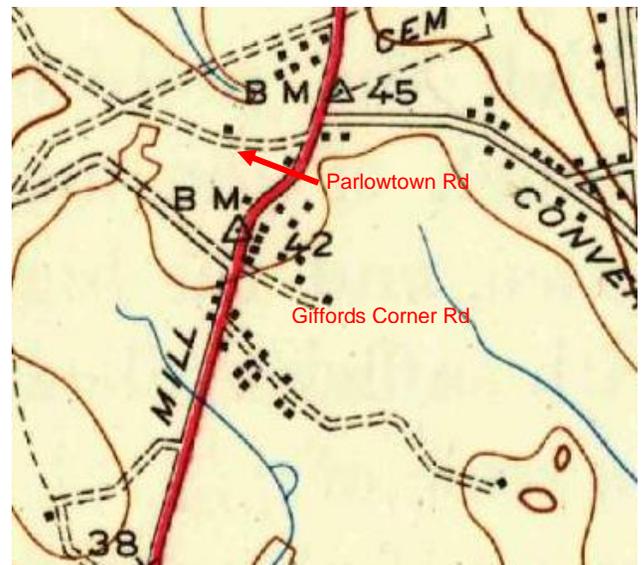
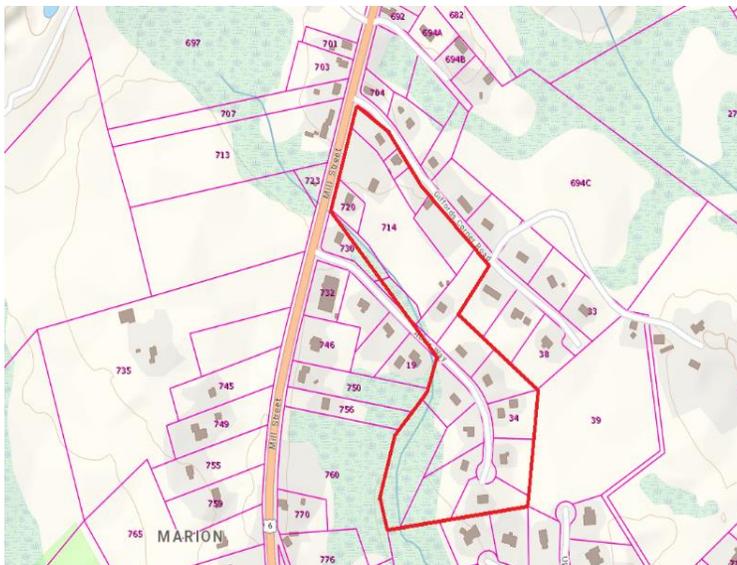
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worked as a clerk at the New Bedford post office. The entire household was identified as white. Valley's executor sold the property in 1997.⁹

In 1914, Marion de Costa acquired a large parcel of land south of Giffords Corner Road, much of the former Edward W. Gifford estate (see map, below). A native of Cape Verde, DeCosta (b. ca. 1870) is frequently listed in census and directory records as living on Front Street/Rochester Road near County Road. He worked as a teamster and laborer on a private estate. DeCosta, his wife Maria, and their two children, Manuel and Louise, were listed as white in the 1920 census, but "negro" in the 1930 census. The present-day lots of **10 Giffords Corner Road** and the vacant lot next to it remained in the DeCosta family until 1958. The assessor dates the house to 1915; it appears heavily altered and it is difficult to determine a date of construction from the exterior.¹⁰ In 1919, Marion DeCosta conveyed the present lot of the **Samuel F. and Virginia Pina House (20 Giffords Corner Road)** to Samuel F. Pina (b. 1884). There was a house on the property at that time that the Pinas initially lived in, but it was eventually moved closer to Mill Street and later demolished. Pina had immigrated from Cape Verde to the United States around 1900, working on various estates as a mason. Around 1915, he returned to Cape Verde and married Virginia Pina (1894-1984), and the couple returned to Marion. The present bungalow house at 20 Giffords Corner Road was built by Peter Rezendes in 1930. The Pina family was recorded there through 20th century census records, at first listed as Black and Negro and in 1940 recorded as white. The family owned the property until their deaths in the 1980s.¹¹



Left: Marion de Costa acquired much of Edward W. Gifford's former farm in 1914 and subdivided some portions of it shortly thereafter; bounds drawn on current MassGIS map. Right, USGS Topographic Map, Marion, 1941, showing more small black squares than can be accounted for in research to date; some may have been lost and may have been outbuildings.

⁹ PCRD 1532:362 (1927); 15172:136 (1997); 21175:105 (2001); 34348:73, 75 (2007) 40461:326 (2011). Ancestry.com: MA Marriage records; Social Security Death Index; US Census 1930, 1940.

¹⁰ PCRD 1205:341 (1914); 2186:146 (1951); PCRD 2633:478 (1958). Ancestry.com: US Federal Census of Population for 1920, 1930; Wareham city directory for 1928. "Mrs. Marion DeCosta," *The Standard-Times*, November 13, 1937.

¹¹ PCRD 1336:424 (1919); 7707:243 (1987). Ancestry.com: US Federal Census of Information for 1920, 1930, 1940. Information on the Pina family and the houses at 20 Giffords Corner Road from an interview Claire W. Dempsey conducted with Edwin Pina, son of Samuel and Virginia Pina, on February 8, 2021. Pina was actually Virginia's last name; Samuel's last name was Ferreira, but Pina is used in all legal documents and other records.

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Land development 1920-1940

Parcels on the west side of Mill were developed in the late 1920s, and there are three houses in the area on the 1941 topographical map. In 1923 Cape Verdean Julius Martin (1891-1980) acquired land on the west side of the road from Amos C. Delano. Born and raised in Marion, Delano became a local real estate developer and was particularly active in East Marion; he also served the town as selectman. See the additional material added to the MRN.D Delano-Cross Neck Area form. A few months later, Martin conveyed a house and lot (**701 Mill Street**) to Charles Cruz and retained the Martin House (**703 Mill Street**) for himself.¹² The Cruz and Martin families lived next to each other for much of the 20th century. Julius Martin and family were recorded in the 1930 census on Mill Street next to the Cruzes. Martin was living with his wife Eugenia (ca. 1901-1986) and two children, based on their ages likely Julius Martin's children from a previous marriage. Julius Martin's brother Casimiro Martin was also living with the family. All of the family members were listed as "Negro." The two Martin brothers worked as gardeners on a private estate. While Casimiro Martin left the family before the 1940 census was recorded, the Martins had two additional children. Julius Martin was still working as a gardener in a private estate, while his two oldest children were listed as new workers. The property remained in the Martin family and is currently owned by Julius and Eugenia Martin's daughter, Lorriane C. Martin Rogina.¹³ Charles Cruz (1883-1938) was a native of Brava, Cape Verde, arriving in Providence, RI in 1902. In 1922, shortly before his house purchase, he married Etelvina Cruz (1897-1991), also a native of Brava who arrived in Providence in 1920. The couple were recorded in the 1930 census with their young son Maurice (1925-1994), listed as "Negro." Following Charles Cruz's death in 1938, Etelvina Cruz was recorded at the house with her son in 1940. Etelvina Cruz remarried in 1944 to Louis (sometimes Luis) Roderick (1898-1974). The Cruz House remained in the Cruz-Roderick family until Etelvina Cruz's death in 1991.¹⁴ The house at **707 Mill Street** was likely constructed around 1930. The parcel was part of the property to the south owned by Charles Handy and by William E Sparrow, and Sparrow's heirs sold the long, narrow lot to Cape Verdean Antone or Antonio Santos (1901-1957) in 1929. His wife Ida was born in Pennsylvania of Cape Verdean and British West Indian parents. In 1930, Antone's brother Cesar lived with them on Mill Street, both working at odd jobs. Santos defaulted on his mortgage and later lived at 704 Mill Street. George and Evelyn Veiga owned the property from 1938 to 1956. Of Cape Verdean descent, George was from West Wareham, where he had worked in a cranberry bog before becoming a truck driver. They were succeeded here by Peter Monteiro Jr and his wife Elizabeth; Peter's family lived at 694 Mill Street (see below).¹⁵

On the east side of Mill Street, in the early 1930s additional land from the Blankinship woodlot was sold by John D Blankinship. In 1932, a parcel was conveyed to Peter Monteiro (d. 1947), who was already living in the neighborhood by 1930, and a house was located at **694B Mill Street** by 1940. Monteiro, his wife Maria *Gomes* Monteiro, and six of their seven children were recorded near other known neighbors when the 1940 census was taken. Both Monteiro and his wife were Cape Verdean, and all their children were born in Massachusetts; all of the family members were listed as "Negro." Monteiro worked as a laborer at East-Over Farms in Marion. Following her husband's death, Maria Monteiro continued to live at the house until 1966, when she conveyed it to John Pina, Jr. and Jane T. Pina.¹⁶ In 1933, Blankinship conveyed land to Vincent J. McGillivray (b. 1891) and **694C Mill Street** was also likely in place by 1940. One of the few non-Azorean or Cape Verdean residents of the area, he was born in Waltham and worked as a laborer.¹⁷ In 1946, he conveyed the property to Rosie J. Perry. She and her husband Jerry were Canadian immigrants; he was working in road

¹² PCRD 1443:180 (1923);1445:461 (1923).

¹³ Ancestry.com: US Federal Census of Population for 1930, 1940. PCRD 13037:40 (1994).

¹⁴ Ancestry.com: Find-A-Grave; MA Marriage Index, 1901-1955 and 1966-1970; MA, US, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950; US Census for 1930, 1940; US Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007; US Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014; US World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947. PCRD 1920:169 (1946); 8996:231 (1989); 9150:301 (1989); 10522:111 (1991).

¹⁵ PCRD: 2491:122 (1956); 1753:493 (1938); 1672:105 (1934); 1573:13 91929). Ancestry.com: US Census 1930, 1940; US Social Security Death Index.

¹⁶ PCRD 1633:139 (1932); 3282:341 (1966). Ancestry.com: US Federal Census of Population for 1930, 1940. "Marion Resident Believed Suicide," Sippican Historical Society archives, no newspaper identified, August 25, 1947.

¹⁷ PCRD 1660:433 (1933). Ancestry.com: WWII Draft Registration Card.

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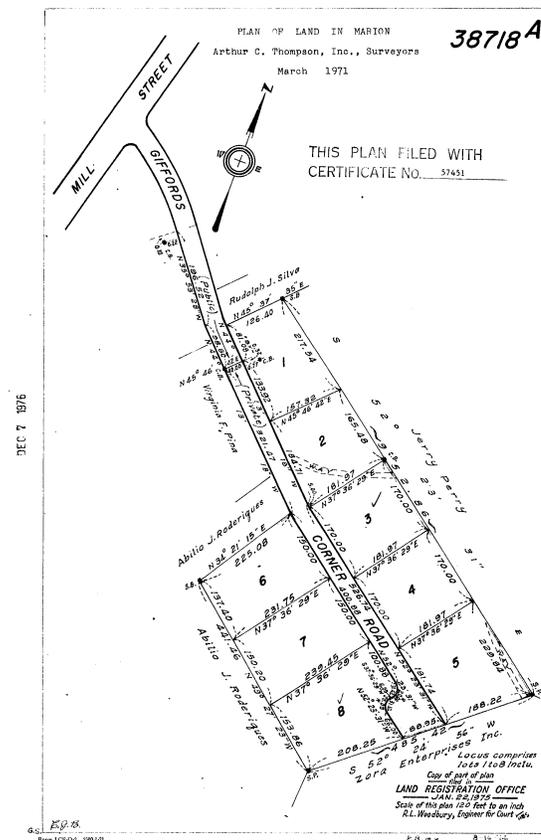
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construction, she as a servant.¹⁸ It appears that the property was never owned by an Azorean or Cape Verdean native. Probably before 1936, the house at **682 Mill Street** was added to the property at 678 Mill Street; it appears on a USGS map from that year. The two lots were not separated until the 1950s, and it is not clear who occupied this building.

Recent development in the area:

Residential development continued around Gifford's Corner in the late 20th century, spearheaded by local Cape Verdean developer Abilio Roderiques (ca. 1914-1994). Born in Brava, Cape Verde, Roderiques worked as a pipe fitter in Boston and then as a builder and developer in Marion after his retirement.¹⁹ Roderiques acquired and subdivided the undeveloped eastern portions of what had been the Gifford's homestead and land to the south and west adjacent to this area. To the south of Gifford's Corner, Abel's Way was laid out in the 1970s with houses constructed in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Giffords Corner Road itself was extended southeast in the 1980s, with eight lots laid out and sold off during that decade (see plan, below).

Two houses were added to the Gifford's Corner area in the 2000s: **8 Giffords Corner Road** (2003) and **694A Mill Street** (2006).



Abilio Roderiques filed this plan for the end of Giffords Corner Road with the PCRD Land Court in 1975, #38718A.

¹⁸ PCRD 1938:265 (1942/1943). Ancestry.com: US Census 1940.

¹⁹ "Abilio Roderiques," *The Sippican Sentinel*, March 10, 1994.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Gifford's Corner area includes a variety of building forms and styles keyed to two primary periods of development. Two buildings survive from the early 19th century phase of development here, each a variation of the regional type known as the Cape. But the majority of the buildings, a dozen surviving structures, were constructed in the first decades of the 20th century, including examples of some of the period's most popular small and moderate-sized houses, the end house, the bungalow, the center entry, as well as examples of small more informal houses. Just as development took place primarily one lot at a time, most of these buildings were constructed individually to suit a developer or owner's taste. Most are arrayed along Mill Street (even the houses with Parlowtown addresses are close to Mill Street and had addresses on that street at one time), and along two short streets that extend to the east, one still using Mill Street addresses and part way along another known as Giffords Corner Road. The lots are various in size, as are the setbacks, evidence of the incremental development that occurred in this area in the early 20th century.

The two oldest buildings in the area share the core features of the Cape, a single story under a gable roof, two tiers of rooms, and although the center chimneys have been removed, general evidence suggests that was their original organizing feature. The oldest surviving house in the area, likely dating from the **early 19th century**, is the **James and Elizabeth Wittet House at 678 Mill Street (MRN.43)**. This is the variation called a half-Cape, with its entry door on one side of the façade and living space is located on the other side, two piles deep. The gabled wall dormer and the picturesque wing, also with a dormer and elaborate porch trim, suggest the house may have experienced a Queen Anne remodeling. The **Bethuel and Jane Dexter House at 8 Parlowtown Road (ca. 1817, MRN.44)** took the wider five-bay Cape form and includes multi-pane sash and a transom at the entry, features typical of the type that were likely restored. The house also received a picturesque remodeling, also Queen Anne in style at the end of the 19th century, including a long wing, porch, and pavilion; much of that was recently removed.

The type known as end house was the most popular form for much of the 19th century and remained a popular form through the early 20th century; some of the dates of these houses seem quite late. Featuring a gabled roof with its end turned towards the street, end houses are generally two piles deep and feature circulation space along one side of the house with two rooms on the other side of the house. Wings and ells might expand this core volume. Porches were a common feature on the façade and were often later enclosed for additional year-round living space. In Gifford's Corner, there are five examples of end houses primarily dating to the turn of the 20th century and all but one are one-and-a-half story houses in height with a two- or three-bay façade. Among the best preserved is the **Edwin T and Alice M Hathaway House at 704 Mill Street (1900-1903, MRN.411)**. This example includes the quintessential three-bay arrangement on the first floor with two windows centered in the gable above. Also well preserved is the **Manuel and Fanny Augustus House at 690 Mill Street (ca 1900-1903, MRN.410)**, where a wing doubles the size of the house and a porch screens the entry. At the **McGillivray House, 694C Mill Street (1933-1940)**, wall dormers along the side wall add space to the upper story and the front porch has been enclosed. The **Rose House at 682 Mill Street (by 1936)** is one of the larger houses in the neighborhood, a full two stories in height, it includes a wing and an enclosed front porch. The **Monteiro House at 694B Mill Street (1932-1940)** may be an end house at its core and now surrounded by additions.

One of the house types that came to rival the end house in popularity was the bungalow, and three houses constructed in the 1920s and 1930s take that form. Bungalows often included a plan of two tiers of rooms stretching three rooms from front to rear, and incorporate significant porches, often an extension of the roof, and Craftsman details. **701 and 703 Mill Street** were likely built at the same time in **1923** by the same builder and demonstrate a smaller variation of the plan, with a three-bay façade featuring a center entry and a house only two piles deep. 701 Mill Street may have been a bungalow that has since been raised to a second story, as the bodies and front porches of the two houses are roughly the same dimensions. They also both have a brick chimney in roughly the same location, north of the ridge line at the rear pile of the house. The **Pina House at 20 Giffords Corner Road** was constructed in **1930**, and illustrates the iconic features of the type, a full three piles deep, a three-bay centered entry façade, and a full porch formed as an extension of the hipped roof.

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see data sheet

Three houses feature a center-entry plan and are evidence of the plan's continued popularity, spanning the early 19th century through to the early 20th century. The **Santos House at 707 Mill Street (1930)** includes features resembling its bungalow neighbors with a rough-faced concrete block foundation and clipped gable ends, hallmarks of its construction date and the Craftsman style. The **Wilbur-Valley House at 2 Parlowtown Road (1900-1903)** is a Dutch colonial, featuring a large gambrel roof that provides additional head room in the second story. Though today the house is entered through a gabled extension opening onto Parlowtown Road, the house may have originally been oriented to Mill Street, its former address, which includes a five-bay center-entry elevation. The **Silva House at 11 Giffords Corner Road (1912-1920)** is a two-story version of the plan, one of the largest in the area. It is a simple building only three bays on the façade but still two piles deep and includes an entry porch. Most of the houses feature little trim or elaboration, often simple Federal or Colonial Revival details, and are covered in weathered wood shingles, a common southeastern Massachusetts treatment.

Two houses in the area have plans that are difficult to discern from the outside but may be examples of "informal workers cottages," smaller houses added to incrementally to serve working-class residents and typically favoring multi-purpose rooms and few circulation spaces.²⁰ The **DeCosta House at 10 Giffords Corner Road (ca 1915)** has a large one-story main volume that sits under a wide, end-gable roof, with a shed-roof wing to the east. At the rear, a gable-roofed ell projects above the roof of the front section of the house. A porch is also visible at the southeast corner of the house. What appears to be the main entry is located away from the driveway, in the shed-roofed wing. The house has no trim or elaboration, aside from false-muntin windows giving the appearance of divided sash. The **Craviero House at 692 Mill Street (1915)** is a long, narrow, rectangular house. The house has an end gable roof and is roughly three piles deep, with a short brick chimney projecting from the ridgeline between the second and third piles. An enclosed porch holds the main entryway across the façade, while wings project from either side at the rear of the house.

There are two houses in the area representative of early 21st century building forms and styles in Marion. **8 Giffords Corner Road (2003)** is an expanded Cape form. Sitting on a high, exposed basement, the one-and-a-half story building has a side-gable roof with a centered entry on a five-bay façade. At the rear, the roof is raised to provide additional living space in the half-story, a configuration found throughout Marion and Massachusetts. **694A Mill Street (2006)** is a split entry house, a building that also has a high, elevated basement with living space on the main floor above and its entry space positioned between the two living levels. Both houses sit on poured concrete foundations, are covered in vinyl siding, and have asphalt shingle roofs. They have little detailing aside from some Classical and Colonial Revival-type elements.

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Ancestry.com: see footnotes.

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Research protocol: Tile research for each property; see text.

²⁰ See Paul Groth and Marta Gutman, "Workers Houses in West Oakland," in *Sights and Sounds: essays in celebration of West Oakland: the results of a focused research program to augment cultural resources investigations for the I-880 Cypress Replacement Project, Alameda Co* (1997); and Thomas C Hubka, *Houses Without Names* (2013).

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Area Letter Form Nos.

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See Research Protocol	Name, Address, Date, Assessor's No., MHC No. Style/ Form, architecture Materials Alterations Parcel purchase date; see also text.
	<p>house, 8 Giffords Corner Road, 2003 15_3 MRN.421</p> <p>Traditional / modern Cape raised over garage</p>
	<p>DeCosta House, 10 Giffords Corner Road, ca1915 15_2A MRN.422</p> <p>/ cottage multiple volumes Wall Material: Asbestos additions, asbestos siding and shingles</p> <p>Part of large parcel acquired by Marion DeCosta in 1914.</p>
	<p>Silva House, 11 Giffords Corner Road, 1912 - 1920 15_6 MRN.423</p> <p>Traditional / center entry three bay, porch Wall Material: Shingles</p> <p>John Silva acquired a portion of this parcel in 1912.</p>
	<p>Pina House, 20 Giffords Corner Road, 1930 15_1 MRN.424</p> <p>Craftsman / Bungalow hipped dormer, full porch Wall Material: Shingles well preserved</p> <p>Samuel Pina purchased land in 1919, house built in 1930, Edwin Pina interview.</p>

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	<p>James & Elizabeth Wittet House, 678 Mill St, early 19th c 15_15A MRN.43</p> <p>/ Cape Cod house</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.43.</p>
	<p>Rose? House, 682 Mill Street, 1910 15_15B MRN.425</p> <p>/ end house two full stories Wall Material: Shingles shed-roofed wing and enclosed front porch</p> <p>Part of the lot of 678 Mill Street until the 1950s.</p>
	<p>Manuel & Fanny Augustus House, 690 Mill St, ca.1900-1903 15_13 MRN.410</p> <p>Classical / end house</p> <p>See MHC B forms MRN.410.</p>
	<p>Craveiro House, 692 Mill Street, 1915 15_12 MRN.426</p> <p>/ cottage small house with additions Wall Material: Vinyl enclosed porch, replacement sash and siding</p> <p>Manuel Craveiro purchased lot in 1912 from neighbor Serpa.</p>
	<p>house, 694A Mill Street, 2006 15_11 MRN.427</p> <p>Traditional / split entry</p>

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	<p>Monteiro House, 694B Mill Street, ca.1932 15_10 MRN.428</p> <p>Traditional / end house may be core Wall Material: wood and vinyl Wings added, replacement siding and sash</p> <p>Peter Monteiro purchased the lot in 1932.</p>
	<p>McGillivray House, 694C Mill Street, 1933 - 1940 15_9 MRN.429</p> <p>/ end house wall dormers on side elevation Wall Material: Shingles wing and enclosed front porch</p> <p>Vincent J. McGillivray acquired the lot was in 1933.</p>
	<p>Cruz House, 701 Mill Street, ca.1923 26_20 MRN.430</p> <p>/ altered bungalow? likely originally resembled 703 Mill Wall Material: Vinyl likely raised to two stories</p> <p>Charles C Cruz purchased lot from neighbor Martin in 1923.</p>
	<p>Martin House, 703 Mill Street, ca.1923 26_19 MRN.431</p> <p>Classical / Bungalow small version of the type, full porch Wall Material: Vinyl rear addition</p> <p>Julius Martin purchases lot from Amos Delano in 1923.</p>
	<p>Edwin T. & Alice M. Hathaway House, 704 Mill St, 1900-1903 15_7 MRN.411</p> <p>No style / end house</p> <p>MHC B form, MRN.411.</p>

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	<p>Santos House, 707 Mill Street, 1930 26_16 MRN.432</p> <p>Craftsman / center entry clipped gable roof, wing, entry porch, triple windows Wall Material: Vinyl replacement sash and siding</p> <p>Antonio Santos purchased lot in 1929 from landowner south of area.</p>
	<p>Wilbur-Valley House, 2 Parlowtown Road, 1900-1903 26_22 MRN.433</p> <p>Colonial Revival / center-entry Dutch colonial additions for new entry? Wall Material: Shingles reoriented from Mill to Parlowtown Road</p> <p>Sarah E B Wilbur purchased lot in 1900.</p>
	<p>Bethuel & Jane Dexter House, 8 Parlowtown Rd, ca.1817 26_21 MRN.44</p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house</p> <p>MHC B form MRN.44</p>

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Claire W Dempsey

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Gifford's Corner area is recommended as a potential National Register Historic District located on Upper Mill Street, a neighborhood that was home to Marion's Azorean and Cape Verdean community through much of the 20th century.

The history of Cape Verdean immigrants to Southeastern Massachusetts is generally familiar, but its contours within smaller and rural communities is understudied and this landscape is deserving of greater attention. Cape Verdeans came to Massachusetts on whaling ships early in the 19th century and were later employed primarily in other maritime trades, in textile manufacturing, and in cranberry bogs. Although Portuguese individuals came to Marion in the middle of the 19th century, it was not until the turn of the 20th century that a resident community of Azoreans and Cape Verdeans emerged, growing in size over subsequent decades in two sections of town, at upper Mill Street in a neighborhood known as Gifford's Corner, the first of these settlements, and at the corner of Wareham Street (Rt6) and Point Road in a neighborhood known as Hamblin's Corner, which became the largest Cape Verdean neighborhood. At first, young males came to town, working as general laborers, likely in cranberry bogs and on summer estates. With more women and children came homeownership, of existing buildings and new construction often in small end houses and cottages as well as four-squares. In the postwar era several Cape Verdeans became involved in real estate development in the neighborhood, adding groups of suburban-style houses in familiar forms including modern Capes and ranches. Most of the buildings in these potential districts were constructed before 1970. The districts appear to meet criteria A and C at the local level, with significance in the areas of architecture, ethnic heritage, and social history.

The integrity of these districts will need careful consideration. The areas as a whole retain integrity in location, setting, feeling, and association, but integrity of design, materials, and workmanship may pose challenges. While there are certainly a number of well-preserved properties in the neighborhood, many of the smaller buildings have been expanded over time, a process that has contributed to their survival. It will take additional site-specific research, through oral histories and perhaps in the records of the building inspector, to date these changes. If most have been completed during the designated period of significance, the issue will be moot; those that are more recent may pose a challenge to eligibility.