

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

17-18A	Marion		MRN.XXX
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**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 840 Mill Street

**Historic Name:** Richard E. Bolles House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1860

**Source:** Title and map research

**Style/Form:** Cape, altered

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Shop (1950)  
Storage building

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

Bay added at main block (19<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Hyphen between east ell and barn (after 1903)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.87

**Setting:** Sparsely settled neighborhood along Mill Street (Rte. 6) south of Marion Village near the southwest corner of Marion. Rural area of former farmland principally developed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2023

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

Front Street

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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.*

*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.*

**840 Mill Street** occupies a triangular lot on the east side of Mill Street (Rte. 6) that transitions to marsh land along the southeastern property line. The house is set near the road at the northwest corner of the parcel with its west (side) elevation facing the street. A mortared stone wall along Mill Street extends from the northwest corner of the parcel to the gravel driveway which enters the property at the midpoint of the western lot line where a small shop is located. The driveway expands to create a parking area which stretches from the front yard of the house to a point south of the shop. The property surrounding the house and outbuildings is maintained in patchy lawn dotted by shrubs and large trees; it is crisscrossed by segments of rubble stone wall. A row of tall trees lines Mill Street south of the driveway. The balance of the parcel is densely vegetated.

This wood-framed house comprises a two-story, four-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled main block with three dependencies. The dwelling was constructed ca. 1860 in the Cape form and retains some of its character-defining features. The current owner stated that the main block was originally three bays wide and was expanded at some point to take on its current three-quarter Cape appearance. The three dependencies at the east elevation are set back serially from the façade (south elevation) of the main block. They include an ell and a hyphen connecting the ell to an early barn. The house rises from a stone foundation. The walls are clad in wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A narrow brick chimney rises from just below the roof ridge on the south roof slope of the former barn.

The main block and dependencies are simply trimmed with narrow corner and frieze boards. The windows at the façade at the main block and ell are double-hung, six-over-six sash with flat wood surrounds. The entry at the second-most westerly bay at the main block contains a glass-and-panel door with a narrow flat surround. It fronts a shallow brick stoop and a two-step brick stair leading to a network of walkways connecting the three dependencies and the parking area. The addition of a continuous, flat-roofed dormer at the north roof slope of the main block has significantly compromised its Cape form. There are mulled six-over-six windows and a shed-roofed enclosed entry at the rear elevation.

The one-story east ell is three bays wide with an entry at the western-most bay. The glass-and-panel door fronts a two-step brick stair and the network of walkways in front of the house. The one-story hyphen connecting the east ell and former barn is two bays wide with a shallow gable roof; it has an entry at the east bay. The one-and-half-story, two-bay-by-two-bay former barn is seen as a standalone structure on the 1903 map. It has a steep gabled roof and a shed-roofed extension along its rear (north) elevation.

The one-story, four-bay-by-one-bay, side-gabled shop sited south of the house was constructed in 1950. It is clad with wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. A similarly-clad, one-story, side-gabled storage building is sited just behind (east of) the shop.

The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The defining characteristics of the Cape form illustrated in this house are limited to the side-gabled configuration and corner and frieze boards. The six-over-six window sash configuration is identified with both the Federal (1780–1820) and Greek Revival (1830-1850) periods.

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## 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.



1879 map.

This house is not shown on the 1855 map but appears on the 1879 map just east of the historic Borden's Brook mill pond with R. Bolles identified as the owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was its sale in 1860 by Jared Bates (1776-1877) and his wife Jemima Hiller (1803-1875) to Richard Ervin Bolles (1811-1896) and Sophronia Handy Hiller (1819-1903).<sup>1</sup> Jared Bates was a farmer whose house is shown on the 1855 map just south of the future location of the Richard Bolles house; according to the 1860 agricultural census, Jared Bates owned a 50+ acre property. He apparently sold a portion of the farm property to Bolles but the family retained land nearer the mill pond, as seen by the property owned by his son P. [Prince] Bates on the 1879 map.

Richard E. Bolles, who purchased the undeveloped parcel in 1860, was listed as a shoemaker in the censuses of 1860 through 1880. The deed specified that the property would pass to his son William G. Bolles (1852-1940) upon the death of his parents. In 1907, Bolles' niece Mildred E. Bowman (b.1887) gave a deed for the property to her uncle, William G. Bolles, confirming the validity of his title from the 1860 deed. William Bolles was variously listed in censuses as

a stone worker, day laborer, and farm laborer. The 1900 census shows him living in Marion with his mother Sophronia Hiller Bolles. The 1910 census finds him in Marion living as a boarder on Mill Street with the family of retired sea captain John Briggs. From 1920 on he lived in Mattapoisett with his aunt Mary Jenny and her daughter Lydia Jenny.

In 1917 William Bolles conveyed the property to his brother-in-law Albert Winters (b.1849), who was married to his sister Sophronia Bolles (b.1849). Winters was a farmer and also ran an ice company. In 1923 he sold the property to Irving Winters and Rubin Cohen of new Bedford, who mortgaged the property back to him. After Winter's death, Irving Winters and Rubin Cohen defaulted on the loan and the mortgage was foreclosed by Franklin W. Winters, Albert Winters's son. Franklin A. Winters (1891-1953) was married in 1913 to Mary A. Walsh (1893-1987). Early in his life Franklin Winters worked for his father Albert, but eventually operated an insurance and real estate company where his wife, Mary Winters, worked as a bookkeeper. Franklin was active in the community and variously served as tax collector, auditor and chief of the fire department. In 1955 his widow Mary Franklin sold the house to William and Viola Silva.

William Silva (1906-1980) and his wife Viola Anthony Ross (1909-1977) were born in the Azore Islands of Portugal. Silva worked as a machinist. The couple had lived in New Bedford and Wareham before buying this property, which they occupied for 25 years. In 1981 their daughter Mary Louise (nee Silva) Vega sold the property to Rachel P. Grainger (1922-2013) of Marion, the daughter of Jordan Homer Stover and Helen Florence Weeks. She was married to Douglas Herbert Grainger (1919-2005) who she met in Greenwich, Connecticut. The couple moved to the Boston area where Rachel Grainger started a decorating business and bought and sold houses after updating them.<sup>2</sup> She and Douglas Grainger, whose principal residence was in Newton, had four sons including Geoffrey Grainger, to whom the property was devised. Geoffrey Grainger and his wife Karilon Babbitt-Grainger, the current owners of the property, operate the Grainger Pottery on the premises.

### Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-02-2015	46337-288	Trustees Babbitt-Grainger Family Trust	Karilon Faye Babbitt-Grainger, Trustee
03-26-2012	41140-322	Geoffrey W. & Karilon F. Grainger	Trustees Babbitt-Grainger Family Trust

<sup>1</sup> The year of this conveyance is not completely clear. The signature date for the grantors is November 28, 1850, but the signature date for the witnesses on the same document is November 28, 1860. The deed notes a legatee William Bolles, who was not born until 1852. It is probable that the date was 1860 and the 1850 date was a scrivener error.

<sup>2</sup> Rachel P. Grainger Obituary, *Sippican Week*, November 4, 2013.

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01-04-2008	35478-275	Geoffrey W. Grainger	Geoffrey W. & Karilon F. Grainger
Probate	05P1147-EP1	Estate of Douglas H. Grainger	Geoffrey W. Grainger
11-30-1992	11552-176	Douglas H. & Rachel P. Grainger	Douglas H. Grainger
03-18-1988	8341-231	Rachel P. Grainger	Douglas H. & Rachel P. Grainger
04-04-1981	4975-175	Mary-Louise Vega	Rachel P. Grainger
05-02-1955	2414-476	Mary A. Winters	William A. & Viola Silva
Probate	70774	Estate of Franklin A. Winters	Mary A. Winters
11-12-1931	1623-322	Irving Miller & Rubin Cohen (Fcls. Sale)	Franklin W. Winters, exec. of Albert Winters
10-25-1923	1440-226	Irving Miller & Rubin Cohen (Mtg)	Albert Winters
10-15-1923	1440-225	Albert Winters	Irving Miller & Rubin Cohen
10-23-1917	986-135	William G. Bolles	Albert Winters
10-19-1907	986-131	Mildred E. & David H. Bowman	William G. Bolles
11-28-1860	365-7	Jared & Jemima Bates	William G. Bolles

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories
- Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879
- Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903
- Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling
- McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
- Olive Hill Sommers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.
- Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
- Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
- Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
- Sippican Historical Society: online database
- Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
- Conversation with current owners, April 2023.



North and east elevations. Note attached barn at left.