

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-34

Marion

MRN.I

MRN.124

**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village/Old Landing

**Address:** 296 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Ward P. Delano House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1780

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** Georgian / Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

Entrance portico (after 1934)

Rear addition (late 20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Excellent

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

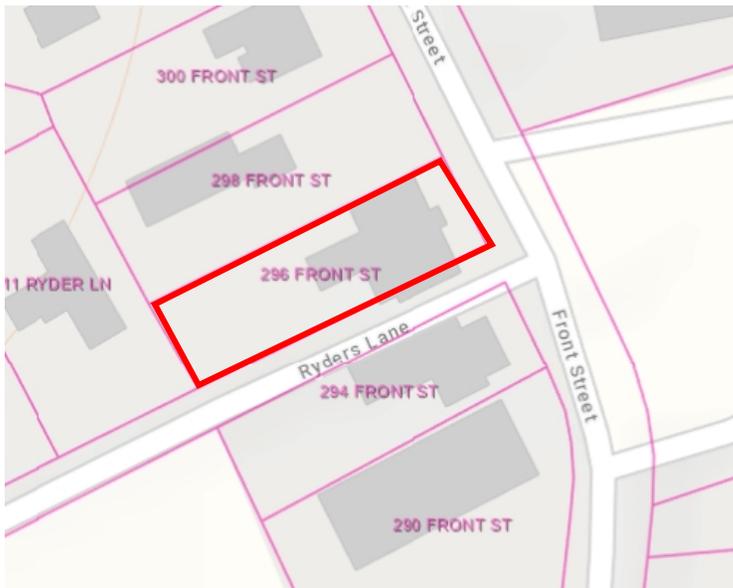
**Acreage:** 0.194

**Setting:** Linear development of residences and a boatyard primarily developed in the late 18<sup>th</sup>–mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Mid- to large-size wood-frame, single-family houses in the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles predominate. Neighborhood borders the northwestern shore of Sippican Harbor.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): September 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

296 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.*

**296 Front Street** occupies a deep, narrow, rectangular parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection of Front Street and Ryder Lane. The house is set close to Front Street behind a shallow front garden and faces east towards the Burr Brothers Boatyard and Sippican Harbor. Narrow strips of lawn along the side elevations join an extensive back yard maintained in lawn and mature trees. The yard is bordered along Ryder Lane by a row of tall arbor vitae that begins west of a short driveway that enters the property at the rear elevation of the house. Granite curbing lines the parcel along Ryder Lane and at the façade (east elevation).

This wood-frame building comprises a two-story, five-bay-by-five-bay, side-gabled main block with a shallow hipped roof, centered gable, and entrance portico. A two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay flat-roofed addition extends west from the main block. Constructed ca. 1780 in a transitional Late Georgian/Federal style, the house retains many of its original character-defining features at the main block. The house is clad in wood shingles and trimmed with narrow corner pilasters and two-part frieze boards. The modillion block cornice surmounts a band of meander trim. The house rests on a granite block foundation and has an asphalt shingle roof. Substantial, corbelled brick chimneys rise from the north and south roof slopes. The portico, center gable, and cornice trim are Colonial Revival additions made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The portico replaced a three-bay wide porch seen in both a late 19<sup>th</sup> century and 1934 photograph of the house.

The openings at the main block comprise double-hung, twelve-over-twelve windows at the first story and eight-over-twelve windows at the second story, all with flat surrounds. The windows at the first story have splayed lintels and those at the second story touch the frieze board. A late 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph of the house shows an additional column of windows between the second-most northerly bay and the northernmost bay; these openings have been removed and shingled over. A shallow gable with a keystone-edged oculus window is centered at the façade over the open entrance portico. Fluted rectangular posts at the gabled portico, a Colonial Revival addition, support an arched spandrel. The portico shelters a four-panel wooden door framed by full-height sidelights; the original elliptical fanlight has been obscured by a spandrel. The entry fronts a three-step wooden stair and a short brick walkway ending at the sidewalk.

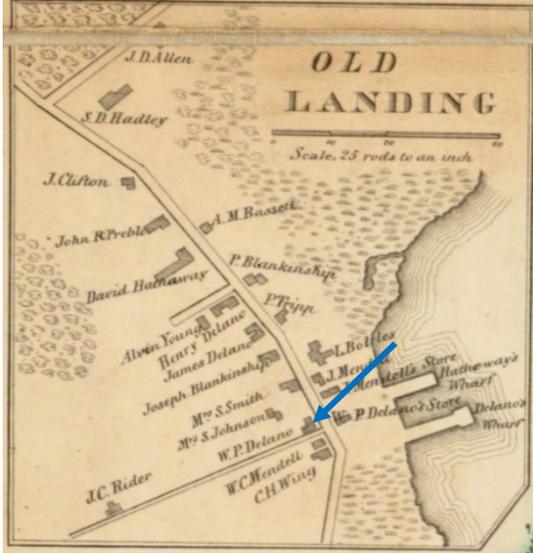
The window openings at the first story at the west elevation of the main block occupy their original positions. Windows at the second story have been modified and include a triple mullied opening at the easternmost bay. The openings at the north elevation are irregularly sized and placed and a number of them have been removed. There is a shallow shed dormer at the north roof slope.

Little of the rear (west) elevation of the main block and the flat-roofed rear addition can be seen from the street. The addition, which appears to date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, has trim matching that at the main block.

296 Front Street exemplifies a transition between the Georgian and Federal styles. The dominant style for domestic construction in the United States from 1700 to 1780, the Georgian style featured variations on a simple theme: a symmetrical, two-story, side-gabled house with a center entry and windows aligned horizontally and vertically and touching the cornice at the second story. Front doors typically had a decorative surround with an entablature and window sash had small lights (nine or twelve). Early houses had center chimneys and later ones, paired chimneys like the ones seen at the subject house. The Federal style (1780–1820) was the dominant architectural style in the United States during the early decades of the new republic. It offered a refinement of the earlier style, with elegant ornamentation (like the elliptical fanlight) and a greater sense of lightness and restraint. The full-height sidelights at the entry are a later Greek Revival feature and were likely added in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**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*



1855 Walling map of Marion.

The town of Marion was established in 1852 when it broke off from the town of Rochester. The Village of Marion, the commercial and residential center of the town, is set on the western shore of Sippican Harbor which leads into Buzzards Bay. The northern portion of the Village running along Front Street, where this house is located, has been referred to historically as Old Landing. While there are several late 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the area, most of the houses along this northern section of Front Street were built in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. With a very few exceptions, the first owners of the houses were seamen. Maritime industries were dominant in Marion until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the advent of rail service began to facilitate tourism. At the same time, new cultural and educational institutions endowed by the founder of the nearby Tabor Academy, Elizabeth P. Taber, dramatically enriched the town. With this economic shift, some of the properties on Front Street became summer residences for city dwellers. Others were acquired by Tabor Academy for use as dormitories, and several became commercial properties, including the boatyard complex on the harbor side of Front Street.

This house appears on the 1855 map with W.P. Delano shown as owner. It is shown on the 1893 map with Ann Delano as owner and on the 1903 map with W.P. Delano as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property

registered its sale in 1884 by the heirs of Ward P. Delano to Isaac N. Hathaway.

A large and prominent family in Marion, the Delanos were descendants of Philip Delano, a Huguenot who arrived at Plymouth Colony in 1621. The family shared its lineage with a number of notable Americans including Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Ward Parker Delano (1819-1867) was the son of Stephen Delano (1785-1858) and Sally Haskell (1785-1840). Ward Delano was first married to Amanda Fitzalan Delano (1819-1856) and after her death to Ann M. Delano (1828-1884). Delano was a merchant whose store was located directly across Front Street from the subject house. The store (no longer extant) served as the home for the Pythagorean Masonic Lodge, of which Ward Delano was a charter member.

Several resources suggest this house was built for Ward P. Delano in 1797, although its appearance suggests a somewhat earlier construction date. That it was built for or by Delano is more problematic, however, since he was not born until 1819. The 1884 deed given for this property by his heirs simply states that this was his homestead and makes no reference to earlier titles, suggesting that it was inherited. His farmer father, Deacon Stephen Delano (1785-1858), was only age twelve in 1797, so it is more likely that it was built by his grandfather, Captain Stephen Delano (1749-1821). The house appears on the 1879 map with Ann Delano, Ward's second wife, shown as the owner. Immediately following her death, the house and land were sold to Isaac Hathaway. The same 1879 map shows Delano's store across the street with C.H. Delano identified as the owner. Charles Henry Delano (b.1834) was Ward Delano's second cousin and apparently assumed operation of the business. The house was owned by Captain Isaac Newton Hathaway (1819-1892) and his wife Abby Hathaway (1828-1901) until Isaac's death in 1892.

The property then made its way back into the Delano family with its purchase by Ward Parker Delano [II] (1851-1915), the son of Ward P. Delano. Born and educated in Marion, he worked for a number of architects and builders and eventually found his way to the eminent Boston architecture firm of Ware & Van Brunt. In 1877 he left the firm to enter into partnership with James E. Fuller in Worcester. The firm of Fuller & Delano designed more than 20 buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, many of them in the Worcester area. Ward Delano was married to Elizabeth Holmes Sparrow of Mattapoisett. The couple had five children including Ward Parker Delano [III] (d.1940), who attended Tabor Academy and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he graduated in 1905. After working in a number of Boston and New York firms he joined his father's practice in 1908 and became a principal in 1915. The house was likely used as a summer residence by the Worcester-based family. The mortgage held on the house by Ward Delano's children was foreclosed in 1939

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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296 Front Street

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.I	MRN.124
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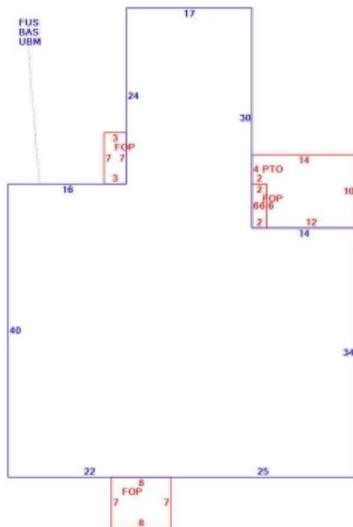
and the property was sold to Tabor Academy in 1943 for use as a dormitory. In 1985 it was purchased by Tabor faculty member Richard A. Harlow, who owned the house until it was acquired by its current owners in 2004.

### Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-26-2004	27506-2	Richard A., Jr. & Cynthia M. Harlow	Richard E. & Janet Barnes
01-22-1985	5948-2	The Tabor Academy	Richard A., Jr. & Cynthia M. Harlow
07-31-1943	1849-151	New Bedford Institution for Savings	The Tabor Academy
08-09-1939	1772-264	New Bedford Institution for Savings	New Bedford Institution for Savings
02-19-1924	1450-595	Ward Delano et al.	New Bedford Institution for Savings
06-13-1893	657-221	Abby Hathaway & Alice B. Hathaway	Ward P. Delano
12-30-1884	514-189	Heirs of Ward P. Delano	Isaac N. Hathaway

### 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.



Assessor's card plan



Delano House ca. 1890s. Photograph courtesy of Sippican Historical Society.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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296 Front Street

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Area(s) Form No.

MRN.I	MRN.124
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Delano House ca. 1900. Photograph courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.

MRN.I	MRN.124
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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 Lynn Smiledge

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

This house is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for the Old Landing Area of Marion Village. The Old Landing Area (MRN.I) is recommended as eligible for listing as a National Register District at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. Old Landing is among the oldest neighborhoods in Marion, with development dating to the 18th century. Historically a maritime community with two wharves and a boat yard near the head of Sippican Harbor, the Old Landing area is a linear development of residences extending from Tabor Academy's campus on the south to Wareham Road (Rte. 6) on the north. The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 MHC survey for the Old Landing Area (MRN.I).

**Under Criterion A**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with Marion's the maritime industry, upon which the economy of Marion depended from the 18th century to the mid-19th century. Home to two wharves and many mariners in the 19th century, the area today maintains its connection to the sea with the active operation of Burr Brothers Boatyard located on Sippican Harbor along the eastern boundary of the area.

**Under Criterion C**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level in the area of Architecture for its nearly intact collection of houses that provides a sense of the progression of architectural styles from the late 18th through the early 20th centuries. The Old Landing Area contains mostly moderate- to large-scaled, one-and-one half to two-story wood-frame dwellings on generous lots in the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne styles. Along with several high-style examples of these styles, the area also includes several earlier dwellings that pre-date the building boom that began in the second half of the 19th century.

The majority of the resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet criteria A and C at the local level, with areas of significance in social history and architecture.