

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

12-13	Marion		MRN.586
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 17 Hermitage Road

Historic Name: Eliza F. Dean House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1892

Source: Title and map research

Style/Form: Colonial Revival / Four Square

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage/workshop

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows (2022)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

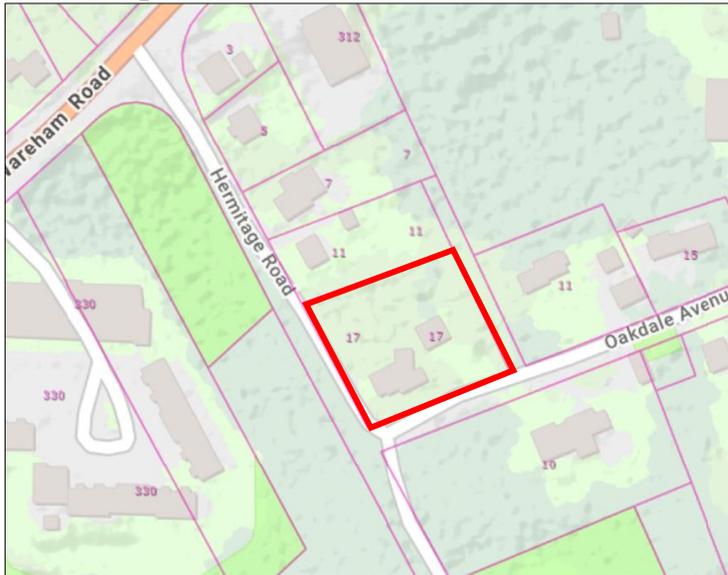
Acreage: 0.68

Setting: Moderately settled residential neighborhood on former farmland north of Sippican Harbor. Dwellings are small- to medium-scaled wood-frame houses built between 1800 and 1900. The adjacent Tremont Advent Camp and the Hermitage Estate to the south occupy wooded areas.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

17 Hermitage Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.586

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.

17 Hermitage Road occupies a nearly-rectangular parcel on the northeast corner of the intersection of Hermitage Road and Oakdale Avenue. The house is positioned in the southwest corner of the parcel and faces east. The property is maintained in lawn with clusters of shrubs and mature trees at the perimeter. A gently-curved, low brick curb spans the façade (west elevation) just in front of the open front porch. A gravel driveway enters the property from Hermitage Road along the north elevation of the house and ends at a garage apartment sited off its northeast corner.

The building is a two-story, wood-frame house comprising a three-bay-by-two-bay main block with a full-width front porch and two rear dependencies. It has a hipped roof with deep eaves and a pedimented blind dormer at the facade. The dependencies include a one-story gabled addition wrapping the southeast corner of the main block and a one-story projection along the north elevation. Constructed ca. 1892 in the American Four-Square subtype of the Colonial Revival style, it retains many of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a brick foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and carries a brick chimney at the junction of the main block and two-level rear addition.

Trim elements include narrow corner and frieze boards and a water table. Window openings at the main block are symmetrically placed and comprise double-hung, six-over-six replacement sash with narrow molded surrounds. The entry centered at the façade contains a glass-and-panel door. The full-width open porch has a shallow hipped roof; deep arched spandrels of lattice work connect the molded rectangular porch posts.

Windows at the additions include single double-hung, six-over-six and one-over-one sash. Hipped dormers with mulled, fixed, six-light sash occupy the north and south roof slopes of the gabled addition. The dormer at the north elevation overhangs the hip-roofed projection, which contains three openings comprising a centered four-panel door flanked by triple mulled windows. Openings at the south wall of the gabled addition include a semi-hexagonal bay window flanked by a window and door occupies the south elevation.

The front-gabled two-car garage/workshop off the northeast corner of the house is wood-shingled with an asphalt shingle roof.

17 Hermitage Road is a representative example of an American Four Square, a restrained subtype of the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival period in America (1880–1955) saw a resurgence of patriotism and a return to the architectural styles of the early years of the republic. Colonial Revival was the most popular style in America for private and public buildings between the World Wars. The Four Square subtype, popular from 1900 to 1930, projected an “honest” simplicity and drew on stylistic features of the Craftsman style. Built with a square plan, these houses were typically two- or two-and-one-half stories with a hipped roof, center dormer, large front porch, and relative lack of ornamentation.

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.



1903 map.

This house is located on Hermitage Road, so named because it leads to "The Hermitage" at 34 Hermitage Road (ca. 1780, Turner-Delano House, MRN.38), a large estate located on Little Neck at the northernmost end of Sippican Harbor. The house appears on the 1903 map with C.C. Deane shown as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale for \$100 of a parcel of undeveloped land to Eliza Dean by Leander Cowing (var. Cowen, Cowing) in 1891.

Leander C. Cowing (1829-1895) was born in Marion, the son of Richard Cowing (1873-1851) and Sarah E. Bradford (1790-1834). He was first married to Matilda C. Butler (1834-1882) and after her death to Alice Louisa Ryerson (1849-1941). Cowing was a mason according to census records and owned a house and land northwest of this property as seen on the 1855 map. Eliza Dean (1844-1934) was born Eliza Freelove Allen, the daughter of Charles Cole Allen (1809-1884) and Phoebe Macomber Shaw (1814-1897). Eliza was married in Marion 1863 to Caleb C. Dean (1831-1906), the son of Joshua White Dean (1800-1888) and Mary Cushing (1802-1877). Dean worked variously as a mill worker and fisherman. It is probable that this Four Square-style house was built by the Deans shortly after purchasing the land from Cowing in 1891.

Eliza Dean conveyed this house to her daughter Adie Dean Morse in 1931. Adie Allen Dean (b.1872), who was married to carpenter Arthur Jennison Morse (1872-1939), owned the property until 1960. It was purchased in 1964 by Miriam G. Fisher (1909-2011). A longtime resident of Marion, Miriam Fisher was the daughter of Elmer Graham and Maude Miriam Kistler. Born in Berkley, she graduated from Taunton High School and Boston University and served for more than 30 years as the Principal Clerk of the 4th District Court of Plymouth County. The house was conveyed to her son Kenneth R.G. Fisher of Providence, Rhode Island after her death. It was purchased by the current owner in 2021.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-28-2021	54382-172	Kenneth R.G. Fisher	Lorrie A. Morton
05-18-2010	38600-43	Miriam G. Fisher	Kenneth R.G. Fisher
05-18-2010	38599-307	Katherine T. Lantz, Trustee	Miriam G. Fisher
07-09-2001	20314-319	Miriam G. Fisher	Katherine T. Lantz, Trustee
07-27-1964	3128-171	Joseph T. & Elizabeth D. Carson	Miriam G. Fisher
04-16-1962	2928-104	Richard O. Carson	Joseph T. & Elizabeth D. Carson
09-02-1960	2805-124	Adie A. Morse	Richard O. Carson
11-17-1931	1623-88	Eliza F. Dean	Adie A. Morse
06-15-1891	627-271	Leander C. & Alice S. Cowing	Eliza F. Dean

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.
 Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.

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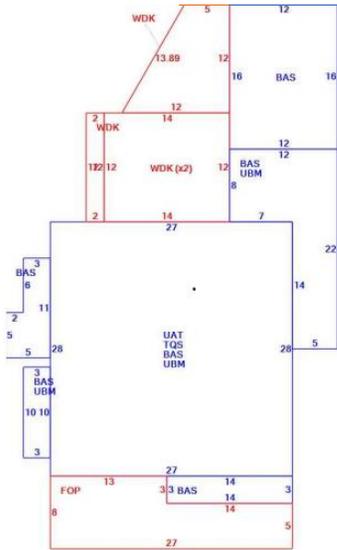
Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

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