



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

7-9 COTTAGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.  
N, Z

MRN.181,  
392

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

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

An exuberant example of the Queen Anne style, the Rice-Peterson House, 9 Cottage Street, was built by 1903 but likely built shortly after its initial occupant acquired the property in 1896. It is a two-and-a-half-story pile that rises to a steep, complex hipped roof. A three-story octagonal tower expands the left-front corner, and a broad gabled bay expands the front pile on the right. The façade is filled by an elaborate, open, full-width porch that expands into a second-level covered balcony on the right while a projecting canted pavilion balances the taller tower at the other end of the facade. The house is substantially expanded to the rear under a high gable formed by an extension of the main hip; on the right is a cornice-height canted bay and on the left a larger gabled bay is centered on that side elevation. The overall dimensions of the main body are 25 feet wide by 36 feet deep. The broad forward-right bay is 16 feet wide and projects 5 feet from that side elevation. Aerial views suggest a smaller, single-story, shed roofed ell was added to the rear elevation during the 20<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

The house appears to retain considerable original building fabric, including wood clapboards stopped by plain trim, deeply projecting boxed cornices, molded rake boards and molded window hoods at the top of the tower. The porch is supported by bracketed posts and a spindle-work freeze. The cornice extends across the right bay to enclose the right-facing gable. Character-defining features of the Queen Ann style include the picturesque silhouette, porch trim, elaborate brick chimney, and contrasting decorative stepped and shaped shingle work in the right-facing gable. The building's generous footprint and chimney location centered on the front-right quadrant suggests it has a complex plan of large, interlocking spaces that project outward into the numerous bays and that a large stair hall in the front-right corner is heated by a separate fireplace.

This house appears to retain a large, elaborate carriage house under a side gable with knee-wall massing, a prominent façade gable and a large decorative hipped vent centered on the ridge. Aerial images suggest this building recently underwent a renovation and expansion to the rear. Although the openings in the façade have been changed to accommodate a domestic door and windows, the siding, trim, molded boxed cornice that harmonizes with the main house, and a turned drop finial survive. A commercial sign in the front garden suggests it is currently in commercial use.

A second distinctive two-story, side gabled outbuilding is located behind the carriage house. This wide, shallow building does not seem to conform to any outbuilding typology and a regular pattern of fenestration suggests domestic use. Its appearance suggests it may have begun life as a henhouse or accommodation for other animals; this use is confirmed by the property's history below. It may be one of the smaller outbuildings depicted on the Sanborn atlases of 1921 and 33, which also depict the expansion of the carriage house.

This complex of buildings is arrayed on two lots, suggesting they are currently in separate ownership. The main house's moderate setback matches the surrounding streetscape. Landscaping includes open lawn, foundation and specimen plantings consistent with the neighborhood's park-like appearance.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

A history of ownership has been traced to 1896, when Alger W. Rice acquired a residential lot with 117' of frontage on the north side of Cottage Street abutting the Music Hall to the east with an irregular depth extending approximately 300 feet at its maximum from Andrew J. Hadley. Rice (1855-1914) was a prominent local physician in general practice. By 1900 census returns placed him and his wife Emma J. (Sweet, 1855-1931), father Isaac D. (born ca. 1829), and two boarders and two servants, all female. There is no record of any children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PCRD 732:15 (1896); Ancestry.com: 1900 Federal Census.

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According to his obituary Rice was a native of Orange, Vermont, educated at Hanover Medical College and the University of New York (1880), and “one of the best known breeders of Russian wolf-hounds.” In addition to being an active Mason, Rice was a “pigeon fancier and...usually received blue ribbons in the many shows in which he entered them. He was a member of the Southern Massachusetts Poultry and Pigeon Association.” According to probate records, in addition to real estate and personal property valued at \$8,058, he left his widow “1/2 interest in 12 wolf hounds, 50 pigeons, 50 hens” valued at a total of \$105. All of this suggests the original use for the detached outbuilding that survives at the right-rear corner of the property.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1921 and 1979 the property was owned by two generations of the Petersen family. In 1921 it was acquired by Viggo V. Petersen from Emma J. Rice. Viggo Valdemar Petersen (1869-1941) was a native of Bornholm, Denmark, and worked as a chef before entering the ice cream manufacturing business during the final 20 years of his life. According to SHS records he worked for Harry E. Converse before operating an ice cream parlor out of the carriage house during the 1930s. He was an active Mason. In 1940 the household included Petersen, his wife Gertina K. (born ca. 1878), a lodger, and a guest. A 1942 account indicates the parlor was closed during World War II by his son Viggo C. Petersen when he enlisted in the US Army Medical Corps. The current owner has held the property since 1979.<sup>3</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1855 H.F. Walling, *Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*

1879 Geo H Walker & Co, *Atlas of Plymouth County Massachusetts*.

1903 L. J. Richards & Co, *New Topographic Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County ... Massachusetts*

1908, 1921, 1933 Sanborn Insurance Atlases.

Ancestry.com: see footnotes

Digital collections of the Sippican Historical Society

Gordon, Edward W. “MRN.N – Wharf Village,” Massachusetts Historical Commission Area Inventory Form. For the Sippican Historical Society, March, 1998.

Leonard, Mary Hall. *Mattapoisett and Old Rochester, Massachusetts*. New York, NY: The Grafton Press, 1907.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds (PCRD): see footnotes, book:page, date signed/date recorded if notably different, otherwise only date recorded

<sup>2</sup> SHS clipping, undated (obituary); Ancestry.com: Alger William Rice probate records:

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9069/images/007239811\\_00149?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=5829196](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9069/images/007239811_00149?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=5829196)

<sup>3</sup> PCRD 1916:572 (1946); 3770:54 (1972); 4648:407 (1979); more recent deeds record various conveyances among trusts owned by current owners. Ancestry.com: 1930, 1940 Federal Census; SHS clipping file, Jun. 17, 1941.

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Assessor's image.

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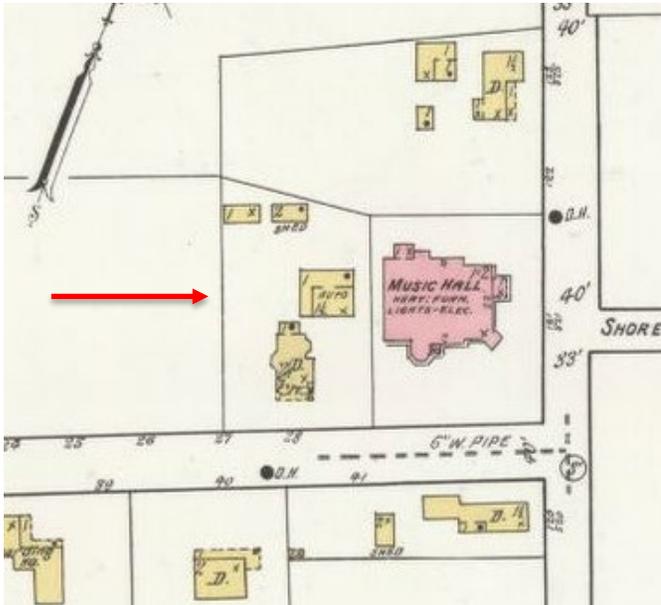
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Sanborn 1921 detail of plate 2.



Sanborn 1933 detail of plate 3.

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 Rice Peterson House and carriage house at 7-9 Cottage Street is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for Marion Village. Known variously as Sippican, Wharf Village, and Lower Village, Marion’s center is an exceptionally well-preserved harbor village including an important array of public buildings, stores and workplaces, and dwellings dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The village constitutes a small, dense grid along two early and principal streets, Main Street running east-west and Front Street running north-south. Other east-west (Cottage, Hiller, and South) and north-south (Spring, Pleasant, School) streets were added as the village grew. The proposed district includes typical public buildings, including churches and schools, as well as a group of exceptional gifts to the town from Elizabeth Taber. The concentration of early dwellings on Main Street is exceptional. Front Street is one of Marion’s commercial zones, with shops and other businesses serving the community; some resources from the village’s maritime history survive as well, there and on Hiller and off Main. Dwellings here present fine examples of regionally popular forms including Capes, ell houses, end houses, and picturesque cottages, with a handful of later dwellings interspersed. The comparatively small scale of the buildings and lots, as well as the uniform treatment of wood shingles and clapboards, combine to create an extraordinary historic landscape deserving of greater recognition and continued preservation.

The potential district’s boundaries are those of the surveyed areas covered during 2020/22, for the Barden-Hiller (MRN.Y), Cottage Street (MRN.Z), Main Street (MRN.AA), South Street MRN.AB), and Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC) areas. To these areas should be added the town’s public buildings (Town Hall and Library and Natural History Museum (MRN.59 and 60) at 2 and 8 Spring Street as well as their neighbors and might extend further up and down Front Street.

Most 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 and possibly at the state level, with areas of significance in architecture, community planning and development, maritime history, and social history.