

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5A-108

Marion

MRN.18

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 343 Delano Road

Historic Name: Benjamin Delano [Sr.] House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Possibly ca. 1775

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Colonial Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Solarium bay at ell (20th c.)

North addition (late 20th century)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 3.19

Setting: Moderately settled residential neighborhood bordering the western shore of the Weweantic River on the Great Neck peninsula. Dotted with scattered farms in the early 19th century and developed rapidly in the late 19th–early 20th centuries with summer residences. Area is heavily wooded with moderate-to-large sized houses on large lots.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): October 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

343 Delano Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.18

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.

343 Delano Road occupies a large trapezoidal lot on the west side of Delano Road across from the Brainard Marsh. The house is roughly centered on the parcel with its façade facing south and is deeply set back from the road. The dwelling fronts a row of granite fence posts and is surrounded by lawn heavily dotted with shrubs and clumps of mature trees. Overgrown foundation plantings border the south and east elevations of the dwelling. The large parcel is otherwise densely vegetated and punctuated with numerous rock outcroppings. The property rises in grade from east to west and the house and attached additions are bank built. A tall side-by-side fence lines the southern property line. A U-shaped gravel driveway enters and exits the property from Delano Road; parking spurs extend from the driveway at the north and south elevations of the house. A low drystone wall lines the property along Delano Road.

This wood-frame house is among the earliest structures in this part of Marion. It comprises a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, five-bay-by-two-bay main block with two dependencies. Constructed ca. 1775 in the full Cape form, the main block is among Marion's earliest dwellings and along with its dependencies, resembles a traditional New England connected farm house. The main block appears to retain all of its original character-defining features. The dependencies include an early one-story ell at the east elevation and a contemporary, two-story, T-shaped addition at the rear (north) elevation of the ell. The house rises from a high fieldstone foundation. The walls are clad in weathered wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A short brick chimney (replacing the original) is centered on the roof ridge at the main block in alignment with the entry. Tall brick chimneys rise from near the eastern edge of the roof ridge at the ell and the west roof slope of the rear addition.

Trim elements at the main block and ell include narrow corner and frieze boards. The windows at the first story at the main block are double-hung twelve-over-twelve sash with flat surrounds and splayed lintels. Second story openings at the gable ends include six-over-six windows and small four-light eave closet windows. The centered entry at the façade contains a five-panel wood door framed by a narrow flat surround and a six-light transom that touches the cornice. The door has a brick threshold and fronts a large, irregular fieldstone step and a stone pathway that ends at two granite fence posts.

The ell is set back from the façade of the main block and aligns along its rear (north) elevation. A boxed bay solarium at the south elevation contains full-height glazing and an angled glazed roof. This opening replaced a vertical slat door and a small nine-light window seen in an early 20th century photograph of the house. (See image below.) A nine-over-nine window occupies the east elevation at the first story and an entry with a vertical slat door occupies the basement level. A fieldstone retaining wall extends south from the southeast corner of the house.

The T-shaped contemporary addition comprises a one-story gabled unit (the shaft) extending from the rear wall of the ell and a cross-gabled, two-story unit (the cap) at the north end. Its modern fenestration includes oversized elliptical lights at the gable peaks at the two-story, barn-like unit. Sliding doors at the west gable end open to a full-width wooden deck.

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-19th century. The full Cape design was one of the later iterations of the house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this well-preserved house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, center chimney, and corner boards. The twelve-over-twelve windows and the simple door surround with its shallow six-light transom are identified with the Georgian (1725–1780) period, lending support to an 18th century construction date.

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.



This house is located in East Marion on Delano Road, which takes its name from the early settlers and landowners in this eastern part of the town. The road branches off from Wareham Street (U.S. Route 6) which runs southeast parallel to the western bank of the Weweantic River. It then connects with Point Road (formerly called Great Neck Road) and loops back to its starting point at Wareham Street. The 1903 map shows this area as sparsely settled with most dwellings found close to either the river bank or the eastern shore of Sippican Harbor.

The subject house appears on the 1855 map with Benj. Delano shown as the owner. The owner is shown as the estate of E. Delano on the 1879 map and Mrs. I.D. Briggs on the 1903 map. The earliest recorded conveyance found for the property was a 1956 deed given by the heirs of Edwin N. Briggs, the son of Isaac D. Briggs, to their sister, Rhoda A. Briggs. It is reasonable to assume that the property passed from Isaac Briggs to his son without a recorded deed. Title research found no deed conveying the property to Isaac Briggs.

1903 map.

The 1998 MHC Building Form B for this property states that it was owned by the Benjamin Briggs family through the 19th and into the early 20th centuries. However, examination of the historic maps of Marion makes it clear that the property was first owned by the Delano family and then later by Isaac Briggs. Benjamin Delano (1788-1869) was born in Rochester, the son of Capt. Stephen Delano (1749-1821), a mariner, and Lydia Clapp Delano (1756-1837). His parents were married in 1775 and given the apparent age of this Cape form dwelling, it seems likely that it was built by them around the time of their marriage. The property may first have been conveyed to the couple's oldest son, Stephen Delano, Jr. (1785-1858), and then to the second son Benjamin Delano [Jr.], whose name appears as owner on the 1855 map. Benjamin Delano was first married in 1812 to Sally Blankinship (1788-1814) and later in 1824 to Thankful Wing (1803-1876). According to the census of 1860 Delano was a master farmer.

Benjamin Delano and his wives Sally and Thankful had seven children, including Eliza Wing Delano (1825-1886), who was married to Henry Dow Allen, and Cynthia Dexter Delano, who was married to Joseph W. Briggs. The widowed Thankful Delano devised the property to her daughter Eliza Delano Allen and her other children. E. [Eliza] Delano appeared as owner of the property on the 1879 map. In that same year the various properties owned by Benjamin Delano were consolidated and conveyed to Isaac D. Briggs by Eliza Delano's husband, Henry Allen. Isaac Briggs was the brother of Joseph Briggs, the husband of Cynthia Dexter Delano.

Isaac Delano Briggs (1840-1901) was the son of Elnathan Briggs (1808-1896) and Rhoda Delano Allen. He was a farm laborer/farmer according to the censuses of 1860 through 1880. He was married in 1873 to Marietta Nye Cahoon (1843-1918). The property passed from Isaac Briggs to his son Edwin N. Briggs (b.1876) without a recorded deed. In 1956 the heirs of Edwin Briggs conveyed the property to his sister Rhoda Briggs (1881-1958), whose estate sold the house and land to Alfred E. and Yvonne V. Beauchemin in 1960.

In 1986 the house was purchased by Hilbert Schneck (1926-2013) and his wife Anne. Hilbert Schneck taught engineering at the University of Rhode Island and authored several engineering textbooks. He was also a noted science fiction writer and won several Hugo and Nebula awards for science fiction and fantasy writing.

The subject property was conveyed to the current owner in 2015.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

343 Delano Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

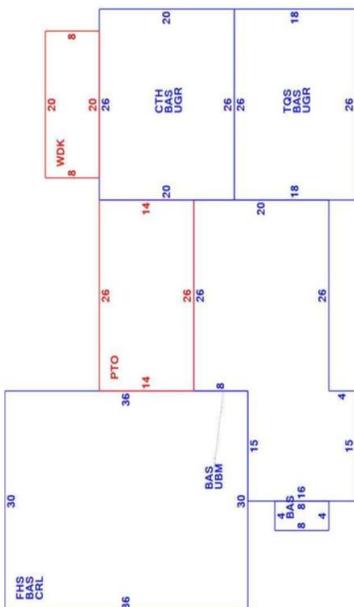
MRN.18

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
04-03-2015	(121682)	David B. Titus, Trustee	Cutty Texas LLC
11-05-2014	(121288)	Anne T. Schneck	David B. Titus, Trustee
02-25-1986	(72933)	Rand. P. Jones, Jr.	Hilbert Van Nydeck & Anne T. Schneck
06-22-1979	(62363)	Alfred E. & Yvonne V. Beauchemin	Rand P. & Caroline A. Jones
03-01-1962	(31859)	Land Court Decree	Alfred E. & Yvonne V. Beauchemin
09-28-1960	2806-78	Estate of Rhoda A. Briggs	Alfred E. & Yvonne V. Beauchemin
12-04-1956	2806-77	Elsie Beale, Dorothy M. Cleveland, Elizabeth Nelson, Ernest W. Briggs, Clement H. Briggs, and Edwin L. Briggs, heirs at law of Edwin N. Briggs, son of Isaac D. Briggs	Rhoda A. Briggs

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.
 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



South (facade) and east elevations. Main block (left) and ell (right).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

343 Delano Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	MRN.18
--	--------



South (facade) and east elevations. Main block (left) and ell (right).



West and south elevations. T-shaped addition (left) and main block (right).



Early 20th century photograph labeled Isaac D. Briggs, Delano Road, Marion, Mass. Image courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.