

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-8	Marion		MRN.17
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 272 Delano Road

Historic Name: Thomas R. Miles House / Weweantic Inn

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Late 19th/early 20th century

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Shingle Style / Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Granite / Wood Shingle

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage / boathouse (1987)

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): October 2023

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes Possibly **Date:** Ca. 1912

Acreage: 1.57

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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

272 Delano Road

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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.

272 Delano Road occupies a polygonal lot on the east side of Delano Road that stretches to the western shore of the Weweantic River. The house is deeply set back from the road near the east-west center of the parcel and faces south with its west elevation facing the street and its east elevation spanned by a two-story porch overlooking the mouth of the river. The property is maintained in manicured lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees at the perimeter. A paved tennis court occupies the lawn west of the house. An asphalt-paved driveway enters the property at the southwest corner of the parcel, runs along the southern property line, and turns north along the façade (east elevation) of the house. A dock extends into the river from the southeast corner of the property. A mortared fieldstone wall bordering the parcel along Delano Road is marked by distinctive granite-capped fieldstone gateposts.

The building is a wood-frame house with a rectangular plan comprising a two-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-three-bay main block with a cross-gabled roof, and a three-story, two-bay-by-two-bay north ell that aligns with the main block along the west elevation. Likely constructed in the late 19th century and moved to the site, it contains elements of both the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles and retains many of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a granite foundation that extends to the second story of the house; the upper stories are clad in wood shingles and slightly over hang the first story. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and carries a narrow brick chimney at the east roof slope of the ell at its intersection with the main block.

Trim elements at the house include eave returns, frieze boards, narrow band courses, and a deep molded cornice ornamented with a decorative row of shingles at the cross gables. Openings at the façade (south elevation) are asymmetrically placed and comprise six-over-two windows at the second story, a small multi-light window at the attic story, and an entrance unit at the first story. The entrance contains a centered glass-and-panel door flanked by mullied one-over-one windows set within a wood-shingled panel articulated with trim; it is possible that this opening may represent an earlier stable or carriage door. The window and door openings have flat surrounds. The center window at the second story at the façade is accented by a molded, pedimented lintel. A deep band of wood shingles gently flares over the first story, sheltering the entrance. The door fronts a multi-colored slate terrace with a rubble stone curb and a brick walkway that leads to the driveway. Fenestration at the west elevation of the main block and ell includes six-over-two windows with molded surrounds and blinds, a Palladian window at the cross gable peak, and a single glass-and-panel door that faces a columnar rubblestone birdbath on the lawn.

The flat-roofed, two-story open porch spanning the east elevation has narrow rectangular posts and slat work railings at the second level. The windows at this elevation and at the ell comprise a mixture of single one-over-one sash, tripartite picture windows, and sliding glass doors, all with flat surrounds. A single entry at the south bay fronts a slate terrace that spans the main block and ell. The terrace is partially enclosed by a slat work railing and steps down to a brick walkway that joins the driveway.

A one-story, wood-shingled, garage/boathouse is sited off the northwest corner of the house. L-shaped and comprising two hip-roofed blocks, it is trimmed with corner boards and has multi-light sash. A large two-leaf door at the south wall fronts a concrete extension of the driveway.

272 Delano Road has stylistic features of both the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. The Colonial Revival period in America (1880–1955) saw a return to the architectural styles of the early years of the republic and combined the classical architectural elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods. The characteristic Colonial Revival features of this house include the symmetry of the main block, the Palladian window, and the pedimented window lintel. The Shingle Style is a uniquely American form which was introduced in the northeastern United States in the last quarter of the 19th century and reached its

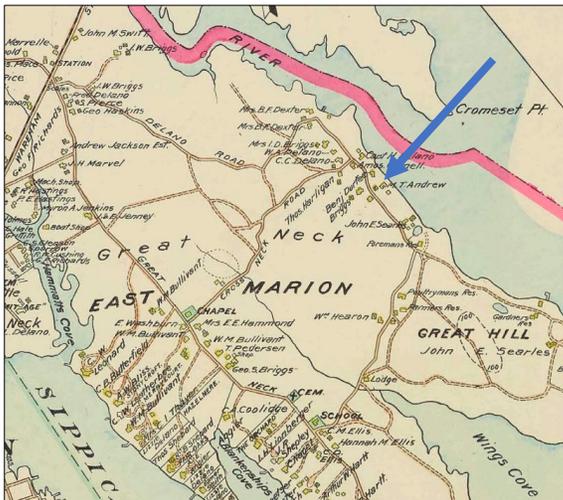
zenith of expression in New England seaside resorts and country estates. It was a high-fashion style favored by architects and was primarily employed from 1880 to 1900. The focus of the style was on a surface of continuous shingles on the roof and walls which created patterns of light and shadow. The flared shingles at the façade (south elevation), the deep eaves, and the extensive use of granite are characteristic of the Shingle Style.

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) and runs southeast parallel to the western bank of the Weweantic River. It then connects with Point Road (formerly called Great Neck Road), which 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.

A house appears on the 1855 and 1879 maps in the location of the current structure with T.R. (Thomas Richmond) Miles shown as the owner. On the 1903 map the owner is W. [William] T. Andrews. The earliest conveyance found for the property was from Thomas Miles to his wife Cynthia O. Miles in 1878. Thomas Miles had previously acquired several parcels of land from the Delanos, the early landowners in this part of Marion.



1903 map.

states that he was the cashier [treasurer] of the Wareham Bank for 52 years and that he died at his home in Marion.¹ His son Edward Thurston Miles (1832-1875) was married in Wareham in 1854 to Cynthia O. Besse. In 1877 Thomas R. Miles conveyed the subject property to his daughter-in-law, who lived with her husband in Philadelphia. The following year Cynthia Miles conveyed the property back to her father-in-law, who immediately sold it to Melvin T. Andrew.

Melvin Andrew (1850-1933) of Wareham was married in 1883 to Clarissa Ann Haskins Bumpus (1864-1922). Their marriage registration reported that Andrews was a yeoman and Clarissa Bumpus was a domestic servant. The 1900 census recorded his occupation as day laborer. By 1910 it appears that Clarissa and Melvin were separated and living apart.

In 1911 Clarissa Andrews sold the property to Emma H. Sommer. Emma Heiswood Sommer (1860-1916), who was born in Ireland, married German emigre John Jacob Sommer (1857-1935) in Attleboro in 1883. The couple lived in Brooklyn, New York after their marriage and by 1910 had moved to Attleboro. John Sommer worked for jewelry makers in both locations. It is

Title research and historic maps confirm that there was a building on this site at least as far back as 1855. However, the current house on the property appears to date to the late 19th or early 20th century. A 1911 deed from Clarissa Andrews to Emma Sommer specifies that the grantor (Andrews) “reserves the buildings on the property to be removed.” [It appears that earlier buildings on the property were in fact removed.] The 1998 MHC Building Form B for the property states that the dwelling may have been an outbuilding moved to the site from the Marion House Hotel [later called the Great Hill Hotel] located on Delano Road to the southeast. The form also suggests that the high granite first story walls suggest that it was likely a stable, barn or storage facility. The Great Hill Hotel, which operated from the 1860s through the 1870s, is seen on the 1879 map with a stable on the property. This scenario seems likely given the timing of the demolition of the hotel in 1909, the unusual granite first-story walls of the subject building, and the U-shaped footprint of the building on the 1903 map versus the current building’s square plan.

Thomas Richmond Miles (1806-1885) of Newport, Rhode Island was married in 1831 to Marthy Lyndon Shaw (1814-1885). A notice of his death in 1885

¹ “Cashier Fifty-two years,” *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. March 13, 1885.

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assumed that the Sommers used the subject property as a summer residence. The Sommer family heirs sold the property to Charles A. Maxfield in 1920.

Charles Albert Maxfield (1870-1939) of Fairhaven married Bertha Harriet Tirrell (1875-1929) of Weymouth in 1895. Charles Maxfield was a master plumber and operated a plumbing business in New Bedford established by his father. Bertha Maxfield worked as a teacher in a one-room school house until the birth of the couple's first child. The Maxfields lived in Fairhaven but after 1913 began spending summers in Marion. In 1920 they purchased the subject property, which they operated in the 1940s as the Weweantic Inn (see photo below).² The Maxfield family owned the property until 1946.

The property was sold to Robert F. Muse (1920-2012) and Mary B. Muse (1920-2015) of Brookline in 1955. Both Robert Muse and his wife were lawyers and World War II veterans, serving in the Marines as a fighter pilot and in the Navy, respectively. Mary Muse was an advocate for women in the legal profession and culminated her career as a justice of the Suffolk County Probate and Family Court.³ The property remains in Muse family ownership.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
07-15-1962	2947-26	Herbert D. Berkson	Mary B. Muse
07-15-1962	2947-24	Robert F. & Mary B. Muse	Herbert D. Berkson
03-01-1955	2410-471	Alice M. Heffern	Robert F. & Mary B. Muse
08-29-1946	1937-138	Doris Maxfield, Jean H Maxfield, & Thais B. Novak, heirs at law of Charles A. Maxfield	Alice M. Heffern
01-12-1920	1398-100	John J. Sommer & Ruth M. Stewart devisees of Emma H. Sommer	Charles A. Maxfield
01-21-1911	1074-57	Clarissa A. Andrews	Emma H. Sommer
01-25-1906	935-433	Nancy W. Humphrey	Clarissa A. Andrew
01-24-1906	935-43	Melvin T. Andrew	Nancy W. Humphrey
10-03-1878	442-196	Thomas R. Miles	Melvin T. Andrews
09-19-1878	442-197	Cynthia O. Miles	Thomas R. Miles
05-01-1877	432-61	Thomas R. Miles	Cynthia O. Miles

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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
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 Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.

² "Descendants of John Maxfield of Salisbury, Massachusetts Eighth Generation" @<http://maxfieldgenealogy.com/maxfieldjs8044.html>.

³ Honorable Mary Beatty Muse obituary @<https://www.lehmanreen.com/obituary/HonorableMary-Muse>.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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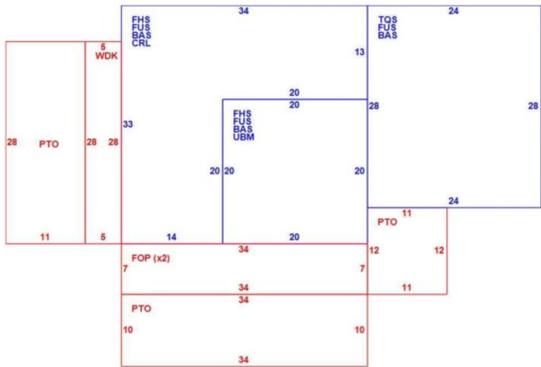
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Assessor card plan



Weweantic Inn ca. 1940. Photograph courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.