

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-11	Marion		MRN.615
------	--------	--	---------

**Town/City:** Marion  
**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): East Marion

**Address:** 325 Delano Road

**Historic Name:** William A. Delano House

**Uses:** Present: Residential  
Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Source:** Visual analysis

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

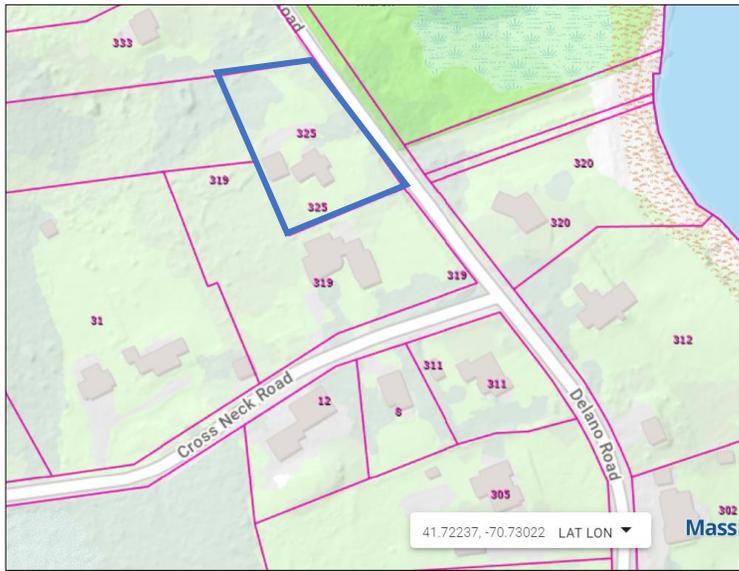
**Exterior Material:**  
Foundation: Fieldstone  
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood  
Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Replacement windows  
West addition & garage attachment

**Condition:** Good  
**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.73

**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 19<sup>th</sup> century and developed rapidly in the late 19<sup>th</sup>–early 20<sup>th</sup> 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

325 Delano Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	MRN.615
--	---------

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.*

**325 Delano Road** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the west side of Delano Road. The house is deeply set back from the street in the southern half of the parcel and faces east. The dwelling fronts an expansive lawn bordered by mature trees and thick vegetation at the perimeter. Low foundation plantings line the façade (east elevation) and a tall hedge extends south from the southeast corner of the house. A low drystone wall borders the property along Delano Road. A gravel driveway enters the property from Delano Road at the midpoint of the parcel and runs along the north elevation of the house to end at an attached garage of the northwest corner of the dwelling.

This wood-frame building comprises a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, five-bay-by-two-bay main block with an off-center cross gable, a large rear addition, and an attached garage. Constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the house reflects no particular style but has pleasing architectural features. The house rests on a fieldstone foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. An eave-wall brick chimney with a massive base located at the junction of the cross gable and the north bay dominates the façade. A second chimney rises just above the eave-wall chimney at the east roof slope.

Trim elements include a boxed cornice, deep eaves, narrow corner boards, and frieze boards. A three-bay shed dormer occupies the east roof slope at the bay south of the cross gable, and a three-bay, shed-roofed wall dormer occupies the bay north of the cross gable. The openings flanking the cross gable at the first story at the façade include a single window at the north bay, and an entry and full-height, twelve-light, glazed panels at the south bay. The glazing at the south bay continues along the full-width of the south elevation. The entry contains a glass-and-panel door and has a narrow flat surround capped with an architrave. Fenestration at the cross gable comprises double-hung, one-over-one windows with flat surrounds, shallow architraves, and narrow blinds. Single six-over-six windows occupy the cross gable peak as well as the gable peaks at the side elevations.

The rear addition is comprised of two units – a shallow, one-story, hip-roofed block spanning the north bay of the main block, and a one-and-one-half-story gabled block at its west wall. The hip-roofed block, which appears to be of relatively early construction, has a six-over-six window at the north wall. The gabled block has contemporary fenestration and was recently attached to the garage by a hyphen. The one-story, shed-roofed, three-car garage is seen on the assessor's map as a freestanding structure. It has an entry and a window at the east elevation and three garage openings with paneled overhead doors at the north elevation. The doors are sheltered by a deep roof overhang.

325 Delano Road does not strongly project a particular architectural style but has features of the Craftsman style including the massive eave-wall chimney, weathered shingles, deep eaves, and shed dormers.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

325 Delano Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

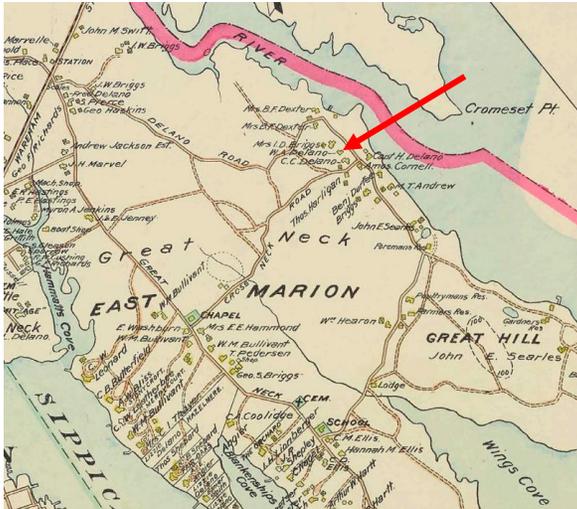
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	MRN.615
--	---------

## 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 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.

This house appears on the 1903 map with W.A. [William Augustus] Delano shown as the owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the house was its sale in 1919 by William A. Delano to C.S. [Charles Snelling] Delano.

William Augustus Delano was born in 1855, the son of Isaac F. Delano and Mary Polly Briggs. He was married in 1882 to Alice Aurilla Briggs (b.1862). The 1910 and 1920 censuses report William Delano's occupation as a house carpenter. It is probable that he built this house along with another virtually identical house at 311 Delano Road (early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Amos Cornell House, MRN.612).

The house was purchased in 1919 by C. Snelling Robinson of Youngstown, Ohio. C.[Charles] Snelling Robinson (1864-1945) was born in Boston and was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was married to Viola Belle Salter (1867-1951) in 1887 in Joliet, Illinois, where he worked as an executive chemist for the Joliet Steel Company. He was later employed by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, for which he served as a vice president for 39 years. The couple's principal residence was in Youngstown. The Robinsons owned the nearby properties at 311 Delano Road (late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Amos Cornell House, MRN.612) and 312 Delano Road (ca. 1774, Harper Delano [I], MRN.613) for many years. Charles Robinson conveyed the property to his daughter Katherine Warren Robinson (1901-1993) and her husband Millar Brainard, Sr. (1894-1953) in 1928. Millar Brainard was a vice president of the First National Bank of Boston and later worked as a financial consultant.<sup>1</sup> In 1949 the couple sold the property to Doris E. Clemmey of Mansfield, who owned it for 10 years before it returned to the Brainard family when it was purchased by Edward C. Brainard II and his wife Elizabeth. Brainard was the president and founder of Braincom, a manufacturer of oceanographic systems for marine research, which was later acquired by General Time Corporation.

The property was purchased in 1971 by Neale and Janice K. Birdsall. At the time of his retirement in 1992, Neil Birdsall was the Director of Alumni and Development at Tabor Academy. He was a graduate of that school and Lehigh University. He was an avid boater and an accomplished builder and restorer of ship models, including a replica of the *Mary Celeste* which he donated to the Sippican Historical Society.<sup>2</sup> He and Janice Birdsall owned this house for more than 40 years. It was purchased by the current owners in 2014.

## Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
07-25-2014	(120732)	Neale & Janice K. Birdsall	Jessica & Colleen Pratt
01-27-2012	41099-340	Neale & Janice K. Birdsall	Neale & Janice K. Birdsall
07-07-1971	3688-348	Elizabeth H. & Edward C. II Brainard	Neale & Janice K. Birdsall

<sup>1</sup> "Millar Brainard Dies, Was Financial Consultant," *The Newport Mercury*, Newport, RI, June 12, 1953.

<sup>2</sup> "Giving shape to a legend," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, November 30, 2003

