

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

12-28	Marion		MRN.38
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**Town/City:** Marion  
**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Little Neck

**Address:** 34 Hermitage Road

**Historic Name:** Angier Cottage / The Hermitage

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

**Date of Construction:** 1920s

**Source:** Town records, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

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

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Garage (1988)  
East complex: Barn (19<sup>th</sup> c.), maid's cottage (19<sup>th</sup> c.), residence (1978), garage/apartment (1990)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
East & west additions (3) (20<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Dormers (20<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Replacement windows (2015)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 69.44

**Setting:** Isolated complex of buildings on an extensive privately-owned tract at Little Neck Point. The property includes dense woods, broad lawns, marshland, and beaches.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge  
**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission  
**Date** (*month/year*): November 2023

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

34 Hermitage 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.*

**34 Hermitage Road** occupies a 70-acre lot encompassing the entire point of Little Neck peninsula between Hammett's Cove on the east and Sippican Harbor on the west. The house is deeply set back from the shoreline near the center of the parcel and faces south overlooking a broad expanse of lawn and the harbor beyond. The northern half of the property is heavily wooded. The southeastern portion of the parcel surrounding the complex of buildings on the site is cleared and maintained in lawn dotted with clusters of trees. The perimeter of the parcel transitions to marshland and gravel beaches. A large dock extends into Hammett's Cove at the southeast corner of the property. Hermitage Road enters the property at the northern property line and forks near the center of the parcel to serve the subject house and a freestanding garage to the west, and a complex of buildings to the east.

The dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, five-bay-by-three-bay main block with three dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story west ell, a one-and-one-half-story block at the west wall of the west ell, and a one-story block at the northeast corner of the main block. The Cape-form main block was constructed in the 1920s in the Colonial Revival style and retains many original character-defining features. The dwelling rises from a concrete block foundation. The walls are clad in weathered wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A substantial modern brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge at the main block in alignment with the entry. A narrow brick chimney rises at the east end of the roof ridge at the west block.

Trim elements at the main block comprise narrow corner and frieze boards and a water table. The windows are double-hung six-over-six replacement sash with flat surrounds and paneled blinds. The windows touch the frieze board at the façade (south elevation). The enclosed one-bay-by-one-bay entry portico has a segmental arched roof and contains a six-panel door flanked by paired, fluted pilasters capped with rosette bosses. The door fronts a semi-circular brick stoop and the lawn. Three narrow gabled dormers occupy the south roof slope and a large gabled dormer occupies the north roof slope.

The one-story west ell, an extension of the main block which sits flush with the facade, contains a bank of full-height sliding glass doors. The doors open to a concrete terrace partly enclosed on the west side by a curved brick retaining wall. The one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled west block sits proud of the west ell. Four mullied six-over-six sash at the first story are surmounted by a three-bay shed dormer at the second story; a continuous shed dormer occupies the rear (north) roof slope. The T-shaped east block wraps the northeast corner of the main block and incorporates a polygonal projecting bay at its east elevation.

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-19<sup>th</sup> century. The full Cape design was one of the later iterations of the house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, and center chimney. The twelve-over-twelve window sash configuration is identified with the Georgian period (1725–1780) and the door surround with partial-height sidelights at the north ell is characteristic of the Federal style (1780-1820). The Greek Revival trim elements, entrance portico, and dormers represent later 19<sup>th</sup>-century additions.

The Cape-form house at 34 Hermitage Road is a representative example 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. Combining the classical architectural elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods, the Colonial Revival style was the most popular style in America for private and public buildings between the World Wars. The Colonial Revival features of this house reflect several stylistic periods and include the traditional full Cape form, center chimney, six-over-six window sash, gabled dormers, barrel-arched enclosed portico, and door surround trim.

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The dwelling on the east side of Hermitage Road which replaced the original "Hermitage" reflects the Neo Shingle Style. Clad in a combination of wood shingles and multi-colored brick, it comprises a central two-story block flanked by one-story blocks. The deep overhanging eaves of the wood-shingled roof are flared, and at the south elevation of the center block shelter a full-width second-story porch. Full-height glazing at the north and south walls of the center block allow a view of the harbor from the stone wall-enclosed courtyard off the north elevation. The north wall of the courtyard contains a pergola.

Two seemingly early buildings are among the structures in the complex east of Hermitage Road. They include a two-story barn and a small cottage (called a maid's cottage on the town property card) sited north of the Neo Shingle Style dwelling. Both are side-gabled with fieldstone foundations, vinyl siding and replacement openings. They appear to represent two of the outbuildings seen on the 1903 map. The barn has a steep Gothic Revival cross-gable, which would have been in keeping with the picturesque style of the original 19<sup>th</sup>-century Hermitage house.

## 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.*

For the sake of clarity, it is important to note that the subject building described above is not the original 19<sup>th</sup> century building called "The Hermitage." That house was demolished and replaced in 1978 by a Neo Shingle Style residence. The subject building is in fact a Colonial Revival style dwelling likely constructed during the 1920s. The historical narrative which follows traces the history of this large property beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.



1879 map.

This house is located on a point of land extending into the northernmost end of Sippican Harbor called Little Neck. Hermitage Road is so named because the traditional name for the property was "The Hermitage." The Cape-form house stands on a nearly 70-acre parcel of land which occupies the entire southern portion of Little Neck.

A dwelling appears on the east side of Hermitage Road in this part of Little Neck on the 1856 map. Walter Turner is shown as the owner. On the 1879 map the property is identified as the summer residence of George Delano. C.H.L. (Charles Henry Leonard) Delano is the owner shown on the 1903 map. The earliest conveyance found for the property was its sale by Walter Turner et al. to Annie M. Turner in 1856.

Walter Turner (1807-1883) was born in Falmouth and married in Chatham in 1836 to Sally Young (1815-1890). Census records show Turner living in Marion and working as a farmer until 1865, when his residence changed to Waltham. He sold the subject property, which included a dwelling house (no longer extant), to Annie M. Turner in 1856. It is unclear if or how she was related to Walter Turner. Born Annie Mary Coffin (1841-1921), Annie Turner

was the daughter of Shubael Cottle Coffin and Elizabeth James. In 1861 she married Capt. Charles William Turner (1828-1904), the son of Dr. James Varnum Turner and Catherine Ray Greene. Annie's maternal grandfather was Ray Greene (1765-1849), a United States senator from Rhode Island, and her great-grandfather was William Greene, Jr. (1731-1809), the governor of Rhode Island during the American Revolutionary War. Annie Turner conveyed the property to her mother, Elizabeth Coffin, who in 1872 sold the property to Abby Delano, the wife of George Delano.

A 19<sup>th</sup>-century watercolor painting of the house, later known as The Hermitage, shows a large, picturesque dwelling likely influenced by the popular country house designs of architect Andrew J. Downing. (See image below.) The appearance of this house in the painting and in a drawing by a later owner (Angier) suggests that it was built either by Annie Turner or by Abby and George Delano. Born in Rochester (now Marion Village), George Delano (1821-1890) was the son of Capt. James Delano and Dorothy Wing. He was married in Marion in 1845 to Abigail L. Leonard (1821-1899), the daughter of George Leonard and Cynthia W. Washburn. Census records show that Delano, whose principal residence was New Bedford, was an oil (presumably whale oil) manufacturer. The house on Great Neck was his summer residence.

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Active in Democratic politics, George Delano ran for a seat in the United States Congress and served as a presidential elector. The author of the 1998 MHC Building Form B for the property suggested that Delano may have named the house "The Hermitage" in honor of the Nashville, Tennessee residence of President Andrew Jackson. This seems curious since the Nashville mansion did not resemble the Delano house in any way. George Delano was a friend of former president Grover Cleveland, who was a frequent summer visitor to Marion. Delano's 1890 obituary stated that he may have been the first to suggest that the president visit Marion as a summer resident.<sup>1</sup> George Delano also owned the roughly 70-acre tract of undeveloped farm land along Sippican Harbor known as Allen's Point, which after his death was developed as the site of eight summer estates owned by wealthy Boston families. In 1907 the subject house was conveyed to George Delano's son, Charles Henry Leonard Delano (1859-1911), who was married to Sarah Spooner Bullard (1866-1941).

The property was purchased in 1915 by George McNeil Angier of Newton, whose family constructed the Colonial Revival subject house west of the main dwelling in the 1920s and called it the "Foc'sle."<sup>2</sup> Born in Kansas City, Missouri, George McNeil Angier (1867-1926) was founder and president of the Angier Chemical Company of Alston. A civic leader, he served on the Newton board of aldermen and the school committee and was president of the Newton Chapter of the American Red Cross. His 1926 obituary suggested that he was one of the city's most generous philanthropists.<sup>3</sup> He was married in Boston in 1896 to Amelia Jemima Gill (1870-1944). The couple's son Donald McNeil Angier (1900-1949), who was married to Helen Halkett Cumming (1901-1968), inherited the property in 1945. He served in the United States Coast Guard during the first world war and later served as president of his father's company. Like his father, he was active in numerous civic and service organizations. An avid sportsman, Donald Angier was commodore of the Beverly Yacht Club and president of the Kittansett Golf Club.

The property left the Angier family in 1973 when it was purchased by Helen A. Adamson, who replaced the original "Hermitage" with a Neo Shingle Style dwelling. The 19<sup>th</sup> century house was razed but a stone-walled courtyard and several early accessory buildings remain on the site. These include a barn and a small dwelling (the maid's cottage), both seen on the 1903 map.<sup>4</sup>

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
06-10-1986	(73378)	Helen A. Adamson	Helen A. Trumbull
07-27-1973	(51653)	Estate of Donald Angier	Helen A. Adamson
09-05-1945	(9848)	Estate of George McNeil Angier	Donald Angier
04-12-1915	(95)	Sarah S.B. Delano	George McNeil Angier
03-28-1908	(93)	Land Court Decree	Charles H.L. Delano
07-01-1907	971-546*	Annie M. Turner	Charles H. L. Delano
01-15-1872	383-206	Elizabeth Coffin	Abby L. Delano
01-02-1856	326-72	Walter Turner et al.	Annie M. Turner

\* Property was sold to Annie M. Turner who conveyed it to her mother Elizabeth Coffin. Coffin sold it to Abby Delano, the wife of George Delano and mother of Charles H.L. Delano. This is a confirmatory deed from Annie Turner to Charles Delano. This confusing set of transactions may have necessitated the land court decree to make ownership clear.

**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  
 McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.  
 Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.

<sup>1</sup> "Friend of Cleveland, George Delano, Distinguished Democrat," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. January 7, 1890.

<sup>2</sup> Derived from fore-castle, the sailors quarters of a ship.

<sup>3</sup> "George M. Angier of Waban is Dead," *The Boston Globe*, Boston MA. February 2, 1926.

<sup>4</sup> The 1998 MHC Form B for the property mistakenly identified the 20th-century Cape house as the former Hermitage.

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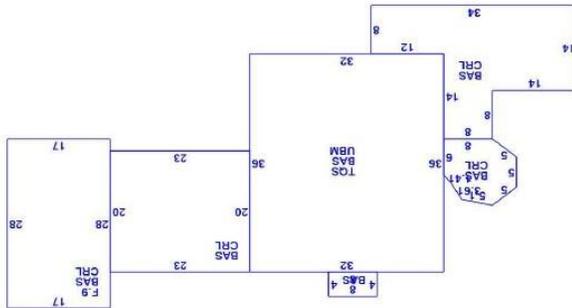
Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

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 for the subject house (the Angier Cottage built in the 1920s and pictured on the cover sheet).



House built in 1978 in the location of the original Hermitage. West and south elevations.



Maid's cottage (left) and barn (right. East and south (façade) elevations.

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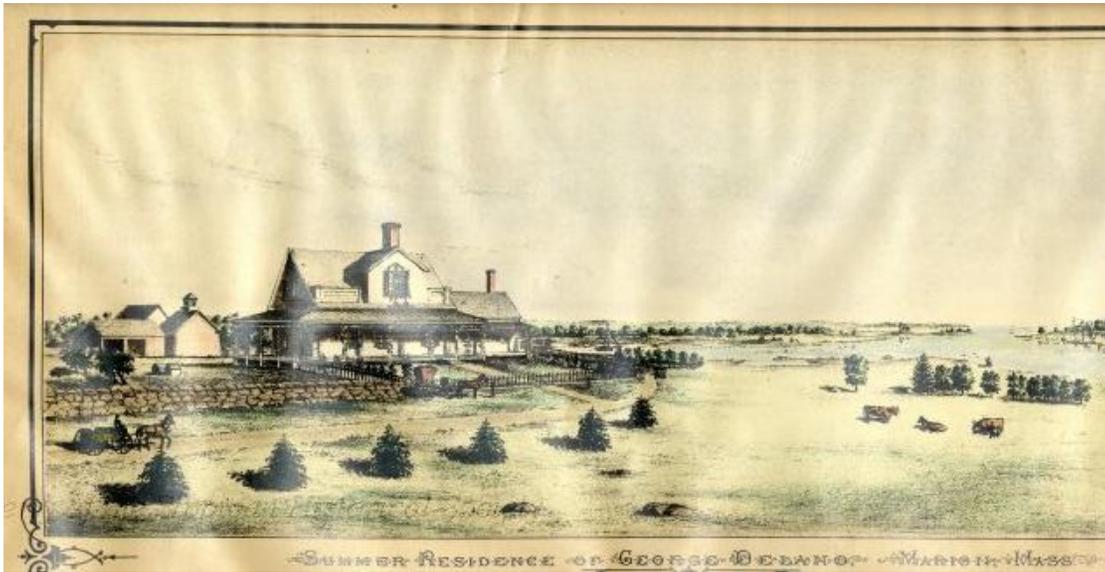
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19<sup>th</sup> century illustration of the George Delano House (cropped). Image courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.