

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

8-39E	Marion		MRN.617
-------	--------	--	---------

Town/City: Marion

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 86 Hammetts Cove Drive

Historic Name: William V. & Ella S. Kellen House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Possibly ca. 1893

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Stucco / Wood

Roof: Slate shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None apparent

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 16.20

Setting: Sparsely settled residential neighborhood bordering the eastern shore of upper Sippican Harbor 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. Shoreline properties occupy marsh land.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge
Organization: Marion Historical Commission
Date (*month/year*): January 2024

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

86 HAMMETTS COVE DRIVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.617

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.

86 Hammetts Cove Drive occupies a 16+-acre, irregularly-shaped parcel on the east side of Hammetts Cove. The house is located in the western quarter of the parcel near the mouth of the Cove at the termination of Hammetts Cove Drive. It faces south with its rear (north) elevation fronting the Cove and Gravel Island. The dwelling sits on a knoll over a tall fieldstone retaining wall at the north elevation dotted with shrubs. A rectangular gravel terrace completely enclosed by a low hedge spans the south elevation (façade); it is approached by a set of shallow stone steps from the driveway. A coursed stone wall supporting a flagstone terrace and a swimming pool extends from the west elevation of the house. An expansive lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees surrounds the dwelling. The balance of this large property, which runs along the shoreline, is marsh land with heavy vegetation lining the perimeter along Hammetts Cove Drive. The Drive ends in a large gravel circle that serves both the subject house and the house at 756 Point Road. A driveway off the circle enters the subject property along the east elevation of the house and ends at a grade level garage at the north elevation.

The two-story, seven-bay-by-three-bay house has a gambrel roof and a symmetrical plan comprising a front-gabled center block flanked by side-gabled east and west blocks. Constructed ca. 1893 in the Colonial Revival style, it retains all of its original character-defining features.¹ The house rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in painted stucco. The roof is surfaced with slate shingles. A large concrete-block chimney with a stucco coating and a chimney pot rises from the south roof slope at the west block.

Trim elements at the house include molded box cornices and a narrow water table. The window and door openings at all but the rear elevation are symmetrically placed. The windows at the first story at the façade comprise tall, narrow, four-light casements with textured glass transoms and board-and-batten blinds. The centered entry, which contains a double-leaf glass-and-panel door, is surmounted at the second story by a small balcony with a wrought iron railing. Narrow ten-light French doors with a blind semi-circular transom and board-and-batten blinds opens to the balcony. Oval oculi with keystone moldings and curved tracery flank the balcony. Paired gable dormers containing four-light single and double casements occupy the roof at the east and west blocks; the windows have arched blind transoms.

Openings at the first story at the west gable end include three five-light French doors with textured-glass transoms and board-and-batten blinds opening to the stone terrace and pool. A six-light French door with six-light sidelights, a semi-circular blind transom, and blinds occupies the second story. The door opens to a balcony with a wrought iron railing. The east gable end has similar but smaller openings and a hay hook at the gable peak.

The openings at the rear (north) elevation have the same sash and frame configurations as the other openings at the house, but are asymmetrically placed at the east and west blocks. Three French doors matching those at the west elevation front a wooden deck with a vertical-slat skirt. A garage door opening at grade level at the easternmost bay contains paired board-and-batten doors with integrated transoms. Fieldstone retaining walls border the sloping entry access, which is maintained in grass.

86 Hammetts Cove Drive illustrates 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 characteristic Colonial Revival features of this house

¹ A note on the assessor's card for the property suggests that the house may represent a remodeled barn. Further research would be required to determine the origins of the dwelling.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

86 HAMMETTS COVE DRIVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

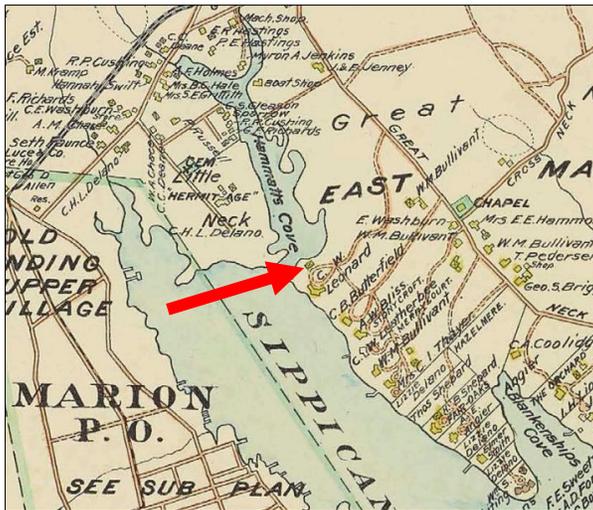
MRN.617

include the gambrel roof, symmetric fenestration, gable dormers, oculi, and board-and-batten blinds. The tall casement windows and French doors are suggestive of the English Revival 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 on a point of land near the entrance to Hammetts Cove in the Great Neck section of East Marion. Until the final decade of the 19th century, this area directly across Sippican Harbor from Marion Village was largely uninhabited with only a few scattered farmsteads. But near the end of the century it became home to a number of grand houses built as summer residences by wealthy individuals who were largely from Boston. Its expansive shoreline providing convenient access to Sippican Harbor and Buzzards Bay made the area particularly appealing to yachting enthusiasts.



1903 map.

The subject house appears on the 1903 map with C.W. [Charles W.] Leonard shown as the owner. The earliest recorded transaction found for the property was the conveyance of land from Ruben Allen to his son Henry D. Allen in 1848. Henry Dow Allen (1824-1910), the son of master farmer Ruben Allen and Phebe Blankenship, was married in 1847 to Eliza Wing Delano. Allen's farm property is shown near the future site of the subject house on the 1879 map.

In 1893 Henry D. Allen sold two parcels of land on Great Neck totaling more than 100 acres to Ella S. Kellen, the wife of William V. Kellen of Boston. William Vail Kellen, the son of William Lloyd Kellen and Rosetta Meservey, was born in Truro in 1852. A well-known Boston lawyer, he received his law degree from Boston University School of Law after attending Brown University, where he later served as a trustee and received several honorary degrees.² William L. Kellen and his wife Ella Sturdevant (b.1853) probably built this imposing Colonial Revival house soon after their purchase of the land in 1893. The property was sold in 1900 to Charles W. Leonard of Boston.

Charles Wade Leonard (1844-1941) was born in Sharon, the son of Benjamin Leonard. Without formal education, Leonard became the owner of a number of mills and quarries throughout New England and was a director of several local banks and businesses. A renowned horseman, he owned a breeding farm in Lexington, Kentucky and a trotting track in Readville. He was married in Paris to Emelyn Thatcher Welch, the daughter of Wilson Welch and Elizabeth Faring Thatcher.³ The Leonards owned this house until 1916 when it was purchased by George W. Mitton.

George W. Mitton (1869-1947), the son of Edward J. Mitton and Sarah Wade, was the eldest son of the second generation of a family of merchants who operated the Jordan Marsh department store in Boston. Starting as a stock boy, George Mitton eventually became president of the company. He was trained in the business by his father, Jordan Marsh president Edward J. Mitton, and the company founder Eben D. Jordan. George Mitton was credited with growing the company to become New England's largest department store and introducing innovations such as executive training programs and employee benefits. Mitton was also an active public servant and philanthropist.⁴ He was married in 1895 to Ann Maria Richardson, the daughter of Charles Edward Richardson and Eva Corine Hovey. The Mittons lived in Brookline and used the Marion estate as a summer residence.

The property remained in the Mitton family until 1974 when it was sold by the estate of George Mitton's son, Robert. Robert Mitton joined the Jordan Marsh Company after graduating from Harvard in 1929 and served as vice president and director.⁵ His

² "Rites Held for W.V. Kellen in Trinity Church," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. December 22, 1942.

³ "Funeral Held at Newtonville for Charles W. Leonard," *The Boston Globe*, Boston MA. November 6, 1941.

⁴ "Chairman of Jordan Marsh Board of Directors Dead at Age of 78," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. November 15, 1947.

⁵ "Newton rites tomorrow for Robert Mitton," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. November 14, 1973.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

86 HAMMETTS COVE DRIVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.617

brother Edward R. Mitton, who pre-deceased him, had like his father George Mitton served as president of the company.⁶ The property was purchased in 1975 by Anne Biner-Putnam (1923-1999). Anne Putnam was the daughter of Henry R. Putnam, who was listed in the 1930 census as a bank executive living in Westchester, New York with his wife Edith, daughter Anne, and three servants. It was sold by her estate in 2000.

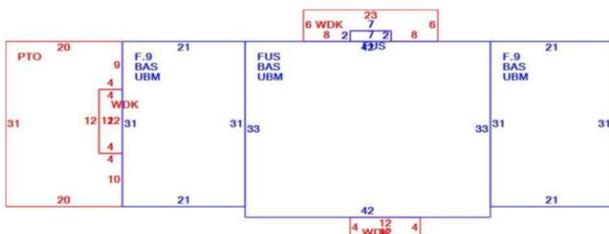
The property was purchased by the current owners in 2013.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
07-20-2015	(122158)	Ladd M. & Sigrid P. Thorne, Trustees	Ladd M. & Sigrid P. Thorne, Trustees
06-29-2013	119217	Ladd M. & Sigrid P. Thorne	Ladd M. & Sigrid P. Thorne. Trustees
05-19-2013	107129	Thomas & Eizie Munnell	Ladd M. & Sigrid P. Thorne
04-14-2005	97404	Thomas & Eizie Munnell	Thomas & Eizie Munnell
04-27-2000	97404	Estate of Anne Biner-Putnam	Thomas & Eizie Munnell
03-12-1975	54113	Fiduciary Trust Company	Anne Biner-Putnam
12-27-1974	54054	Estate of Robert Mitton	Fiduciary Trust Company
05-04-1916	1249-69	Charles W. Leonard	George W. Mitton
11-27-1900	815-462	Ella S. & William V. Kellen	Charles W. Leonard
10-21-1893	661-349	Henry D. Allen (land only)	Ella S. Kellen
08-03-1848	230-44	Ruben Allen	Henry D. Allen

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

⁶ "Edward R. Mitton," 77, was president of Jordan Marsh," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. June 26, 1973.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

86 HAMMETTS COVE DRIVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	MRN.617
--	---------



North and west elevations.