

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

2-9

Marion

E

MRN.79

Town/City: Marion

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck

Address: 502 Point Road

Historic Name: Archibald Ellis House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Possibly ca. 1905

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Queen Anne / Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (21st c.)

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear addition (late 20th / early 21st c.)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.92

Setting: Moderately settled area developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with summer residences. Housing stock comprises moderate- to large-sized houses on large lots. Terrain characterized by dense woods at the central portion of the peninsula bordered by marshland and beach along the shoreline perimeter.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): June 2024

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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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.

502 Point Road occupies a trapezoidal lot on the west side of Point Road and faces east. The house is set back from the street and fronts a tall hedge along Point Road that obscures the view of the dwelling. The eastern half of the property is maintained in lawn dotted generously with shrubs and trees. The western half of the parcel is more heavily vegetated. A drystone wall runs along the southern lot line and turns north to cross the property behind a two-car garage sited off the southwest corner of the dwelling. A gravel driveway enters the property off Point Road at the southwest corner of the parcel and runs along the southern lot line to end at the garage. A driveway spur travels in front of the house and exits onto Point Road near the northeast corner of the parcel.

This gambrel-roofed dwelling was built ca.1905 in a blend of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It is a two-story, two-bay-by-three-bay, front-gabled house bisected by a steep gambrel-roofed cross gable. There is a polygonal one-story addition at the rear (west) elevation. The façade (east elevation) is distinguished by a semi-hexagonal projection at the south bay and a deeply recessed entry with arched openings at the north bay. The dwelling rises from a high granite foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and carries tall, narrow brick chimneys at the lower roof slope at the north and south elevations. The chimneys abut the cross gables.

Trim elements include a deep molded cornice, frieze boards, and a two-part band course between stories. The wood shingle cladding at the second story flares gently outward where it overhangs the first story at the band course. Diamond-shaped panels of decorative wood shingles occupy the gable peaks; the peak at the façade (west elevation) is further ornamented by a narrow band of zigzag trim. The windows at all locations comprise single and paired two-over-one sash framed by narrow molded surrounds. A semi-hexagonal bay window is set at the south elevation under the cross gable. The deeply recessed entry porch at the north bay has a single, wood-shingled post at the northeast corner supported broad semicircular openings. It shelters a molded glass-and-panel door that appears to be original to the house. The door fronts a two-step stair across the porch deck that joins the driveway. A two-bay shed dormer occupies the north roof slope behind (west of) the cross gable.

The five-sided, one-story addition at the rear (west) elevation of the house has an entry at the south wall and a roof deck. The front-gabled two-car garage sited off the southwest corner of the house is of recent construction. The overhead garage doors, which are wood-paneled with integrated transoms and strap hinges, are designed to look like two-leaf barn openings.

502 Point Road displays a blend of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Queen Anne, the predominant style for domestic architecture in the United States between 1880 and 1900, was devised by a group of English architects and based on the visual vocabulary of late Medieval models. It was disseminated by the country's leading architectural magazine and by pattern books and mail-order house plans. The characteristic Queen Anne features of this house include its asymmetry, steep roofs, cross gables, overhanging eaves, bay windows, and decorative shingle patterns. The gambrel roof forms are identified with the Colonial Revival style (1880 – 1955).

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.

The peninsulas, called necks, surrounding Sippican Harbor remained largely undeveloped until the last quarter of the 19th century. The land was used for common pasturage, and salt marsh hay was a principal crop. Sippican Neck, which bounds the harbor on the east, is shown to be sparsely settled on the 1855 map. Early Marion families including the Blankinships, Briggses, and Ellises were among the few property owners in the area. The 1879 map shows the neck still largely undeveloped, but by

Continuation sheet 1

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1903 growth of the area is seen along the northwestern shoreline with numerous residences on large parcels facing the harbor. Over the ensuing decades Sippican Neck became almost completely developed, with numerous seasonal properties on the waterfront. Point Road, where the subject house is located, runs north from Butler's Point (also called Ruggles Point) at the south end of the neck to County Road, where it terminates.

This house does not appear on any of the historic maps of Marion. The earliest conveyance found for the property in a clear chain of ownership was the sale of two adjacent parcels of undeveloped land by Hannah Moore Ellis in 1905 and her brother Charles Delano Ellis in 1907, both to Archibald W. Ellis.

The subject house is located opposite the Joel Ellis House – Ellis Homestead at 501 Point Road (MRN.78) and the parcel on which it stands was once part of the large Sippican Neck farm of Archibald Ellis's great-grandfather, Joel Ellis (1745-1834). Joel Ellis and his wife Tabitha White (1747-1839) conveyed the property to their only surviving son, Stephen Ellis (1793-1874). Stephen Ellis and his wife Lucy Delano (1796-1887) bequeathed some or all of the Ellis property to two of their children, Charles Delano Ellis (1826-1911) and Hannah Moore Ellis (1833-1927). Hannah Moore Ellis, who lived in New Bedford, sold many parcels of the family farm to wealthy Bostonians who built grand houses along Point Road during the first decade of the 20th century. Her brother Charles Delano was like his father and grandfather, a farmer.

Archibald Ward Ellis (1881-1963), the son of Charles Delano Ellis and Hannah Ward Minor (1841-1905) and the nephew of Hannah Moore Ellis, acquired the adjacent parcels from his father and his aunt around the time of his marriage to Gertrude Bridget Geary in 1905. A house carpenter as noted in the 1910 census, he was the likely builder of this house. Census records of 1910 and 1920, however, show him living on Mill Street and Pleasant Street respectively, so this Shingle Style/Colonial Revival style house may have been an investment or rental property. In 1940 Archibald Ellis wrote a poem about the Ellis Homestead across the street which was published in a local newspaper (see 501 Point Road, ca.1786, Joel Ellis House – Ellis Homestead, MRN.78).

The property was purchased in 1920 by Andrew Gray Weeks, Jr. (1861-1931), who appears to have moved to Marion from Boston around that time. A businessman, naturalist, and philanthropist, Andrew Gray Weeks was the son of Andrew Gray and Harriet Pierce Weeks. He graduated from Harvard College in 1883 and worked in his father's real estate firm, Weeks & Potter. Andrew G. Weeks was active in the Marion real estate market and was involved in dozens of transactions in the town between 1894 and 1928. However, his real calling was science, and in 1902 he became an associate in entomology at Harvard. He specialized in the study of lepidoptera, winged insects which include butterflies and moths. An author of several books on the subject, he maintained what was noted to be among the largest and most important specimen collection in the United States. Weeks identified and named some 42 species of lepidoptera.¹ The property was sold by his estate in 1939 to John S. Davis.

John Sanford Davis (b.1884) of Old Town, Maine was married in 1909 to Lena Mary Jensen (1886-1957), who was born in Bermuda. The couple moved to Marion in 1918. John Davis's World War I draft registration card noted that he was a marine engineer. His occupation as listed in the 1920 census was chauffeur for a private family. Active in the Marion community, Lena was an officer of the Rebekahs Lodge (a service organization) and the Marion Grange, and a lecturer at the Grange.² The couple's daughter Velma E. Davis, who was married to Homer Artel Cloutier, was devised the property in 1959. She and her brother Ernest J. Davis sold the property in 1962. It was purchased by the current owner in 1988.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
06-26-1988	8546-63	Helen N. Barette	Francis H. & Diane C. McNamee
10-30-1967	3404-139	William F. Jr. & Karen E. Henry	Normand H. & Helen N. Barette
10-05-1965	3243-557	William F. Henry, Jr.	William F. Jr. & Karen E. Henry
09-26-1962	2972-279	Homer A. & Velma E. Clouter and Ernest J. and Barbara L. Davis	William F. Henry, Jr.
05-11-1962	2933-36	Velma E. Cloutier	Homer A. & Velma E. Cloutier and Ernest J. and Barbara L. Davis

¹ "Andrew Gray Weeks, Naturalist, Dead," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA December 8, 1931.

² Mrs. John S. Davis obituary, *The Standard-Times*, April 15, 1957.

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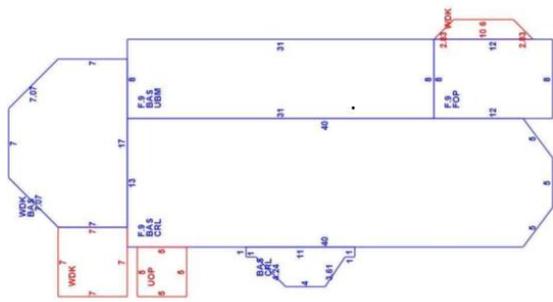
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02-04-1959	2685-51	John S. Davis	Velma Cloutier
01-27-1950	2082-114	John S. Davis	John S. & Lena Davis
07-11-1939	1771-170	State Street Bank Trustee Estate of Andrew Gray Weeks (2 nd Parcel)	John S. Davis
02-02-1936	1705-351	Allen T. Weeks et al.	State Street Bank Trustee Estate of Andrew Gray Weeks
05-29-1920	1355-390	Archibald W. Ellis	Andrew Gray Weeks
10-23-1905	920-468	Hannah M. Ellis	Archibald W. Ellis

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Assessor's card plan



South elevation.