

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

2-7

Marion

E

MRN.78

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 501 Point Road

Historic Name: Joel Ellis House / Ellis Homestead

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Possibly ca. 1786

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Federal Cape, altered

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

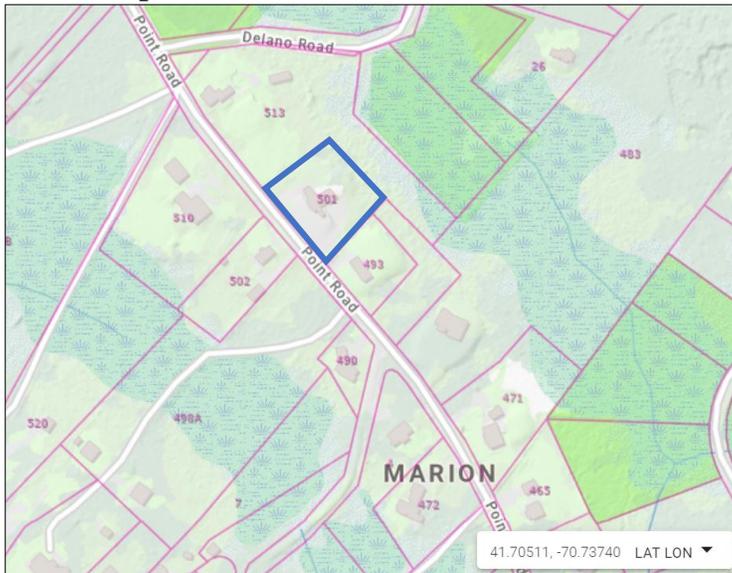
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): June 2024

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

South ell (late 18th/early 19th c.)

Replacement windows (21st c.)

Dormers & main entry surround (21st c.)

East wing & garage (21st c.)

Second story addition at north ell (21st c.)

Porch removed at south ell (21st c.)

Replacement foundation (2017)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 21st c. – moved back from street

Acreage: 1.1

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.

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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.

501 Point Road occupies a trapezoidal lot on the east side of Point Road one house south of its intersection with Delano Road. The house is centered on the parcel and faces west. The property is maintained in lawn dotted sparsely with mature trees. Low foundation plantings line the north and south ells. A border of dense vegetation marks the eastern property line. A low drystone wall lines Point Road along the eastern property line. A paved driveway that enters the property from Point Road runs along the south elevation of the dwelling and ends at an attached garage off the east (rear) elevation. An inground swimming pool is set at the northeast corner of the house at the junction of the north ell and east wing.

This house was constructed ca. 1786 in the full Cape form and retains a moderate degree of architectural integrity. It is among the earliest dwellings on Sippican Neck. The house comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block with three dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story south ell, a two-story north ell, and a two-story cross-gabled wing at the rear (east) elevation. The house was repositioned on the lot in 2017 and rests on a concrete foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards at the façade and the south elevation of the east wing, and wood shingles at all other locations. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney seen centered on the roof ridge of the main block in the photograph of the house on the 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.E is no longer extant.

Trim elements at the house include wide corner boards and frieze boards. Uniformly-sized, one-over-one replacement windows with narrow flat surrounds occupy nearly all locations at the house. Two oversized, two-bay gabled dormers at the west roof slope dominate the façade and overpower its original design. They flank a shallow hip-roofed entry bay at the first story that contains a contemporary glass-and-panel door. A shallow open deck with a vertical slat-work skirt spans the main block. There is a continuous shed dormer at the east roof slope of the main block.

The one-story south ell, which is seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map, is three-bays-by-one-bay and set back one bay from the façade of the main block. It contains an entry with a glass-and-panel door at the south wall. The two-story north ell, which is two-bays-by-two-bays, is set back one bay from the façade of the main block. It acquired a second story in the 21st century and its roof is contiguous with the roof of the main block. The east wing comprises a two-story block with a one-and-one-half-story, two-car garage attached at the east wall. The garage addition is side gabled and faces south.

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-19th 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 its massing, the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, presence of a center chimney (no longer extant), and corner boards.

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 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

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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.



1855 map.

This house is seen on the 1855 map with Stephen Ellis shown as the owner. On the 1879 map it is labeled the heirs of S. [Stephen] Ellis, and on the 1903 map Hannah M. [Moore] Ellis is the labeled owner. The earliest recorded conveyance found in a clear chain of ownership for the property was the 1914 deed given by Hannah Moore Ellis to Charles M. Ellis.

This house is traditionally attributed to Joel Ellis (1745-1834). The son of William Ellis and Patience Mendall, Joel Ellis was married to Tabitha White (1747-1839) in 1786. Although altered significantly, the appearance of the house suggests that it was probably built around the time of this marriage. A farmer, Joel Ellis served in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The couple had one son who survived to adulthood, Stephen Ellis (1793-1874), who inherited the property. He was married in 1818 to Lucy Delano (1796-1887). Stephen and Lucy's youngest daughter was Hannah Moore Ellis (1833-1927), who was unmarried. She conveyed the property in 1914 to her nephew Charles M. Ellis and his wife Sarah M. Handy (b.1870). Although this one-acre property stayed in the Ellis family, Hannah Moore Ellis

disposed of the many acres of the family farm through sales of land to wealthy Bostonians who built grand houses along Point Road during the first decade of the 20th century.

Charles M. Ellis (1866-1953), the son of Charles Delano Ellis and Hannah Ward Minor, was variously listed in censuses as a "teamster," or someone who drives horses in the farming industry, and a building contractor. His obituary in *The Standard-Times* stated that he worked as a contractor for many years and had a particular interest in the history of Marion and its early settlers. The article also reported that "he was one of Plymouth County's few surviving residents who lived in continuous succession on the original Plymouth County land grant."¹ In 1949 Charles M. Ellis conveyed the property to his nephew, Charles A. Ellis.

Charles A. [Archibald] Ellis (1906-2007) was the son of Archibald and Gertrude Ellis. In 1940 Archibald Ellis wrote a poem about the Ellis homestead which was published in a local newspaper (see the image below). Charles A. Ellis was an electrical engineer who held more than 90 patents for his inventions and design patterns. During World War II he worked for the U.S. government at the MIT Radiation Laboratories. After retiring from private industry, he taught electrical engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and wrote several books on codes, cryptography, and slide rulers.

The house remained in Ellis family ownership until 2016, when according to the town assessor's card it was offered for sale as a teardown. It was purchased in 2017 by the current owner, who decided instead to move the house back from the street and perform a comprehensive renovation.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
03-24-2020	52513-57	Chuong & Kristin Pham	Chuong Pham Trust
10-20-2017	49069-149	Cranlor LLC	Chuong & Kristin Pham
03-05-2016	46679-96	Charles A. Ellis, Jr.	Cranlor LLC
07-29-1981	5034-63	Charles A. Ellis	Charles A. Ellis, Jr. et al.
09-27-1949	2061-169	Charles M. Ellis	Charles A. Ellis
07-10-1914	1270-510	Hannah Moore Ellis	Charles M. & Sarah M. Ellis

¹ Charles M. Ellis obituary, *The Standard-Times*, May 23, 1953.

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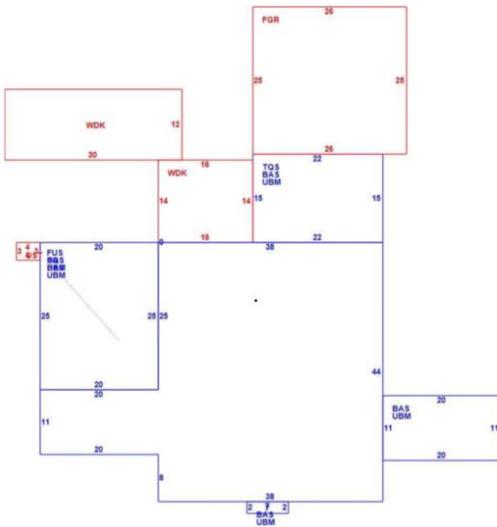
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Assessor's card plan



West (facade) and south elevation.

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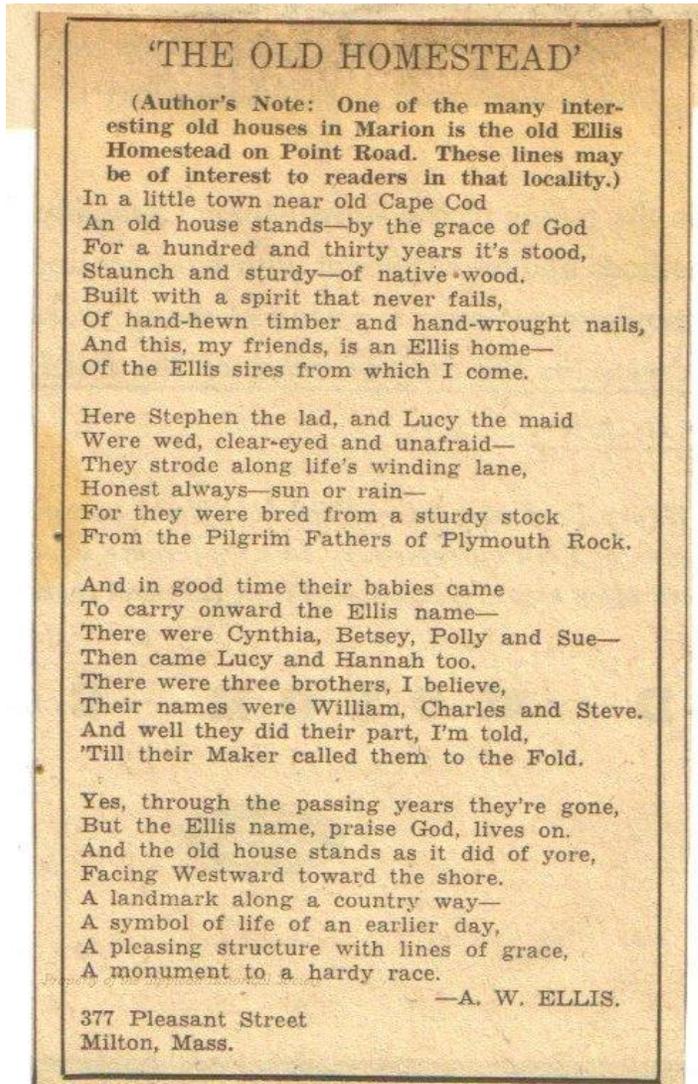
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Poem written by Archibald Ward Ellis in 1940. Image courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.