

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

2-182

Marion

MRN.639

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 498C Point Road

Historic Name: Elizabeth F. & Frederick C. Bowditch House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1902

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Shingle Style / Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Slate & wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Shed

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None apparent

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.44

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.

498C Point Road occupies a large polygonal lot on the west side of Point Road that stretches to the shoreline. The house is deeply set back from the road near the center of the parcel, which is accessed through the adjacent parcel to the east at 498A Point Road. The dwelling faces east and is surrounded by lawn dotted with clusters of mature trees. An expansive lawn at the rear (west) elevation of the house drops to a seawall at the shoreline, where a dock extends into the water. A split rail fence borders the northern property line. A large rectangular garden enclosed by a stone wall is sited east of the house; it is shown on 1934 and 1948 land plans for the property. A paved driveway off Point Road enters the property at its northeast corner, sweeps past the façade, and ends in a parking spur off the south elevation of the house.

This hip-roofed dwelling with deep overhanging eaves was built ca.1902 in a blend of the Shingle and Craftsman styles and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It comprises a two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block with a two-story south wing angled at 45 degrees off the southeast corner and a one-story block at the north elevation. A one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch extends from the east wall of the north block, wraps the northeast corner of the main block, and continues along the length of the west elevation. A hip-roofed enclosed entry surmounted by a two-bay shed dormer provides the focal point of the façade. The dwelling is clad in weathered wood shingles and has a slate roof and slate-clad dormers except at the enclosed main entry, which has a wood shingle roof. Brick chimneys rise from the north and south roof slopes at the main block and the roof ridge at the south wing.

Although trim elements are lacking, several rows of flared shingles serve as a band course between stories. The windows at the façade at the main block and south wing comprise asymmetrically-placed single and mulled six-over-one sash framed by wide molded surrounds. The hip-roofed, enclosed entrance centered at the façade contains an entrance unit comprising a glass-and-panel door flanked by fixed 12-light sash with paneled bases. The side walls contain mulled six-over-one windows. The door fronts a granite apron that joins the driveway, which is curbed with granite blocks.

The north block is capped at the roof by a row of four pyramidal skylights. The openings at the east and north elevations comprise three- and five-part windows, respectively; these feature a center fixed light flanked by one-over-one sash. A door at the west wall opens to a deep deck that spans the west elevation.

The one-story enclosed porch spanning the west elevation has continuous full-height windows comprising units of large lights flanked by pairs of narrow lights. The center unit contains a two-leaf door. It is surmounted at the second story by a semi-hexagonal oriel which is in turn surmounted by a two-bay shed dormer. The low railing enclosing the deck doubles as a seating bench. It is supported by square capped posts alternating with narrow posts, all fabricated of vertical slats. The porch skirt is also constructed of vertical slats. A rectangular bump-out in the deck in front of the entry descends to the lawn via a four-step stair.

489C Point Road displays a blend of the Shingle and Craftsman styles. The Shingle Style (1880-1900) was a uniquely American form which was introduced in the northeastern United States in the last quarter of the 19th century and reached its zenith of expression in New England seaside resorts and country estates. The focus of the style was on complex shapes and forms encased within a surface of continuous, naturally weathered shingles on the roof and walls which created patterns of light and shadow. The remaining wood shingles at the main entry roof suggest that the entire roof was originally surfaced with wood shingles. The deep overhanging eaves are characteristic of the Craftsman style (1905-1930).

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 waterfront. Point Road, where the subject house is located, runs north from Butler's Point (also known as Ruggles Point) at the south end of the neck to County Road, where it terminates.



1903 map.

Hannah Moore Ellis (1833-1927) was one of the ten children of Stephen Ellis (1793-1974) and Lucy Delano (1796-1887). Stephen Ellis was a farmer, and it appears likely that the property was devised to his youngest unmarried daughter, Hannah. The Ellis family owned much of the land which was converted to summer residences along the eastern shore of Sippican Harbor. The earliest recorded conveyance for the property in a clear chain of ownership was the purchase of a parcel of land by Elizabeth Bowditch from Hannah Ellis in 1902. Hannah's own house is shown on the 1903 map on the east side of Point Road.

Elizabeth Forster Bowditch (1874-1945) was the wife of Frederick Channing Bowditch (1854-1935) and the daughter of Anita Damon Forster (1851-1944) and Dr. Edward Jacob Forster (1846-1896) of Charlestown. Her sister Ruth Forster Ingraham (1878-1957), the wife of George Hunt Ingraham (1873-1950), owned a nearby property on Sippican Neck at 418 Point Road (ca.1908, Ruth F. & George H. Ingraham House, MRN.638). Her mother Anita Forster owned the property immediately to the north shown on the 1903 map and labeled Mrs. A.D. Forster.

Elizabeth Forster married Frederick Channing Bowditch (1854-1925) in Brookline in 1897. He was the grandson of Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch (1773-1838), a mathematician who is best known for his work on ocean navigation. Nathaniel Bowditch authored the seminal text on navigation, *The American Practical Navigator*, also known as "The Seaman's Bible." The book is still relevant and is found on board every commissioned United States Naval vessel. Frederick Bowditch, who was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a law degree from Harvard, was president of the Conveyancers' Title Insurance Company. The couple's primary residence was in Brookline. It is probable that the Bowditches built this house shortly after they purchased the land.

After the death of Frederick Bowditch in 1925 his widow Elizabeth Bowditch was unable to pay the federal estate tax. As part of an agreement authorized by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue granting her an extension, her properties in Marion and Brookline were placed in trust with the intention of being sold.¹ A 11.4-acre parcel including the subject house was sold by the trustees in 1934 to Otto and Marion Braitmayer of Ridgewood, New Jersey (see plan below).

Otto Braitmayer (1873-1940) grew up in Washington, D.C. and received a law degree from National University. He started working for the forerunner company to the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) at age 16 and ultimately became a vice president and director of the company. He married Marion Schoeffel, his second wife, in 1929 and the subject property was the couple's summer residence. Otto Braitmayer was a member of the Beverly Yacht Club. Marion became his permanent home after his retirement in 1939.² His widow sold the property in 1947 to E. Olsen and his wife Harriet J. Field of Weston.

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 1650, Page 112.

² "Ridgewood Rite for Braitmayer," *The Hackensack Record*, Hackensack, New Jersey, March 1, 1940.

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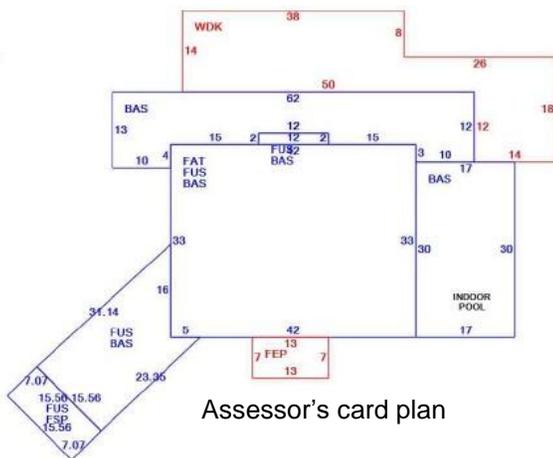
Edward Olson Field (1906-1986), a lifelong resident of Weston, was a lawyer who practiced in Boston and later joined the office of the reporter of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. He served in the Massachusetts National Guard and the Coast Guard Reserves during World War II. The Fields subdivided the property in 1948 (see the land plan below) and sold it the following year to Susan Reeves Deland (1915-2002), the wife of Frank S. Deland. It remains in Deland family ownership.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
08-08-2013	43478-37	Michael R. Deland	Michael R. Deland, Trust
12-19-1995	16888-281	Susan Reeves Deland & Michael R. Deland	Michael R. Deland
10-05-1992	11495-222	Susan Reeves Deland	Susan Reeves Deland & Michael R. Deland
12-14-1949	2076-50	E. Olson & Harriet J. Field	Susan Reeves Deland
11-18-1947	1984-171	Marion Schoffel Braitmayer	E. Olson & Harriet J. Field
12-31-1934	1680-479	Arthur D. Hill & Richard Wiswall, Trustees Bowditch Trust	Otto Ernest & Marion Schoffel Braitmayer

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.
- 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.
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- Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
- Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.



North and west elevations.

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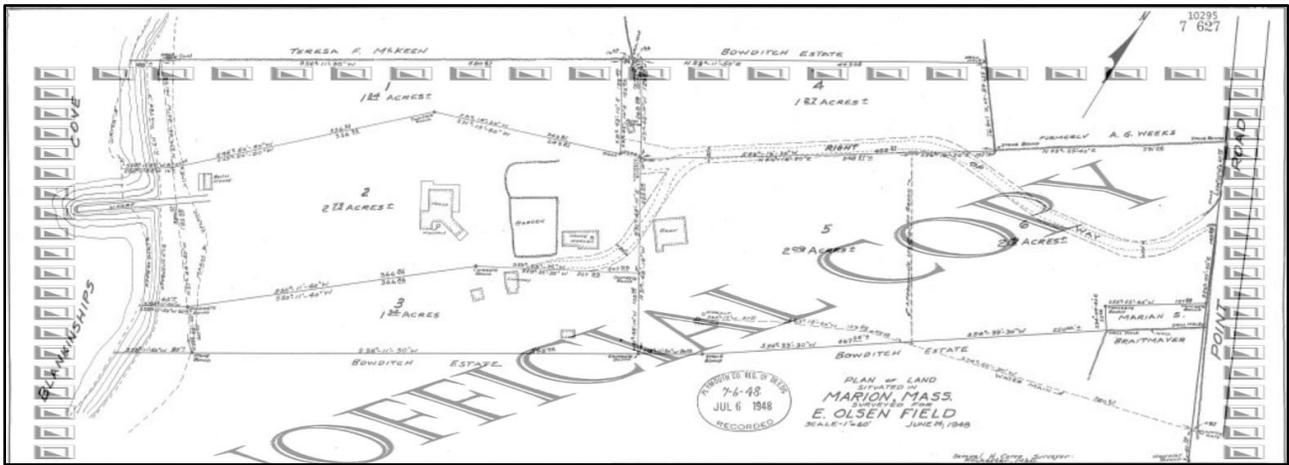
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Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 7, Page 627. July 6, 1948.