

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

2-6A	Marion	E	MRN.81
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**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 513 Point Road

**Historic Name:** William Ellis House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Possibly ca. 1847

**Source:** Visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival / Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

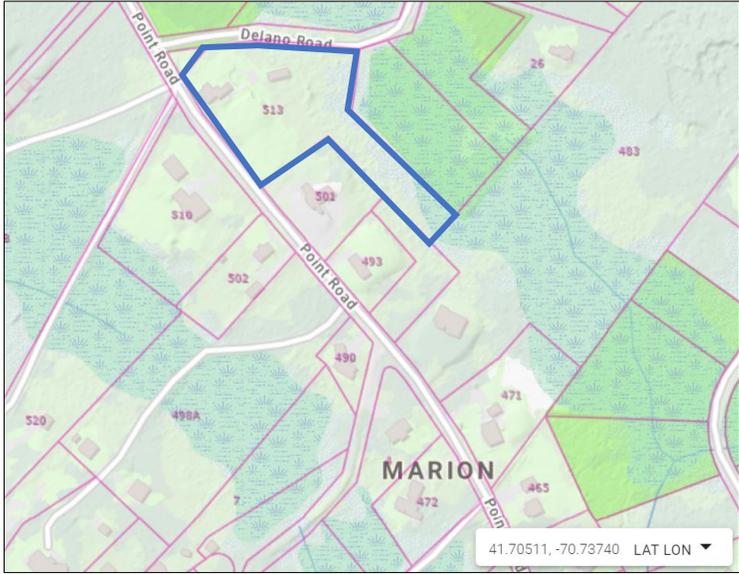
- Foundation: Fieldstone
- Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood
- Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Greenhouse

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

- South ell (19<sup>th</sup> c.)
- East block (19<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Open porch (late 19<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Replacement windows

**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** 3.03

**Setting:** Moderately settled area developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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

513 Point Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

**513 Point Road** occupies a large polygonal (racket-shaped) parcel lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of Point Road and Delano Road. The house is set close to Point Road near the northwest corner of the parcel and faces east. Tall shrubs obscure the façade (east elevation). A manicured hedge extends from the northwest corner of the dwelling and rounds the corner to run along Delano Road. A low stone wall borders a planting bed along the south elevation and joins a stone wall retaining the east elevation. The western half of the "racket head" component of the parcel is maintained in an expansive lawn dotted with shrubs and clusters of mature trees. The eastern half is heavily wooded, as is the racket "handle." A gravel driveway enters the property from Delano Road and ends in a parking area that extends from a large greenhouse sited east of the house to the rear elevation of the dwelling. There is a second small parking area off Point Road near the southwest corner of the racket head, which is bordered by a row of newly-planted pines.

This Greek Revival style house, built around 1847, has been altered but retains a moderate degree of architectural integrity. It comprises a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-four-bay main block with two one-and-one-half-story dependencies. The dependencies include an ell at the southeast corner and a cross-gabled block at the east elevation of the ell. An open porch wraps the west (façade) and south elevations of the main block. The dwelling rises from a fieldstone foundation. It is clad in wood clapboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. A narrow, corbelled brick chimney rises from the roof ridge of the main block and a second brick chimney is carried on the north roof slope of the ell.

Trim elements at the main block and dependencies include a molded box cornice, eave returns, narrow corner boards, and deep frieze boards. The openings at the first story at the façade (west elevation) comprise a side hall entry at the northernmost bay and two full-height windows; these tall windows are design features of the Greek Revival style. Mulled one-over-one windows occupy the second story. The windows generally have flat surrounds and molded architraves. The shed-roofed open porch, which was likely added in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, has slender turned posts and a slat-work railing.

Fenestration at the south elevation has been altered to adapt to the porch and includes shallow one-over-one sash at the cornice and single and mulled two-over-one windows at the first story. A door opens to the porch from the west wall of the ell and two stone steps descend to the lawn. A shallow cross gable projects from the westernmost half of the north elevation. It is flanked by a small, diamond-shaped multi-light window at the north wall.

The ell extends south from the east wall of the main block. Openings at the south elevation include a single two-over-one window at the gable peak and four mulled one-over-one sash at the first story. The east block aligns along the south wall of the ell and contains two two-over-one windows. A railed open deck spans the east elevation of the east block; it provides access to the parking area via a wooden stair.

The large greenhouse sited east of the house is a tall Quonset hut fabricated of translucent plastic.

513 Point Road illustrates the Greek Revival style with features of the later Queen Anne style. Greek Revival was the predominant style of American architecture from about 1830 to 1850, but the form continued to be used well into the second half of the 19th century. Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greek temples and associated with democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin. The identifying Greek Revival features of this house include the front-gabled orientation of the main block, side-hall entry, box cornice, frieze boards, eave returns, and full-height windows at the façade. The porch with its turned posts, the decorative diamond-shaped window, and the two-over-one window sash configuration are characteristic of the later Queen Anne 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.*

The peninsulas, called necks, surrounding Sippican Harbor remained largely undeveloped until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Blankinshps, 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 called Ruggles Point) at the south end of the neck to County Road, where it terminates.



1903 map.

This house appears on the 1855 map with W. [William] Ellis shown as the owner. G. Hammond is the labeled owner on the 1879 map and [Charles M.] Ellis on the 1903 map. The earliest recorded conveyance found for the property in a clear chain of ownership was its sale in 1956 to Gertrude Dorothea Ellis by her sisters.

William Ellis (1819-1916) was the oldest son of Stephen Ellis (1793-1874) and the grandson of Joel Delano Ellis (1745-1834), who built the house on the adjacent property at 501 Point Road (ca. 1786, Joel Ellis House – Ellis Homestead, MRN.78). Both Joel Ellis and his son Stephen were farmers. According to the 1850 census, William Ellis was a sailor. He married his wife Susan [var. Susanna] S. Bassett in 1843 and it is probable that this Greek Revival house was built around the time of their marriage. Their daughter Sarah Matilda Ellis (1847-1898) was married to George Warren Hammond (b.1845), a carpenter who was shown as the owner on the 1879 map. It appears that the property remained titled to William Ellis, who allowed it to be occupied by his daughter and her husband. After the death of Sarah Ellis

Hammond, her husband George Hammond is recorded as living in Wareham.

On the 1903 map the house was shown to be owned by Charles M. Ellis (b. 1866), a nephew of William Ellis and the son of his brother Charles D. Ellis (1826-1911). Charles M. Ellis appears to have left the property to his granddaughters, the daughters of his son Archibald Ward Ellis (1881-1963). The property left Ellis family ownership in 1981.

The property was purchased in 1984 by Edwin H.B. Pratt (1945-2021) and his wife Page. Pratt served as a Marion selectman and was on the town board of health. He was an avid motorcyclist and collector and operated a motorcycle shop in Marion. He was the son of educator Edwin H.B. Pratt, Sr. (1915-1975), the former headmaster of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge and also a resident of Marion.

The house was purchased by the current owners in 2017.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
12-20-2017	18587-282	Edwin H.B. & E. Page Pratt	David Scott Sloan, Trustee
02-23-1999	17202-182	Edwin H.B. Pratt & E. Page Minshew	Edwin H.B. Pratt & E. Page Pratt
08-08-1984	13083-285	M. Kevin Bush	Edwin H.B. Pratt & E. Page Minshew
05-07-1981	5012-203	Kathryn F. Nowak	M. Kevin Bush
06-02-1956	2506-346	Gertrude Dorothea Ellis, Miriam Ward Ellis, & Virginia Ellis	Kathryn F. & C. Joseph Nowak

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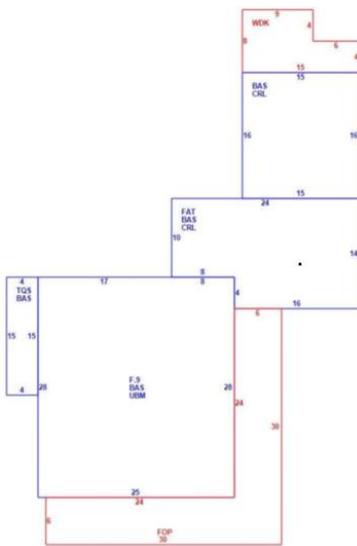
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06-02-1956	2506-337	Kathryn F. Nowak (¼ Interest)	Gertrude Dorothea Ellis, Miriam Ward Ellis, & Virginia Ellis
Probate	#70459	Charles M. Ellis	Gertrude Dorothea Ellis, Catherine Florence Nowak, Miriam Ward Ellis, & Virginia Ellis

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879
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- 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.
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- Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
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Assessor's card plan



Facade (west elevation).