

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	MRN.W	
<b>Historic Name:</b>	The Spanish Castle	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Marion	
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	East Marion; Sippican Neck;	
<b>Local No:</b>		
<b>Year Constructed:</b>		
<b>Use(s):</b>	Residential District;	
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;	
<b>Designation(s):</b>		
<b>Building Materials:</b>		
<b>Demolished</b>	No	

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 2:17 PM

# FORM A - AREA

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

002	Marion	MRN.W	see data sheet
-----	--------	-------	----------------

**Town/City:** Marion

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

## Photograph



**Name of Area:** The Spanish Castle

**Present Use:** residential

**Construction Dates or Period:** ca. 1891 -- ca. 1965

**Overall Condition:** excellent

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** Some demolition and postwar construction among substantial surviving components of the turn of the century landscape.

**Acreage:** about 13½ acres

**Recorded by:** Claire Dempsey and John Clemson

**Organization:** Sippican Historical Society

**Date** (*month/year*): July 2019

## Locus Map



See also Google Satellite View on continuation sheet 5.

RECEIVED  
MAR 04 2020  
MASS. HIST. COMM.

see continuation sheet

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Some buildings in this area were earlier surveyed as MRN.52, 451 Point Road, an earlier street address, and including MRN.53, 905, 906.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The summer estate known here as the "Spanish Castle" has a complex history whose general contours are presented here. The early development of the property as a summer estate likely dates to shortly after the property was purchased by brothers Arthur W, Dudley N, and John Philip Hartt in 1891. They added a main house and possibly other outbuildings, but the house (see figure 2), consisting of a large Shingle-style villa, does not survive. It appears that sometime after acquiring the property in 1906, Andrew Gray Weeks redeveloped it in what was at the time described as "of the Spanish type" (see narrative). Many of the important features in the landscape appear to date to this second phase of development, including a high surrounding wall, the pergola, the carriage house, the gate house, and boat house. United by stucco walls and terra cotta tile roofs and coping, these all survive in a condition of good preservation. After 1956, the house itself was demolished and the large parcel was subdivided in a third phase of development that included converting the gate house and carriage house to domestic use and adding three houses to the area.

The 13½ acre area, clearly defined by a high, stucco wall which surround it, forms a near rectangle bounded on the east by Point Road, on the west by Blankenship Cove and Sippican Harbor, and on the north and south by the former estates of Arthur W. Hartt and E. Dwight Fullerton, respectively. The property's axis runs roughly northeast to southwest, and the frontage on Point Road is at a slight angle from a strict rectangle to conform to its path, which is not at right angles to the rest of the property. The coastal edge of the property is strictly straight and at right angles to the north and south boundaries; images depict a stone and concrete sea wall above the beach added to maintain the generally even topography and to subdue and straighten the coastline in this location.



*Intersection of Point Road and Sippican Lane, showing the wall along Point and Sippican and 6 Sippican Lane to the right. Google Street View.*

The entire area is surrounded by a high, solid stucco wall capped by a coping of terra cotta roof tiles. Gates are located in three locations along the Point Road frontage. What appears to have been the main gate is at 6 Sippican, marked by lower sections of wall flanked by taller square pillars, curves inward to taller pillars that support the original

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

wrought iron gate held in place by a wrought iron arch. The inner gate is placed at an angle to the frontage in order to square off the drive. Ancillary gates, marked by taller pillars, are located at either end of the frontage. At the north corner the wall veers from almost due north to northwest in order to square off that corner of the grounds, and in front is a triangular greensward. The side walls terminate at the coast close to the seawall.



*Google Street View images of the wall, at 6 Sippican on the left, at the east end of the property on the right.*

In the center of the estate, marked partially by a narrow parcel depicted on the locus map, is a remarkable landscape feature in a condition of good preservation. Here a monumental pergola supported by massive, smooth, stucco-clad columns with moderate entasis form a dramatic, narrow alley that marches from close to the coastline several hundred feet inland to what could be considered a nymphaeum surrounded by a circle of columns. In the center of the circle is a greater-than-life-sized allegorical figure of a woman, standing in the center of a bath. Although only observed from a distance, the figure appears to be a casting. At this writing the wood rafters and purlins that form the pergola's bower are being reproduced and replaced in-kind in wood. The rafters extend to each side from the purlins with decorative ends finished in an ogee pattern. The position of the pergola suggests its west end originally terminated at the house.



*The pergola and the statue.*

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

A small pavilion, the **Weeks Boat House, 0 Sippican Lane**, is located directly on the coast at the northwest corner of the area. The building is placed on a stone pedestal that projects beyond the concrete seawall that runs across the property bound. Its symmetrical appearance and finishes suggest an adherence to the Spanish Colonial Revival theme of the rest of the estate. The pavilion is a long, low, single-story stucco rectangle with a deeply overhanging hipped roof of terra-cotta tile supported by decorative rafter tails. In the center, facing the water, is an open porch supported by an arcade of three arches; the central arch is wider and elliptical and its flankers are full. Above, extending onto the porch roof, is an open deck surrounded by a balustrade of wrought-iron railings supported by stucco piers; this flat-roofed central component extends through the mass of the building. The central porch is flanked by matching full-arched openings; on the left into an open hallway and on the right with a door. These openings are in turn flanked by decorative ocular windows. On the land side is a domestically scaled, full-arched central door flanked by small, six-light casement windows. Here the flanking wings are lit by casement windows inboard and ocular windows toward the outer edges. Just to the north of the pavilion is a metal pier supported by stone or concrete abutments. The pier projects over the water to a set of floats accessed by a movable gangway.



*The Weeks Boat House, on the left, from Planting Fields, the Weeks Carriage House (assessor's photo), on the right.*

The **Weeks Carriage House at 428 Point Road** also exhibits strong Spanish Colonial attributes and appears to be another survival of the estate's second period of development; it was converted to domestic use in the late 1950s. This large, complex, single-story building is massed in a deep U. Street and assessor's views depict a high, central, hipped section with lower wings that extend eastward and northward to form an inner courtyard at the north side of the building. On the southwest corner is a two-story round tower capped by a steep cone. Assessor's views show the southeast-facing main façade; the main entry, composed of a double-leaf door framed in full sidelights and transom, suggest a converted carriage way. Adjacent to the entry on the main hip roof is a hip-roofed dormer. Within a lower east wing what appears to be an original garage door survives. The deep overhang of the hipped roofs supported by decorative rafter tails, and the appearance of stucco cladding, combined with the tower, suggests this building may have lost some detail and possibly a terra-cotta tile roof that would have matched the wall coping and the Boat House. Window openings, composed of standard single and paired domestically scaled sash, may have been replaced during recent decades but retain eight-over-eight and six-over-six configurations. Although some maps indicate a small outbuilding along the wall near Point Road, this cannot be seen today.

The other building closest to the Point Road frontage is the **Weeks Gate House at 6 Sippican Lane**, an unembellished, complex single-story building, again finished in stucco but with a low-pitched, slab-like gable roof with open soffits that suggest a more modernist aesthetic. The sprawling building, consisting of several gabled masses, has

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W
-----------

see data sheet
-------------------

evidently undergone change during the mid-to-late twentieth century. This property has a small **Guest House**, also including multiple gabled masses, is finished in wood board-and-batten.



*Weeks Gate House, left, assessors view, guest house, right, Goggle Street View.*

After the property was subdivided and the main house demolished, two houses were added on the water-side lots created by the subdivision of the land in 1956. The **Whitehouse House at 446 Point Road** is accessed by Cedar Way and was built between 1957 and 1966. Finished with wood shingles and trim, it is expanded by a two-story cross gable at its north end that may be an addition. Its fenestration appears to be a mix of mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century multi-light, double-hung and more-recent arched and 'picture' single-light fixed sash. It is serviced by two outbuildings: a detached, two-bay, gabled garage and a garden shed, both with similar wood-shingle finishes. The adjacent **Wellman House at 30 Sippican Lane** was built between 1959 and 1965. The large, two-story hipped cube has flanking, single story wings. This otherwise modernist house, with large, fixed-sash window openings, is capped at the peak of the hip by a small, hipped observatory with an exaggeratedly flared 'skirt' that lends the building a decidedly 'post-modern' feel. Two large chimneys at either side of the central hip with pronounced corbels accentuate this effect. For images see front of form.

A smaller house at **18 Sippican Lane** is a gable-roofed single-story block added on a lot subdivided from No. 6 between 1980 and 1994; this building is said to have been moved to its current location from elsewhere nearby (see narrative). An open, engaged porch faces the water and three hip-roofed dormers light the garret in the west-facing elevation. Finishes include wood clapboards stopped by narrow, plain corner boards, a boxed cornice, and wood ten-over-ten sash. Windows are generally arranged in a regular pattern with the exception of a filled-in portion of the porch at the south end of the west-facing elevation, where a mid-century tri-part picture window has been inserted.



*18 Sippican Lane (assessor's image).*

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

Despite the physical changes present in the area, it appears to retain much of its original estate-like feeling. This is emphasized by the surrounding wall and the open, park-like setting landscaped with lawn and mature stands of trees. The narrow lanes that access the area continue to be paved in gravel rather than asphalt, and the pergola, which appears to be well-maintained, is a remarkable survival of a distinctive and elaborate landscape feature that speaks to the resort era of ca. 1880 to 1930, an important phase in Marion's history. Like other sections of East Marion, this one has been developed with a layer denser suburban residences during the post-World War II era, adding a second layer to the historic landscape preserved here.



Google Satellite View.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Spanish Castle Area is located on the south side of Point Road, overlooking Planting Island Cove on the Great Neck in East Marion. The section sometimes known as Sippican Neck is the southern peninsula there, and until recently was only sparsely populated. In 1855, Point Road included only three residences south of the intersection with Delano Road and in 1879 only one or two more. But by 1903, the rise of Marion as a summer resort is reflected in the larger numbers in this vicinity, houses located along the waterfront and reached by long driveways from Point Road (see figure 1). This site was developed in about 1891 and then redeveloped in about 1906 with a Spanish Revival complex of house, outbuildings, and landscape features; the main house was demolished and the area was redeveloped in the 1950s as the outbuildings were converted to domestic use and new houses were added. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the surrounding neighborhood has seen more suburban-style subdivisions and the construction of moderate and large residences.

The first summer residents identified with this area were the Hartt brothers, Arthur W (1871-1960), Dudley N (1879-1950), and John Philip (1886-1966). The brothers were the sons of John Francis Hartt, a merchant who also served as mayor of Brookline. Hartt, his wife Emma Nickerson Hartt, and their son Robert W were killed in a train accident in 1889, when a stock train crashed into their private car outside of Chicago.<sup>1</sup> In 1891, the brothers, who were described as "of Marion," purchased 16½ acres of land between Point Road and what was then known as Blankinship Cove. It is not known where they lived at this time, but in 1900, Arthur was living with his wife and three servants in Brookline, reporting his occupation as landscape architect; he later was described as a broker. Dudley was a student living in Cambridge, but John's whereabouts is unknown. Two complexes seem to have been built by them by 1903, one for older brother Arthur and one for Dudley and John P. See figure 1. It appears that in 1906, the portion occupied by Dudley and John P was sold to Andrew Gray Weeks, while the brothers retained Arthur's portion. In 1909, Dudley sold his one-third share to his brothers and in 1910 had a stock farm in Montana. Arthur and John sold the remaining section in 1926.<sup>2</sup>

Andrew Gray Weeks, Jr. (1861-1931), was the second son of Andrew Gray Weeks, who had relocated from Maine to Boston and founded a wholesale drug business. Weeks Jr attended Harvard and then went to work in his father's business for a time before turning to more scholarly pursuits. The business later added real estate to their interests, and that firm, Weeks Real Estate Trust, became the family's primary concern. Weeks Jr had a lifetime interest in natural history and became an expert on diurnal lepidoptera, publishing two works on the subject in 1905 and 1911. He was described as "very social in his habits."<sup>3</sup> At Harvard, he was an associate in zoology from 1902 to 1905 and in entomology from 1911 to 1916. At his death, in addition to major bequests to his son and daughter, Weeks gave \$100,000 to Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology for the upkeep and increase of its collections; he also bequeathed his collection of diurnal lepidoptera, sketches of his type specimens, his entomological books and pamphlets (including copies of his own works), and his mounted fish. He made smaller gifts to a number of Boston institutions and gave \$10,000 to the town of Marion for the upkeep and improvement of Island Wharf.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ancestry.com: Bayland Family Tree; Illinois Death Records; US Census 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920; US Directories Wareham, 1907, 1910. Documents uploaded to Ancestry.com under John F Hart include a *N Y Times* article about the accident (11 April 1889).

<sup>2</sup> PCRD: 615: 498 (1891); 951:242, 243 (1906); 1033:446 (1909); 1513-311 (1926). The earlier owners of the land were Thomas G and Frances A Frothingham of Boston, who had acquired it from Ellen M Clifton in 1886 (526:24). According to that document, she had acquired the land from Cynthia D Clifton by her will of 1853; previous owners were Jabez Delano prior to 1836 and Cornelius Briggs after 1841.

<sup>3</sup> Samuel A Eliot, *Biographical History of Massachusetts* (Boston 1916), volume 6, unpaginated; biographies of Andrew G Weeks sr and jr.

<sup>4</sup> *Boston Globe*: "Andrew Gray Weeks, Naturalist, Dead," 8 December 1939; "Harvard Bequeathed Fortune, Collection," 15 December 1931. Ancestry.com: US Census 1920, 1930; US Directories Boston, 1910s and 20s. PCRD: 951:242, 243 (1906); 1033:446 (1909); 1731:82 (1937).

## INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

When he purchased this land in 1906, Weeks and his wife Alice already owned property in Marion, just north of Wharf or Lower Village on Front Street. On Sippican Neck, they built a house that was later described as “of the Spanish type,” with a frontage of 570 feet on Marion Harbor; it was said to be “one of the most attractive and unusual properties in southern Massachusetts.” A rare image of a Weeks house was published in E G Perry’s *A Trip Around Buzzard’s Bay Shores* (1903 and 1976); see figure 2. Both the date of publication for this work, 1903, and the appearance of the building in it, seem to raise more questions than they answer. Weeks did not purchase the property until 1906, though he may have been a renter here before that. In addition, the house does not appear to be ‘Spanish’ in character. The illustrated image is for an ample and ambitious pile in the Shingle style, with a later annotation that it was located in East Marion and demolished and the land subdivided. The broad gabled mass had projecting gabled bays at each end and in the center were a canted bay and an element topped by a pair of end-gabled roofs that may shield the entry. A broad porch across the facade terminated in a glazed pavilion; a section of the yard adjacent to the house was enclosed in a solid fence. This may be the Hartts’ house which may have later been remodeled or replaced to achieve a character that would match the elements that survive on the site today, all employing stucco walls and terracotta tile roofs. Surviving features that do seem to be Spanish include a **gate house, a carriage house, a boat house, a wall surrounding the property, and a pergola** running through the center of the property. At least in the 1910s and 20s, the Weeks made this their primary residence; it was valued at \$75,000 in the 1920 census. The property was sold at public auction in 1937.<sup>5</sup>

The next owner of this property was Francis A Countway (1876-1955), president of the Lever Brothers soap company. After graduating from Somerville High School, Countway went to work for a soap company that was purchased by Lever in 1898. A British company founded in 1885, Lever Brothers built its profits on the manufacture of soaps using vegetable rather than animal fats; they are also known for their planned community Port Sunlight in Merseyside, a World Heritage Site. William Lever made Countway general manager in 1910 and president in 1918. The company’s gross earnings rose from \$1 million in 1913 to \$90 million in 1940. According to an article in *Fortune Magazine*, Countway was credited with identifying body odor as a source of concern and inventing Lifebuoy soap to eliminate it, after a day on the links at Braeburn in Newton in 1926. *Fortune* painted quite a picture of Countway:

The really startling thing about [him] is an almost sybaritic elegance most uncommon and refreshing among men of his station. A bachelor, his brief well-turned figure is the subject of such tailoring as is seldom encountered outside the movies, and his taste in haberdashery is that of an artist. . . . [I]t is inconceivable that he should travel in a lesser vehicle than a streamlined town car; inconceivable that he should holiday in less impressive surroundings than those he has created on his estate at Marion on Buzzard’s Bay, or that he should be the recipient of one of the country’s largest salaries.<sup>6</sup>

It is possible that Countway embellished the estate during his ownership. Countway lived at Longwood Towers in Brookline with his sister Gussanda, known as Sanda (and sometimes rendered Sandra). He was a member of many of the elite clubs in the Boston area as well as Kittansett Golf Club and the Beverly Yacht Club. After serving as president of Lever for 28 years, Countway retired in 1946. After his death, Sanda made a gift to Harvard Medical School for the construction of the Countway Library in memory of her brother; today it is one of the world’s largest medical libraries.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The Weeks’ first house in Marion was indicated as “Red Rock” on the Atlas of 1903; they purchased it in the 1890s and sold it in 1914 (PCRD 696: 295, 296, 726:498). The property was later purchased for the harbor-side campus of Tabor Academy, and the house moved and today is known as Bushnell House; Smith, *A Picture Post Card History*, p. 110 and Tripp, *Reflections of a Town*, pp. 86 and 87. An image of the other Weeks house can be found on page 65 of Smith’s *A Picture Post Card History*; it seems to be confused with the other building, which is identified elsewhere in that volume and in Tripp’s. Its siting is comparatively close to the waterfront, and it appears that the ‘Spanish’ house may have been located farther from the waterfront. *Boston Globe*, “Auction to be held for Weeks Estate,” 27 June 1937; quotes are from this source, which dates the building to 1906 but may have confused the date of construction with the date of the purchase of the property.

<sup>6</sup> *Boston Globe*, “Lever Brothers’ Extensive Growth Credited to Countway,” 19 October 1940.

<sup>7</sup> *Boston Globe*, “Francis A Countway,” 23 September 1955, “Francis Countway, Retired President of Lever Brothers,” 20 September 1955; “Lever Brothers’ Extensive Growth Credited to Countway,” 19 October 1940. Wikipedia.org: Lever Brothers and Port Sunlight. <https://www.countway.harvard.edu/center-history-medicine/about/history>. Sippican Historical Society Collections. Modern works on the origin of the term ‘body odor’ and Lifebuoy do not mention Countway; see for example Wikipedia “Lifebuoy” and “How Advertisers Convinced Americans They Smelled Bad,” 2 August 2012, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-advertisers-convinced-americans-they-smelled-bad-12552404/>. His innovation may be that he raised this concern for men.

## INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

Acting as executor to her brother's estate, Sanda Countway sold the property to Piney Point Estates, Inc. in 1956. The president of this company was Roger W Converse (1900-1969), the grandson of the founder of the Boston Rubber Company, Elisha S Converse, and the son of Harry E Converse, who established the family compound The Moorings on what came to be known as Converse Point (MRN.47). Converse had established a real estate firm in 1923 and had purchased a 225-acre tract for development for year-round residents as Piney Point Estates, located to the east of Point Road. At this time, this property was subdivided into five lots with two new roads, which may follow earlier paths within the estate. See figure 3. Sippican Lane runs along the north boundary and extends from Point Road to the boat house at the waterfront, where it widens to form a lot for that building. About halfway along this road, the cul-de-sac Cedar Way provides access to the center of the property. The bulk of the parcel was divided into four lots, two to the north of Cedar Way along Point Road, and two below it along the water. The plot plan does not include building footprints, but title research allows some suggestions about the development of the property. Two of these parcels along Point Road had buildings on them when they were sold in 1956 and 1957, suggesting that the buildings at **6 Sippican Lane** and **428 Point Road** are likely survivals from the estate period and are likely to have been estate outbuildings. Mary Smoyer, a Marion resident who was interviewed for this project, identified the buildings as a gate house and a carriage house/barn. There also seem to be period openings and gates within the wall that surrounds the property that would serve these buildings. An important landscape feature, the **pergola** of concrete posts and wood rafters, bisects the property, running from about the east side of the house at 428 Point Road and terminating in a circle of posts on the east side of Cedar Way. See figure 5. It may suggest that the house was located at its western end, facing onto the water.<sup>8</sup> Piney Point Estates, Inc. sold the four house lots between 1956 and 1959 and the roadways and parking area in 1965.

Two of the estate buildings were sold to Philp and Hope Dean, **6 Sippican Lane** in 1956 and **428 Point Road** in 1960 (from a short-term owner). Philip Dean (1917-1991) was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy (1935) and Harvard College (1939); he served in the Navy during World War II, discharged as lieutenant commander. He was a banker, beginning at JP Morgan in New York and later at the Fiduciary Trust Company in Boston, a privately-held company founded in 1885. A third parcel was later carved out of these two lots and another house was added at **18 Sippican Lane** here between 1980 and 1994, according to plot plans of the area. Smoyer notes that this house was moved from another site along this road. See figure 4.<sup>9</sup>

The two waterfront properties were sold and developed soon after the property was subdivided in 1956. Nancy S and Arthur O Wellman, Jr, of Wellesley purchased the land at **30 Sippican Lane** in 1959 and had built there by the time they sold the property in 1965. Wellman (1923-2003) was educated at Governor Dummer Academy and served in the Army Air Corps. He adapted his family's woolen business to the manufacture of synthetics and was described as a plastic recycling industrialist.<sup>10</sup> Dorothy and Edwin Whitehouse of Old Greenwich, CT, purchased the land at **446 Point Road** in 1957 and were noted on the street list of 1966. Whitehouse (1905-1989) had lived in New Rochelle before moving to Greenwich; he worked as an office clerk in an oil company and later as a traffic manager in New York City.<sup>11</sup> In 1965, the owners of the four parcels, Dean, Whitehouse, and Babbitt (who had bought out the Wellmans), formed the Sippican Way Land Trust and purchased the roadways, the parking area, and the boathouse. See figure 5.

<sup>8</sup> PCRD: 2508:466 (1956). *Boston Globe*: "R W Converse Buys Marion Estate," 22 July 1956; "Roger Converse Dies at 69 5 November 1969."

<sup>9</sup> PCRD: 2553:413 (1956), 2563:465 (1957), 2762:341 (1960); 18152:67 (1999). *Boston Globe*: "Philip Dean, 76," 30 May 1991. <https://www.fiduciary-trust.com/about/history/>. Marion Street List 1969; they were not listed in 1966.

<sup>10</sup> PCRD: 2744:381 (1959), 3186:408 (1965). *Boston Globe*: "Arthur O Wellman jr at 79," 21 July 2003. The later owners of the property, Edwin and Katheryn Babbitt were listed here in 1966 and 1969 Street Lists.

<sup>11</sup> PCRD: 2597:47 (1957). Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1940; US Directories; US Social Security Death Index. Marion Street List 1966, 1969.

**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Maps and atlases:

1855 H.F. Walling, *Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*1879 Geo H Walker & Co, *Atlas of Plymouth County Massachusetts.*1903 L. J. Richards & Co, *New Topographic Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County ... Massachusetts*

1908, 1921, 1933 Sanborn Insurance Atlases.

Ancestry.com: see footnotes.

*Boston Globe*, see footnotes.

Gordon, Edward, MRN.52, 451 Point Road (which includes useful additional images).

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, in notes as PCRD book: page.

Ryder, Alice Austin, *Lands of Sippican on Buzzards Bay*. Sippican Historical Society, 1975.Smith, Pete, ed., *A Picture Post Card History of Marion, Massachusetts*. Sippican Historical and Preservation Society, 2007.

Smoyer, Mary, personal communication, May 2019.

Tripp, H Edmund, *Reflections on a Town....* Sippican Historical Society, 1991.**DATA SHEET**

MHC #	Assessor's #	Street #	Street Name	Historic Name	Form	Style	Construction Date
MRN.905	002 159, 160		Point Road etc	Weeks Wall	stucco & tile wall	Spanish Colonial I	ca. 1906
MRN.52	002 159	428	Point Road	Weeks Carriage House and garage	complex gabled	Spanish Colonial	ca. 1900, ca. 1960
MRN.384	002 162	446	Point Road	Whitehouse House	Cape expanded	Colonial Revival	1957-66
MRN.906	002 161A			Weeks Pergola	pergola	Spanish Colonial	ca. 1906
MRN.53	002 163	0	Sippican Lane	Weeks Boat House	Pavilion	Spanish Colonial	ca. 1906
MRN.385	002 160	6	Sippican Lane	Weeks Gate House and guest house	complex gabled	Modernist	ca. 1906, ca 1960
MRN.386	002 159A	18	Sippican Lane	house - moved?	gabled block	Colonial Revival	1980-94
MRN.387	002 161	30	Sippican Lane	Wellman House	hip block & wings	Post Modern	1959-65
MRN.929	002 161, 162		Planting Isand Cove	sea wall	concrete		ca. 1906?

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------



Figure 1. 1903 Richards Atlas showing the property when owned by the Hartts and the sparse development to the southeast.



RESIDENCE OF A. G. WEEKS, MARION.  
*East Marion. Torn down and land subdivided.*

Figure 2. This image was included in E G Perry's *A Trip Around Buzzard's Bay Shores* (1903 and 1976), p. 82. It appears that the italics text was added in 1976 to the Roman text of 1903.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------



Figure 3. This image in the collections of the Sippican Historical Society, published in Smith, *A Picture Post Card History* (2007).

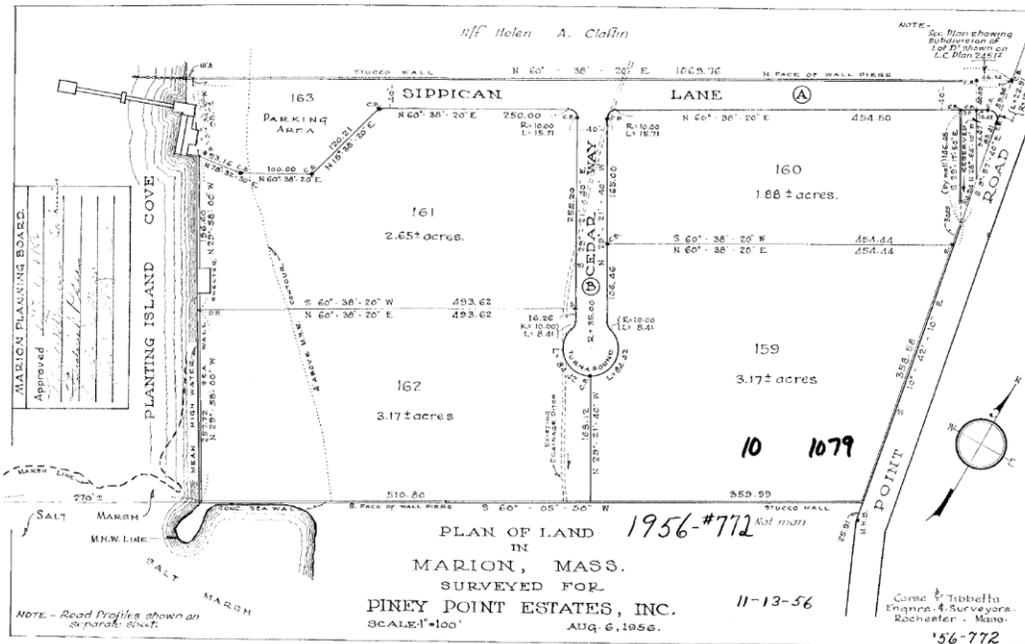


Figure 4. Property subdivision of 1956, PCRD 1956 #772.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

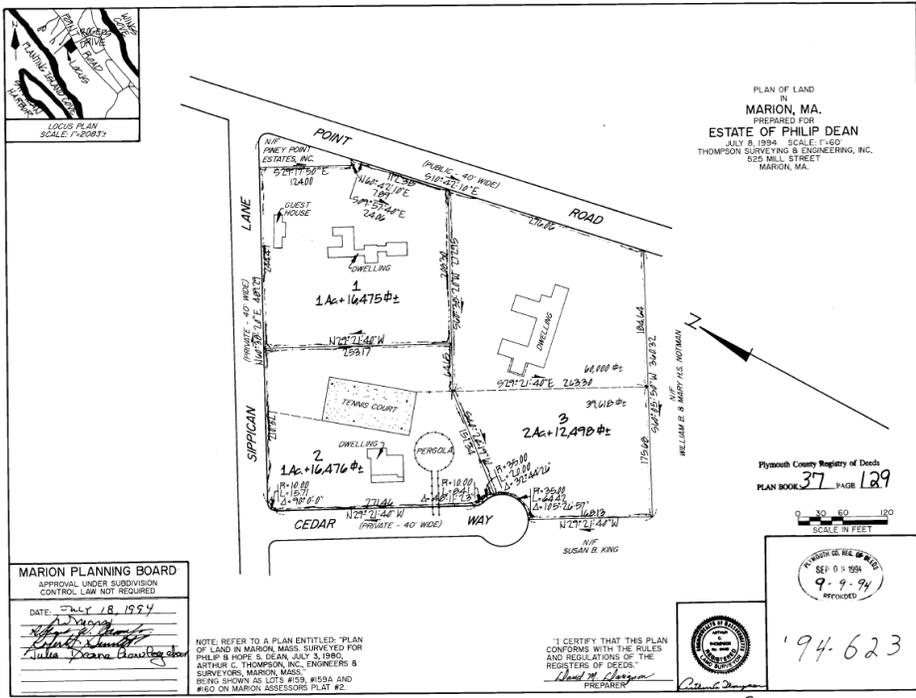


Figure 5. Property subdivision 1994, PCD #23. This image shows the footprints of 428 Point Road and 6 and 18 Sippican Lane.

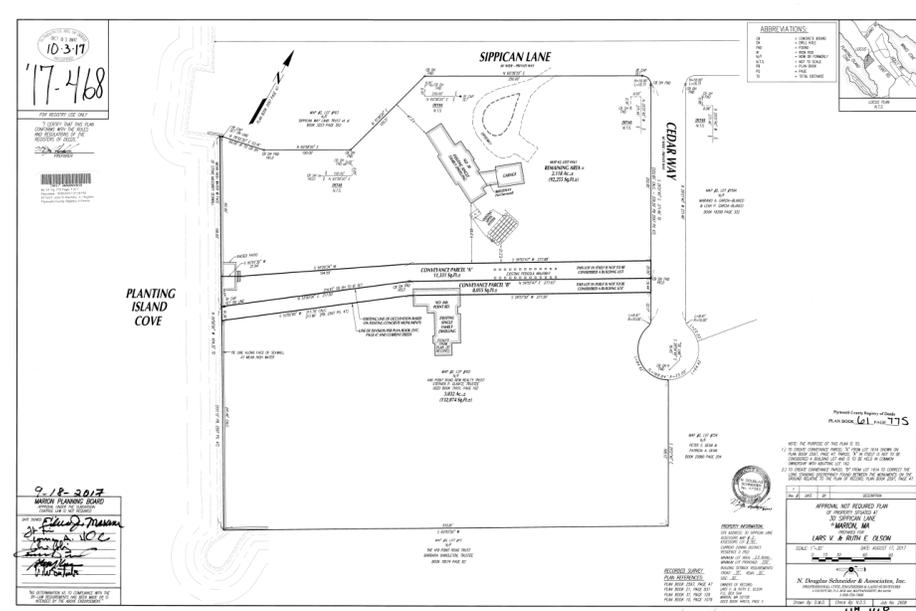


Figure 6. Property subdivision 2017, PCD 2019 468. This images shows the footprints of 446 Point Road and 30 Sippican Lane.

**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

SPANISH CASTLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN. W	see data sheet
-----------	-------------------

**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district  
 Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance by Claire W Dempsey

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

While it is not likely that *this* area would be eligible as a historic district, it might be a component of a larger district that includes surveyed properties in its vicinity that are better preserved and likely to be NR eligible, including the Coolidge Houses at 604 A&B Point Road (MRN.55, 56) and the Bowditch House at 459 Point Road (MRN.54) to the north of this area and others, also overlooking Blankenships and Planting Island coves, that have yet to be surveyed. The Spanish Castle includes distinctive components of an important summer estate associated with Marion's rise in popularity as a summer resort at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Marion was one of many quiescent New England port towns that were transformed after their atmosphere, cool, quiet, and quaint, was discovered by vacationing Americans. Railroads eased the journey and hotels provided lodging, and by the 1870s, outsiders were renting and buying property, often building ample cottages, and planning longer stays. Of particular interest for Marion, prosperous businessmen and their families were joined by literary figures, artists, and actors, and President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland. The largely undeveloped sections of the town on Great Neck became one of the most impressive summer-house neighborhoods, with large Shingle and Classical Revival dwellings at the end of long driveways and overlooking the sea. Also built here were yacht, tennis, and golf clubs and other meeting places for this community. Most of the resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet criteria A and C at the local level, with areas of significance in architecture, entertainment/recreation, and social history.