

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-116

Marion

MRN.L

MRN.305

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 6 Allen Street

Historic Name: Augustus Nickerson House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1890

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: Shingle Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Curved knee wall enclosure at façade (after 1998)

Entry at east elevation (after 1998)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

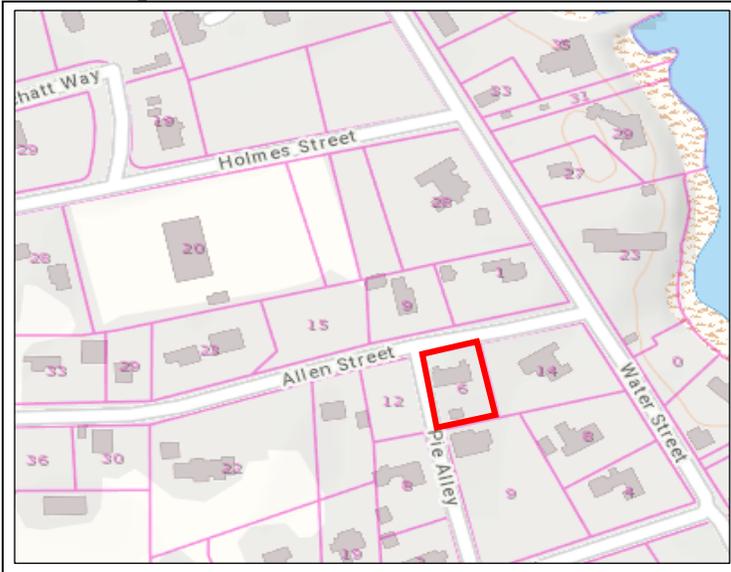
Acreage: 0.31

Setting: Homogeneous residential neighborhood of predominately high-style Shingle Style and Queen Anne houses, principally developed in the late 19th – early 20th centuries. Surrounded mostly by large, wood-frame, single-family houses on generous lots. In close proximity to Sippican Harbor.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

6 Allen Street occupies a rectangular lot on the south side of Allen Street at its intersection with Pie Alley, an unpaved lane joining Allen and Lewis Streets. The house is positioned near the northern boundary of this relatively small parcel and faces north. The yard is maintained chiefly in grass; the house has low foundation plantings at the façade (north elevation). The property is bordered at Allen Street with an unpainted picket fence and along Pie Alley with a fieldstone wall from Allen Street to the façade of the house and with short sections of arbor vitae and picket fencing from the rear elevation to the southern parcel boundary.

The building is a two-story, seven-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame house constructed in the 1890s in the Shingle Style. It retains the majority of its original character-defining features. It has a shallow rectangular plan and a strong horizontal emphasis. The house is steeply side-gabled with asymmetrically placed openings and cross gables. The roof of the main block has a saltbox form that is repeated in the two cross-gabled bays at the first story. The portion of the main roof joining the western cross-gable has parallel gables. The house rests on a concrete foundation and the walls are clad in weathered wood shingles; it has flat, narrow wood trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A narrow brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the northern parallel gable.

The eastern bay at the façade is one-bay deep, one-story in height, and projects beyond the eastern corner of the house. It contains a single entry flanked by windows which opens to a patio enclosed by a low, curved, wood-shingled knee wall. The saltbox roof of the western bay drops to the west, enclosing the parallel main roof gables and terminating as a shed roof over the first story. The main entry to the house occupies the third-most easterly bay and is sheltered by a shed-roofed portico with wood shingle-clad posts and a knee wall; it fronts a walkway of large slate pavers entering the property from Pie Alley. A blind dormer projects deeply over the second-most westerly bay at the second story. Several rows of sawtooth shingles accentuate the gable peaks at the dormer and cross gables. Fenestration at the façade consists of glass-and-panel doors and a combination of fixed multi-light sash and single and tripartite windows with four-over-one sash configurations, all with molded surrounds and blinds. The windows at the west and south (rear) elevations are similarly grouped but larger in size with six-over-one and eight-over-one sash. Openings at the east elevation include a small, tripartite window with decorative muntin patterns at the upper sash; an entry door with a transom and sidelights was added sometime after 1998.

A west-facing, one-story, hip-roofed, two-car garage is sited behind the house at the southern property line. Clad in weathered wood shingles with an asphalt shingle roof, it is topped with a rectangular cupola. The wood paneled garage doors have multi-light glazing in the upper panels. A gravel driveway approaches the garage from Pie Alley; a short stone wall projects from the northeast corner of the garage.

The Shingle Style is a uniquely American form that 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. It was a high-fashion style favored by architects and was primarily employed from 1880 to 1900. The style's focus 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 shingles ran uninterrupted around corners and projections, creating an enclosed, unified shape and color with little or no applied ornamentation. **6 Allen Street** is an excellent example of a Shingle Style house in Marion. It has undergone few alterations since its construction and exhibits numerous defining features of the style in addition to the use of wood shingles, including its steep roofs, asymmetry, and fenestration.

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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 Village of Marion, the commercial and residential center of the town, is set on the western shore of Sippican Harbor. The town has historically consisted of a northern portion, often referred to as the Old Landing, and a southern portion, known once as Wharf Village but more commonly referred to today as The Village or Marion Village. This house is located in the southernmost section of Marion Village near the waterfront, which before 1860 was largely uninhabited. Prior to that time Marion, like other coastal towns, was dependent on fishing, coastal shipping and related businesses such as the production of salt from sea water. Salt was a vital commodity for fisheries, and this section of Marion Village was the site of several salt works. Maritime industries were dominant in Marion until the mid-19th century, when the advent of rail service began to facilitate tourism. At the same time, new cultural and educational institutions endowed by the founder of Tabor Academy, Elizabeth P. Taber, dramatically enriched the community.

Affluent urban dwellers from cities like Boston and New York were now able to travel in comfort to seaside destinations like Marion. The town began to attract many notable political, literary, and art world figures seeking a genteel seaside respite. Initially visitors stayed at hotels or rented private houses, but as the end of the century neared and Marion became nationally known as a desirable vacation destination, wealthy individuals began to build their own permanent summer residences. This desirable waterfront area, once home to salt works, became the site of grand summer cottages. These imposing houses include an outstanding collection of Shingle Style residences and fine examples of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Several of these residences were designed by prominent American architects including Charles A. Coolidge, James T. Kelley and William Gibbons Preston. Henry Hobson Richardson, the most celebrated American architect of the day, designed the first Shingle Style house in Marion. It was built in 1881 for the Reverend Percy Browne at 192 Front Street (1881, Rev. Percy Browne-Sidney Hosmer House, MRN. 211) just north of this waterfront neighborhood.

The 1903 map shows Augustus Nickerson as property owner. Nickerson was born in Boston in 1860, the son of Frederick W. Nickerson and Lucy Blanchard Howard. He was part of the large and widespread Nickerson family descended from William Nickerson, who had emigrated to Massachusetts in 1627. Augustus Nickerson graduated from Boston English High School in 1877 and married Nellie Sophia Tarbell, daughter of Edward Whitney and Enda Sophia Tarbell of Boston, in June of 1883. Nellie Sophia was the older sister of American Impressionist artist Edmund Charles Tarbell (1862-1938). The 1900, 1910, and 1920 Federal censuses list Nickerson's residence as Boston and his occupation as accountant. Nickerson was the principal of a Boston accounting firm which billed itself as Augustus Nickerson, Expert Accountant and Auditor. The firm was acquired by the New York accounting firm of Haskins & Sells in 1921. Nickerson was an avid cyclist and served as an officer of the Boston Bicycle Club. Based on advertisements and notices appearing in the *Boston Globe* in 1891 and 1893, it appears that he used this house as a vacation rental property targeted at Bostonians. The first recorded conveyance found for this property registered its transfer from Nellie S. Nickerson to Martha Buckham of Burlington, Vermont in 1905.

Martha Buckman was the second wife of Mathew H. Buckman (1832-1910), President of the University of Vermont. Buckman was born in Leicestershire, England and emigrated with his parents to Vermont where his father, a clergyman, served a number of parishes in the state. Buckman attended the University of Vermont and graduated first in his class at age 15. After post-graduate studies at the University of London, he assumed the chair in Greek at his alma mater and also served as a professor of rhetoric and English. Buckman was elected president of the University in 1871 and served in that role for 39 years. He oversaw dramatic growth of the university, which was one the first eastern schools to admit women. He was married in 1857 to his first wife, Elizabeth Wright of Vermont, with whom he had five children. After her death in 1886 he married Martha Goddard Tyler (1861-1933). Buckman died at age 78 in 1910 and the property was sold the following year.

The house and land were purchased by Everett W. Burdett (1854-1925) and his wife Maude Warner Burdett (1864-1963) who owned it for 39 years. The Federal censuses of 1900 and 1910 list their primary residence as Boston, where Burdett maintained a law practice that focused extensively in the areas of electricity distribution and telecommunications. He served as general counsel for the Massachusetts Electric Lighting Association and also lectured on medical jurisprudence at the Boston University School of Medicine. The 1920 Federal census reports his residence as Milton. The Burdett family summered in Marion as noted in the *Boston Globe* society pages between 1906 and 1918. They also owned the house at the adjacent property at 14 Water Street (ca. 1910, MRN.166). Both properties remained in family ownership for roughly 40 years and it is not known which house

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was used as the Burdett's seasonal residence. Maude Burdett continued to own the subject property for 25 years after the death of her husband in 1925.

The house was purchased in 1951 by Katherine Rust Kuehn (1913-2008) and her husband George W. Kuehn (1911-1999) of Chestnut Hill. George Kuehn attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard College and served as board president of the Robert Brigham Hospital in Boston, now the New England Baptist Hospital. Marjorie L. Leonard of Boston purchased the property in 1961 and in 1972 sold it to Mary Jane B. and Prescott B. Crocker of Milton. Mary Jane (Bigelow) Crocker was the wife of Lieutenant Frederick G. Crocker, a United States Naval officer killed in World War II, and the granddaughter of Mary Warner Burdett. Prescott B. Crocker was one of the couple's three sons. The house was sold shortly before the death of Mary Jane Crocker in 1997. Most recently, it has been owned by Anne G. Lucas, who purchased it in 2005.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-15-2019	50743-59	Anne G. Lucas	Lucas Trust
09-30-2005	32482-101	Michael A. Kehoe	Anne G. Lucas
09-30-2001	31446-172	Lisa P. Grover	Michael A. Kehoe
11-19-2001	21119-349	Paul F. & Lisa P. Grover	Lisa P. Grover
09-10-1996	14654-66	Mary Jane B. & Prescott B. Crocker	Paul F. & Lisa P. Grover
09-22-1972	3820-715	Marjorie L. Leonard	Mary Jane B. & Prescott B. Crocker
06-05-1961	2854-422	Katherine R. Kuehn	Marjorie L. Leonard
10-15-1951	2173-97	Lucius T. Hill	Katherine R. Kuehn
05-22-1950	2090-455	Maude W. Burdett	Lucius T. Hill
04-21-1911	1087-105	Martha T. Buckham	Everett W. Burdett
04-27-1905	917-134	Nellie S. Nickerson	Martha T. Buckham

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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
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 Sippican Historical Society: online database
 Wright, Mark. "H. H. Richardson's House for Rev. Browne, Rediscovered." *J. Soc. of Arch. Historians* 68, no. 1 (2009): 74-99.

- "Marion: To Be Let Furnished." *Boston Evening Transcript*, Boston, MA, July 7, 1891.
 "Nickerson Cottage at Silver Shell Beach." *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA July 30, 1893.
 "Marion: Advent of Summer Visitors." *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, July 16, 1893.
The Boston Globe, Boston, MA, June 20, 1897.
 "Former President: Mathew H. Buckham." <https://www.uvm.edu/trustees/former-president-matthew-h-buckham>
 "George Kuehn, 1964 Chris Craft," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, August 25, 1963.
 "Site Purchased for Hospital Comple," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, November 13, 1969.
 Katherine Kuehn death notice in *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, May 13, 1997.
 Mary Jane Crocker death notice in *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, January 27, 2008.

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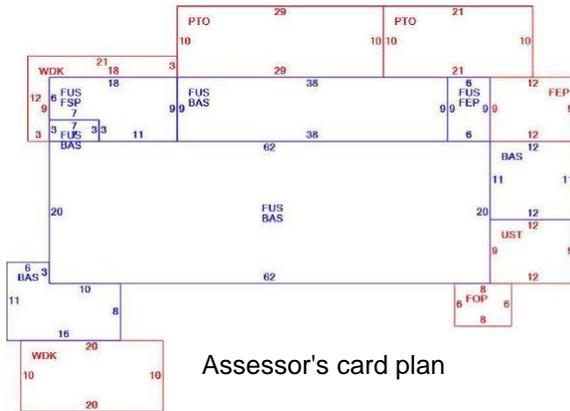
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Assessor's card plan



Rear (south) and west elevations.

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 Lynn Smiledge

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

This house is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for the Water Street Area of Marion Village. The Water Street Area (MRN.L) is recommended as eligible for listing as a National Register District at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. The area constitutes a grid along Water Street running north-south between Vine and Lewis Streets and including the eastern portions of the adjoining east-west streets (Allen, Holmes and Lewis), and a short alley (Pie Alley) running north-south between Holmes and Lewis. The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 survey for the Water Street Area (MRN.L), to which four properties on Water and Lewis Streets have been added.

Under Criterion A, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with the economic revitalization of the town. Marion saw dramatic growth in tourism in the late 19th century facilitated by the advent of rail service and the rise of new cultural and educational institutions that enriched the community. Affluent urban dwellers from cities like Boston and New York were able to travel in comfort to seaside destinations like Marion, and the town began to attract many notable political, literary, and art world figures who built large summer residences along the Sippican Harbor waterfront. The construction and maintenance of these grand properties sparked demand for a variety of skilled trades and service industries along with the need for housing for this new class of workers and prompted the rapid growth of adjacent neighborhoods to accommodate these workers and their families.

Numbered among the prominent summer residents of the Water Street Area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Marion was a highly desirable and nationally-known summer destination, were President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland (46 Water Street, MRN.9); the Reverend John Brooks and his brother and frequent visitor, Reverend Phillips Brooks (1 Allen Street, MRN. 304 and 9 Allen Street, MRN. 306); Henry Kendall, founder of the Kendall (medical supply) Company (35 Water Street, MRN.307); James Austin, chief justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court (MRN.171); Amory Houghton, chairman of Corning Glass Works, ambassador to France, and president of the Boy Scouts of America (23 Water Street, MRN.167); and Stanley R. McCormick, son of the inventor and founder of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company (10 Lewis Street, MRN.491).

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Additionally, the early 19th century residence at 60 Water Street (MRN.169) was originally owned by Captain Henry M. Allen, one of the pioneers of Marion's salt-making industry.

Under Criterion C, the area is recommended as eligible at the local, and possibly the state, level in the area of Architecture for its outstanding and exceptionally well-preserved collection of high-style houses on generous lots which date from the late 19th through the early 20th century. The area includes distinguished examples of the Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival styles, several of which were designed by prominent American architects including Charles A. Coolidge, James T. Kelley and William Gibbons Preston. The only non-residential building in the area is the Craftsman-style, Charles A. Coolidge-designed Sippican Tennis Club at 20 Holmes Street (MRN.157).

The resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet Criteria A at the local level and Criterion C at the local, and possibly state level, with areas of significance in architecture and social history.