

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-121	Marion		MRN.481
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 39 Allen Street

Historic Name: Oswald Chew Rental House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1910

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: Craftsman / Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (1981)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.42

Setting: Homogeneous residential neighborhood of predominately Colonial Revival and Craftsman houses, principally developed in the early 20th century. Surrounded mostly by wood-frame, single-family houses on moderate-sized lots.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): February 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

39 Allen Street

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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.

39 Allen Street occupies a rectangular parcel on the north side of Allen Street. The house is positioned at the northern property boundary and faces south. The majority of the parcel is cleared and maintained in grass; shrubs and clusters of mature trees dot the perimeter. A picket fence borders the parcel along Allen Street. Foundation plantings line the porch at the façade (south elevation). A walkway of slate pavers leads from the main entry to the garage sited just west of the house. A gravel driveway lined with granite pavers enters the property from Allen Street along the western property line and terminates at the garage.

The building is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-two-bay wood-frame main block with a rectangular plan and two dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story, one-bay-by-one-bay hipped roofed addition at the east elevation and a small addition at the rear elevation that could not be accessed visually. It has a shallow hipped roof with shallow eaves and a shed-roofed porch at the facade. Constructed ca. 1910 in the Craftsman style, it retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a high rubble foundation that is exposed at the side elevations. It is clad in painted wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the north roof slope.

Window openings at the main block and east addition comprise single and paired double-hung, six-over-six sash with flat surrounds; the windows at the dormer and other exposed elevations have blinds. There is a wide gabled dormer with paired windows at the main block. The main entry at the center bay contains a six-panel wood door flanked by full-height blinds. The shed-roofed porch extends across the window openings and has rectangular columns linked by arched spandrels. The porch has a vertical wood slat skirt and no railing; it is approached at its west end by a stair.

The hip-roofed east addition is set back one bay from the façade. A door at its east elevation opens to a wooden deck with a vertical slat skirt and slat work railing. The wood-shingled garage sited just west of the house and faces south. It has a shallow gable roof and two openings at the façade including a fixed multilight window and a two-leaf, vertical plank garage door with cast-iron strap hinges and a multilight transom.

39 Allen Street is a bungalow, a small, one or one-and-a-half story subtype of the Craftsman style. The word derives from the small "Bengal" houses built in 19th-century India by the British. Low to the ground with low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves and large porches, bungalows were first seen in America at the turn of the 19th century. Often constructed using mail order kits, they became one of the most popular and fashionable small house designs in the country and were commonly seen between 1900 and 1930. Bungalows typically feature exposed roof rafters, wide porch piers, one-over-one windows, and the artistic use of indigenous materials such as river rocks. The characteristic bungalow features of this house include the one-and-one-half-story form, shallow hipped roof, front porch, and the prominent use of rubble stone. The porch columns and spandrels are not characteristic of the 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 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, 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

Continuation sheet 1

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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 imposing summer residences near the waterfront. The construction and maintenance of these houses sparked an increased need for workers in the trades and service industries. The subject house is located in the residential area west of the waterfront, where a number of more modest dwellings were built for this new class of workers. Many of the houses in the neighborhood were also built to serve as rental houses.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the large tracts of land owned by the proprietors of Marion's salt works were sub-divided and sold for residential development as the town grew in popularity as a summer vacation destination. John M. Allen (1842-1912) and his wife Lizzie Wood Ricketson Allen (1851-1934) were active players in this enterprise. Allen was the son of Captain Henry M. Allen of Marion, a mariner and a major figure in the salt making business. Much of the property was held in Lizzie W.R. Allen's name. This parcel, along with a number of others along Allen Street, was created as part of the subdivision of a large tract of land referred to as the Blankinship Farm. The farm was purchased in 1878 by Lizzie Allen after its owner, John B. Blankinship, had become insolvent.



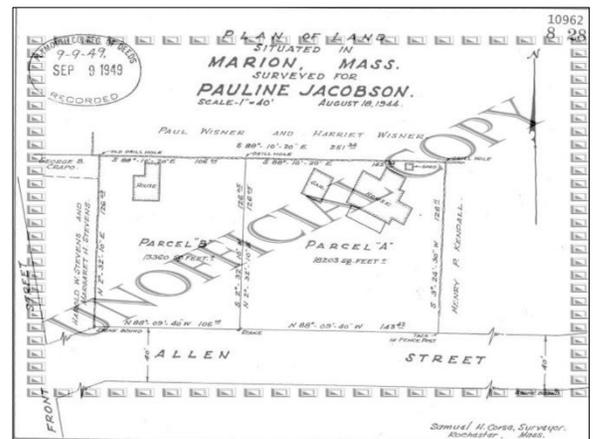
1903 map

This house does not appear on the 1858 or 1879 maps. However, on the 1879 map Allen & Hadley are shown as owners of land in the general area of this property. The property is identified on the 1903 map with the names of both J.M. Allen and W.S. May [sic]. The first conveyance found for the property was a deed from William S. Macy to William A. Andrew in 1904.

William A. Andrew (1869-1921), who purchased the property from William S. Macy in 1904, graduated from Tabor Academy and was in the insurance and real estate businesses in Marion. Very active in town affairs, he held several positions in town government including terms on the board of selectmen, town clerk, and auditor. Andrew was a member of several fraternal and social organizations and served as superintendent of the Congregational Church Sunday school. Andrew sold the property to Oswald Chew of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1907.

It probable that this house was built by Oswald and Ada Chew shortly after they acquired the property. Ada Knowlton Chew was the daughter of Mary A. (nee Frost) Knowlton (1849-1938) and Daniel Waldo Knowlton (1846-1897). Daniel Knowlton was the scion of a prominent family in Upton, Massachusetts which had founded the Knowlton & Sons Company in 1836, a manufacturer of straw hats and other straw goods. Knowlton married Philadelphia lawyer Oswald Chew (1876-1948) in June of 1908. Their wedding "of considerable social importance" was held at Saint Gabriel's chapel in Marion with a number of prominent attendees including Massachusetts acting governor Eben S. Draper and writer Richard Harding Davis and his artist wife Cecil Clark Davis.

Ada Knowlton Chew (1876-1948) was born in Upton and graduated from Smith College. In 1921, after serving in World War I as an ambulance driver, she was a founder and then president of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL). The WOSL continues to operate as a national organization of women who have served overseas in or with the Armed Forces. Ada Chew later founded the Food Gardens Association, Inc. The Chews owned a large waterfront property at 29 Water Street (1915, Mary A. Knowlton House, MRN.502) and it can be assumed that this house was used as a rental property.



1944 Plan Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 8/Page 28

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The property was sold in 1946 to Philip and Pauline (Gustafson) Jacobson, who subdivided it into two parcels following the 1944 plan shown above. The building now located in parcel B (43 Allen Street) was built in 1950 according to Marion town records. The 1944 plan also shows a much smaller building in Parcel B which may have originally been a guest house for the subject building. It has a similar footprint and position on the site and is still extant on the 43 Allen Street property.

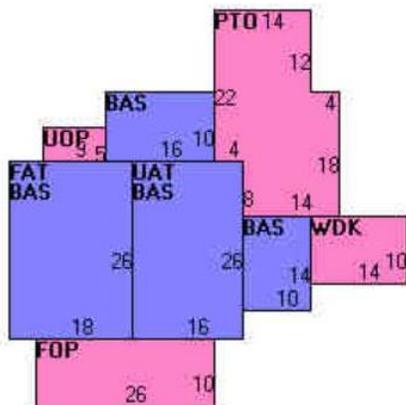
In 1958 the property was purchased by Norman J. and Doris Cartmill. Cartmill was the Chief Executive Officer of the Revere Copper and Brass Company in New Bedford and an active member of the Marion community. The couple owned the property until it was sold to the current owners in 2001.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
07-31-2001	20289-1	Norman J. & Doris S. Cartmill	Daniel & Ellen S. Carlucci
12-11-1958	2673-68	C. Clifton, III & Elizabeth Owens	Norman J. & Doris S. Cartmill
07-06-1956	2508-476	Freeman C. & Dorothy R. Davis	C. Clifton, III & Elizabeth Owens
02-15-1951	2136-365	John Markus & Pauline Jacobson	Robert B. & Ann M. Clifford
11-22-1947	2057-300	Pauline K. Jacobson f/n/a Pauline K. Gustafson	Mary Bacchieri
01-07-1946	1905-3	Oswald Chew	Philip C. & Pauline Gustafson
04-12-1907	964-8	William A. Andrew	Oswald Chew
11-21-1904	905-293	William S. Macy	William A. Andrew

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Atlas of Plymouth County. Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903.
Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. H.F. Walling, 1855.
 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
 Olive Hill Sommers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.
 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.
 Sippican Historical Society: online database
 Smith, Pete (ed.). *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
 Obituary for Ada K. Chew, clipping from unidentified newspaper, 1948.



Assessor's card plan

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South and east elevations.