

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-103

Marion

MRN.482

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 46 Allen Street

Historic Name: Winifred M. Kent House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1910

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: Craftsman / Bungalow

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone and concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.23

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

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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.

46 Allen Street occupies a small trapezoidal parcel on the south side of Allen Street nears its intersection with Front Street. The house is positioned in the northern half of the parcel and faces north. The property is cleared and maintained in grass with mature trees dotted around the perimeter. A drystone wall borders the western property boundary. Tall foundation plantings line the porch at the façade (north elevation). A pathway of concrete pavers leads from the main entry to the gravel driveway that enters the property from Allen Street along the eastern property line.

The building is a one-story, four-bay-by-two-bay wood-frame house with a nearly square plan. It has a shallow hipped roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. A deep integrated porch spans 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 south roof slope.

Window openings comprise single and paired double-hung, six-over-one sash with flat surrounds and two-light basement windows. The entry at the second-most westerly bay at the façade contains a wood paneled door with a centered, rectangular glass inset. The door fronts an open, five-step wooden stair on a concrete base. The porch has narrow rectangular posts, a slat work railing, and a tall wood lattice skirt. An entry at the south (rear) elevation opens to a small wooden deck.

46 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-story form, shallow hipped roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails, full-width porch, and the prominent use of rubble stone. The narrow porch posts are not characteristic of the style and may have replaced earlier porch piers.

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 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 gentile 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

Continuation sheet 1

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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.

This house does not appear on the 1903 map but is seen on the 1933 map. The earliest conveyance found for the property recorded the sale of a parcel of land by John M. and Lizzie W.R. Allen to Winifred M. Kent in 1908. Winifred M. Kent (1877-1960) was the daughter of Stanford Miles and Mary A. Kent of Greenfield. The 1900 census reports her living with her parents with her occupation listed as drawing teacher. She came to Marion in 1905 and was employed for many years as an art teacher by the Wareham school system. The 1930 annual report for the town of Middleboro noted that, along with a colleague, she offered classes in painting and the decorative arts. Winifred Kent was a parishioner at St. Gabriel's Church. It can be assumed that she built this house sometime after 1908.

Priscilla Crapo (1908-1985) purchased the house after the death of Winifred Kent in 1960. She was the daughter of George Bowen and Lena Gertrude Crapo of Marion. George B. Crapo (1872-1963) was a civic leader and a carpenter/house builder in business with Thomas Oglesby. By 1928, Priscilla Crapo was living in Lynbrook (Long Island), New York as a student. The 1940 census reports her occupation as a teacher in Lynbrook. The property, which was likely used as a summer or rental residence during Priscilla Crapo's ownership, was sold to its current owners in 2002.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
08-21-2002	22670-143	MH Realty Trust	MHT Jackson/Marion, LLC
03-01-1989	9040-57	Estate of Priscilla Crapo	MH Realty Trust
09-09-1960	2801-219	Estate of Winifred M. Kent	Priscilla Crapo
10-17-1908	1010-12	John M. Allen	Winifred M. Kent

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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 Winifred M. Kent in *The Standard Times*, New Bedford, MA, April 22, 1960.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

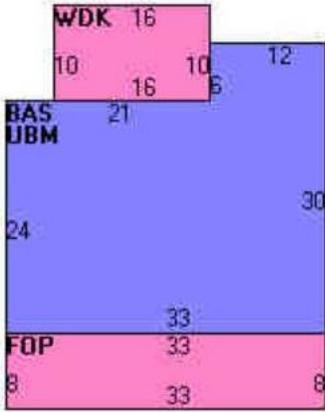
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Assessor's card plan



North and west elevations.