

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-120	Marion		MRN.490
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 46 Holmes Street

Historic Name: Thomas Oglesby House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1900

Source: Map & deed research

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Thomas Oglesby, probable

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage/guesthouse

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear addition (after 1933)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.4

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

46 Holmes Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 Holmes Street occupies a rectangular lot at the intersection of Front and Holmes Streets. The house is positioned at the approximate center of the parcel and faces north. The yard, which is maintained in grass, is dotted with numerous mature trees and shrubs. The house is surrounded by foundation plantings. The property is bordered by a post-and-rail fence along Front Street and by a low hedge along Holmes Street. A narrow, paved driveway enters the property from Holmes Street along the eastern property line. A wide, gravel driveway enters from Front Street along the southern property line.

The building comprises a two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with a square plan and a single dependency at the rear. Constructed around 1900 and retaining many if not all of its original character-defining features, it is a fine example of the Queen Anne style. A hip-roofed porch spans the façade (north elevation) and partially wraps the east and west elevations. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation and is clad in painted wood shingles finished with contrasting wood trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the main block.

The main block is trimmed with deep boxed cornices, eave returns, and frieze boards. A wide gabled dormer occupies the north roof slope at the western bay at the façade and a hexagonal tower rises from the first story at the eastern bay. The deep open porch spanning the façade has a hip roof with clipped corners and wraps the side elevations to end at the center bays. The entry at the center bay contains a paneled wood door with a rectangular glass inset. The door fronts a five-step wooden stair with a concrete base and a slate walkway leading to Holmes Street. The windows at the house are single and paired, double-hung, one-over-one and two-over-one sash with flat surrounds. Fixed, arched windows with divided light borders occupy the gable peaks at the side elevations. Rows of sawtooth shingles ornament the gable walls and peaks and flare slightly between stories, where they create a band course. There are gabled wall dormers at the outside bays at the rear (south) roof slope.

The one-and-one-half-story cross-gabled south block was added sometime after 1933. It aligns with the west elevation of the main block and is set back from the east elevation. Shed dormers containing centered gabled dormers occupy the east and west roof slopes. The western roof slope extends south beyond the south wall of the block and incorporates a one-story gabled extension. The extension contains mullied triple windows at the west elevation and a triple window with a semicircular, multilight transom at the gable wall. The extension serves as the west wall, and provides entry to, a wooden deck at the southeast corner of the house.

A one-and-one-half story garage/apartment is sited at the southeast corner of the property. Facing west, it has a gambrel roof and is clad in weathered wood shingles. An outbuilding is shown on the 1933 Sanborn map at this location but it is not known if this garage is that early structure. It has shed dormers at both roof slopes and contains two wood-paneled garage doors with lights at the upper panels. The garage fronts the gravel driveway that enters the property from Front Street.

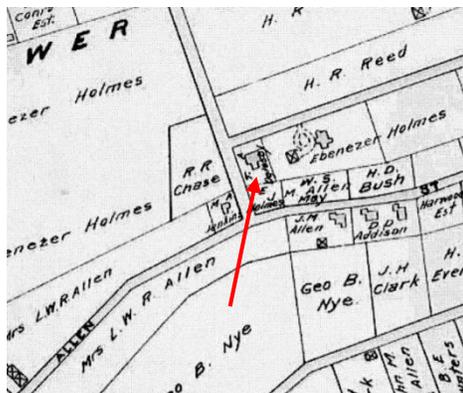
46 Holmes Street is a relatively restrained example of Queen Anne, the dominant style for domestic architecture in the United States between 1880 and 1900. Devised by a group of English architects and based on the visual vocabulary of late Medieval models, Queen Anne encompasses a wide range of architectural features from several stylistic traditions. The style gained popularity after being seen at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876. It was disseminated by the country's leading architectural magazine and by pattern books and mail-order house plans. Identifying features of the Queen Anne style seen in this house include its steeply pitched roofs, asymmetrical façade, tower, full-width porch, multiple dormers, and textured wall surface.

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 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 service industries and the trades, carpentry in particular. The subject house is located in the residential area west of the waterfront, where a number of dwellings were built for this new class of workers. Many of the houses in the neighborhood were also built to serve as rental houses.



1903 map

probable that Oglesby himself built this house, which he and his wife Mildred F. Barden Oglesby (1873-1952) owned until 1922 when it was purchased by Clara F. and Arthur P. Lewis.

Arthur Patterson Lewis (1861-1952) was born in Philadelphia, the son of Richard Anthony Lewis and Sarah Patterson. Censuses of 1910 and 1920 report his residence in Lower Merion, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia suburb, with his occupation as clerk for a jewelry company. His obituary noted that he was employed by the Philadelphia jeweler, J.E. Caldwell. Lewis was married to Clara Fleck of Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania in 1889. It appears that Lewis retired in 1924 and by 1930 he was living in Marion. In 1942, Clara Lewis conveyed the house to her daughter Mabel P. Jewett and her husband Thomas. The couple owned the property until 1948 when it was purchased by Esther Beach and her husband John. The 1940 census reports John Russell Beach (1909-1958) living with his wife Esther (nee Candee) Beach in Lincoln, Rhode Island and working as an accountant.

In 1960 William D. and Carol F. Lowe acquired the house. William Lowe (1929-2011) was born in Springfield and raised in Somerville. He attended Boston University after serving in the U.S. Army in occupied Japan after World War II. Lowe was the founder and president of the William Lowe & Sons Moving Company of Charlestown. The Lowes sold the property in 1981 to Warren G. and Renata Briggs of Wellesley. Born in 1934, Briggs received BS and PhD degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He taught at Bentley College and Northeastern University before joining the faculty of Suffolk University, where he founded and was chair of the computer sciences department. Warren and Renata Briggs moved to Marion permanently in

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North and west elevations.



West and south elevations.