

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-99

Marion

MRN.L

MRN.158

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 2 (formerly 4) Lewis Street

**Historic Name:** Point Rock Cottage

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1895

**Source:** Map and deed research

**Style/Form:** Shingle Style / Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

None

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.21

**Setting:** Homogeneous residential neighborhood of predominately high-style Shingle Style and Queen Anne houses, principally developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Surrounded mostly by large, wood-frame, single-family houses on generous lots. Borders a rocky beachfront along Sippican Harbor.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): December 2021

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

2 Lewis Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

**2 Lewis Street** (Point Rock Cottage) occupies a large, nearly-rectangular lot on the south side of Lewis Street at its intersection with Water Street. The house is positioned near the center of the parcel and faces south with a commanding view of Sippican Harbor across a stony shoreline. The surrounding yard is maintained chiefly in grass and is bordered on the east side with low post-and-rail wood fencing. A rustic drystone wall borders the property along Lewis Street, where the driveway entrance at the northeast corner of the parcel is marked by a pair of river rock piers. The driveway wraps a circular planting bed at its termination near the east elevation of the house.

The building is a south-facing, one-and-one-half-story, L-shaped, wood-frame house. The three-by-four-bay, hip-roofed main block has a symmetrical plan; a gambrel-roofed wing is attached at the northwest corner. The house was constructed ca. 1895 in the Shingle style and retains the majority of its character-defining features. It rests on a concrete foundation and the walls are clad in weathered wood shingles; it has flat wood trim. The main block has paired, polygonal, gable dormers linked by a shed-roofed dormer at the side (east and west) elevations; each dormer complex is surmounted by a small gable dormer. There is a polygonal, four-bay dormer topped by a small hip-roofed dormer at the roof slope at the façade (south elevation) and a gable dormer at the north roof slope. A narrow brick chimney rises from the peak of the hip roof, which is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

The main block is encircled at the east, west and south elevations by a one-story integrated porch supported by wood shingle-clad rectangular posts. A Chinese fret-work railing occupies the porch openings between the posts. The porch is trimmed with a deep frieze board at the cornice and a water table at the base of its shingle-clad skirt. Wooden stairs are centered at the east and south elevations, providing access to the principal entries of the house. A third wooden stair at the northwest corner of the west elevation approaches an entry in the south wall of the ell. Fenestration consists primarily of single and paired two-over-one, double-hung windows with wood sash in molded wood surrounds. The double entry at the façade (south elevation) has full-height lights. The single door at the east elevation is paneled and glazed with a rectangular light in the upper panel. The single door at the south wall of the ell has a full-height light.

The gambrel-roofed wing has shed dormers at the north and south roof slopes and an entry at its northeast junction with the main block. The door is sheltered by a small integrated porch and accessed by a wood stair. The windows are double-hung, two-over-one and match those on the main block.

There is a one-bay-by-three-bay, gabled garage at the northwest corner of the parcel. It is clad in wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. Its openings consist of two-over-two, double-hung wood windows and glass-and-panel doors.

The Shingle Style is a uniquely American form that was introduced in the northeastern United States in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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. **2 Lewis Street** is a good example of a late Shingle Style house exhibiting the restrained, symmetrical features and prominent trim detail seen as the style evolved towards the Colonial Revival. It has undergone minimal, if any alterations, since its construction and retains numerous original architectural elements such as its decorative wood shingle siding, fenestration pattern, original windows, and wood trim.

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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-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

This property appears on the 1903 map with D.W. Lewis shown as owner. Its historic name, Point Rock Cottage, derives from its location overlooking Sippican Harbor. David W. Lewis (1833-1915) of Hyde Park, Boston purchased the land in 1893 from Andrew Hadley and Clark Howland and had the house built soon after. Lewis was born in Walpole and was the son of Jason and Ruth Lewis. He began his career in the retail shoe business in Springfield and then later in Burlington, Vermont, where he enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Vermont Volunteer Regiment. Lewis rose to the rank of major and saw action in several major campaigns of the war. In 1865 Lewis married Elizabeth T. Willett, daughter of William and Elizabeth Willett of Boston. Lewis continued in the shoe business but eventually became a highly successful dealer in construction materials with his main business office in Boston. The couple's two sons, William W. Lewis (1867-1949) and Everett W. Lewis (1868-1953), inherited this property on the death of their mother in 1933.

William and Everett Lewis owned the property until 1946 when it was sold to Donald G. and Elizabeth G. Austin. In 1963 it was purchased by Dr. Peter Knowlton (1916-2001), a graduate of Yale University and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. After serving in the United States Army during World War II, he practiced child psychiatry in the Philadelphia area. This house served as a summer residence for Dr. Knowlton and his family until his retirement in 1986, when it became his primary home. The property was purchased by Diana Markel in 2019.

### Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
11-24-2019	LCC* 114052	Marion ARK LLC	Diana Markel
11-12-2009	LLC 114052	Thomas W., David E., & Amy R. Knowlton	Marion ARK LLC
12-24-1984	LCC 16093	Peter Knowlton	David E. Knowlton et al.
10-11-1963	LCC 34842	Elizabeth G. (Austin) Pitman	Peter Knowlton
04-26-1955	LCC 11068	Donald G. Austin	Elizabeth G. Austin
09-26-1946	LCC 11068	William Willett & Everett Wilkinson Lewis	Donald G. & Elizabeth G. Austin
07-31-1933	LCC 5038	Estate of Elizabeth Tisdale Lewis	William Willett & Everett Wilkinson Lewis
08-04-1893	LCC 1273	Andrew J. Hadley & Clark P. Howland	David W. Lewis

\*Land Court Certificate

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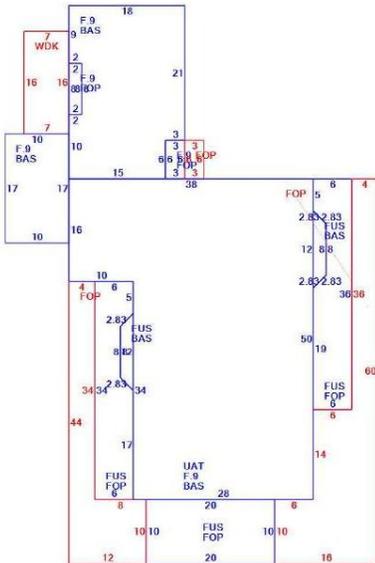
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879.  
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*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.  
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Smith, Pete (ed.). *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.  
Wright, Mark. "H. H. Richardson's House for Rev. Browne, Rediscovered." *J. Soc. of Arch. Historians* 68, no. 1 (2009): 74–99.
- Peter Knowlton obituary @ <https://www.chapmanfuneral.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=20706049>  
"Boston Business Man, Civil War Veteran," *Boston Evening Transcript*, June 14, 1915.  
"War Veteran and Business Man," *The Boston Globe*, June 14, 1915.



Assessor's card plan



South and east 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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.