

FORM B – BUILDING

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

007A_015	Marion, MA		
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Marion

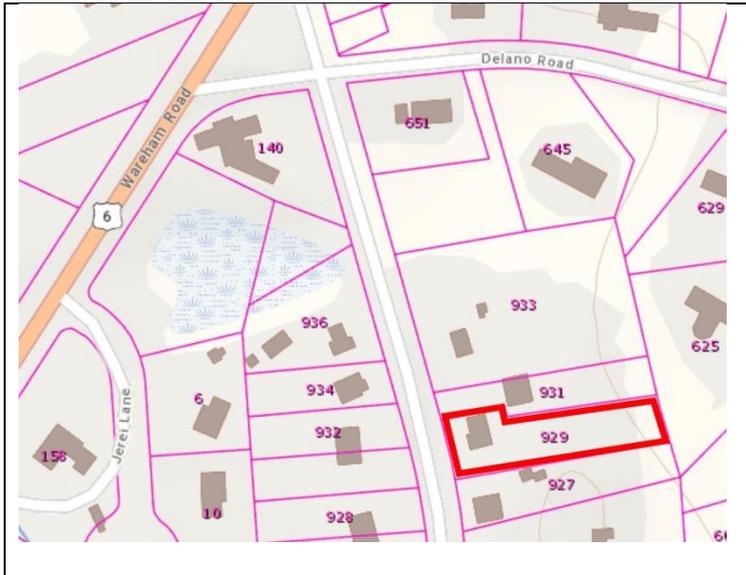
Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 929 Point Road
Historic Name: Pierce/Silva House
Uses: Present: Single Family Residential
Original: Single Family Residential
Date of Construction: c.1899-1903
Source: Deeds, Maps
Style/Form: Queen Anne/ end house
Architect/Builder: unknown
Exterior Material:
Foundation: rubble stone
Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood
Roof: asphalt

Locus Map (*North is Up*)



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*)
Addition at rear (date unknown). Aluminum storm doors and windows

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acres: .35 acre

Setting: In a residential area on primary street. Surrounding buildings are primarily single-family residences constructed in the mid-20th century.

Recorded by: Zachary J. Violette

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): August, 2020

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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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Pierce/Silva House is a one-and-one half story, wood-frame, side-passage end house. Rising from a rubblestone foundation, the main block of the house has a footprint 17 feet wide and 24 feet deep. It is expanded by a single-story ell, likely original, extending from the north side of the rear of the main block; the ell is 21 feet wide and 10 feet deep. It is further extended by a wing extending from the north elevation, 13 by 12 feet, of unknown date. The main block has a front gabled roof, while the ell has a lower side gabled roof. On the front elevation of the main block there are three bays of fenestration, with a door aligned to the north side, suggesting a side-passage plan. There are two bays of fenestration on the south elevation, a single window in the front pile, and a small, diamond-shaped window at rear. There are two bays of fenestration as well as a secondary entrance on the front elevation of the ell. A brick chimney breaks the ridgeline of the main block of the house, while another, taller chimney rises from the ell.

Entrance into the main block is reached up a shallow set of poured concrete steps. The front door is a wooden panel and light unit, likely of mid twentieth century vintage; it is sheltered by an aluminum storm door. Another entrance on the front elevation of the wing has a wooden-six panel door, aluminum storm, and small gabled canopy. The house retains most of its wooden cladding and trim. The most defining characteristic of the building is its wood shingles, laid in a variety of patterns: the line between the first and upper floor is marked by a band of offset and picket shingles. These continue into the gable end, where fish scale shingles are also found. Windows throughout retain their original 2/2 sash, covered by aluminum storms. Windows have wooden architraves with cap moldings. The diamond-shaped rear window on the south elevation has a cottage sash.

The house is set back from Point Road by a generous grassy strip, marked by bushes and mature trees. A narrow asphalt driveway runs along the south side of the house.

The Pierce/Silva House is a very well-preserved example of a modest but finely articulated cottage. It is similar in footprint and configuration to the Haskins/Barros/DaSilva House (921 Point Road, MRN.xxx) to the south along Point Road.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Pierce/Silva House at 929 Point Road is located in the northeast part of Marion known in the mid- and late- 19th and early 20th century as Hamblin's Corner and focused on the corner of Point Road and Wareham Road/Route 6 (see 961 Point Road, MRN.xxx). At the turn of the century, the neighborhood became more densely settled, with further development on Point and Wareham roads coming in the 1910s and 20s and then in the postwar years; this house was occupied by members of that community as early as 1912. Soon, the neighborhood became identified with Marion's Cape Verdean community who bought and built houses and businesses here. Portuguese immigrants came to Marion by 1880, but in larger numbers in the 1900s and 1910s until immigration restrictions of 1917, 1923, and 1924 dramatically cut the flow. Most lived in one of two sections of the town, Azoreans and Cape Verdeans first along Mill Street and Cape Verdeans in Hamblin's Corner, which became the town's largest community of color. As early as 1915 the house was home to Cape Verdean occupants. Most development of the part of Point Road to the south of Hamblin's Corner came with subdivision of larger lots in the 1950s and 60s, and new dwellings took familiar forms and plans of the period.

While the chain of title for this property in the nineteenth century could not be ascertained, as early as 1902 this land was owned by Seabury Bryant Pierce (also Pearce 1863-1946), previously of Middleboro. In November of that year Pierce obtained a \$400

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mortgage on the property from Judah Hathaway of Rochester, a prominent landowner in the area.¹ The land seems to have been previously owned by Frederick H. Delano, whose house stood immediately to the north (933 Point Road, MRN.xxx).² The 1902 mortgage may have financed the construction of this house, which appears on the 1903 Richards atlas under the name "S. Pierce." The 1910 census finds Pierce living here on Point Road. He listed his occupation as a teamer of "everything." He indicated that he owned his house free of mortgage.³ Along with Seabury, the Pierce household included his wife Ruth, who worked at home as a seamstress. The couple had four children in the house, three daughters and a son, aged between 13 and 20.⁴ Pierce was born in Massachusetts and listed his race as white.

In 1912 Ruth Pierce sold the property to Lizzie M. Vose of Wareham.⁵ Vose was the wife of Harry C. Vose, a house builder, who lived on Main Street in Wareham. Vose had interest in a number of properties in the area, buying the house at 921 Point Road (MRN.xxx) earlier in 1912. Vose reconfigured the lots in the area reducing the size of the lot on which this house was built, selling part of it for the construction of 927 Point Road (MRN.xxx) and of 931 Point Road, which was recently replaced. Vose's sales of this and adjoining parcels mark the growth of the Portuguese or Cape Verdean community in Hamblin's Corner, which began first further north on Point Road, above Wareham Road, and would expand further in this area in the postwar era. Vose would own the house, which was apparently used as a rental property. It appears in the 1920 census that the house was rented to Veincelano Pina and his wife Mary. Pina was a Cape Verdean immigrant who had arrived, along with Mary, in 1915. Pina was a laborer in a mill.⁶ Later in 1920 the house was purchased by Charles and Mary Renny.⁷ It is unclear if they occupied the property.

In 1925 Mary and Charles Renny sold the property to the East Marion Realty Trust, which owned much of the land in this neighborhood. The Trust was formed in 1925 by Delano (of Marion), Harold C Haskell (of Brookline), William S Holdsworth (of Watertown), and John F Tufts (of Watertown). Delano (1878-1953) was a Marion real estate developer active in East Marion from the early 1900s until his death and particularly in the 1920s. After attending local schools including Tabor, he worked first as a bookkeeper and later as a contractor before becoming a real estate agent and developer.⁸ Like many real estate trusts this one was set up to purchase land, sell shares, develop, subdivide, sell, and rent over a period of ten years from 1925. The Trust purchased land from an array of individuals, and some of these acquisitions are notable for having involved early Cape Verdean landholders in this area. That entity controlled the property for three years, selling it in 1928 to Henry B. and Laura Silva (also DaSilva), then of Sagamore.⁹

Henry B. Silva, also known as Henrique Barboza da Silva, was born in 1903 in Fogo in Cape Verde and immigrated in 1921. Silva was the son-in-law of Harry Barros, who had purchased the house two doors south at 921 Point Road in 1915 (MRN. XXX). At the time of the 1930 census Silva listed his occupation as a laborer on a private estate (his 1942 draft card listed his employer as Millard Brainard, on Delano Road).¹⁰ He shared the house with his wife Laura and their four children, none of whom worked outside the house. A decade later, the family remained in the house, now with five children at home. Henry listed his occupation that year as laborer on a farm.¹¹ The 1940 census lists Silva's race as "negro."

¹ PCRD 848:498, 1902.

² See mortgage between Delano and Hathaway, PCRD 773:492, 1899

³ The 1902 mortgage had been discharged in 1909. See PCRD 1025:187, 1909 although another mortgage was arranged in Ruth Pierce's name that year. See PCRD 1018:568, 1909.

⁴ 1910 US Census Enumeration District 1222, Sheet 4A via Ancestry.

⁵ PCRD 1122:562, 1912

⁶ 1920 US Census District 118, Sheet 11B via Ancestry. Pina lived in the only rented house on this part of Point Road, one door (apparently) north of Arrys Barro, who lived at 921 Point Road.

⁷ PCRD 1381:174, 1920

⁸ Son of mariner Charles Cudwirth and Sarah Howard Briggs Delano, he was raised on Delano Road and lived there after his parents' death; he was single and had no known children. Delano served the town as chair of the Board of Selectman and was a Mason and a member of the Eastern Star and Red Men. Ancestry.com: Delano Family Tree; MA Birth Records; MA Mason Membership Cards; US Census 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930; US Directories, Marion sections of Wareham, 1903, 1910, 1928. US WW I and WWII Draft Registration Cards. Sippican Historical Society, online database search under name; obituary *Standard-Times*, 8/27/1953. PCRD 1480:114, 1925

⁹ PCRD 1543:477, 1928

¹⁰ US WWII Draft Card for Henrique Barboza Da Silva via Ancestry

¹¹ 1930 US Census, District 74, Sheet 8B; 1940 US Census District 12, Sheet 2B via Ancestry

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The house remains in the Silva family. The house has not been sold since 1928, although the property has been subdivided.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

1855 H.F. Walling, *Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*1879 Geo H Walker & Co, *Atlas of Plymouth County Massachusetts*1903 L. J. Richards & Co, *New Topographic Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County ... Massachusetts*

1918 USGS Topo New Bedford

1936, 1941, 1962 USGS Topographic Marion

1962 USGS Topo Marion

Ancestry.com: see footnotes

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds (PCRD): see footnotes, includes recorded date

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View from south. Photo by Jennifer Doherty



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1903 Richards atlas, subject house marked "S Pierce."