

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-172

Marion

MRN.L

MRN.307

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 35 Water Street

Historic Name: Ebenezer Holmes III – Henry P. Kendall House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1910

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Enclosed south porch addition (after 1947)

East entry projection (after 1998)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.86

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

35 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L	MRN.307
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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.

35 Water Street occupies an irregularly-shaped waterfront parcel on the western shore of Sippican Harbor. The house faces north and is positioned at the southern property boundary. The area around the house is maintained in grass and the periphery is thick with mature trees. Low shrubs and foundation plantings surround the house, which is bordered by a low hedge along the southern property line. A low rubble-stone wall borders the property along Water Street. A gravel driveway lined by granite pavers enters the property from Water Street at the northeast corner of the parcel and circles a planting bed. A large, grass-covered concrete dock reaches into the harbor at the northeast corner of the property.

The building is a two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame house comprising a two-bay-by-two-bay hip-roofed main block and an asymmetrically-massed east wing with intersecting hip and gable roofs. Constructed ca. 1910 in the Colonial Revival style, it retains the majority of its original character-defining features. A deep open porch wraps the eastern half of the façade and the east and south elevations. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation. The walls are clad in painted wood shingles finished with contrasting wood trim. The roof is surfaced with wood shingles. A double-flue brick chimney rises from the south roof slope at the east wing.

Trim elements at the house include narrow corner boards, frieze boards, a water table, and a molded belt course separating the upper and lower stories. A curbed band of fish scale shingles encircles the house above the belt course. There are hipped dormers on each exposed roof slope at the main block and at the east wing. A one-story projection with a shallow hipped roof at the east wall of the main block contains a north-facing entry with a glass-and-panel door and transom; this replaced the open porch seen in the 1998 MHC Building Form B. A second entry at the east wing is sheltered by the hip-roofed porch. The porch has rectangular, channeled columns with capitals and a slat work railing; decorative wooden fretwork occupies the east-facing bay nearest the house. The porch entry fronts a seven-step stair of brick and wood and a slate walkway that leads to the driveway. Windows at the house include single and paired, triple, and quartet groupings of twelve-over-twelve, nine-over-nine, and six-over-six double-hung sash, all with flat surrounds. The second-story windows touch the frieze board.

A small balcony is recessed into the south gabled roof slope at the south elevation of the east wing. It has a hipped roof with rectangular posts and a slat work railing. The porch that spans the east (harbor-facing) elevation was extended across the south elevation sometime after 1947. The newer section of porch has a screened portion and a glazed portion at the southwest corner of the house.

35 Water Street is an example of the asymmetrical subtype of the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival period in America (1880–1955) saw a resurgence of patriotism and a return to the architectural styles of the early years of the republic. Combining the classical architectural elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods, the Colonial Revival style was the most popular style in America for private and public buildings between the World Wars. The characteristic Colonial Revival features of this house include its hipped roof components, porch columns, multi-light window glazing, and trim elements including the water table, corner and frieze boards, belt course, and based pediments.

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

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

35 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L	MRN.307
-------	---------

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-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 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 house does not appear on the 1903 map but is shown on the 1921 map. The first recorded conveyance found for the property registered its sale in 1912 from Ebenezer Holmes III to Henry P. Kendall. The deed to Henry Kendall refers to buildings, and the contemporaneous mortgage taken out by Kendall required that insurance be maintained on the buildings; therefore, it can be reasonably assumed that the house was built sometime between 1903 and 1912. Ebenezer Holmes III (1859-1914) was the grandson of Ebenezer Holmes (1783-1869) who operated a salt works in this part of Marion Village as seen on the 1855 map. The occupation of the younger Holmes was listed in the 1900 and 1910 federal censuses as boat builder and the Holmes wharf and boat shop were located on the property. In 1897 Ebenezer Holmes III married Susan Delano Hadley (1873-1941), daughter of Peleg and Abbie Hadley of Marion.

Henry Plimpton Kendall (1878-1959) was the son of Henry Lucian Kendall (1849-1883) and Clara Idella Plimpton (1848-1941). His father was a Congregational minister who died when Henry was five years old. He attended Lawrenceville School and graduated from Amherst College in 1899, where he was a star player and captain of the football team. In 1926 he married Evelyn Louise Way (1893-1979). Born in Ontario, Canada, she attended Albert College and graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1916.

Henry P. Kendall was the founder and chairman of the board of the Kendall Company, a leading producer of cotton-based products for medical and domestic uses. Kendall was an innovative business leader recognized for his use of scientific management techniques and enlightened labor practices. He grew an almost bankrupt small textile company in Walpole, Massachusetts into one of the country's largest producers of medical and surgical supplies. The Kendall Company was sold to Colgate-Palmolive in 1972 for \$518 million. Kendall also served as an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on industrial policy. He was a generous philanthropist and supported a number of educational, cultural, and religious organizations. Kendall was a trustee of Deerfield Academy and served for many years as a trustee of Mount Holyoke College. He had a particular interest in all things maritime and built a vast collection of materials related to whaling. He founded the Kendall Whaling Museum in 1955 and opened it the following year in a former sanatorium in Sharon. In 2001 the Kendall Museum, whose collection included more than 70,000 documents and artifacts, merged with the New Bedford Whaling Museum. An avid sailor, Henry Kendall was undoubtedly drawn to this house because of its location on Sippican Harbor.

Henry and Evelyn Kendall had three children including Henry Way Kendall, who acquired this house in 1962. Like his father, he attended Amherst College. He received a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and taught at Stanford University for several years before returning in 1962 to MIT, where he served as a professor of physics until his death. A gifted scientist, Henry Kendall was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in physics with colleagues from MIT and Stanford for their work concerning subatomic particles. Kendall was the chair of the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists which advocated for the involvement of scientists in establishing public policy. He was particularly concerned about national spending on weapons systems and the effects of global warming. This property remains in the Kendall family.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

35 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L	MRN.307
-------	---------

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-16-2013	42553-0274	David F. Kendall Trust	Andrew W. Kendall & Sarah Kendall Mitchell
11-01-1962	2977-389	Estate of Henry P. Kendall	Henry W. Kendall
10-31-1912	1139-101	Ebenezer Holmes	Henry P. Kendall

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Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855 H.F. Walling

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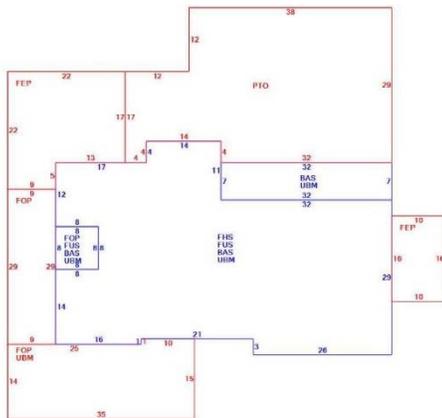
"Kendall: Man of idealism had many varied interests," *The State*, Columbia, SC, October 30, 1961.

"Henry P. Kendall; Industrialist; Chairman of the Kendall Company at 81," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA November 4, 1959.

"Henry Kendall; Nobel laureate at 72," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, February 17, 1999

"Dr. Henry W. Kendall; Nobel Prize co-winner helped pinpoint quarks," *National Post*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, February 18, 1999.

"Kendall Whaling Museum" @<https://nct-archive.org/kendall-whaling-museum/>



Assessor's card plan



South elevation.

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 19th 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 19th and early 20th 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).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

35 Water Street

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L	MRN.307
-------	---------

Additionally, the early 19th 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 19th through the early 20th 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.