

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-114B

Marion

MRN.L

MRN.163

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 4 Water Street

Historic Name: Frederick B. Cutler House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1904

Source: Map & deed research, newspaper article

Style/Form: Shingle Style / English Revival

Architect/Builder: Herbert Langford Warren

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage addition (20th century)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): This house represents a large portion of the adjacent house at 8 Water Street which was moved to this lot in 1973.

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1973

Acreage: 0.47

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. In close proximity to Sippican Harbor.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2021

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.

4 Water Street occupies a trapezoidal lot at the northwest corner of Lewis and Water Streets. The house faces east and is positioned in the upper half of the parcel near the northern lot line. The property is maintained in grass and lined at the periphery with shrubs and mature trees. A row of arbor vitae along the north elevation of house shields it from the neighboring house at 8 Water Street. The parcel is bordered along Lewis and Water Streets by a low drystone wall. The building was being renovated at the time of the visit and the area immediately surrounding the house had been cleared.

The building is a two-story, five-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame house with a steep gabled roof and an off-center cross gable. It was created from a portion removed from a rambling, ca. 1904 Shingle Style house on the adjacent property (8 Water Street, MRN.164) and moved to its current location in 1973. (See historic images on Continuation Sheet 5.) The house retains many of its original character-defining features. It has an L-shaped plan with a one-story, side-gabled garage addition at the west elevation and a one-story, gabled entry projection at the north elevation. A one-story, hip-roofed porch spans the east (Water Street) elevation. The house rests on a concrete foundation. The walls and the roof are sheathed in weathered wood shingles. Tall, corbelled, composite-masonry (stone and brick) gable-wall chimneys rise from the ground at the west elevations of the main block and north wing.

Openings at the upper levels of the façade (east elevation) comprise eight-over-eight and six-over-six double-hung windows with molded surrounds. They are symmetrically placed at the cross gable. Openings at the two bays north of the cross gable consist of paired, mullioned windows surmounted by a gable dormer and a single, small window contained in a gabled wall dormer. The photograph on the assessor's card for the property shows paired twelve-light fixed sash at the wall dormer under a triangular light at the gable peak. Openings at the first story of the façade are hidden from view behind the porch screening. The hip-roofed porch is three bays wide along the south elevation and six bays wide along the façade. It has a wood-shingled knee wall and screened openings marked by wide, full-height, two-part wood posts that rise across the surface of the knee wall and support Tudor arches. The Tudor arches at the porch are seen on early photographs of the house. Three closely-set posts comprise the corner supports at the porch; these have narrow openings topped with Gothic arches. The entry to the house at the northernmost porch bay has a gabled hood and elaborate, layered, wide wood trim that repeats the Tudor and Gothic design elements seen elsewhere.

The south (Lewis Street) elevation of the first-story porch mirrors the elements at the façade, including the treatment of the entry at the center bay. It is surmounted by a full-width open porch at the second story with a wood-shingled knee wall and rectangular posts with arched brackets. An early postcard image of the house shows the porch with only massive, wood-shingled corner piers. The garage addition at the west wall of the north wing, which replaced an earlier garage, is three bays wide with an entry on the south elevation and two vehicular openings on the west elevation. The addition is side-gabled with a steep south roof slope and a north slope that drops to a gullwing. The centered entry fronts an arched pergola with rectangular posts and paired scroll brackets. Gable dormers linked by a shed dormer occupy the roof. A paved driveway enters the property from Lewis Street along the west elevation of the house and terminates at the northwest corner of the property.

4 Water Street is an example of the Shingle Style with English Revival influences. The Shingle Style is a uniquely American form which was introduced in the northeastern United States in the last quarter of the 19th 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 focus of the style was on complex shapes and forms encased within a surface of continuous, naturally weathered shingles on the roof and walls. There was little or no applied ornamentation. **4 Water Street** exhibits the asymmetry and steep roofs shared by the Shingle and English Revival styles. The treatment of the porch and porch

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entries with their Tudor and Gothic details are characteristic of the English Revival, a style seen in America between 1880 and 1940.

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-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 building does not appear on the 1903 and the 1921 maps. It was moved to this location ca. 1973 and consists of a large portion of a house built around 1904 by Frederick B. Cutler which is located on the adjacent lot at 8 Water Street (MRN.164). The land on which the subject building sits was originally part of a larger parcel owned by Cutler and his wife Evelyn. Frederick Barker Cutler (1861-1946) was born in Bangor, Maine son of John L. and Elmira Cutler. Cutler was the very successful owner of a Boston lumber dealership, Stetson, Cutler. In 1885 he married Evelyn Treat, the daughter of Upton Treat of Frankford, Maine. The Cutlers primary residence was in Brookline. In 1902, they purchased a plot of land from William M. Richardson upon which they built a large summer cottage designed by noted Boston architect H. Langford Warren, founding principal of Warren, Smith & Biscoe.¹ A leading figure in the American Arts and Crafts movement, Herbert Langford Warren (1857-1917) was a graduate of the Massachusetts School of Technology and apprenticed with Henry Hobson Richardson. He was one of the founding faculty of the School of Architecture at Harvard University and later headed the department. Warren's work in Massachusetts included Colonial Revival town halls in Lincoln and Billerica, Gothic Revival churches in Saugus and Winchester, the Carey Cage gymnasium at Harvard, and at least five houses in Newton. The two and one-half story stone, wood, and brick house had an estimated construction cost of \$15,000 and was to be built "in the most approved style of summer houses."

In 1940, Evelyn Cutler sold the property to prominent Boston lawyer, Willard B. Luther (1879-1962). Luther, a Rhode Island native, graduated from Yale College and received masters and law degrees from Harvard University. A partner in the State Street law firm of Peabody, Arnold, Batchelder & Luther, he specialized in corporate and banking law. Luther served in the United States army during the 1916 Mexican border campaign and later during WWI as an artillery officer, leaving the service at the rank of lieutenant colonel. In addition to leadership roles in numerous other organizations, he served as president of the Boston Bar Association and president of the board of trustees of Tabor Academy in Marion. He was married to Josephine Crocker (1904-1999), daughter of George U. Crocker of Boston. The Luthers, whose primary residence was in Cambridge, owned the property until 1957 when it was purchased by Elizabeth M. and David Ames of North Easton.

¹ "Proposed Summer Cottage," *Boston Evening Transcript*, Boston, MA, November 25, 1904.

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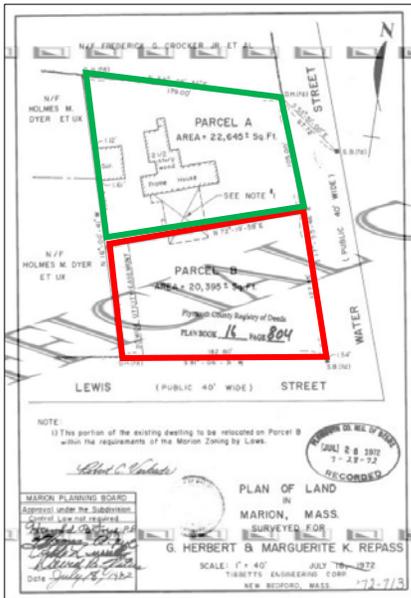
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1972 Survey Plan, Plymouth County Registrar of Deeds, Book 16/Page 804.

David Ames (1912-1991) was the son of John S. Ames and great-grandson of Oliver Ames (1831-1895). Oliver and his brother Oakes Angier Ames were among the wealthiest men in mid-19th century America. Their business was manufacturing shovels which were used by prospectors in the California gold rush, the Union Army during the Civil War, and railroad construction. Oliver Ames served as governor of Massachusetts from 1887-1890. David Ames attended Milton Academy and graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Business School. He served in the United States Navy during WWII and then entered a career in banking. Ames was chairman of the board of the First Machinists National Bank of Taunton. David Ames and his wife Elizabeth Motely Ames (1918-2018) owned this property until 1965.

The house and land were purchased by G. Herbert and Marguerite K. Repass in 1972. It was at this point that the property was divided by the owners and two parcels were created, as shown on the 1972 plan to the left. Parcel A contained the 1904 house built by Frederick Cutler (8 Water Street, MRN 164) and was sold by Repass to Myron B. and Janet R. Markel in 1973. However, a portion of the 1904 house was moved to Parcel B (outlined in red). Additions were made to it creating the subject property of this form at 4 Water Street (MRN 163). G. Herbert Repass (1919-2013) was born in Knoxville, TN. He attended the University of Rhode Island where he received a degree in engineering and served in the United State Navy during WWII. In 1967 Repass founded the New England Ropes Company of New Bedford, makers of specialty ropes. The property is currently owned by a trust.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	
09-10-2020	53451-204	James W. Suozzo	Grover 19750 Parking Trust
12-20-1999	18172-42	Marguerite Repass Trust	Wendy Repass Suozzo
03-26-1990	9689-141	G. Herbert & Marguerite K. Repass	Marguerite Repass Trust
05-25-1972	3782-590	Chester V. Vappi	G. Herbert & Marguerite K. Repass
10-27-1965	3248-736	Elizabeth M. Ames	Chester V. & Nancy A. Vappi
03-28-1957	2560-229	Josephine & Willard B. Luther	Elizabeth M. Ames
09-27-1940	1793-573	Evelyn T. Cutler	Josephine Luther
10-31-1902	855-469	William M. Richardson	Evelyn Treat Cutler
11-08-1897	757-125	Henry C. Boyer	William M. Richardson

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, 1855 H.F. Walling.
 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
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- Willard Luther obituary, *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, January 8, 1962.
 David Ames obituary, *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, November 30, 1991.

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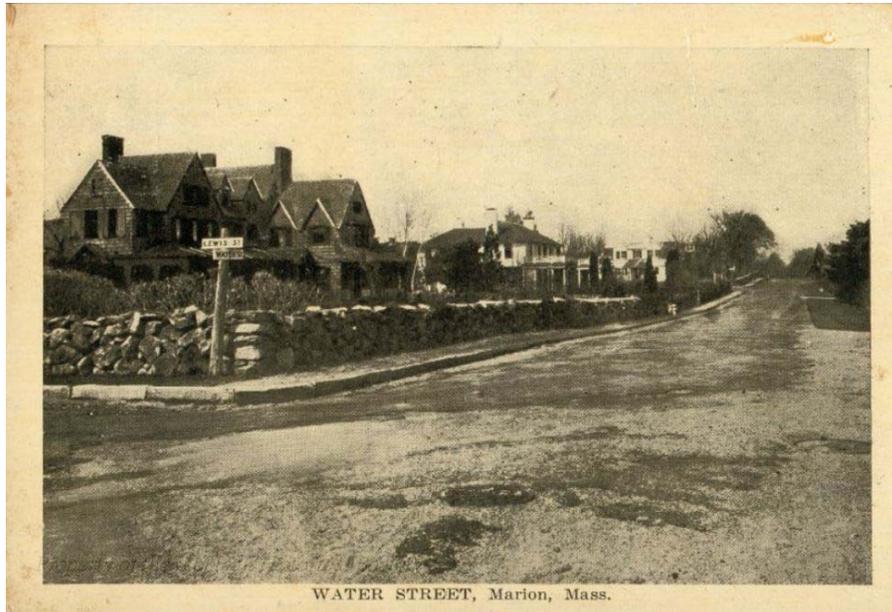
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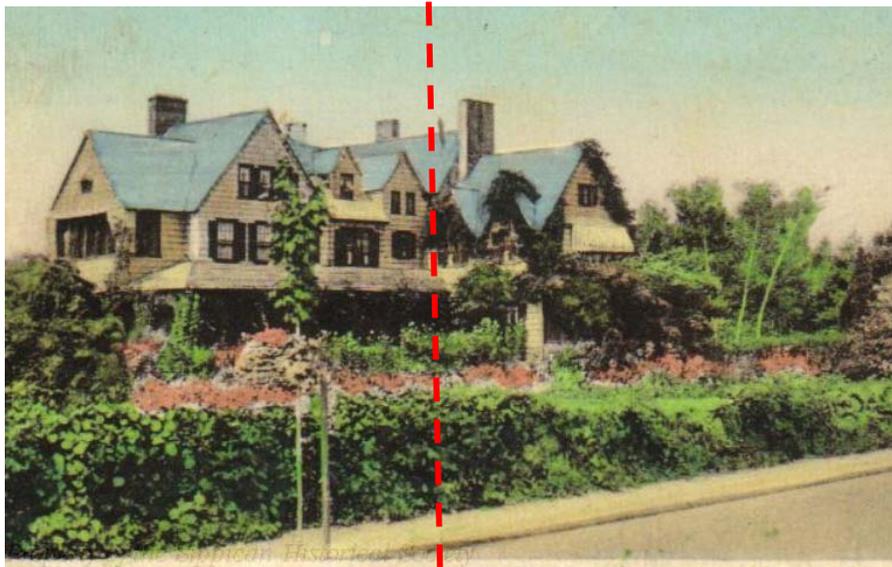
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Frederick B. Cutler mansion prior to 1973. Photograph courtesy of Sippican Historical Society.



Original Frederick B. Cutler mansion with red line showing where it was later divided. Portion left of the red line is now 4 Water Street. Postcard courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.

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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.