

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-136

Marion

MRN.L

MRN.169

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 60 Water Street

**Historic Name:** Captain Henry Allen House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** 1800-1820

**Source:** Visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

Entrance portico (after 1998)

Windows replaced (after 1998)

Two rear additions (late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)

**Condition:** Excellent

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

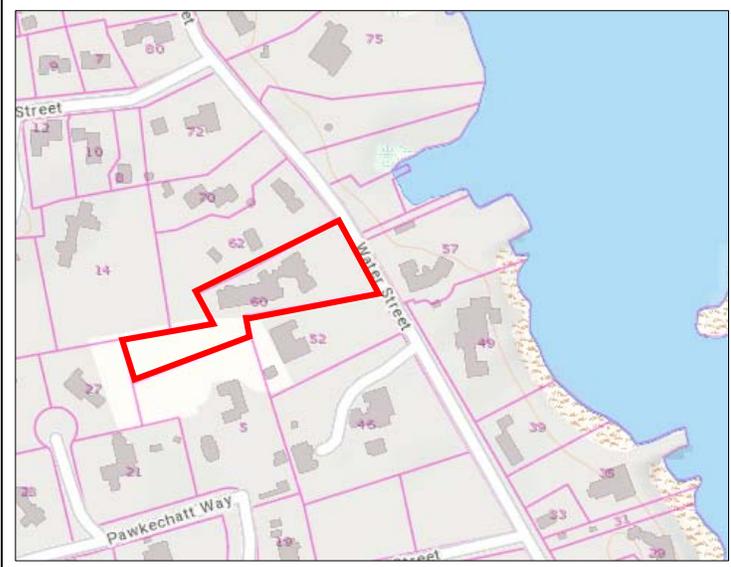
**Acreage:** 1.27

**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. In close proximity to Sippican Harbor.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): January 2022

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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.*

**60 Water Street** occupies a large lot comprised of two connected trapezoidal-shaped components. The house is sited on the west side of Water Street and is set back from the street; it was moved to its current location from its original position abutting the street as seen on the 1855 map. The house occupies the eastern trapezoidal component of the parcel and faces east across Water Street towards Sippican Harbor. The generous yard is maintained in grass at the east (façade) and south elevations of the house. Mature trees dot the front lawn and are clustered at the rear of the property; a thick hedge lines the parcel along Water Street. A stone wall borders the southern property boundary and dense shrubs line the northern boundary. The house fronts a grass terrace retained by a low stone wall and is surrounded by low foundation plantings.

The main block of the early, L-shaped building is a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house with a steep gambrel roof. A two-and-one-half-story wing with a gambrel roof that extends from the rear of the main block is seen in the footprint of the house on the 1855 map. A one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled addition is connected to the main block by a flat-roofed hyphen at the south elevation of the main block. A complex, segmented addition stretches at an angle from the rear (west) elevation of the wing. This Federal-style house was built between 1800 and 1820 and retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The house is set on a stone foundation. The walls are clad in wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. Corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge of the main block at the north and south walls of the house. Three shed-roofed dormers extend from the upper slope of the gambrel roof.

Trim elements at the main block include narrow corner pilasters and a shallow frieze board. The windows are eight-over-eight, double-hung sash at the upper levels and eight-over-twelve sash at the first story; these appear to be replacement sash for the six-over-six windows described on the 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.L. The windows have flat surrounds and blinds at all elevations; the windows at the facade have molded architraves with canted drip caps. The centered entry at the façade is contained within an enclosed, pedimented portico; this is a Colonial Revival alteration made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An early photograph of the house (see the historic image below) shows a similar entry set flush with the façade and hidden by a screened porch. By the time the 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.L was created the porch had been removed and the entry modified with a pedimented open porch supported by Doric columns. The current enclosed portico, which dates from after 1998, has a closed pediment, deep frieze board and corner pilasters. Full-height, undivided sidelights and a multi-light transom frame the six-panel wood door. The door fronts a shallow cast-stone stoop and steps leading to a wide walkway of cast-stone pavers which leads to an opening in the post-and-rail fence bordering the driveway which enters the property from Water Street.

The large additions to the house date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The gabled addition off the west elevation of the main block is Post Modern in style and features an oversized, multi-light Palladian window complex. The flat-roofed hyphen connecting it to the main block features continuous, multi-light, full-height glazing and a Chinese fretwork roof balustrade. The long, angled addition off the northwest corner of the house comprises three segments. These include, from east to west, a one-story flat-roofed segment; a one-story, shed-roofed segment with a full-width porch; and a one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roofed segment with a cross-gabled bay containing a two-car garage. A gravel driveway bordered by granite pavers enters the property along the northern lot line and ends at the garage.

**60 Water Street** presents the sole example of the Federal style in the Water Street area neighborhood. The Federal style (1780–1820) was the dominant architectural style in the United States during the early decades of the new republic. Like the preceding Georgian style, it was based on simple, rectangular building forms with strictly symmetrical openings. It offered a refinement of the earlier style, however, with projecting wings, elegant ornamentation, and a general sense of lightness and restraint. Charles Bulfinch (1763-1844), considered America's first professional architect, is credited with introducing the style to the United States, where it was broadly disseminated through the pattern books of Asher Benjamin. Characteristic Federal-style

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features include a side-gabled roof, five-bay symmetrical facade, entry surround with entablature and partial-height sidelights, and six-over-six window sash. The house at 60 Water Street is Federal style in character with the exception of the steep gambrel roof, which is more often a defining feature of the earlier Georgian style. The original entry and the six-over-six windows, since replaced, were also characteristic of the Federal style.

## 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 house is one of the few in the Water Street area which predates the late 19<sup>th</sup> century houses built as summer residences. It was originally home to Captain Henry M. Allen and appears on the 1855 map of Marion Village with Allen noted as owner. The property also appears on the 1903 map with his daughter Mary E. Allen as owner. Captain Henry Manly Allen (1802-1887) was the son of Captain Joseph and Rhoda Allen. As his honorific suggests, Henry Allen began his career as a sea captain. He shifted his focus, however, to the salt-making business. Along with George Bonum Nye and Ebenezer Holmes, Allen was a leader in this important business in Marion Village in the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Allen married Matilda Clark (1805-1882) in 1835. Their children included Mary E. Allen (1840-1919), Nathan Allen (1848-1925), and John M. Allen (1842-1912).

John M. Allen was married to Lizzie Wood Ricketson Allen (1851-1934), daughter of Charles and Polly H. Ricketson of Dartmouth. She was first married in 1871 to a John Chaddock Allen (1846-1876) of New Bedford. Two years after his untimely death in 1876 she married Captain Allen's youngest son. John M. Allen was a Harvard graduate and Boston-trained architect who designed the house at 1 Allen Street (1882, John Cotton Brooks House, MRN.124) among other residences in Marion. Lizzie Allen was a principal of record in many real estate transactions in Marion, including the purchase of the former Blankinship farm and its subsequent subdivision into many of the housing lots in the Water Street and Nye areas of the village.

The first recorded conveyance found for this property was dated December 30, 1868, when Henry and Matilda Allen sold their Water Street group of properties for \$5,000 to Frederick Barden of Marion. That same day, Frederick Barden conveyed the property back to Matilda Allen for \$5,000 for her "sole use, separate from control of her husband." In 1881 the property was seized by the Wareham Savings Bank for a debt of \$1,240 owed by Henry M. and John M. Allen. The following year it was purchased from the bank by Lizzie W.R. Allen. Although a recorded conveyance could not be found for the transaction, the property ended up in the hands of Captain Henry Allen's daughter, Mary E. Allen, by the time the 1903 map was drawn. According to census records, Mary E. Allen lived with her brother and sister-in-law, John and Lizzie Allen, in New Bedford. The Wareham directory of 1903 (which included Marion) noted that Mary occupied the house only in the summer. She took out a mortgage on the property with the Middleboro Savings Bank, which foreclosed on the property in 1904; the following year the

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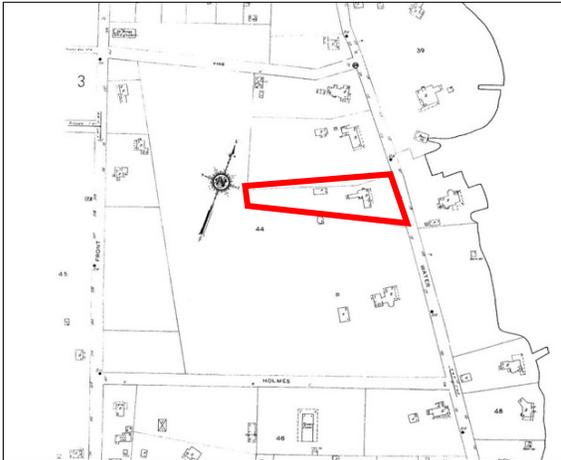
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house was sold at a sheriff's auction to Mary's other brother, Nathan H. Allen of Hartford, Connecticut. Nathan Allen subsequently sold off various portions of the large property.

The parcel holding the subject house of this form was purchased from Allen in 1906 by Mary Louise Clark, the wife of John Marshall Clark (1846-1928), a Chicago businessman and founder of the Chicago Telephone Company. Around 1897 the couple had built a summer cottage in Marion on the property now identified as 70 Water Street. The Clarks had previously summered at Marion, staying at the nearby Sippican Hotel. They were the parents of the noted portraitist Cecil Clark Davis (1877-1955).



1933 map. Subject parcel outlined in red. One of four parcels between Vine and Holmes Streets owned by the Babbitts.

The parcel holding the subject house of this form was eventually acquired in 1936 by Edwin V. and Dorothy Denham Babbitt. The Babbitts had also purchased from Henry R. Reed a large parcel of land and buildings adjacent to this property at 46 Water Street (1893, Henry R. Reed House, MRN.9). Edwin Valentine Babbitt (1898-1967) was the son of Isaac N. Babbitt and Eva Healy Babbitt of Fall River. Edwin's father, Isaac Babbitt, was the founder of the Babbitt Steam Specialty Company, a mill supply firm in New Bedford. Dorothy Denham Babbitt (1896-1978) sold the first three of the four parcels which constitute this property to Helen Foss Forester in 1947 and the remaining parcel in 1960. Helen Foss Forester (1894-1977) was the daughter of Eugene Noble Foss, a Boston manufacturer, U.S. Representative (1910-11), and 45<sup>th</sup> governor of Massachusetts (1910-13). She was married to Maj. Henry W. Forester (1895-1994), a retired British Army officer. Henry Forester attended Eton College and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and served during World War II. The Foresters lived in England and California before settling in Marion. An active sportsman, Henry Forester played polo in international competitions. The Foresters owned the property until 1978.

The current owner of this property is the Douglas Crocker II Trust. Raised in Milton, Douglas Crocker attended Milton Academy and graduated from Harvard University. His parents, USN Lt. Frederick G. Crocker and Mary Jane Bigelow Crocker, were married in 1934 in Marion where Mary Jane's father, Prescott G. Bigelow, had a summer residence. Mary Jane's grandparents were Everett W. and Maud W. Burdett, who had their primary residence in Boston and also summered in Marion. Frederick Crocker was killed in a World War II naval action in 1942. After his death Maud Burnett left one of her Marion properties to her granddaughter, Mary Jane Crocker, and her great-grandsons Douglas, Prescott and Frederick, Jr. That property is at 14 Water Street (1910, Everett W. Burdett House, MRN.166) and is currently owned by Prescott Crocker.

## Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
04-02-2017	34329-0307	Carmen E. Grainger	Douglas Crocker II Trust
05-19-1998	16226-181	George E. & Mary H. Bartholomew	Carmen E. Grainger
06-21-1978	4480-100	Estate of Helen Foss Forester	George E. & Mary H. Bartholomew
09-09-1960	2807-93	Dorothy Denham Babbitt (Parcel #4)	Helen Foss Forester
12-12-1947	1986-410	Dorothy Denham Babbitt (Parcels #1,2,3)	Helen Foss Forester
12-28-1936	1720-22	Edward I. Cudahy	Dorothy Denham Babbitt
02-16-1926	1502-1667	Mary Louise Clark	Edward I. Cudahy
12-07-1905	931-212	Nathan H. Allen	Mary Louise Clark
05-19-1905	913-328	Albion Brownell, Deputy Sheriff	Nathan H. Allen
12-5-1904	909-104	Middleboro Savings Bank	Albion Brownell, Deputy Sheriff
11-11-1882	486-411	Wareham Savings Bank	Lizzie W.R. Allen
09-16-1881	474-136	Daniel Hall, Deputy Sheriff	Wareham Savings Bank
12-30-1868	355-179	Frederick Barden	Matilda E. Allen
12-30-1868	354-174	Henry M. Allen	Frederick Barden

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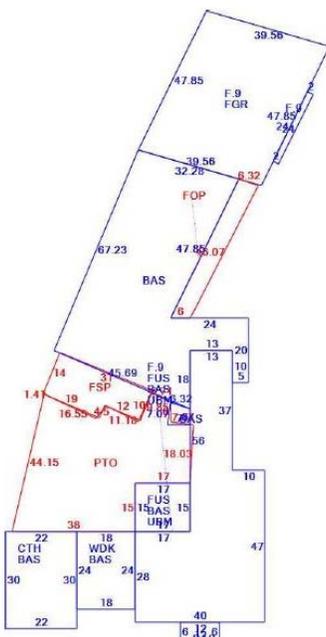
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- "Sketches of Men on the Casualty List," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA July 2, 1918.  
"Lt. Crocker Missing in Naval Action," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA August, 28, 1942.  
"Douglas Crocker; Business and Civic Leader Dead at 72," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, February 29, 1968.  
Mary Jane Crocker death notice in *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, January 27, 2008.  
"Helen Foss Forester: Daughter of a Governor," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, November 11, 1977.  
"Henry W. Forester at 95; Retired British Army major," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, February 23, 1994.



Assessor's card plan



North and west elevations showing part of the rear addition.

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Date unknown. Photograph courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.



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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.