

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-117	Marion	MRN.L	MRN.166
--------	--------	-------	---------

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 14 Water Street

**Historic Name:** Everett W. Burdett House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** 1910 – 1915

**Source:** Map & deed research

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

None

**Condition:** Good

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

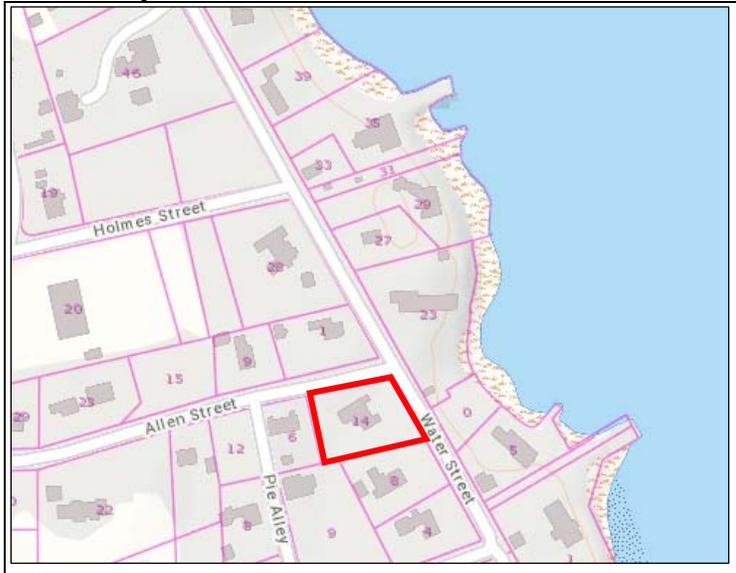
**Acreage:** 0.47

**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*): December 2021

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

14 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L

MRN.166

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.*

**14 Water Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the south side of Allen Street at its intersection with Water Street. The house is roughly centered on the parcel and faces east across Water Street. The yard is maintained in grass in front of the house and is planted with tall shrubs and mature trees at the rear and side elevations. The property is bordered along Allen Street by a low drystone wall and along Water Street by a stone wall with a section of vinyl picket fencing in front of the house. The stone wall and fencing are lined with shrubs.

The building is a two-story, L-shaped, side-gabled, wood-frame house that presents a symmetrical face to the street. This Colonial Revival house was constructed between 1903 and 1915 and retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The hip-roofed main block is five bays by two bays with a four-bay, hip-roofed wing extending west along the north wall. Large, square, flat-roofed porticos are balanced at the outermost bays at the façade (east elevation). The house is set on a brick foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. Tall double-flue chimneys rise from the north and south roof slopes of the main block and from the north slope of the north wing.

Fenestration at the main block comprises symmetrically placed windows and doors with flat surrounds. The windows are single six-over-six, double-hung sash with the exception of a pair of mullied, four-over-four sash centered over the main entry; all the windows have blinds. The elegant entry at the center bay contains a six-panel wood door with full-height sidelights and a transom framed by pilasters supporting a denticulated entablature and segmental pediment. The door fronts a brick stoop and a brick walkway leading to Water Street.

The paired porticos project slightly beyond the east and west walls of the main block. They lack knee walls or railings at ground level and have deep, molded entablatures supported by slender Doric columns. A wooden balustrade encircles each portico at the roof; the roof decks are accessed by single doors with 15-light glass insets at the second story. The south portico is screened and the north portico is open; both are accessed from the interior of the house by single glass-and-panel doors. Fenestration at the side and rear elevations of the house includes single and triple six-over-six, double-hung windows with blinds.

**14 Water Street** is one of few high-style examples of the Colonial Revival in Marion. 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 symmetry, hipped roof, porticos, six-over-six windows, and elaborate door surround.

## 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,

*Continuation sheet 1*

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

14 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.L MRN.166

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 parcel is shown without buildings on the 1903 map with T. Williams identified as owner. A noted American journalist, Talcott Williams (1849-1928) was born in Turkey, son of missionary parents Frederick and Amelia Williams. He graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover in 1869 and Amherst College in 1873. He worked as a reporter and contributor for the *New York World*, the *New York Sun*, the *Springfield (MA) Republican* and as an editorial writer for the *Philadelphia Press*. In 1912 he was named the first director of the Columbia University School of Journalism, and in 1917 he served on the first Pulitzer Prize jury. He married Sophia Wells Royce (1850-1928) in 1879 and settled in Philadelphia. The couple was an active presence in American cultural and intellectual circles in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and were friends of poet Walt Whitman, photographer Eadweard Muybridge, and painter Thomas Eakins, who painted portraits of both Talcott and Sophia. Talcott was also a close friend of Richard Watson Gilder, the *New Century Magazine* editor credited with popularizing Marion as a fashionable summer destination. An article in the *American Art Journal*, cited below, stated that Talcott Williams had a summer home in Marion.

Talcott Williams and his wife Sophia purchased the unimproved land in 1882 from Andrew and Stephen Hadley and Lizzie W.R. Allen, a trio that was active in the local real estate market. When the Williamses sold the property to Boston lawyer Everett W. Burdett in 1910 there was no mention of a building in the deed conveyance. It is likely that Burdett built the subject house in the early 1910s. Everett Watson Burdett (1854-1925) and his wife Maud Warner Burdett (1864-1963) had their primary residence in Boston where Burdett maintained a law practice which focused extensively in the areas of electricity distribution and telecommunications. He served as general counsel for the Massachusetts Electric Lighting Association and also lectured on medical jurisprudence at the Boston University School of Medicine. The Burdett family summered in Marion as noted in the *Boston Globe* society pages between 1906 and 1918. Burdett also owned the house at the adjacent property at 6 Allen Street (ca. 1890, Augustus Nickerson House, MRN.305) which he purchased in 1911. Both houses remained in family ownership for roughly 40 years and it is not known which house was used as the Burdett's seasonal residence.

Everett and Maud Burdett's daughter Marion and her husband, Prescott Bigelow, also had a summer residence in Marion. where their own daughter, Mary Jane Bigelow, was married in 1934 to Frederick G. Crocker. A naval officer, Crocker was killed in action in 1942 during World War II. Everett Burdett had died in 1925 and this property was sold in 1954 by Maud Burdett to her great-grandsons, the three minor children of Frederick and Mary Jane Bigelow. The property remains in the Crocker family.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
05-29-1998	16243-0055	Prescott B. Crocker	Crocker Qualified Personal Residential Trust
11-12-1985	6416-312	Frederick G. Jr., Douglas & Prescott B. Crocker	Prescott B. Crocker
08-31-1954	2367-97	Maud W. Burdett	Frederick G. Jr., Douglas, & Prescott B. Crocker
06-21-1926	Probate 216,755	Estate of Everett W. Burdett	Maud W. Burdett
04-04-1910	1041-512	Sophia W.R. Williams & Talcott Williams	Everett W. Burdett
08-01-1882	486-403	Andrew & Stephen Hadley, Lizzie W.R. Allen	Sophia W.R. Williams & Talcott Williams

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

14 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

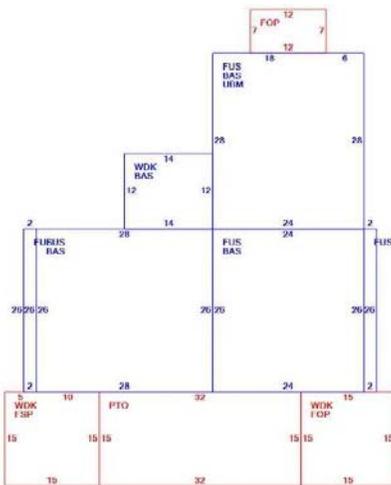
Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L MRN.166

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903  
*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.  
 Olive Hill Sommers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.  
 Plymouth County Registry of Deeds  
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.  
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.  
 Sippican Historical Society: online database  
 Smith, Pete, ed. *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. Marion: Sippican Historical & Preservation Society, 2007.

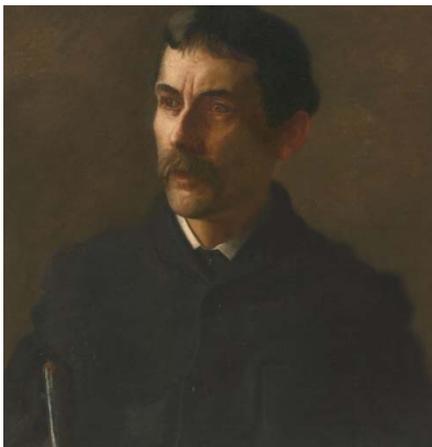
Mary Jane Crocker death notice in *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, January 27, 2008.  
 "Lieut. Crocker Reported Missing in Naval action," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, August 28, 1942.  
 Carr, Carolyn Kinder. "A Friendship and a Photograph: Sophia Williams, Talcott Williams, and Walt Whitman." *American Art Journal* 21, no. 1 (1989): 3–12.



Assessor's card plan



North and west elevations.



Talcott Williams, 1899, by Thomas Eakins.

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 19th 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).

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

14 Water Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.L	MRN.166
-------	---------

---

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.