20 Martins Lane

The house at 20 Martins Lane combines Colonial Revival architecture with an older Dutch Colonial structure. Although recorded as a 1920 Colonial Revival house, it is believed to incorporate a principal dwelling built in 1909 and an eighteenth-century building moved from another local site and attached in 1920. Famous Hingham architect, Charles Everett designed the joining of the two structures, a practice also evident in other Hingham houses he altered including 346 Main St featured on todays tour.

While research is ongoing, 20 Martins Lane and 11 Martins Lane below it are believed to have been built as a guest houses for Charles E. Mason and Elizabeth Andrew Mason's Gilded Age estate "Seal Cove" which was located between 20 Martins Lane and the water and torn down in 1944. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Massachusetts' Civil War Governor and Hingham resident John Andrew. Gov. Andrew and his wife Eliza Hersey Andrew, lived at 110 Summer St. next door to this home. The hilltop setting of 20 Martins Lane originally afforded broad harbor views.

The formal entrance of the home faced the water. A second entrance was later created on the opposite side as access changed. That foyer is thought to occupy a former seasonal porch, enclosed when a library and bathroom were added. The Colonial Revival section includes the original foyer, dining room, and living room, with its substantial fireplace.

A 2012 renovation expanded the kitchen into part of an L-shaped butler's pantry. Later work retained an existing hexagonal bathroom configuration, while reclaimed wood was incorporated into the library. The house's varied rooflines, entrances, and interior levels continue to reveal its layered development.