34 Martins Lane

Built about 1890, 34 Martins Lane originated as the carriage house for Hillcrest, the estate of Edwin A. and Georgine Dorrepaal Hills at neighboring 22 Martins Lane. Its later conversion into a residence reflects the changing use of Hingham's large summer estates over the twentieth century.

The land had belonged to Alfred Cushing Hersey, a seventh-generation member of one of Hingham's early settlement families. Following his death in 1888, the property passed to Edwin Hills. Hills made his fortune in the plate- and window-glass business, supplying materials during Boston's building boom after the Civil War.

Hills, Turner & Company operated from State Street with warehouses on Congress Street. In 1893, it consolidated with Lambert Brothers and R. Sherburne to form the Boston Plate and Window Glass Company. Hills and his business partner, Frederic A. Turner, both maintained Boston residences and summer estates in Hingham- Turner at One Steamboat Lane.

The Hillcrest property remained associated with several generations of the Hills family. George E. Hills became an attorney recognized for his knowledge of maritime law and competitive sailing, and later generations continued the family's involvement with the Hingham Yacht Club. In 1970, the carriage house was separated from the main estate and sold (not in 1936 as written in your ticket book!)

A 21st century renovation by TMS Architects introduced a more open interior while retaining elements of the earlier building. Original beams remain visible upstairs. An arched porch window, built-in seating, and multiple fireplaces contribute to the house's architectural character.

The property also sits within a landscape shaped by neighboring estates and World's End Farm. Nearby estate Seal Cove had gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and it is believed Olmsted may have worked with the Hills to plant the beech and oak so prominent in this home's yard.