

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-16	Marion		MRN.30
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 536 Front Street

Historic Name: Rev. Nathan S. Clark House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: ca.1820

Source: Title and map research, visual analysis

Style/Form: Federal Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

South ell and west addition (early 19th c.)

Window replacement (after 1972)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

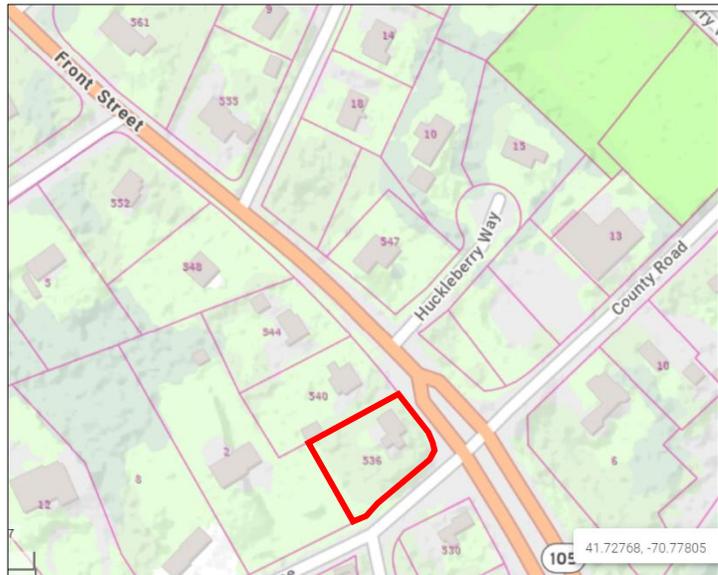
Acreage: 0.35

Setting: Residential area in the northernmost portion of Marion extending west along Front Street (Rte. 105) towards the town of Rochester. Neighborhood of low to medium housing density and moderate to large-sized parcels. Cape form and Greek Revival houses predominate in the area, which was originally farmland and developed in the early- to mid-19th century.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

536 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.30

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.

536 Front Street occupies a nearly rectangular lot on the west side of Front Street at the northwest corner of its intersection with Pumping Station Road. The house is positioned near the street and faces west. The property is maintained in grass with scattered mature trees closely surrounding the building and an expansive lawn stretching west to the rear of the house. A segment of picket fence displaying a house number marks the corner of the parcel at the cross streets. A paved driveway enters the property from Pumping Station Road behind the dwelling and ends at a freestanding garage.

The dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with two dependencies. The house was constructed ca. 1820 in the full Cape style and retains many of its original character-defining features. The dependencies include a one-story, gabled ell set back one bay from the façade (east elevation) at the south wall and a one-and-one-half-story, cross-gabled rear addition. The house rests on a field stone foundation. The walls are clad in wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A short brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge at the main block in alignment with the entry.

Trim elements at the main block include narrow corner and frieze boards and a water table. The windows at the first story are double-hung one-over-one replacement sash with flat surrounds and blinds; these replaced two-over-two sash seen in a 1972 photograph of the house. Early six-over-six wood sash are visible at the second story at the south elevation of the main block and the gable end of the rear addition. The centered entry at the façade contains a four-panel wood door with an integrated transom and a narrow flat surround. The door fronts a shallow wood stoop with slat work side railings that faces the lawn and beyond to the sidewalk along Front Street. A continuous shed dormer at the west (rear) roof slope contains sliding windows. A large deck with a slat work railing extends from the rear wall of the house.

The two-bay-by-one-bay south ell has a contemporary glass-and-panel door at the north bay and a mulled two-over-two replacement window at the south bay. A wooden deck with a slat work railing spans the ell and steps down to a paved walkway that runs along the south elevation and turns to join the driveway at the garage. The garage is a large, side-gabled saltbox structure clad in wood shingles and trimmed with wide corner boards. It has a two-leaf vertical-board door with strap hinges and a six-light awning window at the façade (south elevation), both with wide flat wood surrounds.

The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19th century. The full Cape design was one of the later iterations of the house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, center chimney, corner boards, and small window openings. There are several surviving six-over-six window sash, consistent with the Federal period (1780-1820).

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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 which leads into Buzzards Bay. This property is located in the northernmost portion of the Village a short distance from the Rochester town line, an area which runs along Front Street north of its intersection with Interstate 195. Throughout the first decades of the 19th century the area was largely settled with scattered subsistence farmsteads owned by seamen. As the importance of coastal shipping diminished with the arrival of the railroad in the mid-century, many of these mariners pursued full time farming and other occupations. The predominant style of the early dwelling houses was the Cape Cod form. As the century progressed farmers sold off parcels of land for the construction of homes for both full time and summer residents. The 20th century saw the subdivision of some of the old farms into small housing developments.

This house appears on the 1855 map with the owner shown as Rev. Nathan S. Clark. It is seen on the 1879 and 1903 maps with Andrew J. Haskell as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was its sale by Simeon Tucker Clark to John L. Bowlin in 1859. No recorded conveyance could be

1855 map.

found for the purchase of this property by Nathan Clark. The 1998 MHC Building Form B for the property suggests that this house was built on the site of an early Quaker meeting house which was taken down in 1823.

The Reverend Nathan Sears Clark (1807-1872) was descended from Pilgrim John Clark, who served on the *Mayflower* as a navigator. Nathan Clark was the son of Presbury Clark (1777-1858), a ship carpenter, and Rebecca Sears (1782-1819). Nathan Clark was born in Rochester and was married in 1830 to Laura Swift (b.1807), the daughter of Benjamin Swift (b.1770) and Mehitabel Stevens (b.1773). Censuses of 1850 and 1855 show Nathan Clark serving as a Methodist Episcopal clergyman and living in Marion. While in Marion he also served as the town treasurer and a representative in the Massachusetts legislature from 1847 to 1849. By 1860 he was living in Plymouth and he later moved to Ogden, New York. Nathan Clark's son Simeon Tucker Clark, a physician, conveyed this house to John L. Bowlin in 1859 close to the time when his father left Marion for Plymouth.

John L. Bowlin (1802-1861) and his wife Mary Brigg were the parents of Lydia Jane Bowlin (1838-1898), who was the wife of Andrew J. Haskell (1836-1916). John Bowlin was a carpenter according to the 1860 census. No recorded conveyance for the property could be found between John Bowlin and his son-in-law, Andrew J. Haskell. Haskell was a farm laborer and later worked in a saw mill as noted in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. A Civil War veteran, he had served in the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry as a corporal from August 1862 to June 1865. After the death of Andrew and Lydia Haskell the property passed to their daughter Nellie G. Haskell (b.1863). She died intestate, and the property was sold by the remaining family members to Edward A. Briggs. It was purchased in 1958 by William T. Leggett and his wife Roberta who owned the property for almost 30 years. It was purchased by the current owner in 2018.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
06-08-2018	49895-164	Scott L. Kessler	Nathaniel S. Bryant
05-13-2010	38641-109	Aurora Loan Services LLC	Scott L. Kessler
07-13-2009	37610-21	James Andresen (Foreclosure Deed)	Aurora Loan Services LLC
06-02-2004	28434-256	William T. & Roberta A. Leggett	James K. Andresen
08-15-1988	8650-30	William K. Thomas	William T. & Roberta A. Leggett
12-17-1986	7349-76	William T. & Roberta A. Leggett	William K. Thomas
12-26-1958	2676-6	Edwin L. Briggs	William T. & Roberta A. Leggett

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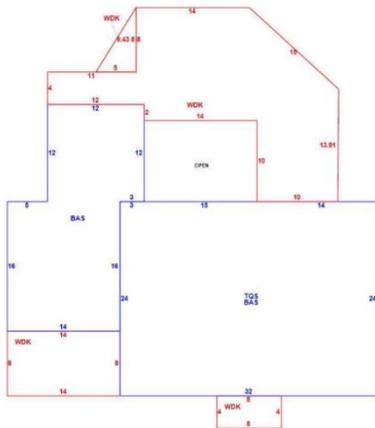
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11-20-1948	2024-305	Edward A. Briggs	Edwin L. Briggs
12-19-1946	1939-399	Heirs at law of Nellie G. Haskell	Edward A. Briggs
Probate	#53,623	Estate of Nellie G. Haskell	Heirs at law of Nellie G. Haskell
Probate	#38,502	Estate of Andrew J. Haskell	Nellie G. Haskell
		John L. Bowlin	Andrew J. Haskell
12-03-1859	521-331	Simeon Tucker Clark	John L. Bowlin

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903.
- Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling
- Plan of Rochester made by A. B. Hammond, dated 1830.
- 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.
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Assessor's card plan



South and east elevations. Garage (left) and house (right).