

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

22-25J	Marion		MRN.31
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 547 Front Street

Historic Name: Paul Briggs House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 1840 - 1850

Source: Title and map research, visual analysis

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Possibly Hallett Briggs

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows

South ell (19th century)

Rear addition (20th century)

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

547 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.31

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.

547 Front Street occupies a nearly-rectangular lot on the east side of Front Street and faces west. The house is positioned close to the street at the northwest corner of the parcel and is surrounded by lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees. A row of low shrubs lines the property line along Front Street and trimmed foundation plantings span the façade (west elevation) of the house. A paved driveway enters the property from Front Street along the north elevation of the house and terminates at the rear elevation.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a two-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-three bay main block with a one-story south ell; a full-width, shed-roofed rear addition; and a one-and-one-half story entrance bay at the junction of the main block and rear addition at the north elevation. Constructed around 1840 in the Greek Revival style, the main block appears to retain its original character-defining features. The house rises from a granite block foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. A brick chimney rises from the eastern edge of the south roof slope at the main block.

The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, two-part frieze boards, eave returns, and corner pilasters. The side hall main entry at the southernmost bay contains a three-panel wood door framed by partial-height sidelights, channeled pilasters, and a heavy cornice-headed entablature. The door fronts a three-step granite stair that ends at the lawn. The windows are single, double-hung, six-over-six sash with false muntins, flat surrounds and capped lintels. Paired, mulled windows with four-over-four sash illuminate the attic. The second-story windows at the side elevations touch the two-part frieze boards.

The side-gabled, one-story ell is set back two bays from the façade of the main block and aligns along the east elevation of the rear addition. Although its granite foundation points to an early construction date, its shallow gabled roof suggests that it may have been altered. The ell is trimmed with narrow corner and frieze boards and has contemporary, replacement fenestration at the façade comprising an entry flanked by mulled six-light windows on the left and mulled nine-light windows on the right. The door fronts a small wooden stoop and three-step stair that ends at the lawn. A shed-roofed addition spans the east wall of the ell.

314 Front Street is a handsome example of the Greek Revival style. Greek Revival was the predominant style of American architecture from about 1830 to 1850, but the form continued to be used well into the second half of the 19th century. Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greek temples and associated with democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin. The identifying Greek Revival features of this house include the front-gabled orientation of the main block, box cornice, two-part frieze boards, corner pilasters, eave returns, and main entry surround with channeled pilasters and an entablature. The partial-height sidelights framing the door are characteristic of the earlier Federal style (1780-1820).

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.



1855 map.

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 (Rte. 105) north of its intersection with Interstate 195. Throughout the first decades of the 19th century the area was settled largely 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 Paul Briggs shown as owner. The owner is shown as P. Briggs on the 1879 map and Paul W. Briggs on the 1903 map. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was the 1824

division of a piece of land by two brothers, housewright Hallett [Jr.] Briggs and mariner Paul Briggs, which they had acquired from their father, Hallett Briggs [Sr.]. Paul Briggs paid his brother Hallett [Jr.] \$960 for his interest in the property.

Paul Briggs (1797-1863) and Hallett Briggs [Jr.] (1782-1871) were two of the sons of Captain Hallett Briggs [Sr.] (1753-1836) and Joanna Green Briggs (1767-1820). The census of 1850 notes Capt. Briggs' occupation as sailor, but in 1855 and 1860 it was farmer and master farmer, respectively. Paul Briggs was married to Mary Hathaway Wing (1798-1881). The P. Briggs on the 1879 map was Paul W. Briggs, the couple's only surviving son who had inherited the property. Paul Wing Briggs (1832-1918) was first married to Lucy M. Hammond (1840-1887), and after her death to Betsey F. Waterman (b.1843). The state census of 1855 notes his occupation as house carpenter; later censuses record his occupation as farmer or farmer/carpenter.

The date of construction and the likely builder of this house are not clear. Title research shows that Paul Briggs purchased the interest of his brother Hallett Briggs [Jr.] in the estate of their father in 1824 for \$960. This was a significant sum at the time, and though not noted in the deed description, it suggests that buildings were included in the sale. However, the appearance of the house, which displays predominately Greek Revival features apart from its Federal-era sidelights, suggests a later construction date. The 1998 Building Form B states that the house was built by Paul Brigg's son, Paul Wing Briggs, a house carpenter. Since Paul Wing Briggs was not born until 1832, a stronger possibility is that the dwelling was been built by Paul Briggs' younger brother Hallett Briggs [Jr.], who was also a housewright. Paul Brigg's widow Betsey lived in this house until her death in 1926. The property was then devised to Paul Brigg's great nephew, Sumner Gardner Ryder of Cleveland, Ohio (1855-1922). The property was subsequently passed to Sumner Ryder's widow, Edna Rhoda Thomas Ryder (b.1866), who later remarried and sold the property in 1931 to Manuel G. Rose.

Manuel Garcia Rose (1885-1954) was born in the Portuguese Azores Islands. He emigrated to the United State in 1901 and became a naturalized citizen in 1923. In 1910 he was living with his wife, Maria Rames Rose, in New Bedford and working as a mason's helper. His World War I draft registration showed him living in Marion at 73 Mill Street and working as a laborer for Frederick B. Cutler at 8 Water Street (ca. 1904, Frederick C. Cutler House, MRN.164). The 1920 census shows Manuel and Maria Rose with three children including a son, Joseph Franklin Rose (1914-1996), who inherited the property after the death of his father in 1954. Joseph Rose served in the United States Army during World War II and was a salesman according to the 1950 census; he was married to Marie S. Rose (1914-1991). The couple's daughter, Elizabeth Margaret, and her husband Francis J. Farrell, Jr. purchased the property from her father in 1964. The house left the extended Rose family in 1972 when was purchased by Richard and Leedia Macomber of Mattapoisett, who owned it until 2017.

