

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-10

Marion

MRN.XXX

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 570 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage

**Uses: Present:** Residential

**Original:** Residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1888

**Source:** Title and map research

**Style/Form:** End House

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

**Foundation:** Stone

**Wall/Trim:** Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

**Roof:** Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage

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

Rear ell (late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Excellent

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

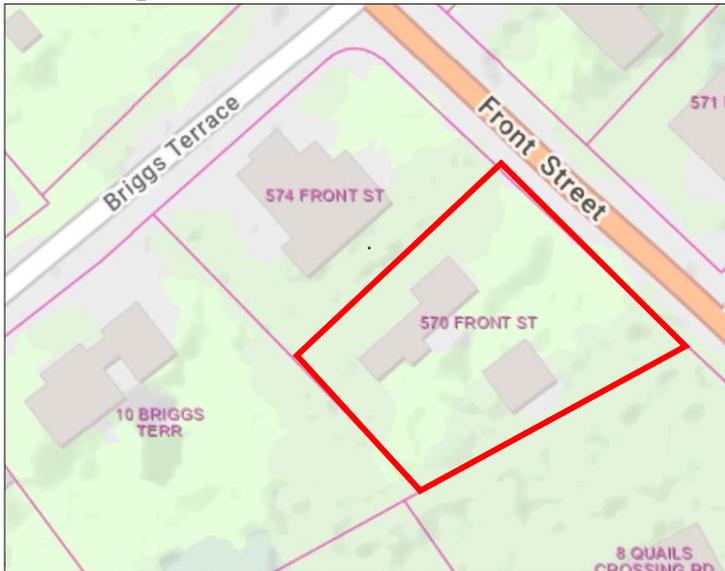
**Acreage:** 0.73

**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-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): April 2023

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

570 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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MRN.XXX

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.*

**570 Front Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the west side of Front Street and faces west. The house is set back from the street along the northern property line and fronts an expansive lawn. There are clusters of shrubs and mature trees at the parcel perimeter and a stockade fence lines the west (rear) property line. Scattered foundation plantings surround the house. A paved driveway enters the property from Front Street along the south elevation of the house and serves a two-car garage sited south of the house.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a two-and-one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-three bay main block with two dependencies. The dependencies include a long, gabled, one-and-one-half-story rear ell that aligns along the south elevation and a one-story, shed-roofed enclosed entrance at the south wall. Constructed ca. 1888 in the end house form, it has both Greek Revival and Queen Anne details and retains most of its original character-defining features. The house rises from a stone foundation and is clad in wood clapboards at the façade (east elevation) and wood shingles at all other elevations. A tall brick eave-wall chimney with an arched cap rises from grade at the south elevation, piercing the south roof slope. A second chimney is centered at the roof ridge at the easternmost component of the rear addition.

The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, narrow corner and frieze boards, and eave returns. The side hall main entry at the northernmost bay contains a double-leaf glass-and-panel wood door with tall rectangular lights framed by a narrow flat surround and architrave. The door fronts a two-step stone and concrete stair that ends at the lawn. The windows are single, double-hung, two-over-two sash with flat surrounds and architraves. The second-story windows at the side elevations touch the frieze boards.

The rear ell comprises several blocks, only the nearest of which is visible from a public way. Of early construction, it is seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map. The small, two-bay-by-two-bay, shed-roofed entrance has contemporary mulled sash and an entry facing south to the driveway and the two-car garage. The front-gabled, north-facing garage is clad in vertical board siding and has an asphalt shingle roof.

370 Front Street is an example of an end house, a house type seen from the 1830s into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The end house shares its gable-front, three-bay façade and side hall entry form with the Greek Revival style (1830-1850) but lacks the character-defining features of that style. Many examples are simple blocks with the common addition of a cross gable or a lower rear ell housing the kitchen. The form could harbor a broad range of stylistic features, which in the subject house includes the late-19<sup>th</sup> century double-leaf main entry and two-over-two window sash. The Greek Revival details at the house include the frieze and corner boards, eave returns, and architraves.

## 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 (Rte. 105) north of its intersection with Interstate 195. Throughout the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the subdivision of some of the old farms into small housing developments.

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The subject property is not shown on the 1855 map but a house appears nearby with Rufus Dexter shown as owner. This was the Dexter Farm at 586 Front Street (ca.1770, Benjamin Dexter, Sr. House/Locust Farm, MRN.32), which was owned and occupied by five generations of the Dexter family. The 1879 map notes the owner of the Dexter Farm as Mrs. L. Church. The subject house, which is located just south of the Dexter Farm, first appears on the 1903 map labeled M.E. Parsonage. The first recorded conveyance found for the subject property was the sale of a parcel of land by Seth L. Dexter to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Marion for a \$1.00 consideration in 1887. The deed specified that the land was to be used for the construction of a parsonage for the minister of the church and also stated that the grantee would “build and maintain a sufficient fence around said described premises.”

Seth Leonard Dexter (1845-1919) was the son of Rufus Delano Dexter (1821-1866) and Elizabeth N. Lucretia Washburn (1828-1887). His father, the son of Benjamin Dexter [Jr.] and Ruth Dexter, was a farmer as noted in the 1850-1865 censuses. Seth Dexter’s wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Peleg Barrows Washburn (1802-1866) and Elizabeth Hull Dean (1800-1886). Rufus Dexter died at age 45 in 1866 and in 1874 his widow Elizabeth Dexter married Lemuel Church (1824-1882). Church was also a farmer. Elizabeth Dexter Church, shown as the property owner on the 1879 map, was once again widowed in 1882. The 1900 and 1910 censuses reported her son Seth L. Dexter as operator of the farm, which was called Locust Dairy Farm because of the many locust trees on the property. Seth Dexter was married to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Nancy Jenny (1858-1934).

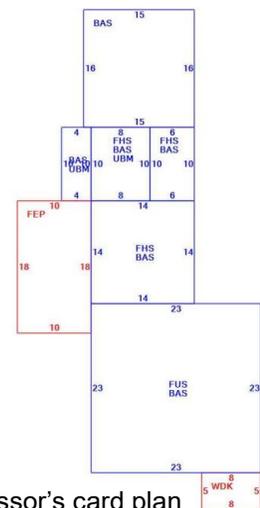
The house was constructed soon after the sale of the land in 1877 and served as a parsonage for the church, which was formed in Marion in 1865 and located nearby at 13 County Road (ca. 1866, The Marion Methodist Church, MRN.11). The church sold the house in 1968. The property was purchased by the current owner in 2009.

### Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-28-2009	38084-234	Arlene M. Enos	Eileen E. McCarthy-Underwood
10-19-2006	33592-123	Russell L. & Arlene M. Enos	Arlene M. Enos
05-17-1999	17465-282	Arlene M. Enos	Russell L. & Arlene M. Enos
06-07-1996	14424-70	Steven E. Jr. & Anna M. Okolita	Arlene M. Enos
05-15-1985	6103-221	Kenneth J. & Martha M. Gomes	Steven E. , Jr. & Anna M. Okolita
07-30-1984	5727-218	Bruce W. MacPherson & Louisa J. MacPherson	Kenneth J. & Martha M. Gomes
03-07-1977	4246-181	Wayne A. & Susan E. Mattson	Bruce W. MacPherson & Louisa J. MacPherson
04-12-1973	3879-788	William V. & Susan D. Antulonis	Wayne A. & Susan E. Mattson
03-08-1968	3429-189	Trustees of the Marion Methodist Church	William V. & Susan D. Antulonis
02-11-1887	559-417	Seth L. Dexter & Elizabeth L. Church	Trustees Methodist Episcopal Church of Marion

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903.  
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 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.  
 Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.  
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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.  
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Assessor's card plan