

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

22-20B

Marion

MRN.33

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 599 Front Street

Historic Name: Clifton Farm

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1815

Source: Title and map research

Style/Form: Federal Cape, altered

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Guest house (former barn)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Postmodern additions to house (20th-21st c.)

Postmodern renovation/expansion of guest house (20th-21st c.)

Shed dormers (20th c.)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.83

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

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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.

599 Front Street occupies a large polygonal parcel on the north side of Front Street at its intersection with Pinewood Drive. The house is set back from the street at the rough east-west midpoint of the property. A large guest house, the former barn, is sited east of the house at the eastern property line. The area surrounding the house and guest house is maintained in lawn with scattered shrubs and clusters of mature trees; the balance of the property is heavily vegetated. A gravel driveway with a paved apron and wooden swing gate enters the property from Front Street near the eastern property line and runs to the guest house, then turns west to end at the north elevation of the main house. A tall rubble stone wall set close to the street behind a low hedge encloses the portion of the parcel west of the driveway. A low fieldstone wall borders the street east of the driveway.

Very little of the house is visible from a public way. The description that follows describes the original dwelling (the main block) and is based on limited visual observation, realtor photographs, and a 1972 photograph in the collection of the Sippican Historical Commission. The main block was dramatically altered with large Postmodern additions in the late 20th – early 21st centuries and the rear (north) elevation now serves as the principal façade and entry.

The main block is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house. The dwelling was constructed ca. 1815 in the full Cape form with Federal stylistic features. It retains many of its original character-defining features at the east elevation (the former principal façade). The walls are clad in wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A substantial brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge in alignment with the entry.

Trim elements include narrow corner boards and a two-part frieze board at the façade. The windows at all elevations are double-hung six-over-six sash with flat surrounds and lipped lintels; the windows at the façade touch the cornice. A deep, enclosed, pedimented portico centered at the façade contains a paneled door framed by partial-height sidelights and Doric pilasters; there are six-over-six windows at the side walls. A pair of two-bay shed dormers occupy the south roof slope.

The guest house (former barn) is sited just north of the house at the eastern property line and faces west. It has been altered beyond recognition although a visible cupola vent may mark its original location.

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 form illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, substantial center chimney, and corner boards. Features characteristic of the Federal style include the six-over-six window sash and entrance portico with partial sidelights and Doric columns.

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 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

Continuation sheet 1

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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 building appears on the 1855 map with Stephen Clifton noted as the owner. It is shown on the 1879 map owned by the heirs of J. Ryder and on the 1903 map with Wm. T. Briggs as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale of a parcel of land by the estate of William Hammond for \$225 to Stephen Clifton in 1815. There was no mention of buildings on the property description of that deed.

Stephen Clifton (1789-1874), the oldest son of Timothy Clifton (1761-1839) and Bethiah Delano (1764-1847), was married to Lydia Butlers (1797-1858). Censuses recorded his occupation as carpenter although it appears that he also operated a farm. It is probable that this house was built by Stephen Clifton following the 1815 purchase of the land. In 1858 Stephen Clifton deeded his farm and homestead to his son Stephen Loring Clifton (1824-1911). Stephen L. Clifton then deeded the property back to his father as a lifetime estate and left Marion and headed west. Census records reported him living in 1860 in Wyconda, Iowa in 1860; Denver, Colorado in 1880; Fremont City, California in 1900; and in 1910 in Arora, South Dakota in 1910 with occupations variously noted as farmer or carpenter. After the death of his wife Ann Elizabeth White (1833-1891), he lived in various locales in the western United States with his children.

Title research failed to find a transaction conveying the property from Stephen L. Clifton to the J. Ryder who appears as the owner on the 1879 map. It seems most probable this was Jonathan Ryder (1799-1875), whose wife Priscilla [a cousin of Steven Clifton] and the couple's children sold the property in 1889 to William T. Briggs.

William Thomas Briggs (1845-1914) was the son of William Blackmer Briggs (1802-1849) and Mary Washburn Atwood (1805-1895). He was married to Abbie H. Gifford (1857-1909). Census records reported that Briggs began his working life at sea. He was a mariner for some 25 years, working largely in whale fishery before engaging in farming in the last decades of his life. In 1918 the property was sold by Briggs' daughters Florence Esther L. Briggs Sherman (1890-1986) and Hannah W. Briggs Taylor (1887-1967) to Jennie W. & Albert W. Bliss. After its purchase by a series of short-term owners, the property was acquired in 1994 by George E. and Beverly B. McTurk of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who had been searching for a property to run as a Bed and Breakfast. The McTurks lived on the property, renovating and expanding the main house and converting the original barn to a three-unit guest house. It was operated as Pineywoods Farm for 18 years.

The original 36-acre farm was subdivided over time and the house today stands on a lot of less than three acres. The current owners purchased the property in 2015.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-23-2015	46305-310	George E. & Beverly B. McTurk	Kevin N. & Karen A. Cadell and Tome G., Jr. & Kaylan L. Valadao
04-06-1994	12816-22	Mary A. Baker & Robert W. Lauter	George E. & Beverly B. McTurk
09-15-1986	7118-306	Edwin C. Allen II	Mary A. Baker & Robert W. Lauter
11-24-1985	6861-229	Constance Allen	Edwin C. Allen II
03-30-1983	5324-120	George R., Jr. & Barbara B. Fearing	Edwin C., II & Constance Allen
09-25-1968	3471-754	Humphrey L. & Constance R. Tallman	George R., Jr. & Barbara B. Fearing
10-07-1965	3243-563	Charles L. & Diane D. Shumway	Humphrey L. & Constance R. Tallman
05-29-1959	2703-402	Dudley F. & Julia C. Wing	Charles L. & Diane D. Shumway
11-25-1957	2611-136	Roland & Jane Murray Bryant	Dudley F. & Julia C. Wing
02-14-1955	2400-42	Walker Leach	Roland & Jane Murray Bryant
03-31-1952	2290-246	Mary W. Leach	Walker Leach
10-27-1936	1717-139	Jennie W. & Albert W. Bliss	Charles T. Gilbert
02-21-1918	1298-437	Esther L. Sherman & Hannah W. Taylor	Jennie W. & Albert W. Bliss
Probate		William T. Briggs	Esther L. Sherman & Hannah W. Taylor
02-13-1889	581-510	Sarah E. Perine, Royal S. Ryder, Mary E. Rapelje, Josiah Ryder, and Priscilla Ryder	William T. Briggs
12-17-1858	291-26	Stephen Clifton	Stephen L. Clifton
07-01-1815	132-201	Estate of William Hammond	Stephen Clifton

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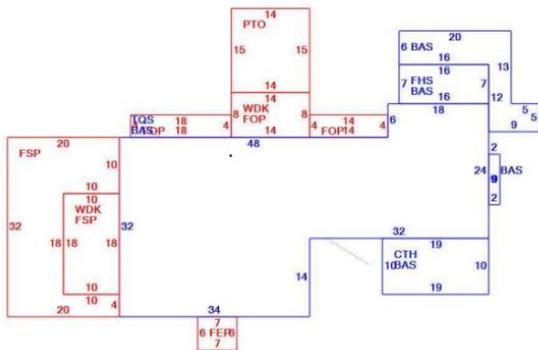
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"Couple looks back on 18 years in the B&B business." *Sippican Week*, March 30, 2014 @<https://sippican.theweektoday.com/article/couple-looks-back-18-years-bb-business/13379>



Assessor's card plan



599 Front Street, 1972. Photograph courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.



Guest house (former barn), west and south elevations.