

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

22-19

Marion

MRN.34

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 639 Front Street

Historic Name: Capt. Stephen Hammond House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1800

Source: Title and map research

Style/Form: Federal Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn/garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

East ells (early 19th c.)

West ell (after 1972)

Dormers (after 1972)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.71

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

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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.

639 Front Street occupies a polygonal lot on the north side of Front Street one property east of Brook Haven Lane. The house is set back from the street in the southern half of the parcel and is lined with manicured foundation plantings along the façade (south elevation). The area surrounding the dwelling is maintained in lawn dotted by a few mature trees. A low drystone retaining wall bordering the street along the southern property line is broken in front of the main entry by a three-step granite stair. A gravel driveway enters the property from Front Street along the west elevation of the house and ends at a garage/barn sited off its northwest corner. The driveway is bordered on the east side by a mortared rubblestone wall that joins the drystone wall at the street. A tall vertical plank fence lines the driveway on the west side, separating it from the parallel driveway of the adjacent property. The tapering portion of the parcel behind (north of) the house includes an area of lawn bordered by dense vegetation.

This wood-framed house comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block with four dependencies. The dwelling was constructed ca. 1800 in the full Cape form and retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The dependencies include three early ells at the east elevation (ells #1 to #3, west to east) which are set back serially from the façade of the main block. A 20th century ell is set back from the façade at the west elevation. The house rests on a granite foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards at the façade and wood shingles at all other elevations. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A pair of tall, narrow, corbelled brick chimneys rise from the center of the roof ridge at the main block. Brick chimneys also rise from the south roof slope of east ell #2 and the north roof slope of east ell #3.

Trim elements at the main block and ells include a molded box cornice, narrow corner boards, deep frieze boards, eave returns, and a water table. Apart from a replacement bay window at ell #2, the windows at all stories are uniformly double-hung six-over-six sash with flat surrounds. The windows at the main block and east ells touch the frieze board. The centered main entry at the main block contains a six-panel wood door framed by full-height sidelights, pilasters, and a deep molded entablature with a denticulated cornice. The full sidelights are a Greek Revival stylistic feature and likely represent a mid-19th century adaptation. The door fronts a shallow brick stoop and a brick walkway leading to the granite steps in the stone wall at the street. Paired gable dormers with six-over-six windows occupy the south roof slope at the façade and there is a continuous shed dormer at the north (rear) roof slope.

Ell #1, the most westerly ell attached to the main block, is one-story tall and two bays wide with a continuous three-bay shed dormer at the south roof slope. Ell #2, the center ell, is one-and-one-half stories tall and two bays wide with a semi-hexagonal bay window with a flared roof at the east bay. The window at the west bay is joined by a spandrel panel to a small window at the cornice. Ell #3, the most easterly ell, is one-story tall and two-bays deep and wide. The one-and-one-half-story west ell joins the main block at its northwest corner. It is four-bays-by-two-bays with an entry at the easternmost bay. The glass-and-panel door at the entry fronts a small wooden porch and stairway leading to a gravel walkway that runs west to join the driveway.

The garage/barn sited north and west of the house near the western property line is of 20th century construction. It is front-gabled and clad with wood clapboards at the façade and wood shingles elsewhere. A paneled garage door with a 14-light transom at the façade is flanked by six-over-six windows. The door is surmounted by a hay door and pulley framed by oversized trim. The roof is capped with a square cupola vent.

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, center chimney (as seen in an historic image), and corner and

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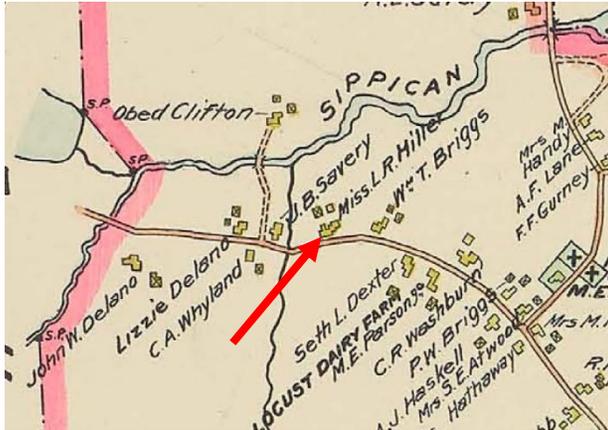
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frieze boards. The six-over-six window sash configuration is identified with the Federal style (1780–1820) and the door surround with full-height sidelights is characteristic of the Greek Revival period (1830-1850).

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 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.

1903 map.

Stephen Hammond is shown as owner of this property on the 1855 map.

The owner is noted as S. Hammond on the 1879 map and Miss L.R. Hiller on the 1903 map. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was a mortgage given by Stephen Hammond to Job D. Hammond in 1895.

Capt. Stephen Hammond [I] (1770-1830), the son of Moses Hammond (1731-1809) and Mehitable Barlow (b.1740), was married to Betsey Blankinship (1779-1830) in 1798. The 1998 MHC Form B for the property states that according to local historians, Capt. Hammond built the house before 1802, when he and his wife moved to 41 Main Street (1802, Capt. S. Hammond House, MRN.243). The couple's oldest surviving son, also named Stephen Hammond (1805-1895), married Lydia B. Richmond (1808-1897) in 1829. Stephen Hammond [II] was listed as a carpenter in the 1855 census; later censuses recorded his occupation as farmer. His obituary stated that he was a ships carpenter who worked in New Bedford and walked from Marion to the shipyard every day.¹ Stephen Hammond [II] is the owner noted on the 1858 and 1879 maps. Lydia and Stephen Hammond [II] had three children, including Beuretta [Etta] Hammond (1834-1880) who was married to Mathew Hiller (b. 1840). Capt. Mathew Hiller, the son of Seth C. Hiller and Betsey Briggs, was a seaman for most of his working life. Mathew Hiller served in the Civil War and his wife Beuretta was a founding member of the "Circle of Industry of Marion," a women's sewing and knitting circle that raised money to support the war effort. The couple's daughter Lydia Richmond Hiller (1864-1954) was the Miss L.R. Hiller shown as the owner of the house on the 1903 map.

In 1895 Stephen Hammond [II] mortgaged the property consisting of "certain plats and parcels of land together with the buildings and improvements...containing twenty-five (25) acres more or less" for \$900 to Job Hammond. Job Hammond in turn assigned the mortgage to Mathew Hiller, Steven Hammond [II]'s son-in-law. When the mortgage was foreclosed six years later the property was purchased by the children of Beuretta and Mathew Hiller: Lydia Richmond Hiller, Charles E. Hiller, and Ira R. Hiller. Ira Hiller purchased one-third interest in the property from his sister Lydia Hiller in 1931. Ira Hiller's two-thirds interest was devised to his daughter, Harriet Hiller Crook, after his death. In 1956 she purchased the remaining one-third interest in the property from her cousin Mary Elizabeth Leiby, the daughter of her uncle Charles E. Hiller.

In 1966 Harriet Hiller Crook of Miami Shores, Florida sold the property, now consolidated under single ownership, to Richard and Bertha Threlfall of Fairhaven. In 1988 the Threlfalls sold the majority of original farmland to a property development company and in 1998 sold the parcel on which the subject building stands. The house was purchased by the current owners in 2017.

¹ Steven Hammond obituary in unnamed/undated newspaper clipping. Sippican Historical Society.

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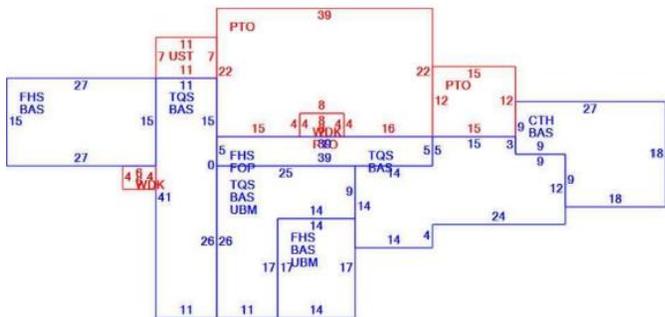
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Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
09-01-2017	48899-93	Matthew & Erin L Caravana	Kenneth J. & Carolyn Ackerman
02-07-2014	44062-59	Jorge & Tiffany Figueiredo	Matthew & Erin L Caravana
06-17-2003	25530-68	Jorge Figueiredo	Jorge & Tiffany Figueiredo
10-03-1998	11568-28	Rockland Trust Company	Jorge Figueiredo
12-26-1991	10712-240	Rehtam Development Corporation	Middleborough Trust Company
06-03-1988	8497-232	Richard & Bertha L. Threlfall	Rehtam Development Corporation
06-06-1966	3310-654	Harriet H. & H. Montague Crook	Richard & Bertha L. Threlfall
Probate		Ira R. Hiller (2/3 interest)	Harriet H. Crook
07-13-1956	2518-328	Mary Elizabeth Leiby (1/3 interest)	Harriet H. Crook
08-21-1931	1619-175	Lydia R. Hiller (1/3 interest)	Ira R. Hiller
Probate	Case #69994	Estate of Charles E. Hiller (1/3 interest)	Mary Elizabeth Leiby
06-10-1901	822-22	Mathew Hiller (Foreclosure)	Charles E. Hiller, Lydia R. Hiller, Ira R. Hiller
04-06-1895	694-244	Stephen Hammond (mortgage))	Job Hamond (mortgage assigned to Mathew Hiller)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Assessor's card plan

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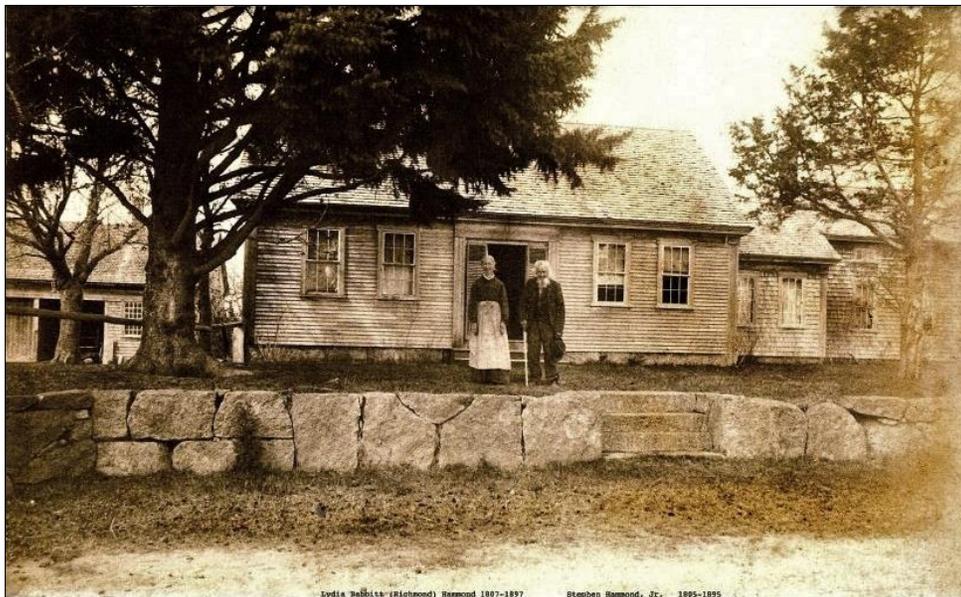
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Main block (at left) and three ells. East and south (façade) elevations.



Capt. Stephen Hammond Farm at 639 Front Street, ca. 1895. Shown are Lydia Babbitt (Richmond) Hammond and Stephen Hammond, Jr. Photograph courtesy of Sippican Historical Society.