

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-5	Marion		MRN.XXX
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## Photograph



**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 670 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Cyrus A. Whyland House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca.1900

**Source:** Title & map research, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** End House

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Guest house (1990)

Shed

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

East addition (1971)

Replacement windows

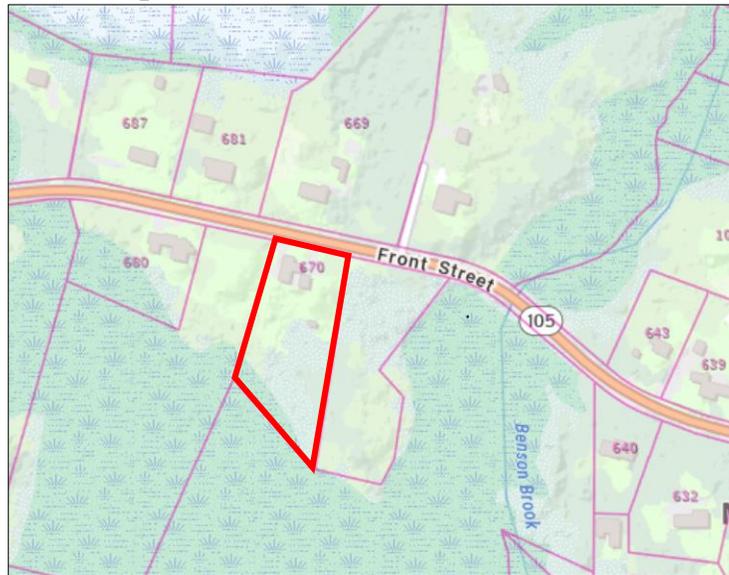
**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** 1.4

**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.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

670 Front Street

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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.*

**670 Front Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the south side of Front Street. The house is positioned close to the street at the northwest corner of the parcel and faces north. The house is surrounded by an extensive lawn. The grassy area is bordered by mature trees to the south and east and a small cluster of trees marks the northwest corner of the property. The southern half of the parcel is densely vegetated and transitions to marsh land. A row of stones lines the street at the façade (north elevation). A gravel driveway enters the property from Front Street along the east elevation of the house and ends in a parking area facing a guest house that is sited east of the house.

The building comprises a two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, front-gabled, wood-frame main block with a rectangular plan and two dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story, full-width gabled addition at the south (rear) elevation and a two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay, cross-gabled block added at the east elevation in 1971. Constructed around 1900 and retaining many of its original character-defining features, it is an example of the End House form. A flat-roofed porch spanning the façade (north elevation) is enclosed at the center and westernmost bays and open at the easternmost bay, where it shelters the side hall entry. The house rests on a granite foundation and is clad in painted wood shingles finished with contrasting wood trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and carries solar panels on the east roof slope. A substantial gable-wall brick chimney rises from grade at the east elevation of the east (1971) addition.

The main block is trimmed with a deep boxed cornice, eave returns, and corner and frieze boards. The enclosed portion of the porch at the façade is three-bays-by-one-bay with continuous single-light windows over a knee wall. It is surmounted by a slat work railing with sphere-capped newel posts. The side hall entry contains a glass-and-panel door with a large rectangular inset and door with a rectangular glass inset. It is framed by fluted pilasters and a molded entablature. The door fronts a wooden stoop and step that lands at a walkway of pavers leading across the façade to the driveway. Most of the windows at the house are single, double-hung, one-over-one replacement sash with flat wood surrounds. The second story windows at the main block touch the frieze board at the side elevations. Three narrow windows at the west elevation have fixed lights with muntin borders.

The east addition has a flat-roofed porch at the south elevation that matches the one at the main block. It expands to create a large deck behind the house with a two-step stair at its northeast corner leading to the driveway. The one-story south addition has a shallow gabled roof; a semi-hexagonal oriel window occupies the west wall.

The two-story, two-bay-by-one-bay guest house is sited approximately twelve feet off the southeast corner of the east addition. It is side-gabled and faces east. The structure is clad in wood shingles and trimmed with a deep cornice and corner boards. It has an asphalt shingle roof that carries solar panels on the east roof slope. The sole opening at the north elevation facing the street is a modern arched window at the gable peak. The openings at the south elevation include an entry at the north bay and a sliding window at the south bay.

670 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 trim elements (frieze and corner boards and eave returns) and the front porch with roof balustrade.

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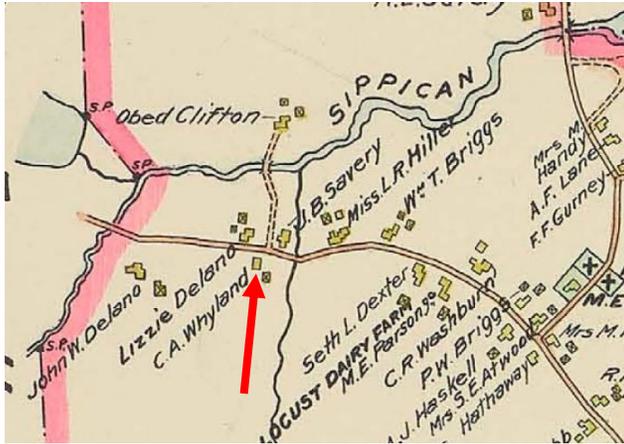
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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.



1903 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the subdivision of some of the old farms into small housing developments.

The first historic map on which this house appears is the 1903 map which notes the owner as C.A. Whyland. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was a sale of a parcel of land from George M. Delano to Cyrus A. Whyland in 1898. Cyrus Alphonso Whyland (1851-1942) was the son of farmer John Fraligh Whyland and Ilura Amidon (1815-1895) of Palmer, New York. By 1900 he had built the subject house in North Marion and was living there with his wife Katherine (Kate) L. Smellie (1868-1911), the daughter of William Henry Smellie (1842-1918) and Melissa Ann Gifford (1843-1903) of Rochester, and his two daughters from his first marriage, Martha E. Whyland (1882-1974) and Ruby E. Whyland (1885-1955). His obituary stated that he first came to Rochester to manage the estate of Judge Pratt and had variously worked as a sawmill operator and machinist, along with maintaining much of the town's construction equipment.<sup>1</sup> Whyland was awarded a patent in 1912 for a "shoe for tires."<sup>2</sup> The 1910 census reported him working as an engineer for the town water department. He was listed in the 1920 census as an engineer in the stationery business and in the 1930 census as a steam engineer. His two daughters did not marry. In 1967, Martha Whyland sold the house to Robert C. and Judith V. Jackson. The property was purchased by the current owner in 2020.

## Title Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-16-2020	54085-31	Russell A. & Stacey A. Frates	Judith Mercer
11-09-2001	20963-57	Russell A. Frates	Russell A. & Stacey A. Frates
07-11-2000	18724-222	Arthur M. & Irene B. Frates	Russell A. Frates
11-06-1996	14769-268	John F. & Louise K. Stevens	Arthur M. & Irene B. Frates
08-15-1983	5429-248	John R., Jr. & Daphne L. Hubbard	John F. & Louise K. Stevens
08-29-1977	4318-244	Frederick P. Dockham & Albert Dastoli	John R. & Daphne L. Hubbard
04-11-1974	3978-128	David E. & Karen K. Nilson	Frederick P. Dockham & Albert Dastoli
02-25-1972	3755-78	Robert C. & Judith V. Jackson	David E. & Karen K. Nilson
01-28-1967	3347-157	Martha E. Whyland	Robert C. & Judith V. Jackson
07-09-1951	2156-204	Ruby E. Whyland	Martha E. Whyland
08-16-1915	1220-254	Cyrus A. Whyland	Martha E. Whyland & Ruby E. Whyland
04-22-1898	778-245	George M. Delano	Cyrus A. Whyland

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> "Cyrus A. Whyland," *Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, June 20, 1942.

<sup>2</sup> *United States Patent Office*, Vol. CLXXIII, Dec. 1911. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1912.

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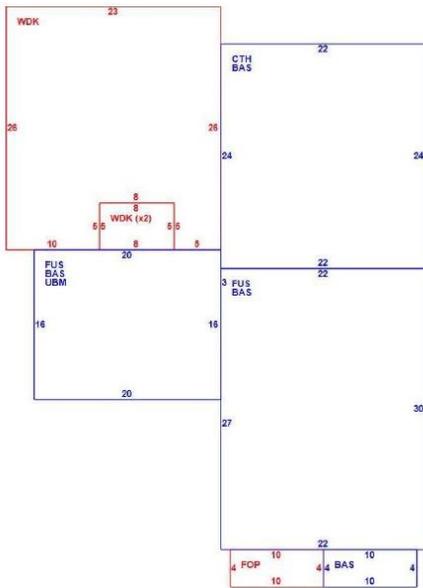
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Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903  
*Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855* H.F. Walling  
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.  
Plymouth County Registry of Deeds  
Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.  
Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.  
Sippican Historical Society: online database  
Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



Assessor's card plan



North (facade) and east elevations.