

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-37A

Marion

N, Z

MRN.3

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

Town/City: MARION

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

Address: 13 Cottage Street

Historic Name: Tabor Hall - Tabor Academy
Headmaster Residence

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Dormitory, Headmaster Residence

Date of Construction: 1880

Source: Joseph Smart, *The School and the Sea*

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Carriage house (late-19th c., Photo 2)

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:
None

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1936-37

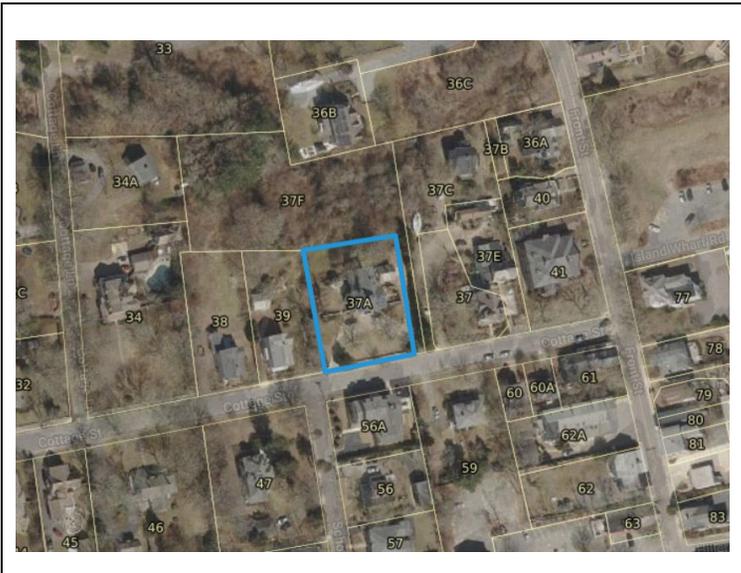
Acreage: 0.52 acres

Setting: This building is located on the north side of Cottage Street on street lined with late-19th and early-20th houses, most set close to the street on small lots. This house is set back from the street and centered on its relatively ample lot. A gravel driveway loops across the front of the house and leads to a carriage house in the rear. The property is landscaped with a picket fence along the street, lawn and mature trees.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

Organization: Sippican Historical Society

Date (*month / year*): March 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

13 COTTAGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

N, Z	MRN.3
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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.

(Edited from 1998 MHC Building Form, MRN.3, 1998)

Tabor Hall is a T-shaped, 2½-story wooden residence currently sheathed in wood clapboard siding with plain cornerboards. It ranks among the most full-blown examples of the Italianate style in Marion. Rising from a granite block foundation (like most 19th houses in Marion Village), it is enclosed by a gable roof which is crowned by a small, distinctive, finial-topped cupola. Although the porches of its main facade and rear ell are no longer extant, the house's overall form and character-defining features remain intact. This building measures three-bays by two-bays. Its center entrance with sidelights has been replaced with a double-door, but door surround with fluted pilasters remains. In general, fenestration consists of paired narrow windows with distinctive tab brackets at the lintels. At the center of the main facade is a broad gable sheltering small and narrow double windows. Projecting from its west wall is a one story polygonal bay window. The cornices of both the bay windows and gable roof are accented by sawcut brackets. At the time the 1998 version of this Form B was prepared, the front entrance was shielded by a simple flat portico supported by narrow posts. This has since been replaced by a classically-detailed portico supported by Tuscan 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.

Cottage Street began as a path before the land was subdivided and built out with houses at the turn of the 20th century. Cottage Street was the last of the major Marion Village streets to be developed. As noted in the Cottage Street Area Form (MRN.Z), during the first half of the 19th century, most of the land bordering Cottage Street was part of Captain Henry Allen's salt works. Elizabeth Tabor's purchase of land for her academy during the mid-1870s just north of Cottage Street was an impetus for the eventual development of the Allen tract. By the mid-1880s, parcels were being sold along a "contemplated" or "proposed" street, and by the 1890s, deeds began referring to Cottage Street by name.

(Reprinted from 1998 version of this Form B, edited)

Built in 1880 as Tabor Hall to house Tabor Academy's headmaster, boarding students, and the school's founder Mrs. Elizabeth Pitcher Taber, this building was moved to its present site in 1937. Originally located to the north of Tabor Library on Spring Street (Photo 2), Tabor Hall has significant historical associations with the earliest phase of Tabor Academy's development.

In 1880, Mrs. Taber moved from New Bedford to be close to the Academy she founded during the mid- 1870s. She set up housekeeping in two rooms on the second floor of Tabor Hall. Born in Marion in 1791, Elizabeth Pitcher married Fairhaven clockmaker Stephen Taber in 1824, eventually settling in New Bedford. Stephen Taber made a fortune in shipping and real estate, leaving Elizabeth Taber considerable wealth upon his death in 1862. Perhaps compensating for the loss of three children and drawing on memories of teaching school in Marion before her marriage, Mrs. Taber, by the 1870s, had turned her attention to philanthropic endeavors in Marion, of which Tabor Academy was her most significant venture.

Tabor Hall was originally located on Spring Street. The Sippican Historical Society's website described the relocation of Tabor Hall as follows:

Tabor Academy - Tabor Hall was built in 1880 as the residences of Elizabeth Taber, Principal Clark P. Howland, and boarding students. This view from about 1906 [Photo 3] shows Tabor Hall following its first relocation to allow for the

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

13 COTTAGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Photo 3. Ca. 1906 view of Tabor Hall on Spring Street, looking NW (2008.001.172).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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13 COTTAGE STREET

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Area(s) Form No.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district

Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant for Sippican Historical Society
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This property is a contributing resource in the combined Areas of Wharf Village-Sippican Village (MRN.N) and Water Street (MRN.L), hereinafter referred to as Marion Village.*

Marion Village is recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Maritime History. Marion Village contains the great majority of buildings connected to Marion's historical maritime development beginning in the late-18th century. With the rise of saltmaking, shipyards, and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the mid-19th century, as did residential development in Marion Village. In addition to the houses built by those in the maritime industry, Marion Village contains numerous buildings and structures associated with maritime industrial activity, including a chandlery, sail loft, cooperage, and wharves. As Marion Village's prosperity became linked to Sippican Harbor, Marion Village also became the commercial, political and institutional center of the town.

Marion Village is also recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/ Recreation. Starting in the mid-19th century, maritime activity declined significantly. The decline in maritime activity was eventually replaced by the rise in the 1870s of a summer colony as Marion Village emerged as an elite summer resort. This was facilitated by the arrival of train service in the 1854. Summer visitors, including artists and writers, were drawn Sippican Harbor's beauty and tranquility. A large hotel, the Sippican Hotel, was located at the corner of South and Water Streets, and a few houses were converted to inns. While the hotel was town down in 1929, a large livery complex built by the Hiller Brothers at 147 Front Street (MRN.216) is extant. They provided horse-drawn vehicles to summer visitors registered at the Sippican Hotel, and ferried guests back and forth between the hotel and the train depot. In Marion Village, ownership (or occupancy through rental) of many houses began to shift from local maritime families to seasonal residents, including nationally-noteworthy politicians, businessmen, artists and writers. During this period, Marion Village also saw the addition of high style, architect-designed summer cottages and recreation resources.

Marion Village is recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Marion Village is a remarkably intact historic town center, including a compact collection of historic dwellings, along with a few churches, schools, commercial buildings and recreation buildings. Marion Village contains a great concentration of Federal and Greek Revival houses; and examples of later Victorian-era styles, including high-style examples of summer house architecture along Sippican Harbor and large institutional buildings not found elsewhere in Marion.

The great majority of resources in Marion Village retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association.

*The potential Marion Village district boundaries include surveyed areas within the boundary of MRN.N completed in 2020-2022 for Barden-Hiller (MRN.Y), Cottage Street (MRN.Z), Main Street (MRN.AA), South Street (MRN.AB), Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC), and Upper Main Street (MRN.AH).