

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-45

Marion

N, Z

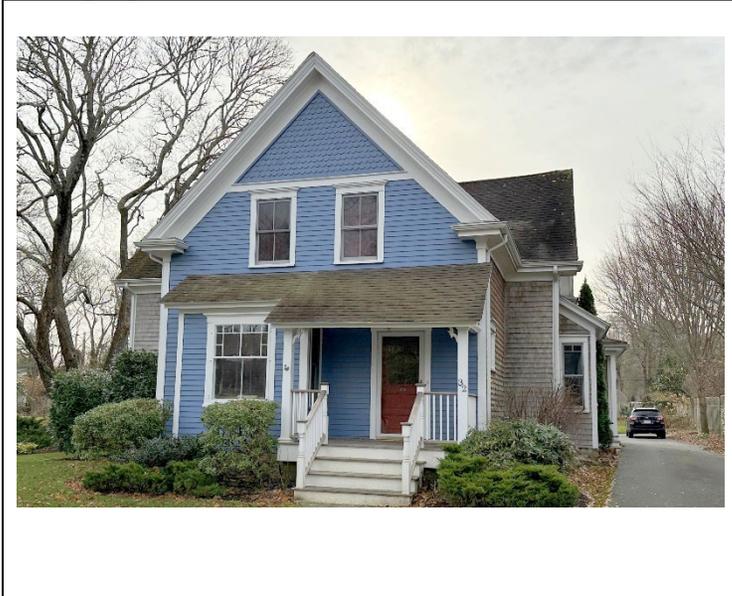
MRN.190

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

Town/City: MARION

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village
Cottage Street (MRN.Z)

Photograph



Address: 32 Cottage Street

Historic Name: Emma and George Handy House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Queen Anne*

*MRN.Z described style as Stick Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard, wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Locus Map



Aerial Imagery, 2021

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Cottage (1944 Assessor date, but may be the cottage shown on 1921 Sanborn map, see Figure 2)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Addition (2008)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.41 acres

Setting: This house is located on the south side of Cottage Street near the intersection with Spring Street. The surrounding area is lined with late-19th and early-20th century houses. This house is set slightly back on its level parcel. The property is landscaped with expanses of lawn, mature trees and foundation plantings. A bluestone walkway leads to the front entrance. An asphalt driveway leads along the west side of the parcel to parking in the rear.

Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

Organization: Sippican Historical Society

Date (*month / year*): February 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

32 COTTAGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

This house is one of a cluster of gable-front houses at the west end of Cottage Street. This house can be characterized as Queen Anne in style. The Queen Anne style, popular from ca. 1880-1910, employed different roof shapes and surface materials to enliven a building's elevations and create a more "picturesque" than earlier more formal styles. The form of this house consists of a 1½-story, gable-front main block, with a shallow, stepped-down ell at the rear of the west side elevation, and a larger ell centered on the east elevation (a later addition with concrete foundation). There is also a large rear addition built in 2008. The original configuration of the right (west) side and rear elevations can be seen in a ca. 1890-1900 photograph (Photo 3).

The building rests, like most 19th century houses in the village, on a rough-cut granite and fieldstone foundation. The front elevation is clad in wood clapboard below a beltcourse above the second story windows, and patterned (scalloped) shingles above (similar to 35 Cottage Street, MRN.192, across the street). The use of patterned shingles is a feature characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The remaining elevations are clad in wood shingles, and there are cornerboards with capitals. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally) and has a projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends and frieze boards below.

The front elevation is two bays wide. An open entrance porch supported by square posts spans the right half of the front elevation. The front entrance consists of a wood panel door with a large window set in a simple surround. To the left of the entrance porch is a shallower bay. That bay has what is likely an original double-hung wood window with a complex Queen Anne-style muntin pattern. Remaining fenestration includes modern, 2/2 double-hung sash set in casings with molded lintels.

The property includes a gable-roofed cottage with a 1944 Assessor date that was renovated in 2004. It may be the cottage shown on the 1921 Sanborn Map (Figure 2).

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 Capt. Henry Allen's salt works. The completion of the Public Library in 1872 and Tabor Academy in 1876 were likely an impetus for the eventual development of land in the location of Cottage Street. 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. Cottage Street was laid out wider than earlier side streets in Marion Village and the house lots were larger.

This house was built on land that George H. Brown of Marion sold in 1886 to Emma W. Handy, also of Marion.¹ The house is shown in a ca. 1895 photo (Photos 3 and 4), and is shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas with the name G. F. Handy (Figure 3). Emma Kelley had married Marion-born George Handy in New Bedford in 1884. Perhaps they built this house shortly after their marriage. George Handy (1847-1911) worked as a house painter (1900, 1910 US Census). Emma Handy remained in this house alone until 1943, when she sold it to Theresa M. Nolan of Marion.²

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 536/ Page 187.

² PCRD, Book 1855/ Page 459.

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Theresa Nolan (1904-1997) was listed as a primary school teacher in the 1950 Census – perhaps with a short commute to the 1937 Sippican School on Spring Street. Her husband, John Nolan (b. 1906) was listed as Marion chief of police in the 1940 Census, and then package store manager in the 1950 Census. This house stayed in the Nolan family until 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

1903, *Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County*. Springfield, MA: L. J. Richards Co., 1903.

1921, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1921.

Ancestry.com – vita records.

Dempsey and Clemson. MHC Area Form Z, Cottage-School Streets, 2021.

Gordon, Edward. MHC Area Form N, Wharf Village, 1998.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

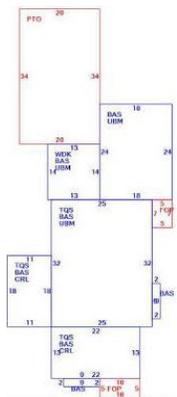


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch (decks and porches in red).

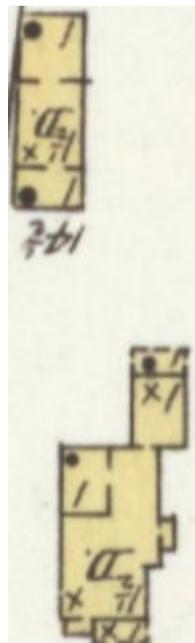


Figure 2. Detail of 1921 Sanborn Insurance Map.



Photo 2. View from Cottage Street, looking southwest.

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Photos 3. Ca. 1880-1890 view looking northeast from Tabor/Town Hall, arrow to 32 Cottage Street added (Courtesy: Sippican Historical Society).

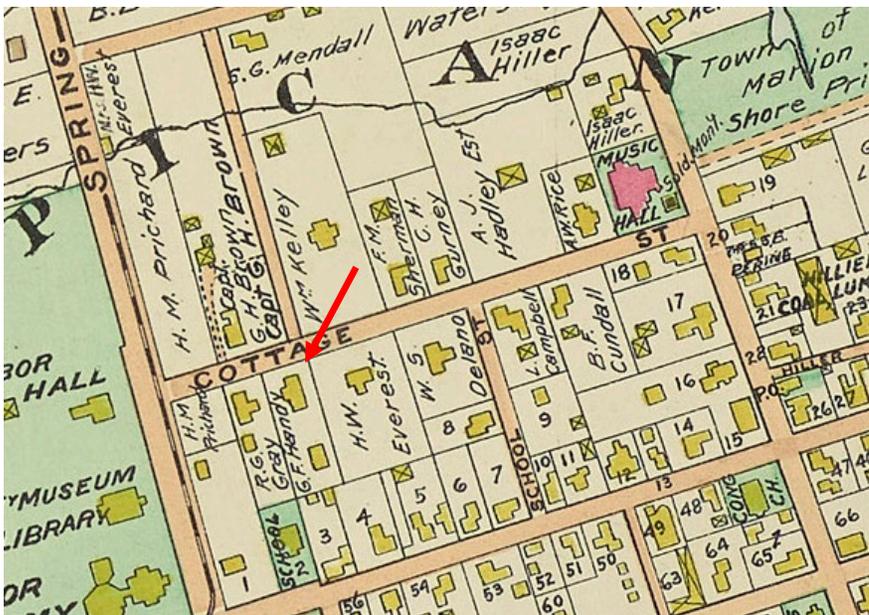


Figure 3. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

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).