

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14-82	Marion	N, Y	MRN.394, 216
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Town/City: MARION

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -
Barden-Hiller (MRN.Y)

Photograph



Address: 147 Front Street

Historic Name: Hiller Brothers Coal, Lumber and Livery

Uses: Present: Commercial/Industrial

Original: Commercial/Industrial

Date of Construction: Two-story building [1889-1894]
Former filling station [1908-1921]

Source: Two-story building - deed research
Former filling station – Sanborn maps

Style/Form: No Style (2-story building)

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material (Two-story building):

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Former filling station (MRN.394, ca. 1921-1933), see
Cover Photo and Photo 3

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Modern brick façade to former filling station (mid-20th c.)

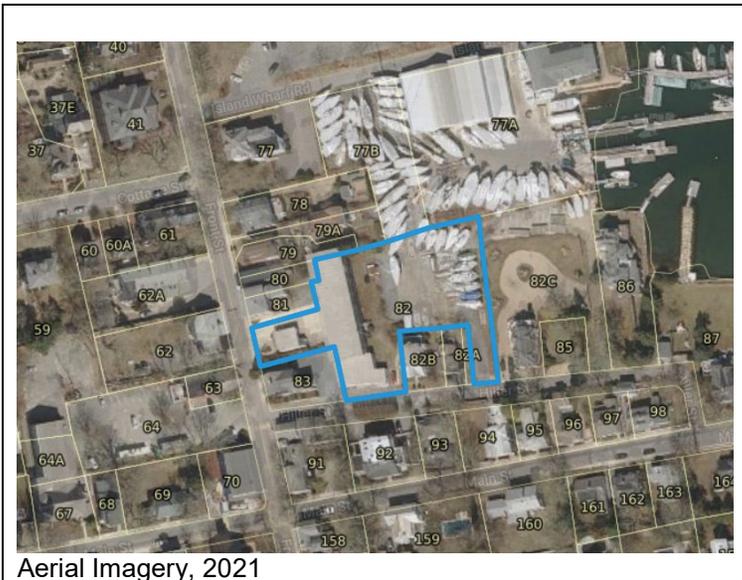
*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.95 acres

Locus Map



Aerial Imagery, 2021

Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

Organization: Sippican Historical Society

Date (*month / year*): February 2023

Setting: This large, irregularly-shaped parcel is located on the east side of Front Street and also reaches to Hiller Street in two places. The surrounding area includes a mix of residential, commercial, maritime-industrial and institutional resources in the heart of Marion Village. A one-story Hiller Fuels building is set back from the street, behind which is a much larger two-story Hiller Brothers building. There is formal landscaping in front of the smaller building. The parcel is otherwise given over to concrete and asphalt parking areas.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

147 FRONT STREET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, Y

MRN.394,
216

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 property has two buildings of note. The largest is also the oldest, likely built ca. 1889-1894. Set back from the street is this rectangular, wood-frame, two-story industrial storage building that measures 143' by 43'. Fenestration includes single 6/6 double-hung windows evenly arrayed along the elevations on the first and second story. The elevation facing Front Street also has two large garage openings, likely added when the building's use was converted to automobile storage. A wood receiving bay is visible on the second story. All of the other windows and doors on this elevation appear to be replacements. The rear (east) elevation appears to retain all of the original wood 6/6 windows and door bays (Photo 4).

The land slopes down to Barden's Boat Yard, so the fieldstone basement level is more exposed on the east elevation (Photo 4). Broad receiving bays are visible at the basement level and on the second story. A one-story addition was added to the south end of the building sometime between 1908 and 1921 (see Photo 2, Figures 2, 3). This addition is composed of molded concrete blocks and has a low-pitched gable roof. The fenestration appears to be original, including wood 2/2 windows and a large six-paned fixed sash. There is also a smaller, gabled wing located at the southeast corner of the main addition. This smaller component of the building is sheathed in smooth stucco.

A second, small commercial building was added in ca. 1921-1933 closer to Front Street (MRN.394). It was labelled a "filling station" on the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 4). The front elevation has a spare Modernist brick façade with parapet, a large system of fixed windows, and an offset entrance with a fixed window panel above rising to the same height as the storefront windows. This façade was possibly a later alteration. The remaining elevations are composed of the same molded concrete blocks as the addition to the larger building, and also retain wood fixed and double-hung windows. Both side elevations also have projecting roofs supported by wood, triangular brackets.

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.

As described in the Barden-Hiller Area Form (MRN.Y), the large rectangular building that housed Hiller Brothers Coal, Lumber and Livery was built sometime between 1890 and 1903. Title research for this parcel goes back to a 1923 deed between brothers Robert B. and Isaac E. Hiller.¹ In that deed, prior ownership of this land is traced back to six deeds between 1889 and 1915 to the Hiller brothers from families including the Bardens and the Luces, and also from their father, Isaac Hiller. The deed from Hiller, Sr. to his two sons was dated 1896, referenced buildings, and appears to include the rear portion of this parcel where the large building sits. That parcel was bought by Hiller, Sr., with no reference to buildings, in 1889 from the minor heirs of the late Albert Barden.² One of the other six deeds referred to in the 1923 deed between the Hiller Brothers was an 1894 deed from Isabella Barden.³ The description of that parcel stated that it was "bounded on the east by land and buildings of the said Hiller Bros." This could mean that the large two-story building that housed Hiller Brothers operations could have been built sometime between 1889 and 1894, but it was certainly in place by 1903.

Robert B. (1863-1937) and Isaac E. (1866-1948) Hiller were born in Mattapoisett and established their livery, lumber, and coal business here. As stated in MRN.Y, among the Hiller brothers many ventures, they provided horse-drawn vehicles to summer visitors registered at the Sippican Hotel, and ferried guests back and forth between the hotel and the depot. According to a 1903-

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1452/ Page 575.

² PCR, Book 649/ Page 452.

³ PCR, Book 845/ Page 178.

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04 advertisement, the Hiller brothers operated a "boarding and sale stables with barges to all trains." They were "agents" for Hatch and Company Express, and "promptly attended to teaming and jobbers." The Hillers were also dealers in coal, wood, lumber, nails and paints. An advertisement in the 1907 *Rochester Directory* shows how they were already operating as both a livery stable and automobile garage (Figure 5).

By 1916, the Hiller Brothers' livery stable had been converted into a garage, but coal and lumber continued to be a staple of their commercial operations. In addition, starting in the late 1890s, the Hiller brothers developed cranberry bogs in Marion. They were cited in Robert Hiller's obituary (*Wareham Courier* 12/3/1937) as "pioneers in the cranberry industry here." As stated in MRN.Y, "the surviving buildings on the interior of this area are associated with their business that would be continued by several generations of the family, shifting their transportation services from horses to automobiles and operating a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership for several decades."

By the time the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map was prepared, the Hiller Brothers property included the large Livery building, along with two wagon sheds, a coal shed (now 11 Hiller Street, MRN.213), blacksmith shop, and third shed (Figure 2). By the time the 1921 Sanborn map was prepared (Figure 3), the main livery building had been converted to auto storage for 35 cars, among other uses, and a building centered at the north end of the parcel was converted from a wagon shed to a wood-sawing shed. By the time the 1933 Sanborn map was prepared (Figure 4), Hiller Brothers had clearly shifted to a focus on automobiles, including the addition of the filling station. An early view shows the front building in operation as a filling station (Figure 6). The former filling station (Gulf Station) now houses Hiller Fuels. This property remains in the Hiller family.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

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

1908, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908.

1933, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933.

Ancestry.com – Vital records.

Dempsey and Clemson. MHC Area Form Y, Barden-Hiller, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.



Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View of ca. 1900 building from Hiller Street, looking north.

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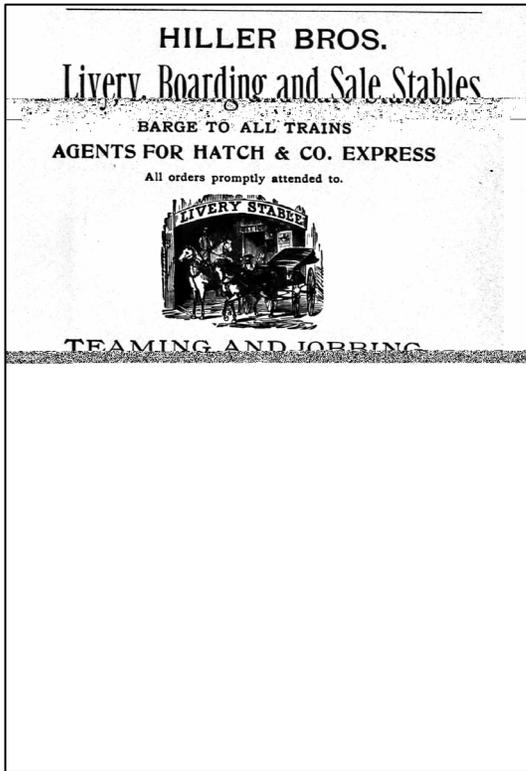


Figure 5. Advertisement in 1907 *Rochester Directory*.

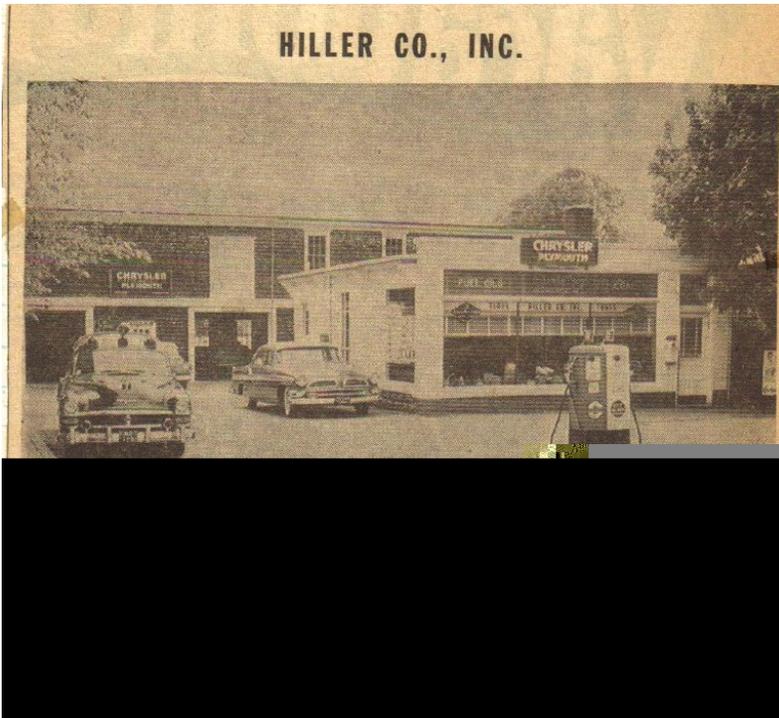


Figure 6. Early view from *Wareham Courier*
(Source: Sippican Historical Society, V114167).

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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