

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-79

Marion

N, Y

MRN.204

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

**Town/City:** MARION

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 157 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Sarah E. E. Perine House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** [1883-1890]

**Source:** Deed research, house form

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard and shingles, synthetic  
Clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage/Outbuilding [1908-1921], now 157A Front Street,  
MRN.553

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

Office addition (1998)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.12 acres

**Setting:** This small level parcel is located on the east side of Front Street in the heart of Marion Village. The surrounding area includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional resources, including the Barden's Boat Yard and the Hiller Brothers properties which abut this parcel to the east. The garage that was originally connected to this property now sits on its own narrow parcel. This building is set back enough from the street to allow for a gravel parking area and some landscaping in front of the house.

## Locus Map



Aerial Imagery, 2021

**Recorded by:** Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

**Organization:** Sippican Historical Society

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

157 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.*

The house is similar in form to its neighbor, 159 Front Street (MRN.396). Both are late-19<sup>th</sup> century, 2½-story, gable-front houses that are three bays wide, with a rear ell, and a small one-story bay on the left (north) side elevation. The gable-front house form is fairly common in Marion Village for 19<sup>th</sup> century houses. This house, like most 19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the village, rests on a fieldstone and granite foundation. The front elevation is clad in wood clapboard with plain cornerboards, and courses of scalloped shingles above the second story windows. Side elevations appear to be clad in a combination of wood and synthetic clapboard and wood shingles. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally). The roof has a narrow projecting box cornice which terminates in a straight edge, i.e. there is no partial returns across the gable ends commonly found on earlier Greek Revival-style houses. An exterior brick chimney rises from the left (north) side elevation in front of the one-story hexagonal bay.

Fenestration includes wood and modern, replacement 2/1 double-hung sash set in frames with molded lintels. There appears to be an original or early, wood six-lite fixed sash in the front gable peak. A similar window is found in the gable peak of the garage at 157A Front Street (MRN.553). As can be seen comparing the Assessor sketch (Figure 1) to the 1908 and 1921 Sanborn map footprints (Figures 4, 5), the wraparound porch was later removed from the front of the house, and appears to have been replaced or enclosed on the right side elevation where the main entrance is now located.

## 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.*

While there had been some economic activity and residential development in Sippican Village prior to the Revolution, residential development accelerated in the early-1800s, as happened in many coastal Massachusetts towns, with boat building, whaling, coastal schooner trade, and the salt industry driving the economy. The construction of the First Congregational Meeting House in 1799, now Marion General Store (140 Front Street, MRN.22), also helped make Sippican Village the center for spiritual and civic life.<sup>1</sup> Residential (and limited commercial) development was initially concentrated along the Front Street/Main Street axis, and the harbor became the site for maritime-related utilitarian buildings and wharfs. By the time the 1855 Walling Map was prepared, additional streets had been laid out, but Main Street from the harbor west to Pleasant Street was the most densely developed street in the village.

Located just north of the primary village intersection at the corner of Front and Main Streets, this area was first developed with a handful of dwellings along Front Street, and increased in density and functional complexity over time. Behind the dwellings to the east, land was developed largely for industrial and maritime-industrial uses. The commercial zone on Front expanded with the construction of purpose-built stores and the conversion of residences after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1883, the estate of Charlotte M. Barden (1812-1882) sold at auction a two-acre parcel that included this land to Sarah E. E. Perine.<sup>2</sup> The parcel stretched north to what is now Island Wharf Road (Figure 2). This house first appears on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 3). Sarah E. E. Perine (1830-1911) was born in New York, where she married ship builder William Perine (1807-1869) in 1847. As of the 1880 US Census, she had moved to Marion, now a widow, where she was listed living with her mother, Elmira Ryder at 58 Main Street (MRN.410). Sarah Perine appears to have built the adjacent house at 159 Front Street

<sup>1</sup> Marion was first settled in 1679 as Sippican, a district of Rochester, and was not incorporated as a separate town until 1852. The name Sippican Village continues to be used interchangeably with Marion Village.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 498/ Page 6.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

157 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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sometime between 1883 and 1890 (see Form B for 159 Front Street, MRN.396). Perine lived here at 157 Front Street, which is similar in scale and form to 159 Front Street. Given that similarity, it is possible that both houses were built between 1883 and 1890. While this house is shown with Perine's name on the 1903 County Atlas, by 1900, she was living in Bergen, NJ.

In 1907, Sarah Perine sold this house, for a nominal sum, to Jennie N. Barden.<sup>3</sup> Jennie Barden (1876-1964) was the wife of Frederick B. Barden (1877-1963), grandson of Charlotte (who sold Perine the land) and Frederick Barden. The large garage/outbuilding was not present on the 1903 Atlas (Figure 4), but is shown on the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 5). Frederick B. Barden owned the small store at 155 Front Street (MRN.203), and founded Barden's Boat Yard (MRN.O) in 1927. This house was inherited by their daughter, Elizabeth Coulson (1905-2004), along with 159 Front Street. She had also purchased, with her husband, William Coulson, Jr., Barden's Boat Yard from her father in 1953. In 1969, she sold this house to Bradford N. Eames.<sup>4</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

### Maps and Atlases:

1879, *Atlas of Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1879.

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.

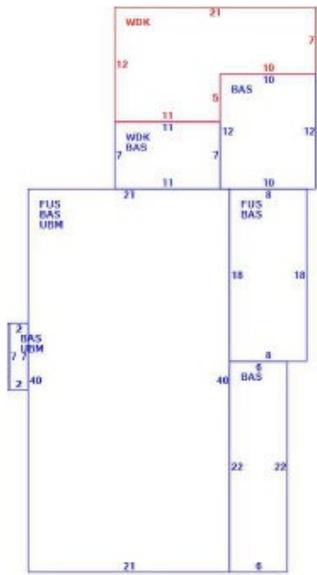


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Front Street, looking northeast.

<sup>3</sup> PCRD, Book 976/ Page 330.

<sup>4</sup> PCRD, Book 3496/ Page 307.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

157 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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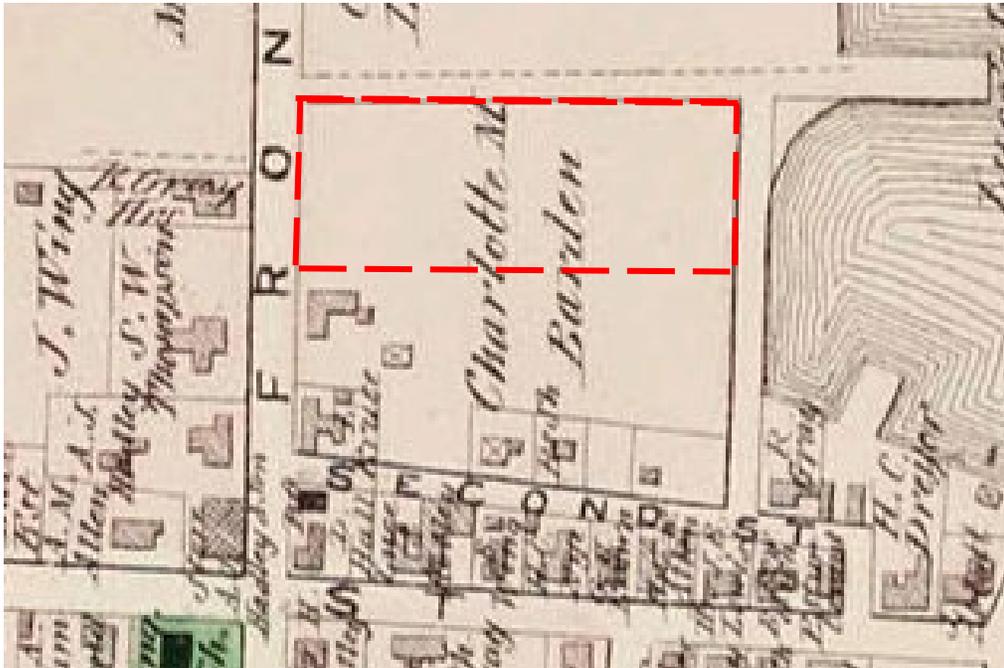


Figure 2. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas, approx. boundary of Perine parcel added.



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

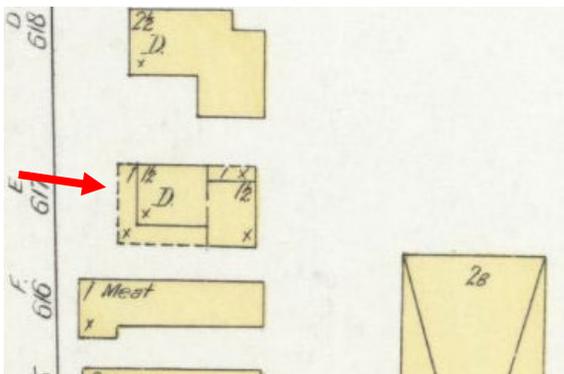


Figure 4. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (arrow added).

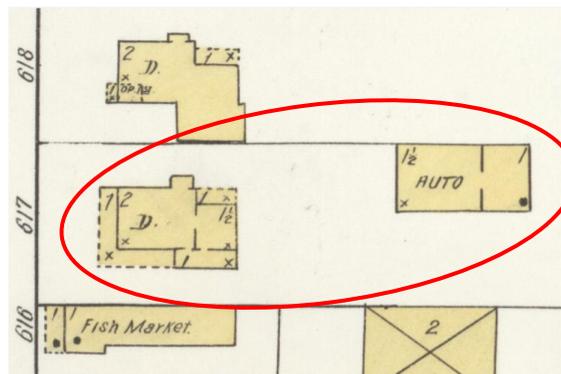


Figure 5. Detail of 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (circle added).

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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-18<sup>th</sup> century. With the rise of saltmaking, shipyards, and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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-19<sup>th</sup> 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).