

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16 163

Marion

N,  
AA

MRN.225

**Town/City:** MARION

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -  
Main Street (MRN.AA)

## Photograph



**Address:** 10 Main Street

**Historic Name:** C. C. Luce Store (as of 1855)

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

Original: Commercial - Store

**Date of Construction:** [1820-1855]

**Source:** Deed research, 1820 Study Map, 1855 Walling  
Map

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/ Half Cape, altered

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard, wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Small granite outbuilding, 19<sup>th</sup> c. (Photo 4)

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

Removal of entrance porch with two doors, addition of  
front porch, reconfiguration of dormer windows (2023),  
One-story addition (ca. 1990)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.11 acres

**Setting:** The surrounding area includes historic houses  
sited relatively close to the street and to each other along  
Main Street. Most houses on the south side of Main Street  
are set farther back from the street than those on the north  
side, including this one. This property is currently under  
renovation, so final landscape features are unknown. A  
bluestone parking area is located at the west side of the  
parcel.

## 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

10 MAIN 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 building may have begun as a Greek Revival-style Half Cape, consisting of the right three bays with an off-centered entrance, and it may have originally been used as a shop that was converted/expanded into the current dwelling. The building's form now consists of a 1½-story, side-gable rectangular block, with a 1½-story rear ell on the left side. This rear ell is not shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion (Figure 4); appears to be present on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas but writing obscures the footprint; and is definitely shown on the 1908 Sanborn map (Figure 2). There is also a one-story addition (ca. 1990) on the right side. A broad dormer was added to the front roof slope, likely in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building rests, like most 19<sup>th</sup> century Marion Village houses, on a rough-cut granite foundation. The front elevation is clad in wood clapboard, and the side elevations are clad in wood shingles.

The front elevation has gone through a series of significant alterations. A 1950s view shows how the dormer windows were then all multi-paned casements, and the single front entrance had a simple shed roof hood (Photo 3). A more recent (but undated) Assessor photo shows how the dormer was turned into a wall dormer (where the dormer shares the wall plane below). The dormer windows had all been changed with double-hung multi-paned sash, and there was a projecting entry porch with two doors (Photo 4). A recently completed renovation has replaced the entry porch with a flush single entrance consisting of a wood panel door with an elegant fanlight above (that was already in place within the entry porch). A full-width porch with shed roof supported by heavy Tuscan columns has also been added.

Windows on the first story are wood, 6/6 double-hung sash – likely early, if not original, windows. The windows in the wall dormer are wood 8/8 double-hung sash, with a new bay window centered over the front entrance.

There is a small, granite outbuilding in the southwest corner of the property that might have served as an ice house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Photo 5). That outbuilding is shown on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance 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.*

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 (Figure 3).

It is unclear if this house, with an 1825 Assessor date, was built here, moved here at a later date, or began as a store. There is no building in this location on a study diagram prepared by Olive Hiller Somers to identify ownership along Main Street as of 1820. A building is shown in this general location on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion with the name "C. C. Luce Store" (Figure 4). "C. C.

<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.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

10 MAIN STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Luce" likely refers to Christopher C. Luce (1832-1914). Despite being a young man, he is listed as a trader in the 1850 US Census and 1855 State Census. He was living with his parents, Samuel and Daley Luce, but perhaps he had rented this store.

Christopher Luce was the great-grandson of Rowland and Elizabeth Luce. Maj. Rowland Luce (1756-1835) married Elizabeth Clark (1762-1833) in Marion in 1778, and they went on to have ten children. In 1779, Elizabeth's mother, Thankful Clark (1734-1812), sold Rowland Luce over 35 acres of land for 2,000 pounds, including 5 acres in Marion Village that may have included this property.<sup>2</sup> Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on the development of the village. That said, no deeds have been discovered to date connecting Christopher Luce or his parents to this property. By 1865, Christopher Luce was living in Sandwich, and later moved to Chicago.

Title research goes back to a sale in 1871 by Capt. James M. and Maria Clark of Middleborough to Eli Sherman of Marion.<sup>3</sup> Title research has yet to establish how the Clarks came to own this property, or who the original owner/builder was. Prior to Middleborough, the Clarks lived in Mattapoisett, so this property was likely an investment. It should also be noted that the deed referenced buildings, but not a dwelling. Perhaps what was sold to Eli Sherman was still used as a commercial building. Sherman (1831-1875) was listed as a shoemaker in Census records, and he may have operated his shoe business from this location. Another indication that this building was still operating as a shop is that the Shermans owned and presumably lived in the house down the street at 17 Main Street (MRN.232).

In 1876, the estate of Eli Sherman sold this property to Benjamin B. Church of New Bedford.<sup>4</sup> Church (1813-1883) was born in Fall River, and worked as a pilot and farmer on Martha's Vineyard, according to census records. Perhaps he bought this house as a place to retire, although he was listed as a retired pilot still living on the Vineyard in the 1880 US Census. The house passed to his grandson, Charles L. Church. Charles Church was listed in the 1910 US Census living on Main Street with his mother, Ruth (Bowditch), his father having died young in 1880. Charles was working as a gardener for a private estate – an example of how employment shifted in Marion from maritime work in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to support for the summer colony. Charles Clark sold this house in 1912 to his mother.<sup>5</sup> By 1920, he was living on Front Street and his occupation was hardware merchant, operating with his partner Lester E. Stowell, Church and Stowell's Hardware and Plumbing Company.

In 1919, Ruth Bowditch sold this property to Helen H. Gordon of NY, NY.<sup>6</sup> Subsequent owners were Dr. Davis Thayer Gallison, Jr. (1923-1990) and his wife Eleanor from 1959 to 1993. Dr. Davis Thayer Gallison Jr. (1923-1996) established a medical practice in Marion in 1957, and rose to chief of staff at Tobey Hospital in Wareham. He also won election to the Marion Board of Health in 1993 and was chairman in 1994.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

### Maps and Atlases:

1855, Walling, H. F. *Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*, 1855.

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, Claire. MHC Area Form AA, Main Street, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections

[www.southcoasttoday.com/story/news/1996/04/20/obituaries/50651080007/](http://www.southcoasttoday.com/story/news/1996/04/20/obituaries/50651080007/) (Obituary for Davis T. Gallison, Jr.)

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 60/ Page 80.

<sup>3</sup> PCRD, Book 382/ Page 11.

<sup>4</sup> PCRD, Book 422/ Page 150.

<sup>5</sup> PCRD, Book 1116/ Page 597.

<sup>6</sup> PCRD, Book 1345/ Page 143.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

10 MAIN STREET

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Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking southeast.



Photo 3. 1950s view, looking south (SHS 2006.010).



Photo 4. Undated (recent) Assessor Photo, looking south.



**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).