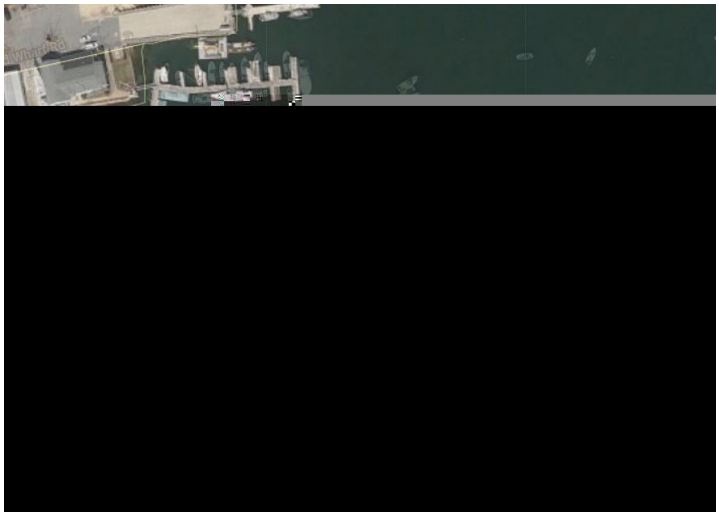
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
14 89	Marion	N, AA	MRN.218

Photograph

Locus Map



Aerial Imagery, 2021

Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant
Organization: Sippican Historical Society
Date (*month / year*): February 2023

Town/City: MARION

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

Address: 1 Main Street

Historic Name: Joseph Kendrick House and Sail Loft

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House/ Industrial (Sail Loft)

Date of Construction: ca. 1802

Source: Historic Markers, Wharf Village-Sippican Village Area Form (MRN.N)

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:
Foundation: Brick, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Bates (Union) Wharf, partial (ca. 1805)

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:*
None on record

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.35 acres

Setting: This property is dramatically sited at the east end of Main Street on Sippican Harbor, and includes part of the ca. 1805 Bates Wharf. The surrounding area includes historic houses sited close to the street and each other along Main Street, Barden's Boat Yard to the north, and the Beverly Yacht Club and larger parcels with houses set farther back along Water Street to the south. This property is accessed down a small lane north of Main Street that led, originally, to the large wharf. A gravel driveway is shared with 1A Main Street (MRN.219). Except for the grass-covered expanse of the wharf, much of this parcel is occupied by the building.

☒ 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, with its complex form and footprint (see Figure 1), began as two buildings - a modest house and a sail loft, both two-stories with gable roofs. As shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 6), the two buildings had been joined by that time into a two-story dwelling with a complex set of harbor-side additions.

The house is only marginally visible from public ways, so this description is limited in scope. The original house component rests on a brick foundation, and the former sail loft component rests on a fieldstone foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The original two rectangular blocks have been joined by a third gable-roofed addition. The various roof forms are clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally). As seen from the harbor, the sail loft component has a rectangular footprint with a partial lean-to roof that has a broad shed/gable dormer (Photo 2). Partially enclosed decks span across the harbor-facing elevations. Fenestration appears to include replacement 6/6 windows set in flat surrounds, and larger window systems on the harbor-facing elevations.

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.[1] 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 2).

This former sail loft and modest house are located at the head of Bates Wharf. Ships landed their cargo here and the nearby Central Wharf, and loaded with the town's export goods – box wood, whale oil, and salt. Both the house and the former sail loft have markers indicating 1802 construction dates, and the house marker lists Joseph Kendrick as the original owner. Joseph Kendrick (1779-1859) married Lydia Osborne (1780-1805) in Marion in 1804. She died the following year, and in 1806 Joseph married Eliza Saunders. Unfortunately, no deeds have been identified which clearly connect Joseph Kendrick to this property, or confirm those construction dates.

A diagram of ownership as of 1820, prepared by Olive Hiller Somers, shows that the sail loft and the house were owned separately. The sail loft is shown on that diagram with the name "M. Brown" and the house by "J. Blankinship" (Figure 4). "J. Blankinship" may refer to John Blankinship (ca. 1785-1854), as will be explained below. The identity of M. Brown is unknown.

On the 1855 Map, the house in this location is shown with the name "James Wittet" and the building to the north is labelled "Sail Loft" (Figure 3). James Wittet (1799-1872) was listed as a sail maker in Census records. Unfortunately, once again no deeds have been identified yet wherein he purchased this property, or it is possible that he rented these buildings.

[1] 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.

On the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas, this property with its two buildings was shown owned in concert with the house next door at 0 Main Street (MRN.217) with the name J. Mendall (Figure 5). This refers to James B. Mendall (ca. 1817-1884). His wife, Mary (1816-1905), was the daughter of the afore-mentioned John and Lydia Blankinship, from whom she might have inherited 0 Main Street. Mary Blankinship had married James Mendell in 1846. He was listed as a mariner or master mariner in Census records.

Edward Gordon, in the 1998 Area Form for Wharf Village (MRN.N), provided an eloquent description of the former marine-industrial buildings at 1 Main Street and 1A Main Street:

> On the east side of lower Main Street are two small, rectangular, two-bay-by-two-bay gable roofed structures owned by sail maker James Wittet during the first half of the 19th century. Redolent with historic maritime associations, much of Wharf Village's charm is derived from these modest utilitarian structures. Indeed, cooper shops, sail lofts, ice houses, black smith shops and ship chandler's buildings charmed and inspired the artistic community that spent summers here around the turn of the century.

An undated postcard view in the Sippican Historical Society collections was no doubt an example of that inspiration (Figure 7).

This property is next shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas with the name Dr. Maurice H. Richardson (Figure 6). As can be seen from the unusual footprint on that map, by this time the house and former sail loft had been joined into one building. He also owned the small parcel on the other (west) side of Lewis Wharf with the former cooperage building (now 1A Main Street, MRN.219).

Maurice Richardson (1851-1912) was a Boston-based surgeon who summered here with his wife Margaret (1858-1937). Deeds around this time indicate that he had received permission to fill in some of the land for this parcel. In 1913, after her husband's death, Margaret Richardson sold the property, still including what is now 1 and 1A Main Street. It was described in that deed as the "wharf property known as Wing's, Union, or Wittet's Wharf, the wharf lot and so-called Cooper's shop lot…."[2] The former cooperage was identified as a boat house in the 1908, 1921 and 1933 Sanborn Insurance Maps.

Margaret Richardson sold the property to Katherine B. Hamlin of Marion. Hamlin immediately had a plan prepared (Plan 4745A, Figure 8). Virginia-born Katharine Brooke Conrad (1874-1923) married Edward Hamlin of Boston in 1904. Edward Hamlin (1863-1947) was president of the Metropolitan Coal Co. of Boston. The house remained in the Hamlin family until 1948, when they sold the property to Francis and Ellen W. Gray of Boston.[3] The two properties remained in common ownership, and in 1985 a plan was recorded subdividing the property into two lots (1 and 1A Main Street). Both properties are now owned by Stephen and Lucinda Gormley of North Palm Beach, FL.

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.
1921, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1921.
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.
Smith, Pete, ed., *A Picture Post Card History of Marion, Massachusetts.* Sippican Historical and Preservation Society, 2007.

[2] Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1178/ Page 174.
[3] PCRD, Cert. of Title 12482.

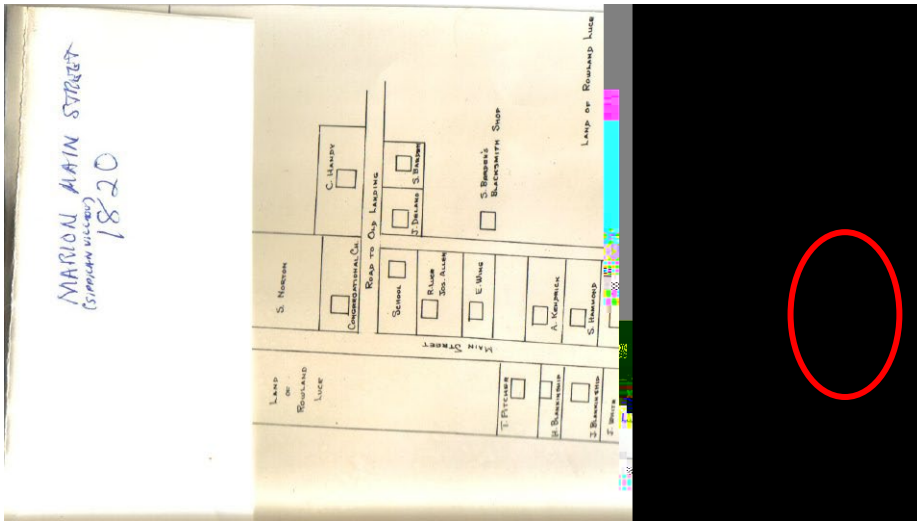


Figure 4. "Marion Main Street (Sippican Village) 1820" diagram, Olive Hiller Somers (circle added) (SHS 2006.010.001).

Figure 5. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

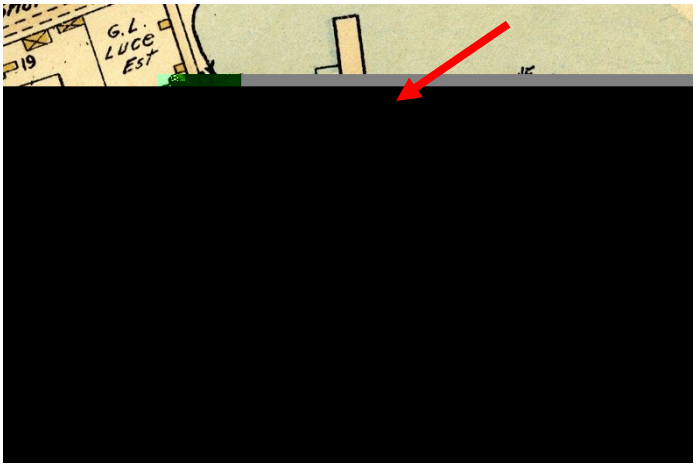


Figure 6. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

Figure 7. Undated view, looking south, 1 Main Street, left, and 1A Main Street, right (Source: Smith, *A Postcard History of Marion*).

Figure 8. 1913 plan showing 1 and 1A Main Street.