

# 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 89A

Marion

N,  
AA

MRN.219

## Photograph



**Town/City:** MARION

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

**Address:** 1A Main Street

**Historic Name:** Old Cooperage

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

Original: Industrial - Cooperage

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1850 (poss. older)

**Source:** 1855 Walling Map of Marion, title records

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone, concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Bates (Union) Wharf, ca. 1805

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

None on record

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.24 acres

**Setting:** This property is 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 1 Main Street (MRN.218).

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Sippican Historical Society

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

1A MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 form of this astylistic ca. 1850 former cooperage consists of a 2½-story, gable-roofed main block that is three-bays wide by three-bays deep. Sometime in the mid- to later-20<sup>th</sup> century, the essentially square building received a one-story ell that connects to a two-bay garage (see Photos 2, 3).

The main block appears to rest on a fieldstone foundation, and the one-story addition appears to rest on concrete block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally). The roof has a narrow, projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends. An exterior brick chimney rises from the north elevation.

The main entrance is set at the far left of the east elevation. To the right of this door is a large bay window – likely added when (or after) the cooperage was converted into a dwelling. As late as the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the building had yet to be converted to residential use. Fenestration consists primarily of single and paired modern 6/6 windows.

## 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).

This building is 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. This house began as a cooperage (barrel-making) which appears to date to at least ca. 1850, and possibly earlier. It has an Assessor date of 1802. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century deeds for neighboring properties made reference to the "Cooper's Lot." As will be explained, this property has a shared history with 1A Main Street (MRN.219). Edward Gordon, in the 1998 Area Form for Wharf Village (MRN.N), provided a good description of this former marine-industrial building:

Situated on the west side of lower Main Street, the cooper's shop [1A Main Street] measures three-bays-by-three-bays. Barrels were made in this rectangular, wood shingle-clad, two-and-one-half-story structure. Bound with iron hoops or birch bands so that whale oil could be stored in them, barrels were also made to store cranberries; reportedly, Captain Henry Allen, owner of extensive cranberry bogs as well as salt works was one of the shop's major customers.... 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 2).

<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.

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On the 1855 Map, there is a building in this location with no attribution, but likely was in use as a cooperage (Figure 3). The building is again shown without attribution on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 4). By the time the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas was prepared, both properties (1 and 1A Main Street) were owned by Dr. Maurice H. Richardson (Figure 5).

Maurice Richardson (1851-1912) was a Boston-based surgeon who summered here with his wife Margaret (1858-1937). It was Richardson who joined the Wittet house and sail loft together into that unusual dwelling. 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..."<sup>2</sup> The former cooperage was identified as a boat house in the 1908, 1921 and 1933 Sanborn Insurance Maps.

Richardson had sold it to Katherine B. Hamlin of Marion. Hamlin immediately had a plan prepared (Plan 4745A, Figure 6). Virginia-born Katherine 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.<sup>3</sup> The two properties remained in common ownership. In 1985, a plan was recorded subdividing the property into two lots - 1 Main Street (Lot 2) and 1A Main Street (Lot 1). 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.

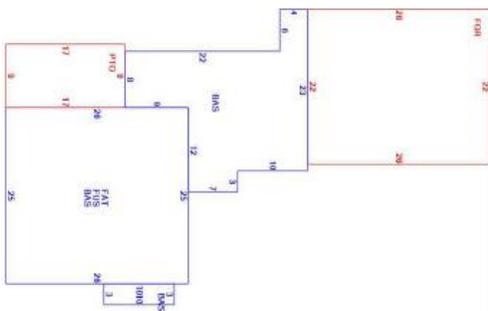


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View looking SSE.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1178/ Page 174.

<sup>3</sup> PCR, Cert. of Title 12482.

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Photo 3. Undated Assessor photo, looking west.



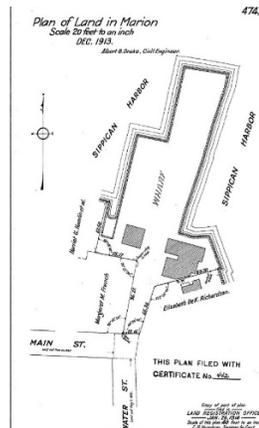
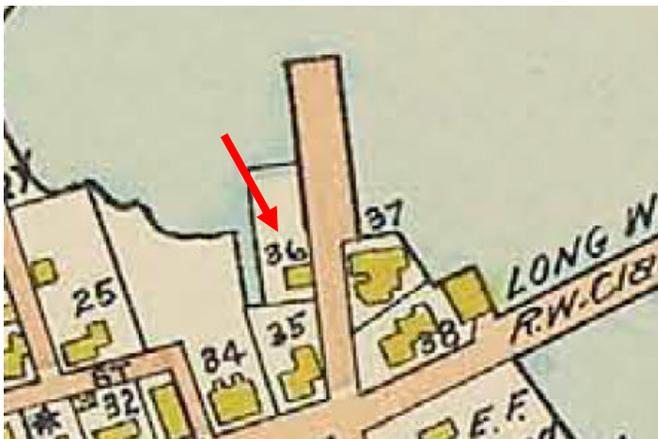
Figure 2. Detail of undated postcard view (Smith, A Postcard History of Marion).



Figure 3. Detail of 1855 Walling Map (arrow added).



Figure 4. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).



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Figure 5. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

Figure 6. Figure 7. 1913 plan showing 1 and 1A Main Street.

## 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

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(MRN.AC), and Upper Main Street (MRN.AH).