

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16 164	Marion	N, AA	MRN.223
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**Town/City:** MARION

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 6 Main Street

**Historic Name:** George and Betty Blankinship House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1790

**Source:** Deed research

**Style/Form:** Federal/ Full Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roofing: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

None on record

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.20 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. The front yard of this property is landscaped with a picket fence, lawn and foundation plantings. A gravel driveway leads along the east side of the parcel to a garage behind the house. The house is sited close to the east side of the parcel, allowing for a large lawn west 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

6 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.*

This is an example of a Federal-style Full Cape. The Federal style, popular from ca. 1780-1820, represented the first architecture of the new republic. Like the Colonial-era Georgian style, it used classical forms but in a refined and simplified manner. This is also an example of a house that evolved over time, similar to [9 Main Street](#) (MRN.224), [31 Main Street](#) (MRN.238), and [44 Main Street](#) (MRN.246). Typically, the front elevation of a Full Cape is fully symmetrical, with two windows evenly arrayed on either side of a centered door. In this case, however, the two sets of windows are not symmetrical with each other. If you look carefully, you can see that the two windows to the right are farther away from the front door than those on the left. This is often an indication that the house began as a Half Cape (three bays wide) that was later expanded into the Full Cape form (five bays wide).

The house also evolved in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. A comparison of the building's footprint on the 1903 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps shows that an open porch was removed, and two sheds were replaced (or repurposed) into a summer dwelling (Figure 1, 2). This rear ell appears to have been replaced by the current garage. The early-20<sup>th</sup> century may also have been when the dormer was added on the front elevation. This is an unusually large dormer with hip roof, and is also unusual for being slightly off-center. The one-story ell that wraps around the southwest corner of the house was in place by the time the 1908 Sanborn map was prepared.

This house rests on a low, rough-cut granite/fieldstone foundation (most 19<sup>th</sup> century houses in the village rest on granite/fieldstone foundations). The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally), and what looks like a rebuilt brick chimney rises from the roof ridge in alignment with the front door. The front entrance has a modest example of a Federal-period surround, with pilasters (flat columns) and transom lights above the door. The door and windows surrounds on the front elevation overlap the roof entablature frieze boards, sometimes an indication of earlier Capes with lower ceiling heights. Fenestration includes wood 12/12 double-hung sash. Those on the first story of the front elevation and the side elevations are set in projecting frames (an indication of early plank construction). The second story windows on the side elevations are flanked by small, square four-paned 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 4).

<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

6 MAIN STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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This house was built on land owned by Rowland 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.<sup>2</sup> Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on the development of the village.

This house has an Assessor date of 1790, which may be accurate. In 1789, Rowland Luce sold land near the Sippican Wharf on the south side of Main Street to George Blankinship, Trader.<sup>3</sup> George Blankinship (1751-1837) married Betty Turner (1757-1833) in 1773. It is interesting that he was identified as a trader in the deed rather than a mariner, as he rose to be a sea captain. Nonetheless, he appears to have built a shop next to his house, and he also appears to have conveyed this house to his brother, farmer Charles Blankinship (1747-1810). Charles had married Betsey Bates (1752-1812) in 1777. It was his estate in 1812 that sold this property, and that deed referenced the shop.

Blankinship's estate sold it to John Pitcher, mariner.<sup>4</sup> John Pitcher (1788-1867) married Catherine Clark (d. 1871) in 1812, which may explain why he needed to buy a house that year. According to Tripp's *Reflections on a Town*, John Pitcher's niece, Elizabeth Pitcher Taber (1791-1888), founder of Tabor Academy, lived here in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century while teaching in the Marion school system.

In 1839, Pitcher sold this property to Lemuel C. Kelley (1814-1861).<sup>5</sup> That deed references the dwelling and a shop east of the house. The house is shown with the name "L. C. Kelley" on the 1855 Walling Map, but there is no shop east of the house by that time, although there is one to the west (Figure 5). Lemuel C. Kelley never married, and worked as a ship carpenter (1860 Census).<sup>6</sup>

The 1879 Plymouth County Atlas shows this house with the name "J. W. Pomeroy" (Figure 6). This may refer to S. W. Pomeroy, who was born in Brighton in 1801, but lived in Cincinnati, and then Pomeroy, OH. He worked as a coal merchant. It was his daughter, Clara A. Pomeroy, also of Pomeroy, OH, who sold this property in 1883 to Ellen Chapman of Brookline.<sup>7</sup>

Chapman lost the property through foreclosure, and in 1902, the Middleborough Savings Bank sold it to Matthew H. Cushing of Marlborough.<sup>8</sup> The house is shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas with the name "M. Cushing" (Figure 7). Matthew Cushing (1832-1915) was listed as a grocer in census records. In 1903, Cushing sold this property to Minnie B. Kellogg of Boston.<sup>9</sup> She was the wife Edward Brinley Kellogg. According to an obituary in the Wisconsin *Sheboygan Press*, Dr. Kellogg had a large private practice in Boston and then became medical director of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company. He died in 1927, and that same year, Minnie Kellogg sold this house to Carlotta S. Lummis of Worcester.<sup>10</sup> The house continued to change hands into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with buyers mostly from Marion.

## 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> PCRD, Book 72/ Page 257.

<sup>4</sup> PCRD, Book 118/ Page 204.

<sup>5</sup> PCRD, Book 198/ Page 50.

<sup>6</sup> The 1998 Marion Village Area Form lists the owner as *Lucius Kelley*, likely based on the "L. C. Kelley" name on the 1855 Walling Map, but Lucius was 15 in 1855.

<sup>7</sup> PCRD, Book 495/ Page 445.

<sup>8</sup> PCRD, Book 841/ Page 284.

<sup>9</sup> PCRD, Book 879/ Page 10.

<sup>10</sup> PCRD, Book 1533/ Page 391.



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MARION

6 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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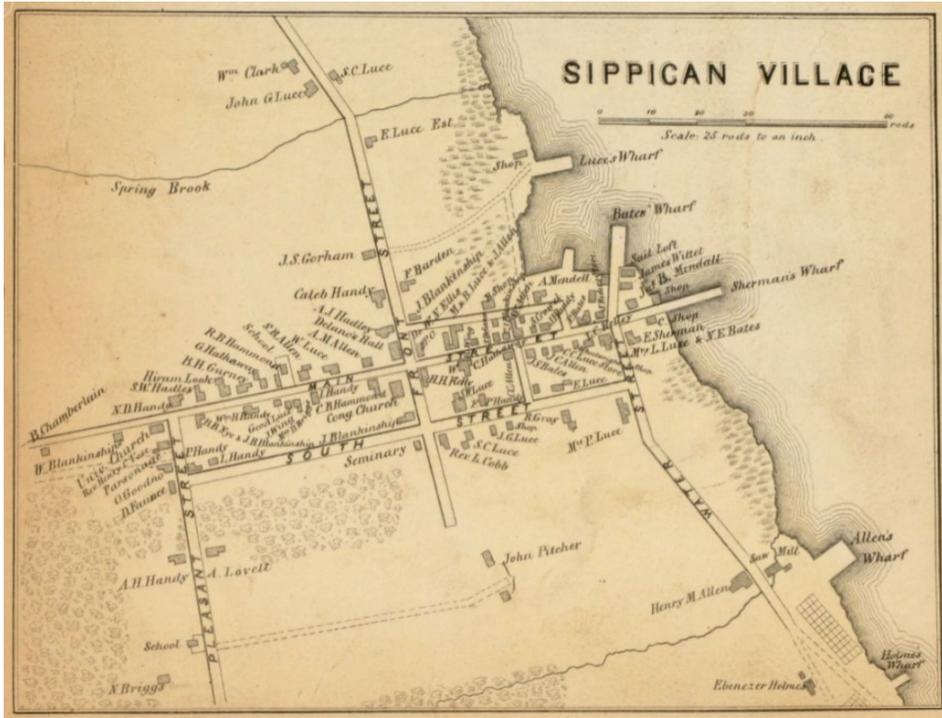


Figure 4. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



Figure 5. Detail of 1855 Inset Map (arrow added).



Figure 6. Detail of 1879 County Atlas (arrow added).



Figure 7. Detail of 1879 County Atlas (arrow added).

**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).