

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 97	Marion	N, AA	MRN.226
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Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 11 Main Street

Historic Name: Marion Blaine House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1939-1940]

Source: Title research

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: 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: 0.08 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 north side of Main Street are set closer to the street than those on the south side, including this one. The narrow front yard of this property is landscaped with a box hedge secured by low granite curbstones. This is one of the houses on the north side of Main Street whose parcel backs up to Hiller Street. A high granite wall borders Hiller Street.

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

11 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 2½-story house, built in the mid-20th century, reportedly replaced a Three-quarter Cape known as “The Hut” that was demolished in 1939 (Photo 4). That prior house was shown functioning as a Tea Room on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The replacement dwelling is similar to what is sometimes referred to as a Federal-period Half House, meaning it is a three-bay wide version of the larger two-story, five-bay Federal house with centered entrance, see e.g. 25 Main Street (similar to a Half Cape vs. a Full Cape).

This house rests on a concrete foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and a corbelled brick chimney rises centered from the main roof ridge. The windows are what may be original wood, 12/8 double-hung sash that are evenly arrayed across the front elevation, and set in surrounds with molded frames. The elegant front entrance has a surround with pilasters (flat columns) and a wood louvered fanlight.

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 house has an Assessor date of 1835. However, the 1998 Wharf Village Area Form (MRN.N) did not include this house; and the 2021 Main Street Area Form (MRN.AA) states that this house replaced an earlier house and was built sometime after 1939. The original house was last referred to in an 1881 deed, where William W. Handy and Peleg Blankinship sold a dwelling house here to Eliza F. Harwood.²

Elizabeth Harwood (1831-1892) never married. She was listed living with her parents in Marion in the 1880 US Census. Her father, Andrew A. Harwood, was a Rear Admiral in the US Navy. This property passed to Eliza Harwood’s niece, Sarah W. Harwood. In 1938-1939, hers was the first of three sales of this property, all with reference to land only.³ This could indicate that the original house had been demolished, possibly lost in the 1938 hurricane. The last sale in July, 1939 was to Marion Dow Blain of Marion. The next sale was in 1955, when her estate sold it to James Bogert Tailer, Jr. of NY, NY.⁴ This deed does refer to buildings, so if the existing house is a replacement, it had been built by this time, and built by Marion Dow Blain.

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.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 474/ Page 33.

³ PCRD, Book 1756/ Page 441, Book 1760/ Page 553, Book 1771/ Page 53.

⁴ PCRD, Book 2419/ Page 88.

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Marion Blain was listed living on Main Street in the 1940 US Census, so perhaps this house was built shortly after the land sale. She had divorced in 1936 from James Blaine, New York banker and grandson of the Republican candidate for president in 1884, James Blaine. She was listed in the 1940 Census living here with no occupation, and with her two young adult sons. By the 1950 Census, she was living here with a maid, and listed as "unable to work." She died in 1954.

In 1955, her estate sold the house to James Bogert Tailer, Jr. from NY. NY.⁵ According to a Princeton Alumni Memorial, Tailer (d. 2009) had "led a checkered life that included a brief stint at the University of Stockholm, a job with Corning Glass, five years at Time Inc., and establishing a company called Imported Car Rentals." Perhaps his time at Corning Glass had inspired his interest in Marion – the Houghton family, who founded Corning Glass, had (have) a summer home on Water Street. This house stayed in the Tailer family until 1976.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and Atlases:

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

Ancestry.com – Vital records.

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

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

paw.princeton.edu/memorial/james-bogert-tailer-jr-%E2%80%999950.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

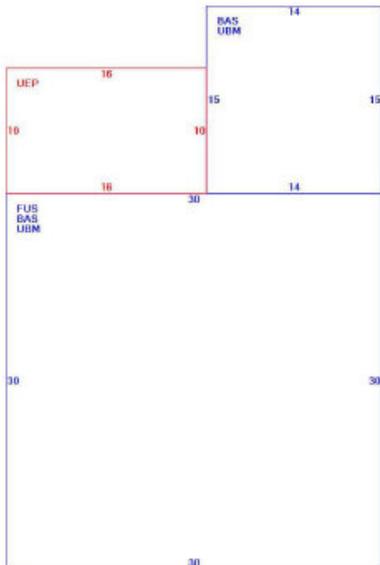


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking northwest.

⁵ PCRD, Book 2419/ Page 88.

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Photo 3. View from Hiller Street, looking SSE.



Photo 4. Pre-1939 view of The Hut (SHS 2004.019.089).

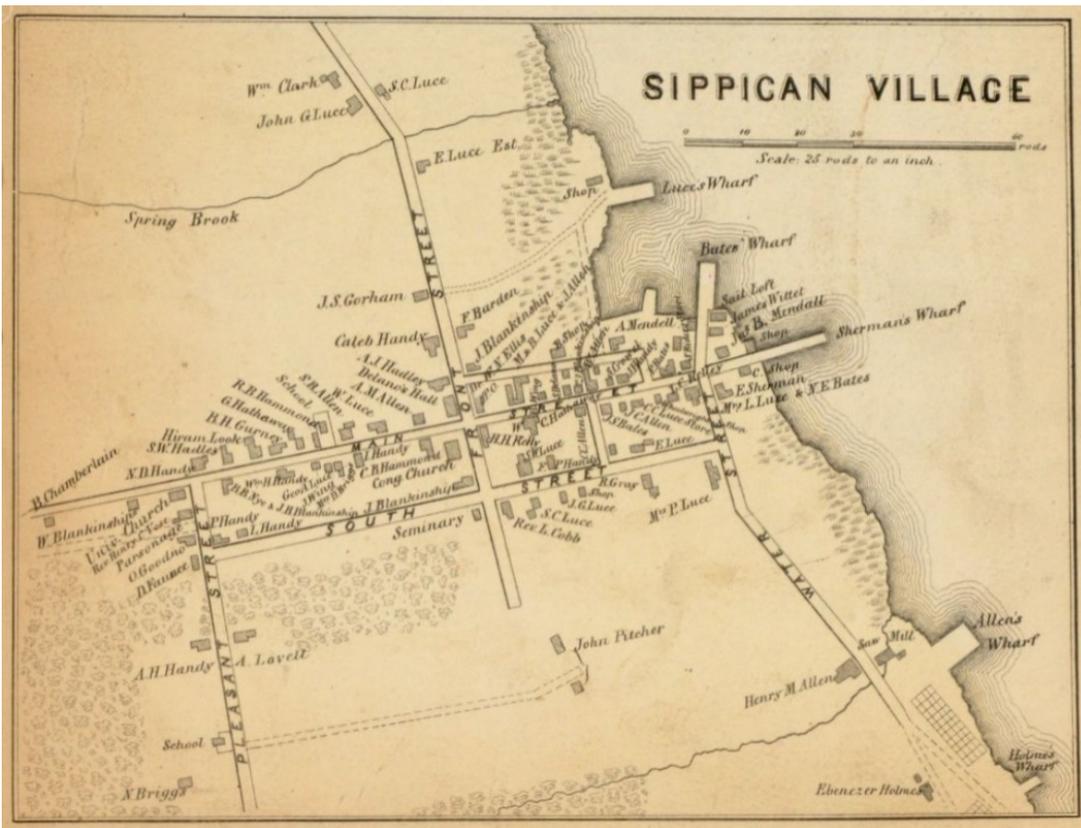


Figure 2. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.

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