

# 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 96

Marion

N,  
AA

MRN.228

**Town/City:** MARION

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 13 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Job and Betsey Blankinship House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1794

**Source:** Deed research, Vital records, Sippican  
Historical Society

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

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*)\*:  
Rear additions (dates unknown)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.09 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 planting bed secured by a low stone retaining wall. This is one of the houses on the north side of Main Street whose parcel backs up to Hiller Street. As the parcel slopes down to the north, the rear of the parcel is secured by a more substantial stone retaining wall.

## 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

13 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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N, AA	MRN.228
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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 one of a number of Full Capes in Marion Village – meaning a 1½-story, side-gable house with a symmetrical front elevation that is five bays wide with a centered entrance. This house, like most early houses in the village, rests on a rough-cut granite and fieldstone foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally), and a brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge in alignment with the front door.

Like many Capes on Main Street and in Marion Village, this Cape was expanded in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, when homes were adapted for seasonal use and possible rental potential. A two-story, offset rear ell was added sometime between 1879 and 1903. In addition, the house received a complex system of dormers. In this case, the dormer system consists of a two, deep square dormers with hip roofs, connected by a shallow shed dormer. More additions were later added off the north end of the rear ell (Photo 3).

The footprint of the projecting front entrance porch was not yet in place when the 1933 Sanborn Insurance Map was prepared (Figure 2). This elegant entrance consists of a wood panel door set in a surround with full sidelights that have an unusual muntin pattern, pilasters (flat columns) and a broad lintel above. Fenestration includes wood 12/12 windows. Those on the front elevation are set in projecting frames on the first story (an indication of early plank construction). The right (east) side elevation has what appear to be original and/or early wood windows, including one with an unusual 12/2 muntin pattern, others with 12/12 on the first story, and 6/6 windows flanked by small 4-light square windows on the second story. The front dormer also has 12/12 windows, smaller modern replacement casement sash on the side walls of the larger dormers, and hopper windows on the connecting shed dormer.

## 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 house has an Assessor date of 1870, but that is not accurate. The Main Street Area Form (MRN.AA) dates the house to ca. 1790-1830. According to the Sippican Historical Society's Wharf Village Walking Tour, this house was built in ca. 1790 by members of the Blankinship family. Title research has identified a 1791 deed where Rowland Luce sold land on the north side of Main Street to Job Blankinship.<sup>2</sup>

<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.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 88/ Page 57 (recorded in 1800).

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Tisbury-born 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>3</sup> Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on the development of the village.

Job Blankinship (1764-1799) married Betsey Hammond (1773-1852) in 1794. While he had purchased this land in 1791, perhaps this house was built right after their marriage. Job died at sea in 1799. This house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion with the name "W. Allen" (Figure 4). Weston Allen (1793-1878) first married Patty Blankinship (1797-1841) in 1819. She was the youngest of three daughters of Job and Betsey Blankinship. Betsy Blankinship remarried in 1818. Perhaps she gifted this house to her daughter, Patty, after her marriage to Weston Allen in 1819. Weston Allen was listed as a carpenter in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century census records.

In 1880, Weston Allen's estate sold this property to Mary and Allen D. Ryder of Marion.<sup>4</sup> Three years later, they sold it to Abby Luce Pritchard (1843-1926) of Somerville.<sup>5</sup> She was the daughter of sailmaker James Wittet who lived at 1 Main Street (MRN.218). She married Henry Pritchard (1845-1913) in Hingham in 1867. Henry Pritchard enlisted in the 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer infantry and was part of the Burnside Expedition. According to his obituary in the *Wareham Currier* (3/3/1913), "he was wounded so seriously at the Battle of Cold Spring Harbor that he never fully recovered." By 1910, they were living in Marion and he was working as an accountant. This house passed to their daughter, Elizabeth Ruth Hilton (1870-1957), and then passed to her son, Ralph Hilton. It stayed in the Hilton family until 1984.

## 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.

<https://sippicanhistoricalsociety.org/marion-history/wharf-village-walking-tour/>.

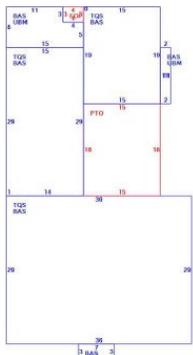


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.

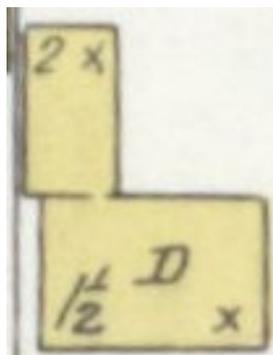


Figure 2. Detail of 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

<sup>3</sup> PCR, Book 60/ Page 80.

<sup>4</sup> PCR, Book 457/ Page 279.

<sup>5</sup> PCR, Book 92/ Page 346.

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Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking northwest.

Photo 3. View from Hiller Street, looking southwest.

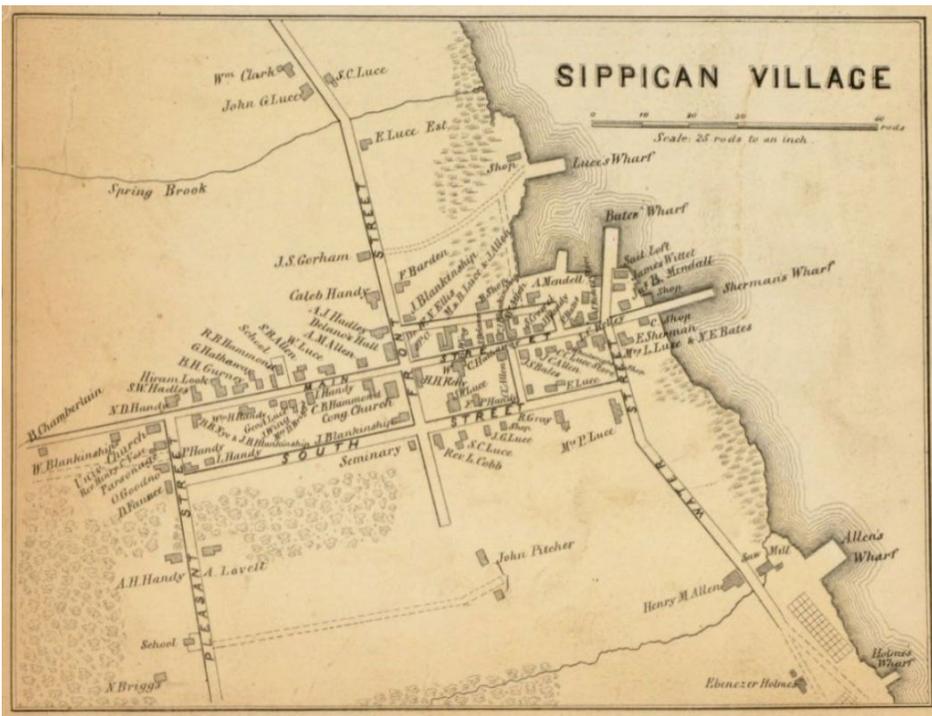


Figure 3. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



Figure 4. Detail of 1855 Walling Map (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).