

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 68

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.241

Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 35 Main Street

Historic Name: Amanda and Charles Marble House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1885

Source: Title research

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rough-cut granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:
New windows (2018)

*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, along with a few institutional and commercial resources. Most notably, this narrow parcel abuts the former Congregational Chapel to the west, and the parcel backs up to the town parking lot next to the Marion General Store. The front yard of this property is landscaped with a picket fence and foundation plantings.

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

35 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AA

MRN.241

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 1½-story house has the basic form of earlier Greek Revival-style, gable-front houses (evoking ancient Greek temple forms), but the ornamental trim on the house is characteristic of the Italianate style. The Italianate style, popular from ca. 1840-1885, was a reaction against the formalism of earlier styles, and was intended to create a more “picturesque” effect reminiscent of Italian villas and farmhouses. The features which characterize this house as Italianate include the paired brackets in the roof entablature and window lintels, the door hood with heavy ornamental brackets, and the broad bay window.

The building rests, like most 19th century houses in Marion Village, on a rough-cut granite and fieldstone foundation. The house is clad in wood clapboards with corner pilasters (flat columns). The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally), and has a projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends, and the aforementioned paired brackets. Fenestration includes modern, replacement 12/12 windows. The original muntin pattern would most likely have been 2/2 (that pattern is shown in the undated Assessor photo, see Photo 3). The current windows were installed in 2018. The windows are set in unusual surrounds with heavy, molded lintels. There is a shallow open porch on the left side of the house the roof of which is supported by turned posts.

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).

There is no house in this location on the 1855 Walling Map or the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas. According to title research, the house was likely built in ca. 1885. That year, William W. Handy sold this parcel to Amanda M. Marble of Brockton. The deed does not reference buildings, and further states that, “Said lot was formerly the west end of the Andrew M. Allen homestead lot” (referring to [31 Main Street](#), MRN.283).²

Even though Amanda Marble was listed living in Brockton in the 1885 deed, she was living in Marion as of the 1880 US Census, with her husband, Charles E. Marble. However, looking at their neighbors in that Census, they were living elsewhere in Marion at that time. Fall River-born Charles E. Marble (1826-1907) married Amanda Davis (1833-1919) in 1854. Like so many early residents of Marion Village, Marble worked in the maritime industry. He was listed in census records as a master of vessel (1870 Census in Somerset), and then fish dealer (1880, 1900 Census) in Marion. In 1951, Marble heirs sold this house out of the family.³

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 522/ Page 557.

³ PCRD, Book 2143/ Page 127.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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35 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.

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.

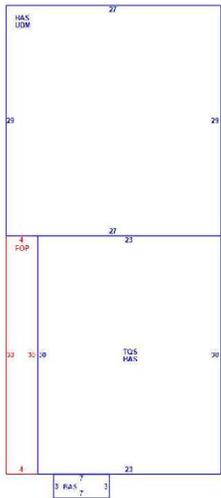


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking NNE.



Photo 3. Undated Assessor photo (note 2/2 windows).

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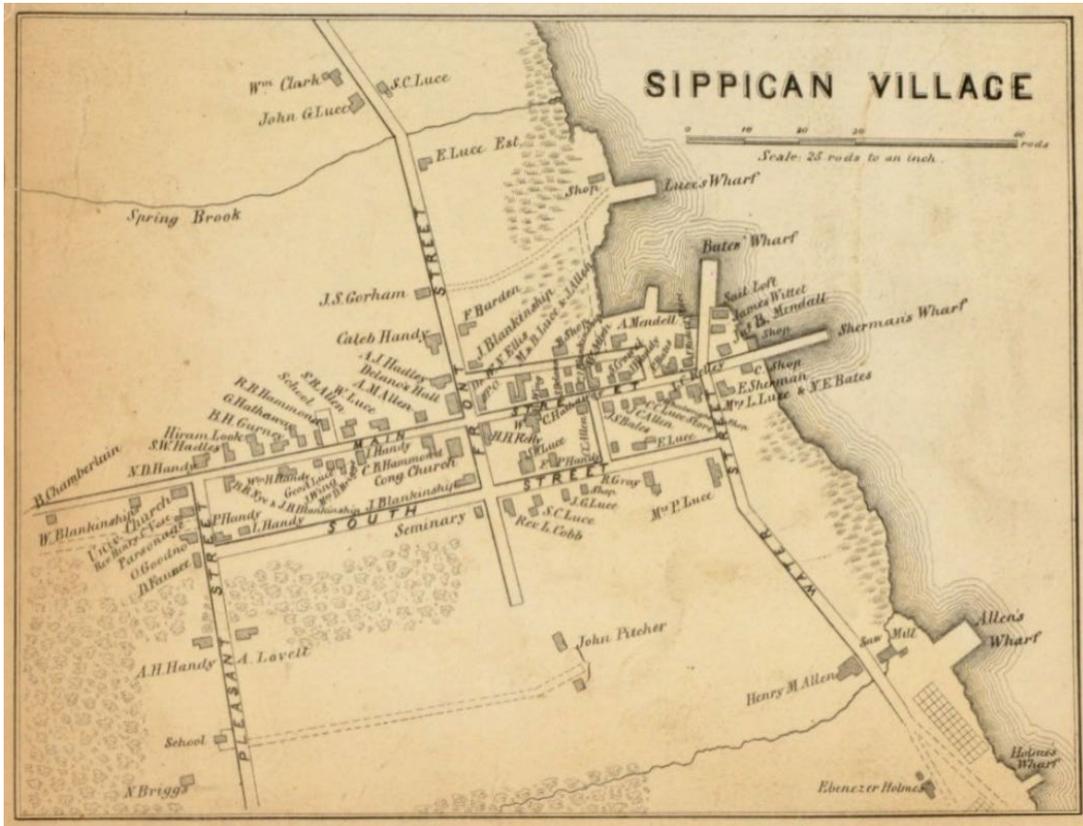


Figure 2. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.

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).