

FORM B – BUILDING

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

16 86

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.246

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

Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 44 Main Street

Historic Name: Lemuel and Huldah Sturtevant House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1790-1830]

Source: Vital records (1785 marriage), probate records

Style/Form: Federal/ Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Outbuilding in SW corner, original use unknown (ca. 1900)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):*

None on record

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.13 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes numerous historic houses, sited relatively close to the street and to each other along Main Street. This house is set very close to the street, and the front yard of this property is landscaped with a picket fence, foundation plantings, and granite steps to the front entrance. There is a small clamshell driveway west of the house. This house is across the street from the intersection with School 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

44 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

N, AA	MRN.246
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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 Full Cape that has evolved over time, similar to 6 Main Street (MRN.223), 9 Main Street (MRN.224), and 31 Main Street (MRN.238). 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, like the house next door at 42 Main Street, MRN.244 - that was later expanded into the Full Cape form (five bays wide).

This house rests, like most 19th century houses in Marion Village, on a granite block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood clapboards with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally), and a brick chimney is aligned with the front door and interior stair.

The elegant front entrance enframingent is one of the features characteristic of the Federal style. 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. Here, the paneled wood door is flanked by unusual, molded narrow pilasters (flat columns), and there are transom lights above the door. The door enframingent rises up into the roof entablature, an indication of low ceiling height. Fenestration includes wood 12/12 windows set in frames with splayed lintels.

Sometime between the 1908 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, a one-story addition was built at the back left corner of the house (Figures 1, 2). That addition appears to still be in place. A broad shed dormer now spans the rear roof slope.

An outbuilding is shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 7), and is more clearly shown on the 1908 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Figure 1, 2). This outbuilding is still in place (see Photo 2).

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, including this house (Figure 4).

Prior research dated this house to ca. 1790-1830. Title records definitively trace ownership of the house back to Lemuel Sturtevant (1748-1831). Unfortunately, little has been found to date about him – he died from drowning in 1831, which likely meant he was a mariner. He had married Huldah Pratt in 1785 in Marion. If this house was built for the new couple, then perhaps a ca. 1790 date is accurate. What is known for sure is that the house was in place when he died.

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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

N, AA	MRN.246
-------	---------

In 1832, Sturtevant's estate sold this property to Steven C. Luce, and he immediately conveyed it his brother, George A. Luce.² Steven Luce (1796-1874) and George Luce (1782-1855), both mariners, were sons of Rowland Luce. 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.³ Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on the development of the village.

This house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion with the name "Geo A. Luce" (Figure 5). The house passed to George's son, David W. Luce (1827-1901). The house is shown with his name on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 6). He was a shoemaker/dealer who lived in New Bedford (1860, 1880 US Census) and in Dedham (1870 US Census).

David Luce sold this house (for a nominal sum) in 1884 to his sister and brother-in-law, Joanna E. (Luce) and Augustus H. Smith of Brooklyn, NY.⁴ Marion-born Augustus Hallett Smith (1841-1917) had married Joanna Pease Luce (1842-1911) in Kingston, MA in 1863. They lived in Brooklyn throughout their lives. In 1915, the now widowed Augustus Smith sold this house to William A. Andrew of Marion.⁵

Born in England, William Andrew (1869-1921) was listed as a real estate agent in the 1920 US Census. In 1900, Andrew had purchased the ca. ca. 1861 Augustus Handy House, 68 Pleasant Street (MRN.271); and he purchased the former Barden House at 153 Front Street (MRN.202), and converted or rebuilt it for commercial use.

Three years after buying it, Andrew sold this house to Franc B. Taylor of Somerville.⁶ She was the wife of Nova Scotia-born Henry Butterfield Taylor (1873-1928). As of the 1910 US Census, he was a young single man, renting a house in Marion, and serving as clergyman for the Universalist Church (80 Pleasant Street (MRN.49)). By 1918, he was married to Franc (Frances) and serving as pastor at the Third Universalist Church in Somerville. Frances Taylor kept this house until 1948, by which time she was widowed and living in 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.

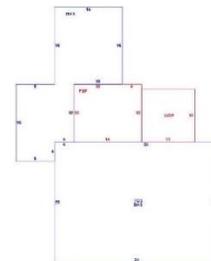
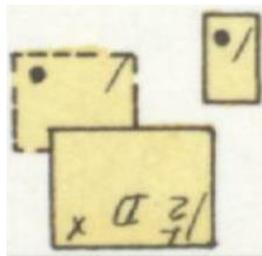
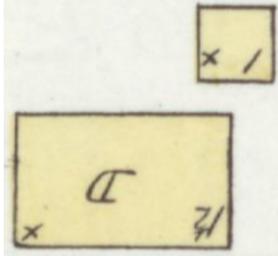
Ancestry.com – Vital records.

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.



² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 188/ Page 194.

³ PCRD, Book 60/ Page 80.

⁴ PCRD, Book 503/ Page 46.

⁵ PCRD, Book 1237/ Page 60.

⁶ PCRD, Book 1308/ Page 378.

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Area(s) Form No.

N, AA	MRN.246
-------	---------

Figure 1. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Map.

Figure 2. Detail of 1933 Sanborn Map.

Figure 3. Assessor Sketch (decks, porches in red).



Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking southeast (arrow to outbuilding added).



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

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

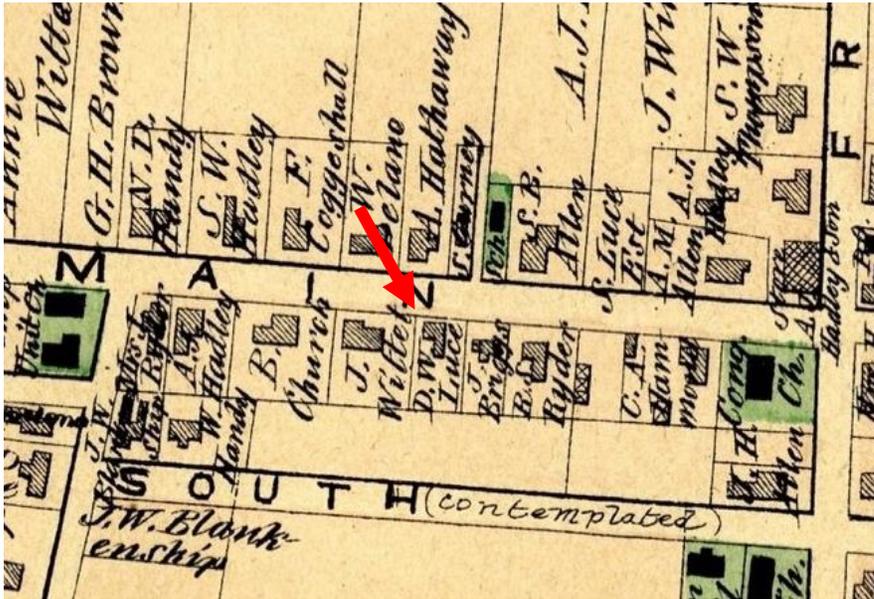


Figure 6. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).



Figure 7. Detail of 1903 Plymouth 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-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).