

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14 54

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.249

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: 47 Main Street

Historic Name: Noble Bates and Weston Allen -
Barnabas Gurney House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1831-1840]

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Federal/ Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ Weston Allen (possibly)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard, shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two-bay, 1½-story garage (2021)

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

2nd floor addition (2019)

Addition (2021)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.25 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes 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 narrow front yard of this property is landscaped with a picket fence, foundation plantings, and granite steps to the front entrance. A gravel driveway leads to a detached two-car garage behind 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

47 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 a good example of an early-19th century, 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. Unlike some Full Capes on Main Street which appear to have begun as Half Capes (three bays wide with off-center entrance) that were later asymmetrically expanded into Full Capes (five bays wide with center entrance), the front elevation of this house has an overall symmetry which suggests it was originally built as a Full Cape. In addition to the 1½-story, side-gable main block, there is a stepped back ell on the right (east) side, and a large rear addition.

The building rests, like most 19th century houses in Marion Village, on a raised granite foundation (except the rear addition which has a concrete foundation). The front elevation of the main block is clad in wood clapboards – an example of “dressing up” the main public elevation, and the corners are trimmed with fluted pilasters (flat columns). The remaining elevations are clad in wood shingles. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally). What looks like a rebuilt brick chimney rises from the center of the main roof ridge, aligned with the front door.

The front entrance has a six panel wood door set in an elegant surround with unusual beaded and beveled pilasters (flat columns) that rise up to the roof entablature, and four transom windows above the door. The main roof has two hipped-roof dormers that are undoubtedly later additions. Fenestration includes modern, replacement 12/12 windows.

The side ell with open porch may not be original, but is shown on the 1908 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, along with a small rear ell that was likely replaced by the current large rear addition (Figures 1, 2). The rear ell is not shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion (Figure 5).

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).

The 2021 Main Street Area Form (MRN.AA) dates this house to ca. 1790-1830, which may be accurate. However, that Area Form appears to have mistakenly identified this house as that of G. Hathaway on the 1855 Walling Map. Based on title research and map analysis, this house is more likely the house next door to the west with the name “B. H. Gurney” (Figure 5).

In 1840, Noble E. Bates and Weston Allen, “Gentlemen” of Marion sold this property, with a dwelling, to Barnabas Gurney.² Bates and Allen had purchased the property, land only, in 1831 from James Blankinship, master mariner.³ Noble E Bates (1791-1864)

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 202/ Page 269.

³ PCRD, Book 171/ Page 141.

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was one of the "Two Captains" who lived at 2 Main Street (MRN.220), and Weston Allen (1793-1878), who married Patty Blankinship (1797-1841) in 1819, lived at 13 Main Street (MRN.228). This house, therefore, was likely built as an investment, and was possibly built by Allen who was a carpenter in census records.

Barnabas H. Gurney (b. ca. 1802) married Marcy Hathaway in 1821. Barnabas Gurney was a sailor (1850 US Census), farmer (1855 State Census), and then Master farmer (1860 US Census). As noted above, Barnabas Gurney is listed living here on the 1855 Walling Map, but he was no longer the owner of the house, so perhaps he was renting his former house. As of 1849, he had been declared insolvent, and his neighbor, Gilbert Hathaway (45 Main Street, MRM.247) was assignee of his goods and estate. Hathaway conveyed this property to Leonard Bolles of Marion.⁴ Capt. Leonard Bolles (1801-1879) was living in Butte, CA in 1859 when he sold this house to Clark Delano of Marion.⁵

Capt. Clark Delano (1817-1976) was a mariner all his life. He and his England-born wife, Sarah (Childs) (1823-1875), had two children, Clark Wheeler Delano and Magdalena Allen. This house was inherited by their son. It is shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas with the name "C. W. Delano" (Figure 7). Clark Wheeler Delano (1858-1916) was born in France. He married Fannie Jane Hamilton (1858-1918) in Mattapoisett in 1879. Capt. Clark Delano was a sailor (1880 US Census) and then steam boat captain (1900 US Census).

This house was inherited by their daughter, Bertha Delano Doran (1879-1939). She had married Robert N. Doran (1865-1924) in New Bedford in 1903. It is unclear if they ever lived here – they were living in Fairhaven in the 1910 and 1920 Census, and he was listed as blacksmith. In 1920, the Doran family sold this house to Howard R. McPeck of Marion.⁶ Howard McPeck (1941-2013) was born in New Bedford, served as an English teacher and assistant headmaster at Maumee Valley Country Day School in Toledo, OH, and spent his last working years teaching English at the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. The house remained in the McPeck family until 2018.

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.

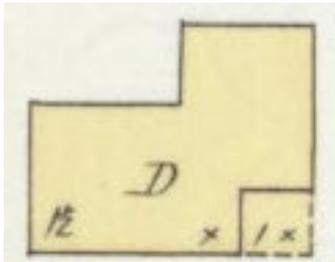


Figure 1. Detail, 1908 Sanborn Map.

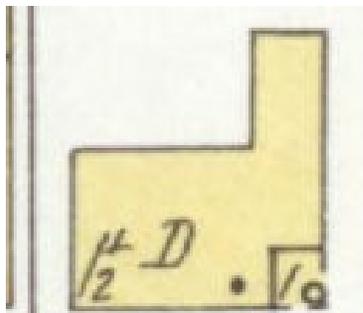


Figure 2. Detail, 1933 Sanborn Map.

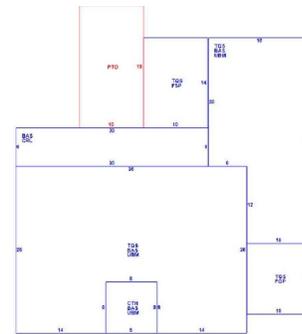


Figure 3. Marion Assessor Sketch (decks, porches in red).

⁴ PCR, Book 234/ Page 135.

⁵ PCR, Book 295/ Page 20. The possible kinship between Marcy (Hathaway) Gurney and Gilbert Hathaway is unknown.

⁶ PCR, Book 1380/ Page 22.

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47 MAIN STREET

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Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking northwest, garage at right.



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



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



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



Figure 7. Detail of 1903 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).