

FORM B – BUILDING

16 84

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.248

Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 48 Main Street

Historic Name: William H. and Lucy Handy House

Uses: Single Family Dwelling House
Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1849-1855]

Source: Title research, 1855 Walling Map

Style/Form: Greek Revival, w/ Queen Anne additions

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ William H. Handy

Exterior Material:
Granite block, fieldstone
Wood shingles/ Wood

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: 0.29 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes historic houses sited relatively close to the street and to each other along Main Street. This house, however, is set back slightly from the street. The front yard of this property is landscaped with a picket fence along the street, lawn and minimal foundation plantings. A brick walkway and steps lead to the front entrance. There is an asphalt driveway leading along the east side of 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

N, AA	MRN.248
-------	---------



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 house, built ca. 1849-1855, may have begun as a Greek Revival-style Full Cape that received late-19th century additions across the front elevation characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The main block of the house rests on a raised granite foundation, while the two added bays on the front elevation rest on mortared fieldstone foundations, suggesting a later addition. The 1½-story main block has the centered entrance typical of Full Capes, and the window to the right of the front entrance may be the sole survivor of the original two windows that would have flanked each side of the front entrance.

The front entrance has a wood door with a Queen Anne-style window (meaning a large square pane bordered by smaller square panes), and the door is set in a surround with sidelights and pilasters (typical of the Greek Revival style). The late-19th century bays, as noted above, could also be described as Queen Anne in style. The Queen Anne style, popular from ca. 1880-1910, employed different roof shapes, surface materials and window muntin patterns to enliven a building's elevations and create a more "picturesque" effect than earlier, more formal styles. In this case, the two bays share a roof but are different from each other – the right bay is set into the building's corner, creating 45° angles. Another Queen Anne-style detail is that the bays are clad in scalloped shingles.

The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally), and has a projecting molded box cornice without the partial returns across the gable ends typical of the Greek Revival style. Rather than a centered chimney on the main roof ridge, there are narrow, tall brick chimneys at each end of the roof ridge (this is sometimes an indication of a two-family house, but it is not known if that was the case here). There are two large, gable-roofed dormers on the front roof ridge. It is unclear if they are original, but it should be noted that they have similar roof cornices to the main block. The front of the dormers are clad in wood shingles with a curvilinear pattern. While the patterned shingles on the two bays on the first story are likely original, it is unknown if these patterned shingles are original to the dormers.

In addition to the main block, there is an unusually long, one-story ell on the left (east) side. This ell is shown on the 1908 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Figures 1, 2). The 1933 Map also shows a covered porch between the two bays, suggesting that the roof joining the two bays was a later addition. A rear ell was added sometime after 1933.

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).

This house was built on land that Sylvester Bates sold to William H. Handy of Marion in 1849.² William H. Handy (1825-1897) was listed as a Housewright in that deed. The house was in place by the time the 1855 Walling Map was prepared (Figure 5), and

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 232/ Page 95.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

N, AA | MRN.248



Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking southwest.



Figure 4. 1855 Walling Map of Marion.

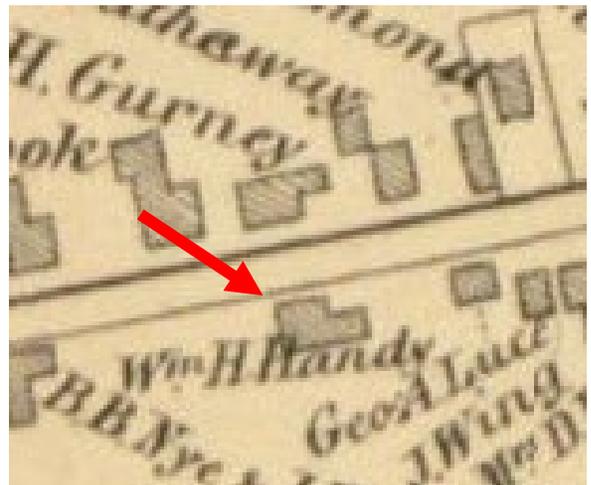


Figure 5. Detail of 1855 Walling Map (arrow added).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

N, AA	MRN.248
-------	---------

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

only

A **B** **C** **D**

A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

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).