

FORM B – BUILDING

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

15 42

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.251

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: 51 Main Street

Historic Name: Capt. Hiram and Keziah Look House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1827

Source: Vital records

Style/Form: / Full Cape (altered)

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (1991)

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Second story added, rear addition (all or part in 2003)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.26 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes historic houses sited relatively close to the street and to each other along Main Street. This house is also set very close to the street, and the front yard is landscaped with a picket fence, and foundation plantings. A gravel driveway leads along the west side of the house to a detached garage.

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

51 MAIN STREET

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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 house began as a 1½-story Full Cape, with a rear ell. That footprint is shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion (Figure 5), and an early photograph (Photo 3). The main block was 1½-stories tall and five bays wide with a centered entrance, typical of the Full Cape form. That form remained consistent on the 1908 and 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, both of which identify the main block as 1½ stories (Figures 1, 2). A full second story was added above the main block, and the rear ell was expanded to two stories (all or part in 2003).

The house rests on a brick foundation (unusual for Marion Village, most are granite and/or fieldstone). The elevations are clad in wood clapboards on the front elevation and wood shingles on remaining elevations, with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises, centered, from the main roof ridge. The first story of the main block retains the five bay composition with centered entrance typical of Full Capes. The front entrance appears to have been redone, likely when the second story was added. It now consists of a modern wood paneled door set in a surround with fluted pilasters, transom lights, and an angled lintel above.

Fenestration, likely replaced/added when the additions were built, consists of modern, replacement 12/12 double-hung sash on the first story and 8/12 on the second story, set in surrounds with flared lintels.

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 (Figures 4, 5).

This house has an Assessor date of 1827, and a former marker on the house apparently included the date of 1828.² The house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion with the name "Hiram Look" (Figure 5). The house was built for Marion-born Capt. Hiram Look (1803-1865) and his wife Keziah (Hiller) (1810-1874), whom he married in 1827. According to the New Bedford Whaling Museum's Whaling Crew Database, Hiram Look served aboard the *Charles W. Morgan* in 1867. He may have served as captain on that voyage – he was listed as a master mariner in the 1860 US Census.

They had two children, and this house passed to their eldest daughter and her husband, Amanda and Frank B. Coggeshall. Amanda Look (1840-1890) had married Frank B. Coggeshall (1841-1911) in 1860. They had two children. After her death, Frank married again in 1891 to Louise W. Ryder (1852-1937), and they had one child. According to Census records, Frank B. Coggeshall

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 The deed wherein he bought this land has not been located.

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had a varied career – tin peddler (1870), huckster (1880), dealer in stoves (1900), and owner of a hardware store (1910). The hardware store referred to in the 1910 US Census was located in a building that he added to the west of the house. The house is shown without the store on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 6), but by the time the 1903 Atlas had been prepared, Coggeshall had built the store (Figure 7). It is shown again on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 1). The store is labelled “Hard’w Paints & Oils.” There is an undated photo of the house and store in the collections of the Sippican Historical Society (Photo 3). In that photo, the store had a sign with the name “F. B. Coggeshall Stoves & Tin Ware.” Note that the house was then a 1½-story Full Cape. The store had been moved to Mill Street (Rt. 6) by the time the 1933 Sanborn Map was prepared (Figure 2). Coggeshall also built the small ca. 1903-1908 cottage next door at 49 Main Street (MRN.250).

An obituary dated April 11, 1911 in the *Wareham Courier* described Frank B. Coggeshall as “a Marion businessman and native of Tiverton, RI...A widely known businessman having conducted a store for over twenty years, he was prominent in the Universalist Church, the Evergreen Cemetery Association Corporation and was a member of the Pythagorean Lodge for many years.”

Frank and Amanda’s daughter, Ada Vose, had married physician Albert Vose in 1891, and they purchased the house at 45 Main Street (MRN.247). This house was sold out of the family by Ada and her siblings in 1931. It was sold to Fred A. and Emily Wing of Marion.³ A newspaper obituary for Fred Wing (1888-1958) in the collection of the Sippican Historical Society extolled his 32 years serving as an RFD mail carrier, beginning on March 1, 1922 driving a Model T Ford. The RFD (Rural Free Delivery) was a program begun in the late-19th century by the US Post Office to provide home mail delivery in rural settings, rather than require residents to travel some distance to a post office.

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.

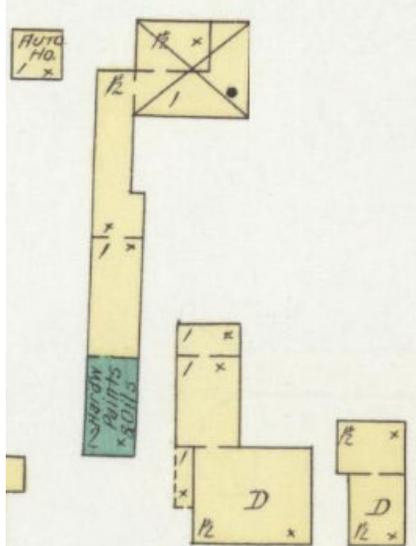


Figure 1. Detail, 1908 Sanborn Map.

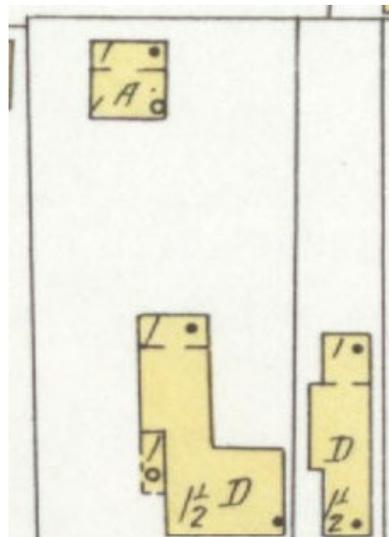


Figure 2. Detail, 1933 Sanborn Map.

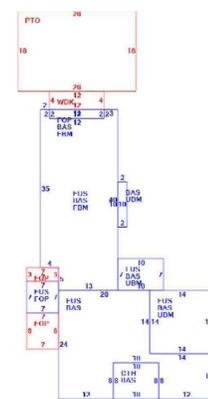


Figure 3. Assessor Sketch. (decks, porches in red).

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1620/ Page 594.

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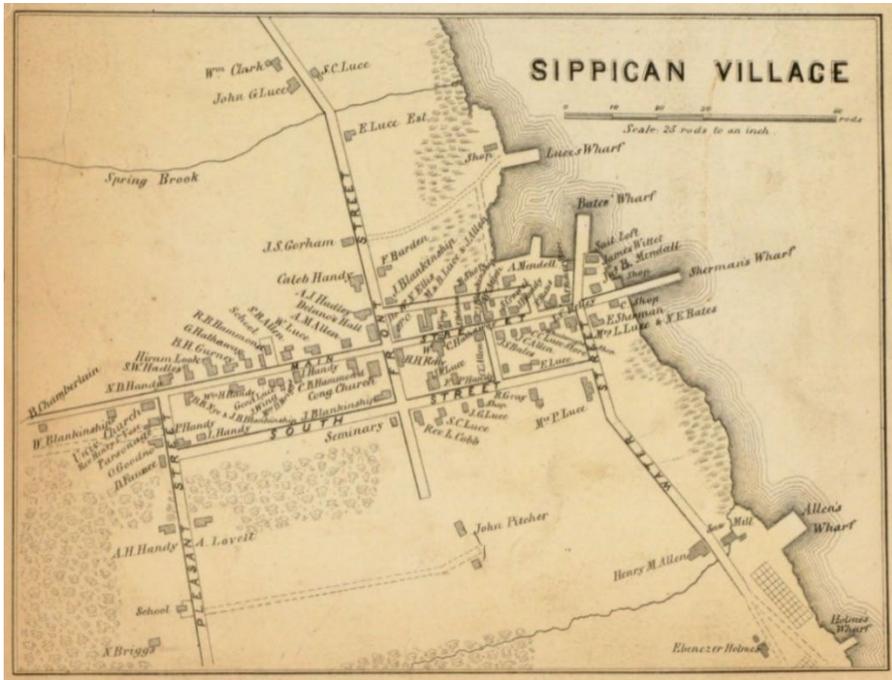


Figure 4. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



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

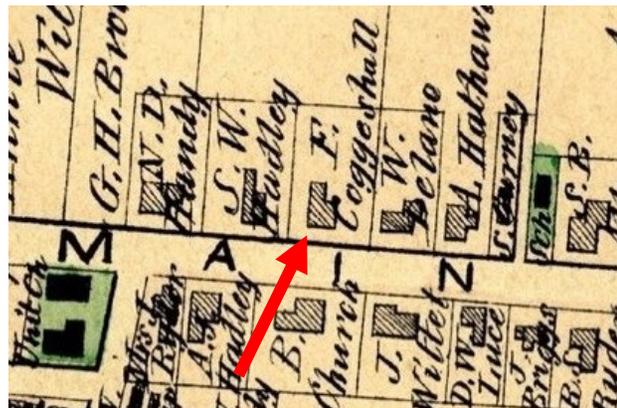


Figure 6. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).



Figure 7. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

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Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking NNE.



Photo 3. Undated view of 51 Main Street house and store, looking northeast (Source: SHS 2015.009.001).

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).