

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16 80	Marion	N, AA	MRN.410
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Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 58 Main Street

Historic Name: Post Office – Ryder House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Post Office

Date of Construction: ca. 1835

Source: Rosbe, *Images of America Marion*

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: 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:** [1855-1879]

Acreage: 0.09 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes historic houses, and the Marion Art Center (former Universalist Church), sited relatively close to the street and to each other along Main and Pleasant Streets. This house, however, is set well back from Main Street, although a side ell extends very close to Pleasant Street. The front yard is enclosed by a low picket fence, and the yard is landscaped with lawn and foundation plantings. There is a short gravel driveway off Pleasant 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

58 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AA

MRN.410

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, which dates to ca. 1835, began as a post office that was moved to this location and converted to a dwelling. The core of the building is the 1½-story, gable-front block that faces Main Street. One-story ells with low-pitched shed roofs extend from both sides of this main block. The house is first shown in this location on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 5), but the footprint is obscured by the name on that map. The house is clearly shown with the ells on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 6). The west elevation of the main block behind the side ell also has the appearance of a “front” elevation – it is three bays wide with a centered entrance, and dormers aligned with the windows below (Photo 2).

The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally). Fenestration consists mostly of modern, replacement 6/6 double-hung sash. The front entrance on Main Street has a wood paneled door set in a broad, flat surround. The entrance facing Pleasant Street has a modern paneled door set in a simple surround.

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 3).

There is no building in this location on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion (Figure 4). According to Judith Rosbe's *Images of America Marion*, this cottage began as a post office that was originally located behind the Congregational Church at 28 Main Street. It was built in 1830s, and moved to this location sometime between 1855 and 1879.

By the time the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas was prepared, the converted house was here with the name “Mrs. J. Ryder” (Figure 5). Title research traces back to the Ryder family, but it is unclear why the name on the 1879 Atlas is Mrs. J. Ryder. According to the 1880 US Census, the people living here were Elmira W. Ryder and her daughter, Sarah E. E. Perine. Sarah was the sister of Royal S. Ryder who lived down the street with his wife, Priscilla, and five children at 40 Main Street (MRN.242).

Unfortunately, no deeds have been identified wherein the Ryders purchased this land. This house was apparently owned by all four of Jonathan and Elmira's children. In 1889, siblings Royal Ryder, Mary (Ryder) Rapelje (then living in New Jersey), and Josiah T. Ryder (a ship wright living in San Francisco) sold their interest in this house for a nominal sum to their sister, Sarah Perine.² Sarah E. E. Perine (1830-1911) was born in New York, where she married ship builder William Perine (1807-1869) in 1847. As of the 1880 US Census, she had moved to Marion, now a widow, where she was listed living with her mother, Elmira Ryder at 58 Main Street (MRN.410). Sarah Perine also built 157 Front Street (MRN.204) and 159 Front Street sometime between 1883 and 1890.

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 576/ Page 207.

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Figure 3. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



Figure 4. Detail to 1855 Walling Map of Marion (arrow added).

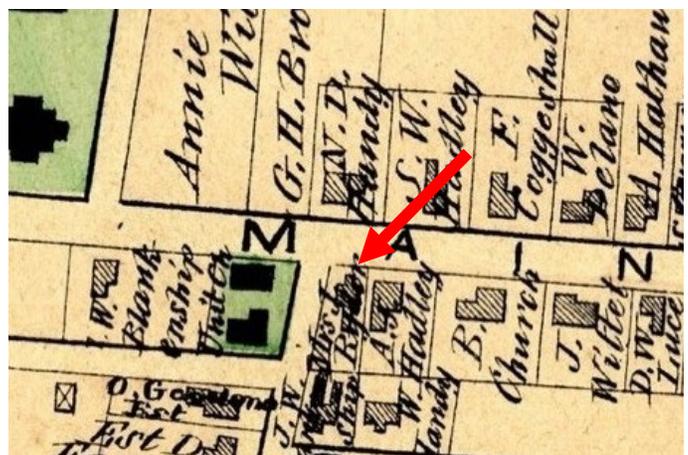


Figure 5. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

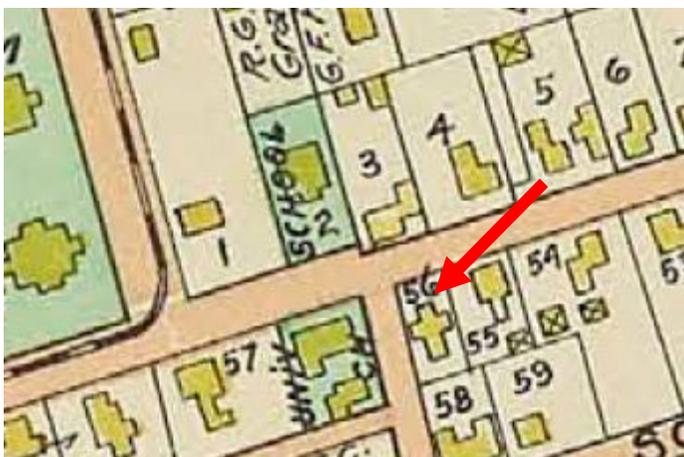


Figure 6. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

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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).