

FORM B – BUILDING

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

15 76

Marion

N,
AA

MRN.257

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: 66 Main Street

Historic Name: Warren and Emily or Mercy Blankinship House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1852-1855]

Source: Deed research, 1855 Walling Map

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ Warren Blankinship
(possibly)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles

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:**

Acreage: 0.22 acres

Setting: The surrounding area includes historic houses sited relatively close to the street and to each other along Main Street. The immediate surroundings also include the former Universalist Church to the east, and the former Tabor Academy at the intersection with Spring Street across the street. This house is set back slightly from the street on a slight rise. A low fieldstone wall borders the street. The front yard and large east side yard are landscaped with lawn and privet hedge. Low steps bordered by granite bollards leads to the front entrance. This parcel backs up to Briggs Lane where there is a clamshell parking area.

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

66 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 modest but elegant example of a Greek Revival-style house. The Greek Revival style, popular from ca. 1825 to 1860, was inspired by then new Greek archeological discoveries, and employed temple forms and details for domestic American architecture. The form of this house consists of a 1½-story, gable-front main block with a one-story rear ell. Based on a review of historic maps, the rear ell was added in the late-19th century. The house rests, like most 19th century houses in Marion Village, on a rough-cut granite foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with broad cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally), and has a projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable front (intended to evoke Greek temple fronts that inspired the style).

In addition to the roof cornice, the main feature that characterizes this house as Greek Revival in style is the elegant front entrance. The wood, four-panel door is set in a surround with partial sidelights, pilasters (flat columns), and broad molded lintel above. Fenestration on the house consists primarily of a modern, replacement 6/6 double-hung sash. The 6/6 muntin pattern is common for the Greek Revival style. Fenestration also includes unusual small, rectangular sash set into the roof entablature frieze boards on both side elevations. A screen porch was added to the east side of the rear ell (Photo 3).

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 2).

This house is shown with the name "W. Blankinship" on both the 1855 Walling Map of Marion (Figure 2) and the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 3), and shown with the name "Warren Blankinship Est." on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 4). This refers to Warren Blankinship (1816-1898). In 1852, multiple parties sold land described as a portion of the estate of Jared Blankinship west of the Universalist Church to Warren Blankinship.² Warren Blankinship was listed as a carpenter in census record, so he might have built the house himself. The house would have been built sometime between 1852 and 1855. This would mean it was either built shortly before his first wife died in 1853, or after he married his second wife that same year. He would go on to marry two more times.

His first wife was Emily M. Clark (1816-1853), whom he married in 1839, and with whom he had four children. His second was Mercy P. Wing (1822-1862), whom he married in 1853, and with whom he had two children. The third was Elizabeth M. Purrington

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 615/ Page 167, not recorded until 1891. Possible kinship between Jared and Warren Blankinship not yet discovered.

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(1821-1867), whom he married in 1863, and the fourth was Sarah A. Gott (1835-1908), whom he married in 1869, and with whom he had one child. The house remained in the Blankinship family until 1948.

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.

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.

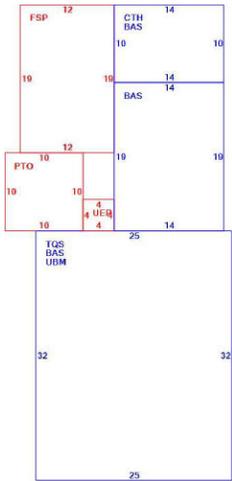


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from Main Street looking SSE.

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Photo 3. View from Briggs Lane, looking NW.



Figure 2. Detail to 1855 Walling Map of Marion (arrow added).



Figure 3. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).



Figure 4. 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).