

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14 13A

Marion

N,  
AH

MRN.516

**Town/City:** MARION

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

Marion Village -  
Upper Main Street (MRN.AH)

**Address:** 113 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Capt. John O. C. and Ella Briggs  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1914

**Source:** Title/mortgage records

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*)\*:  
Porch rebuilt (ca. 2020)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.24 acres

**Setting:** This house is located at the intersection of Main Street and Rt. 6. The surrounding area along Main Street includes historic houses, and a few contemporary houses, sited relatively close to the street and to each other, although less densely developed than lower Main Street. Behind the house is a Verizon switch house. Across Rt. 6 are a few historic houses, widely separated. This house is set back slightly from the street on a slight rise secured by a brick retaining wall. The front yard is landscaped with lawn and foundation plantings. A brick walkway leads to the front entrance. An asphalt driveway leads along the east side of the parcel.

## Photograph



## 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

113 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 1½-story, gable-front house can be characterized as modest example of the Queen Anne style. The Queen Anne style, popular from ca. 1880-1910, employed different roof shapes and surface materials to enliven a building's elevations and create a more "picturesque" effect than earlier, more formal styles. This house is similar in form to two other Queen Anne-style houses farther east on this stretch of upper Main Street – 92 Main Street (MRN.263) and 93 Main Street (MRN.264).

The house rests on a raised, mortared fieldstone foundation. The elevations are clad in wood clapboard with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally). The roof has a projecting, molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends. An exterior brick chimney rises up the right (east) side elevation, piercing the projecting roof cornice. There are low-pitched, shed-roofed wall dormers on both side elevations. This same dormer design is found at 92 Main Street.

The partially enclosed porch, supported by square columns that rest on half walls, spans the right 2/3 of the front elevation. This porch is a recent replacement of a porch of similar design, but with simpler posts, that spanned the entire front elevation (see ca. 1916-1918 view and undated Assessor photo, Photos 3, 4). Fenestration consists of modern, replacement 1/1 and 2/1 windows. There does appear to be one original window on the left (west) side elevation that likely lights an interior stair – this window has an unusual diamond-paned sash. The front elevation is three bays wide with an off-centered entrance. The offset main entrance is located within the open portion of the front porch.

## 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.*

The dense development pattern along Main Street, starting in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century with increasing maritime-related prosperity, extended only as far west as Pleasant Street. Although Upper Main Street (as it is locally called), was set out in 1829, residential development was limited to a few houses on large parcels. The building of the Public Library in 1872 and Tabor Academy in 1876 along Spring Street may have inspired increased residential development in the surrounding area. By the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, owners of the larger tracts of land on upper Main Street began to build additional houses on their land and/or sell off portions to others. The 1903 Plymouth County Atlas shows the scattered development along this stretch of Main Street just prior to this and other houses being built (Figure 2).

This land, with no buildings, is shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas with the name "J. O. C. Briggs." A second parcel, with a building, is shown across the street with the same name. This refers to Capt. John O. C. Briggs (1866-1942). He had acquired this land from Elijah Braley in 1887.<sup>1</sup> The house has an Assessor date of 1890 which, based on its absence on the 1903 Atlas, is not accurate.

In April of 1914, John Briggs conveyed this parcel to his second wife, Ella (Hart).<sup>2</sup> They had married in Fall River in 1912. Ella Briggs (1870-1939) had previously been living on Mill Street (Rt. 6) in Marion and was working as a laundress (1910 US Census). John Briggs had previously married Matilda Westgate in 1889 in Marion. Matilda died in 1965 in Santa Barbara, so that marriage presumably ended in divorce.

The April 1914 deed from John to Ella Briggs made no reference to buildings. In September of that year, Ella Briggs took out a mortgage that does reference a building. This could mean the house was built that year. Briggs built this house across Mill Street

<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 625/ Page 211.

<sup>2</sup> PCR, Page 1182. Page 366.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

113 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AH MRN.516

(Rt. 6) from his childhood home, the ca. 1875 John H. Briggs House (603 Mill Street, MRN.517), and across Main Street from his grandfather's house, the ca. 1845 Philip H. Briggs House (100 Main Street, MRN.495).

A ca. 1916-1918 view shows this house at a time when Mill Street (Rt. 6) at "Braley's Corner" was being widened. According to his obituary in *The Standard-Times*, John Briggs (d. 1942) was a captain on a Merchants & Miners passenger ship sailing between Boston and Philadelphia.<sup>3</sup> He lived here with his second wife, Ella (Freeman), who had lived with her first husband nearby at 618 Mill Street (ca. 1879-1897, MRN.518). As with his first marriage, John Briggs' second marriage ended in divorce as well. When Ella Briggs sold this property out of the Briggs family in 1929, she was listed as a divorcee. She sold it to Jesse and Marjorie Clouter.<sup>4</sup> Born in Newfoundland, Canada, Jesse Clouter (d. 1970) worked in the meat department of the Marion General Store for over 35 years.<sup>5</sup> The house has changed hands numerous times since then.

## 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.

Gordon, Edward. MHC Area Form N, Wharf Village, 1998.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections

Smileedge, Lynn. MHC Area Form AH, Upper Main Street, 2022.



Photo 2. View from Main Street, looking NW.

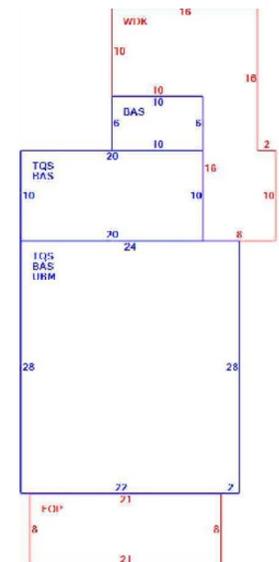


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch (decks, porches in red).

<sup>3</sup> Sippican Historical Society Archives, "Capt. John O. C. Briggs" obituary, *The Sippican Sentinel* (SHS VO44.061)

<sup>4</sup> PCRD, Book 1583/ Page 562.

<sup>5</sup> Sippican Historical Society Archives, Jesse Clouter obituary, "Service Held for Well-Known Resident," *The Sippican Sentinel* (SHS 2016.051.369).

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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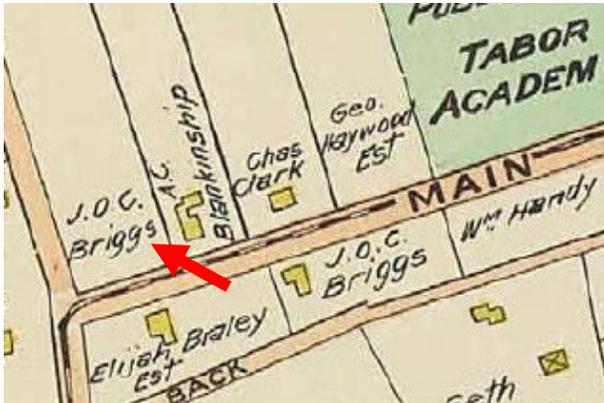


Figure 2. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

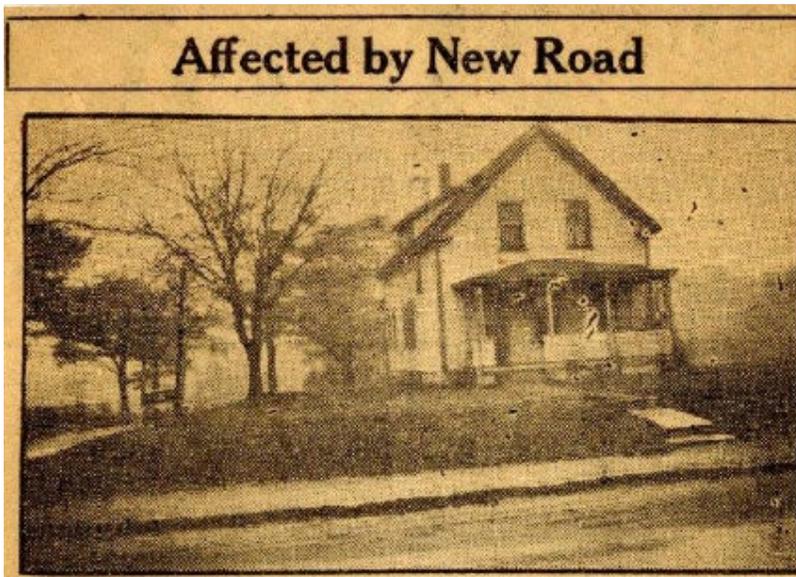


Photo 3. Ca. 1916-1918 view, looking north (Courtesy: Sippican Historical Society).

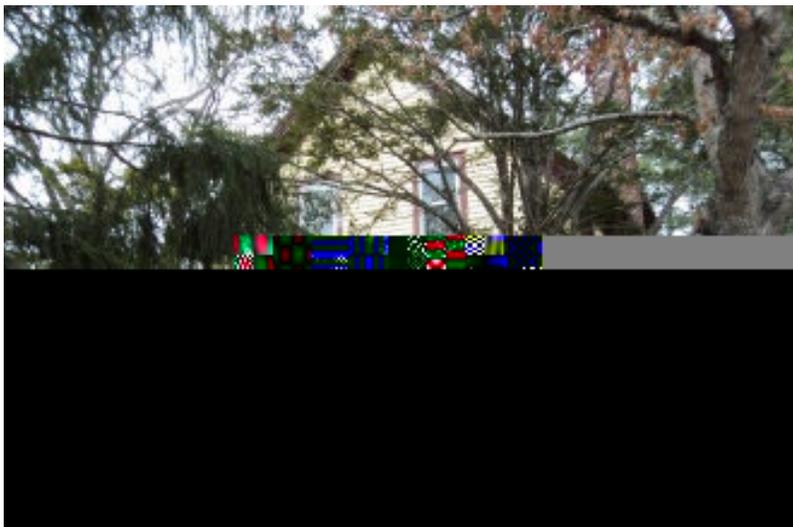


Photo 4. View from Main Street, looking NW (undated Assessor photo).

**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-18<sup>th</sup> century. With the rise of saltmaking, shipyards, and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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-19<sup>th</sup> 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).