

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-60

Marion

N,
AC

MRN.270

Town/City: MARION

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -
Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC)

Address: 62 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Augustus H. and Susan H. Handy House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1853

Source: *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*, 1855
Walling Map

Style/Form: Greek Revival-Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ Augustus and Noah Handy

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Wood shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Renovation and dormer (1999)

Rear additions (dates unknown)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.91 acres

Setting: This house is located on the west side of Pleasant Street. This northern section of Pleasant Street has a collection of 19th and early-20th century houses on varying-sized lots, most set close to the street. This house is also set fairly close to the street on its large parcel. The parcel around the house is open, and landscaped with lawn and mature foundation plantings. An asphalt driveway leads along the north side of the house to a detached garage behind the house. A brick walkway leads to the front entrance porch.

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

62 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AC	MRN.270
-------	---------

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 slightly later example of a gable-front house than its neighbor across the street at 61 Pleasant Street (MRN.269). Whereas that house is a good example of the Greek Revival style, this house is an example of a house transitioning to the Italianate style. This transition is most evident in three ways: the use of broad flat cornerboards instead of corner pilasters (flat columns); the projecting molded box cornice with no returns across the gable front; and the arched window in the gable peak.

The original house form consisted of the 1½-story, gable-front main block and a stepped-down rear ell. This footprint is shown in the 1855 Walling Map (Figures 1, 2), and subsequent maps and atlases. It was not until the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map was prepared, that the open porch wrapping the right front corner of the house appeared (Figure 4). There were a series of additions in the mid-late 20th century. The first addition may have been the tall, cross-gable ell on the right (north) elevation of the main block. A series of additions have increased or replaced the original rear ell.

The original house, like most 19th century houses in the village, rests on a raised, rough-cut granite block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood clapboard siding with broad cornerboards. The roof is clad in wood shingles. The roof has a projecting, molded box cornice with, as noted above, no returns across the front gable as was commonly employed in Greek Revival-style houses to evoke a temple front. Two tall, narrow chimneys rise from the south roof slope of the main block. The northeast corner porch was originally open, but is now enclosed with wood, mullioned 6/6 windows. Fenestration on the house consists primarily of modern windows that have the appearance of 6/6 double-hung sash, but may be fixed sash. A photo of the house in *Three Centuries of Marion Houses* shows the windows at that time as wood, 6/6 double-hung sash.

The front entrance is located off-centered within the porch. This entrance consists of a wood panel door with a Queen Anne-style window (large square pane surrounded by small panes) set in a surround with sidelights.

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. Pleasant Street had been in place since the early-19th century, leading to Converse Point (then referred to as Charles Neck), but no buildings are shown on an 1830 map. By the time the 1855 Walling Map had been prepared, however, a number of houses had been built at this northern end, including this one (Figures 1, 2).

According to the 1998 Marion Village Area Form (MRN.N), from the late-18th until the early 1900s, the northern section of Pleasant Street was essentially a Handy neighborhood with a number of dwellings in this area associated with this family. This house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map with the name "A. H. Handy." According to Somers *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*, Augustus H. Handy, carpenter, bought this land in 1853 and, together with Noah Handy built this house the following year.² That 1853 deed

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 Olive Hiller Somers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses* (Marion: Sippican Historical Society, 1972), 117. Deed research has not confirmed this.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

62 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AC	MRN.270
-------	---------

has not been found by this surveyor. There is an 1861 deed where Augustus Handy sold land on the west side of Pleasant Street, north of "my homestead." This would confirm that "A. H. Handy" is Augustus Handy, and this house was in place by 1855.

Augustus H. Handy (1818-1870) married Susan Nye Allen (1825-1898) in 1848. He was listed as a carpenter or house carpenter in Census records, so it is also likely accurate that he built this house. This house passed to their daughter, Priscilla H. Hadley (1849-1934). She had married to Peleg Blankinship Hadley (1848-1931) in 1877. According to census records, Peleg Hadley took over a Dry Goods and Groceries business (referring to Marion General Store, 140 Front Street, MRN.22) started by his father, Andrew J. Hadley. Peleg Hadley later established a poultry business. The many outbuildings shown on the 1921 map (Figure 4), may have been part of the poultry business. He also served as Town Auditor and as a selectman.

This house passed to Peleg and Priscilla's son, Augustus A. Hadley, his second wife Bertha, and their son, Charles. According to census records, Augustus A. Hadley (1878-1935) was a mail clerk for the railroad (1900 Census), engineer for the US Draining Co. (1920 Census), and postmaster (1930 Census). The house was sold out of the Handy-Hadley family in 1946.

After two short-term ownerships, this property was sold in 1949 to Annie-May and Benjamin Tilden of Marion.³ Mattapoissett-born Dr. Benjamin Tilden (1907-1994) received his medical degree from Tufts University in 1932. In 1933, he married Annie-May Costello (1906-1876), and opened an office in Marion. They also owned, and first lived in, 55 Main Street (MRN.253) from 1938 to 1951. Dr. Tilden was involved in the planning, construction and equipping of Tobey Hospital which opened in 1940. Among his volunteer efforts, he served on the Board of the Sippican Historical Society. He was living here on Pleasant Street when he died in 1994.

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.

1921, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1921.

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 AC, Upper Pleasant Street, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

Somers, Olive Hiller. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion: Sippican Historical Society, 1972.

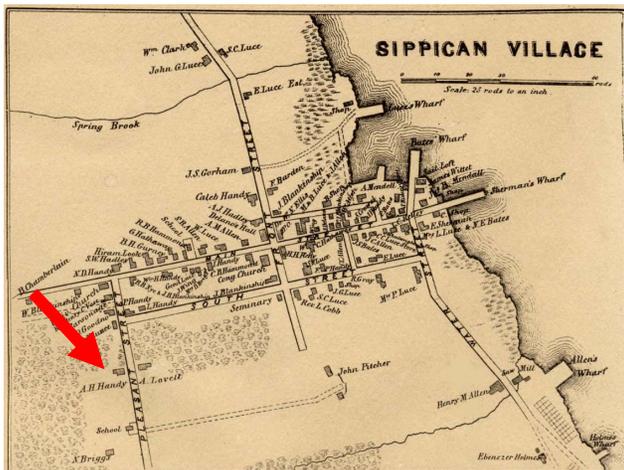


Figure 1. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map (arrow added).



Figure 2. Detail of 1855 Inset Map.

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2047/ Page 88.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

62 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AC	MRN.270
-------	---------

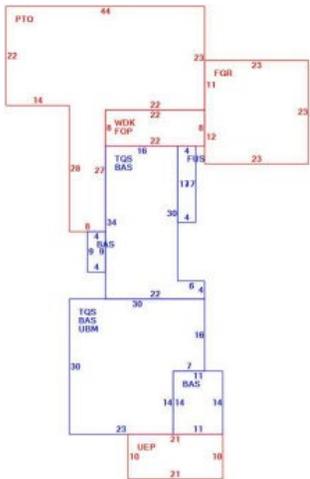


Figure 3. Assessor sketch.

Photo 2. View looking southwest.

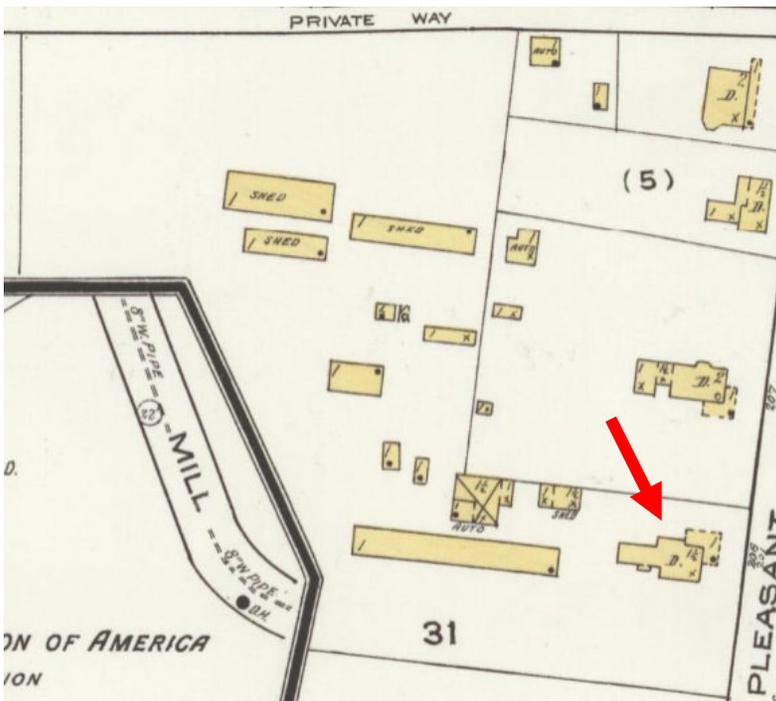


Figure 4. Detail of 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (arrow added).

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).