

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-63

Marion

N,
AC

MRN.271

Town/City: MARION

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

Photograph



Address: 68 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Zenas Eldridge House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1861

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles, wood clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Gable-front garage (ca. 1930)

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Addition (1991)

New porch (1997)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acres: 0.82 acres

Setting: This house is located on the west side of Pleasant Street, near the intersection with South 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 close to the street. The parcel around the house is landscaped with mature trees and shrubs in front of the house, and lawn and foundation plantings around the house. There is a low granite wall along the street, except in front of the house where there is a low picket fence. A gravel driveway leads along the north side of the parcel 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

68 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AC

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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 is partially obscured from the street by mature evergreen trees and shrubbery. House features and materials may not be accurately or fully described.)

This is a charming house, but it defies stylistic classification. The form of this house consists of a relatively narrow, rectangular two-story main block with a low-pitched hip roof. A porch wraps around the front left (southeast) corner of the main block. There is a two-story hexagonal bay on the right (north) elevation. There also appears to be one-story ells/additions on both side elevations.

The house rests, like most 19th century houses in the village, on a raised 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 box cornice. Hip-roofed dormers are centered on the front and both side elevations. Fenestration consists primarily of replacement 6/6 and 3/1 double-hung sash. The front dormer has what appears to be two original wood 4-paned sash. The porch roof is supported by Tuscan columns, and the front entrance component of the porch is enclosed with fixed, wood multi-paned windows that rest on clapboard half-walls, and the porch is surmounted by a pedimented roof.

A comparison of the Assessor sketch (Figure 1) to the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 2) shows the footprint of the house before rear additions and porches were added, possibly in the 1990s.

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 (Figure 3).

According to the 1998 Marion Village Area Form (MRN.N), from the late-18th until the early 1900s, this northern section of Pleasant Street was essentially a Handy neighborhood with a number of dwellings in this area associated with the Handy family. This house was built on land that Augustus H. Handy sold to Zenas E. Eldridge of Marion in February of 1861.² The land was a portion of his land north of his own house that he built in ca. 1853 (62 Pleasant Street, MRN.270). In May of 1861, Zenas Eldridge sold this property, now with reference to buildings.³ Unfortunately, no information has been discovered about Zenas Eldridge. He was listed as living in Marion in the 1861 deeds, but a search on Ancestry.com did not reveal anything. The next owner is also shrouded in

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 306/ Page 148.

³ PCRD Book 306/ Page 156.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

68 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, AC MRN.271

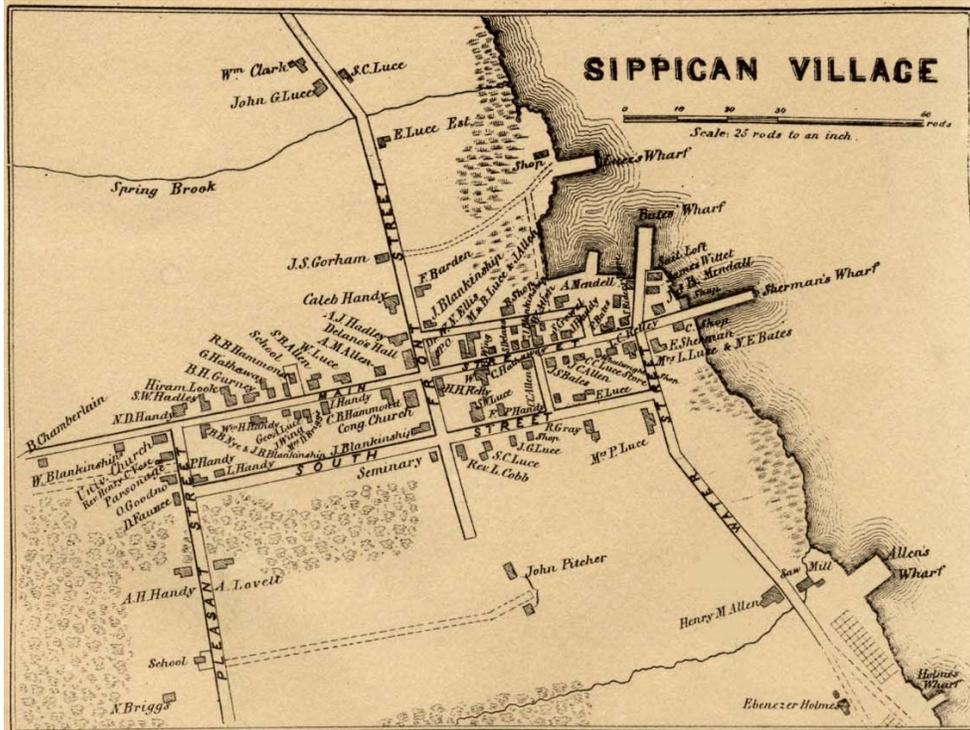


Figure 3. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



Figure 4. 1879 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).