

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-77A

Marion

N,
AC

MRN.275

Town/City: MARION

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

Address: 78 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Marion Universalist Church Parsonage

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1833

Source: Construction date of Universalist Church

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Seth Eaton, possibly

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

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:**

Acreage: 0.10 acres

Setting: This house is located on the west side of Pleasant Street, and also borders on Briggs Lane. 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 set on a rise very close to both Pleasant Street and Briggs Lane. There is a planting bed in front of the house with a low granite retaining wall. There is also a fence with granite posts and iron bars. A small gravel parking area is accessed from Briggs Lane behind the house.

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

78 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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, built in 1833, is one of two gable-front, Greek Revival-style houses along Pleasant Street, the other being the 1849 Lovell House, 61 Pleasant Street (MRN.269). 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. As employed here, the gable-front form itself was intended to evoke a temple, especially with the projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends and broad frieze boards below on the side elevations, and the corner pilasters (flat columns). The front door surround appears rebuilt, but is also typical of the style with the partial sidelights, and pilasters.

The form of this house consists of a 1½-story, gable-front main block and a one-story, offset rear ell. The building rests, like most 19th century houses in the village, on a raised, granite block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles. The front corners of the house have elegant pilasters with recessed panels. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally). Fenestration on the house consists primarily of modern, replacement 6/6 double-hung sash set in surrounds with projecting lintels. The 6/6 muntin pattern is typical for Greek Revival style houses. The south side elevation has a narrow window set into the broad frieze boards below the roof cornice, and there is a modern bay window below.

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 house (Figures 2, 3).

This house, built as the parsonage for the Universalist Church next door (80 Pleasant Street, MRN.49), is believed to have been built at the same time as the church, which was built in 1833. The 1998 Marion Village Area Form, MRN.N, provides the following summary of its history:

Built as the Universalist Parsonage in 1833, this Greek Revival cottage may have been designed by Seth Eaton of Mattapoisett, architect of the Marion Universalist Church. The first Universalist minister to reside here was Theodore K. Taylor. From 1866, until the late 1880s, Rev. Henry C. Vose lived here. He had served as minister of this church from 1841 until 1844 and from 1854 to 1857. By 1903, Rev. H. E. Roulliard lived here. Evidently, this dwelling ceased to serve as a parsonage around c. 1950 when the low enrollment of parishioners caused the Universalist Society to disband. During the late 1950s, the Universalist Church was adapted for reuse as the Marion Arts Center.

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.

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The Sippican Historical Society has a wonderful ca. 1895 photograph of the church and parsonage (Photo 2). According to deed research, the Massachusetts Universalist Convention sold the church and parsonage in 1956 to Dorothy H. and Andrew Patterson.² According to the Marion Art Center web site, the Pattersons bought this property in part so that the foreman of their plant could live in the parsonage. They recorded a subdivision of the property in 1958, and that same year sold the parsonage to Rick H. and Phyllis T. Luke of Marion.³

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 AC, Upper Pleasant Street, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

Tripp, Edmund H. *Reflections on a Town*. Marion: The Sippican Historical Society, 1991.

www.marionartcenter.org/history/



Photo 2. Ca. 1895 view of Universalist Church and parsonage, looking southwest from Main Street (SHS 2004.016.005).

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2507/ Page 79.

³ PCR, Cert. of Title 27246.

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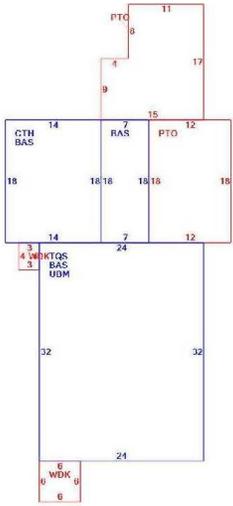


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.

Photo 3. View from Pleasant Street, looking southwest.



Photo 4. View from Briggs Lane, looking northeast.

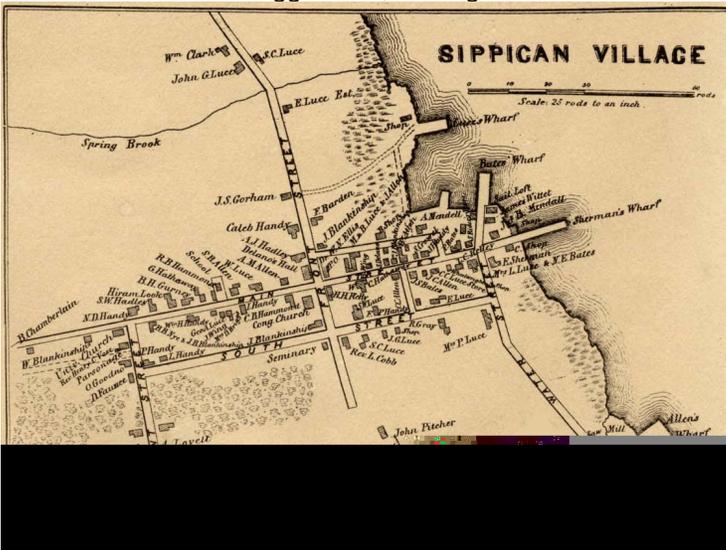


Figure 2. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.



Figure 3. Detail of 1855 Walling 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).