

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-48

Marion

N, Z

MRN.276

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

**Town/City:** MARION

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -  
Cottage Street (MRN.Z)

## Photograph



**Address:** 6 School Street

**Historic Name:** Levi and Ellen Wing House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1900

**Source:** Deed research, 1900 US Census, 1903 Atlas

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Two-story garage/outbuilding with lean-to roof (ca. 1900,  
Photo 2)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):\*

Two-story rear addition (1990)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.23 acres

**Setting:** This house is located on the west side of School Street. The surrounding area is lined with late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century houses. This house is set fairly close to the street on its level parcel. The property is landscaped with lawn, mature trees and foundation plantings. A concrete walkway leads to the front entrance, and a gravel driveway leads along the south side of the parcel to a garage in the rear.

## 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

6 SCHOOL 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 ca. 1900, can be characterized as a charming 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. The form of the house consists of a 2½-story, gable-front main block, with a shallow, stepped-down ell on the left (south) elevation. There is also a two-story rear addition built in 1990.

The building appears to rest on a fieldstone foundation. The house is mostly clad in wood shingles with no cornerboards (i.e. the shingles wrap the corners), except the bay within the front open porch that is clad in wood clapboards. There are courses of flared shingles with molded beltcourses that separate the first and second stories on the side and front elevations – a decorative feature often found on Queen Anne-style houses. The other prominent Queen Anne-inspired decorative feature here is the wood sunburst in the front gable peak. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally), and has a projecting, molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends and narrow frieze boards below.

The front elevation has an irregular arrangement of windows. Fenestration includes modern, replacement 2/1 and 2/2 windows. One of those muntin patterns may have been the original pattern. The offset front entrance consists of a paneled wood door with a large window set in a plain surround. An open porch spans the front and part of the left (south) elevation. The porch has unusual porch supports consisting of square posts and curvilinear support brackets.

A comparison of the Assessor sketch (Figure 1) with the footprint on the 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map (Figure 2) shows that the only alterations since 1908 are the extension of the rear ell across the rear elevation, and an addition at the back left corner of the house (likely done in ca. 1990).

The property includes a two-story garage/outbuilding with a lean-to roof. This outbuilding is not shown on the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 5), but may be the outbuilding shown on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 2).

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 3).

What would become School Street was referred to as a "passway leading... to Main Street" in an 1898 deed where the land on which this house was built was sold by William Handy to brothers Henry W. and Levi Wing.<sup>2</sup> The street was likely named after the

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 756/ Page 46.

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ca. 1830 school shown on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (Figure 4), that now sits at the corner of Main and School Streets (43 Main Street, MRN.245). This house was built by younger brother Levi Wing. Levi Wing (1864-1934) was listed in the 1900 US Census as a painter living in a rented house with his wife Ellen (d. 1929) and their son, Harry B. Wing (1887-1962).

By the time the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas had been prepared, School Street was in place, the school was gone, and this house had been built (Figure 5). The house passed to their son, Harry Wing. He was listed as a general contractor for Tabor Academy in the 1930 US Census and as a general contractor in the 1940 US Census. He sold the house out of the family in 1952, when he sold it to Joseph and Betty Wright of Marion.<sup>3</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

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.

1933, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933.

Ancestry.com – vital records.

Dempsey and Clemson. MHC Area Form Z, Cottage-School Streets, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds



Photo 2. View from School Street, looking northwest (outbuilding at left).

<sup>3</sup> PCRD, Book 2233/ Page 416.

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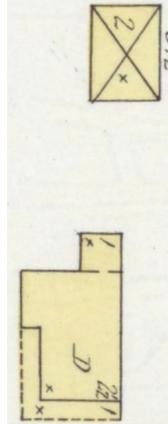
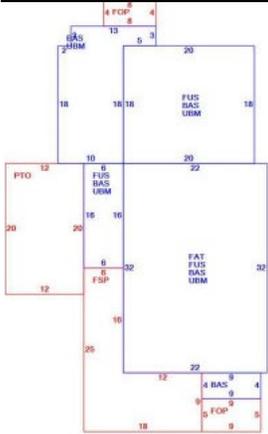


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch (porches, decks in red).

Figure 2. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map.



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



Figure 4. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow to site of future School Street added).



Figure 5. 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-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).