

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-56

Marion

N, Z

MRN.400

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: 9 School Street

Historic Name: Bessie M. and Clark B. Allen, Sr. House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1957, poss. ca. 1925

Source: Assessor records, deed research

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/ Gambrel

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete, concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage/apartment (Photo 4, 1948 Assessor date)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):*

Large addition (2020)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** ca. 1957 (possibly)

Acreage: 0.24 acres

Setting: This house is located on the east side of School Street. The surrounding area is lined with late-19th and early-20th century houses. This house is centered on its small level parcel. The property is landscaped with lawn. A gravel driveway loops in front of the house.

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

9 SCHOOL 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.

As can be seen from a 2012 Google photo (Photo 3), this Colonial Revival-style house consisted originally of the gable-front block on the right. It seems likely that the one-story portion that wraps around this block was originally an open or partially-open porch. In 2020, the large cross-gable addition was built, sensitive to the original design of the house.

The house now rests, in whole or part, on a concrete block and concrete foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingle with deeply-projecting, molded box cornices. A tall brick chimney rises up between two shed dormers on the right (south) side elevation. Fenestration consists primarily of modern, replacement 6/1 windows. That muntin pattern is appropriate for the Colonial Revival style. The feature which most directly connects this house to the Colonial Revival style is the gambrel roof form. All of the original doors and windows have been replaced (and the front door relocated), but there does appear to be one original window in the gable peak – a wood rectangular window with the starburst muntin pattern.

The property includes a 1½-story, gable-roofed cottage (Photo 4). This building has an Assessor date of 1948, but it may have been converted from the 1½-story shed shown on the 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map directly behind the Cottage Street house (Figure 1), that appears to have been relocated to the rear of this parcel by 1957 (see 1957 Plan, 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.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, including this house (Figure 3).

What would become School Street was referred to as a “passway leading... to Main Street” in an 1898 deed for 6 School Street (MRN.276). The street was likely named after the 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). By the time the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas was prepared, School Street was in place (Figure 5).

This house is located on land that was originally connected to 16 Cottage Street. The rear of that parcel, with an outbuilding, was subdivided as Lot 2 (this parcel) in a 1957 plan (Plan #16861B). That plan shows a building in this general location that may be this house (Figure 2). The house has an Assessor date of 1925. However, there is no house in this location on the 1933 Sanborn Insurance Map. There is an outbuilding shown behind the Cottage Street house but it is identified as a shed. If this house does date to ca. 1925, then it would have been moved to this location. If the house was built on this parcel, then it dates to post-1957. One clue that the building might have been moved here is its style. The original portion of the house, the modest 1½-story block with a pronounced gambrel roof (see Photo 3), was more commonly built in ca. 1925 than the late-1950s.

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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It was Viggo V. Petersen, of Petersen's Ice Cream fame, who recorded a certified plan of the land in 1938, a time when he acquired a number of parcels on Cottage Street. The Sippican Historical Society website has an article devoted to Viggo V. Petersen (1863-1941):

There's nothing like ice cream on a hot summer day, and in 1920's Marion, no one knew that better than Viggo V. Petersen. After immigrating to the U.S. from his native Denmark, Petersen worked as a chef for the family of Harry E. Converse at The Moorings. When the house was torn down and Petersen's services were no longer needed, the Converse family gave him the equipment for making ice cream, and a business was born. Petersen opened his ice cream parlor in the carriage house/barn next to 9 Cottage Street in 1921, making what became known locally as New England's best home-made ice cream.

In 1946, Viggo Petersen's widow, Gertina, and their children, sold this property (still both 16 Cottage Street and the land that would become 9 Cottage Street) to Clark B. and Bessie M. Allen of Marion.² It was the Allens who recorded a subdivision in 1957, creating 9 School Street (Figure 2). Clark B. Allen, Sr. (1893-1977) was an executive for the National Fireworks Company in Rockland, MA. This house was first sold on its own in 1959 to Sheldon Friedland of New Bedford.³

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: see footnotes.

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

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

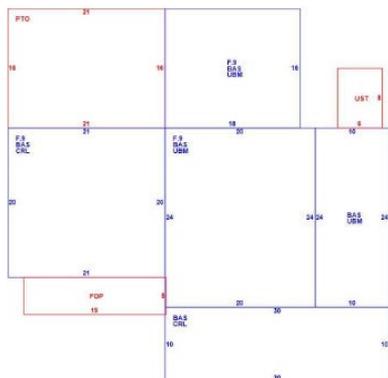


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch (decks, porches in red).



Photo 2. View from School Street, looking east.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Cert. of Title 10984.

³ PCR, Cert. of Title 26578.

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Photo 3. 2012 view from School Street, looking east.



Photo 4. View of garage/apartment, looking northwest.

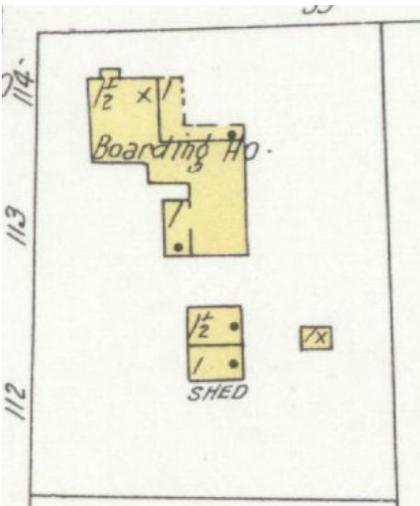


Figure 1. Detail of 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

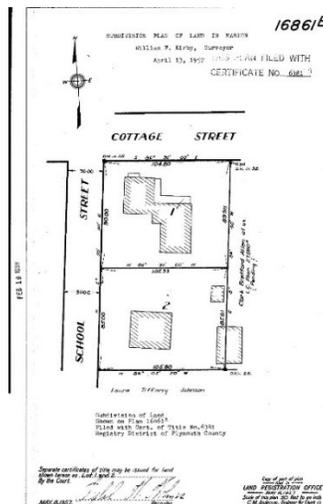


Figure 2. 1957 Subdivision Plan, Plan 16861 B.



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 (circle 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).