

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-153

Marion

N,
AB

MRN.403

Town/City: MARION

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -
South Street (MRN.AB)

Photograph



Address: 17 South Street

Historic Name: George and Amelia Angier House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1939

Source: Sippican Historical Society records

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/ Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Red brick, wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Wood shake shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two-car garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

None on record.

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.26 acres

Setting: This house is located at the eastern end of South Street. The surrounding area is densely-built with 19th and early-20th century houses, most set fairly close to the street on small parcels. The front yard of this house is secured by a fence with granite posts and wood rails, and landscaped with lawn and foundation plantings. An asphalt driveway leads along the east side of the house to an attached two-car 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

17 SOUTH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

Before this house was built in 1939, this broad parcel was vacant except for a large barn/garage (Photo 3). The house is a number of things: an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style; an unusual example of a Full Cape (which is a *form*, not a *style*); and a rare example of a brick-built house in Marion Village. The Colonial Revival style began in the late-19th century with a new interest in the country's own architecture of the Colonial-era and early Republic, and was a style that remained popular well into the 20th century.

This 1½-story, side-gable house is five bays wide with a centered entrance typical of the Full Cape form, but with an unusually attenuated height created by a very steeply-pitched roof. This roof design was inspired by the Aptuxet Trading Post in Bourne (Photo 5, and see Historical Narrative below). The elevations, as noted above, are clad in red brick. Unusual for a Colonial Revival-style house, the red brick walls have no ornamentation, i.e. no cornerboards, or use of bricks to ornament window surrounds. The feature that most expresses the Colonial Revival style is the exuberant front entrance. The surround is inspired by the Federal style, with its full double-sidelights, pilasters (flat columns), elegant louvered fanlight and molded lintel.

The tall roof is clad in wood shake shingles, and an exterior brick chimney rises up the left (west) side elevation. Three shed dormers are evenly ranked across the front elevation. Fenestration consists primarily of 6/6 double-hung sash set in plain surrounds. The windows are modern replacements, but the original would likely have had the same muntin pattern.

As can be seen from Photo 2 and the Assessor sketch (Figure 1), there is a large rear ell that connects to a two-bay garage. Based on the photo taken during construction (Photo 4), it is unclear if the two-car garage was built at that same time. It looks like there was a taller garage with a rounded opening originally. The elevations on these components of the house are clad in wood shingles.

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, maritime-related development accelerated into the early-1800s, as happened in so 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 development was initially concentrated along Main Street, and the harbor became the site for maritime-related utilitarian buildings and wharfs. On an 1830 state road map of Rochester, only Front, Main and Pleasant Streets were in place. Based on deed research, South Street was not laid out until ca. 1836. By the time the 1855 Walling Map was prepared, Main Street from the harbor west to Pleasant Street was the most densely developed street in the village, but there was also substantial residential development along the eastern block of South Street (Figure 2).

Sippican Historical Society records provide a history of this house's provenance. As noted below, prior to this house being built, there was a large barn/garage on this property (Photo 3). According to a 1938 hand-written note in Sippican Historical Society's archives:

The old barn located on South Street was built by Charles Cole Allen nearly a century ago, he was a cooper by trade, and also a farmer, the barn was built out of some of the boards and timber from some of the old "salt works," an important and thriving industry in the early part of the 19th century, that was being torned [sic] down at the time, and so he bought the

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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timbers and boards and so built the barn out of them. The barn was torn down during the days of Saturday, November 11-13-14th, 1938 to make way for a house that is going to be built for a Mrs. George Angier on the south half of the property that Mr. Allen once owned, while his daughter Mrs. Henrietta M. Cobb, now in her 92nd year, lives in the old homestead on the north half that faces Main Street.

The story is continued in an article entitled "Marion Homes Lost in Flood Being Rebuilt," dated April 11, 1939 (referring to damage from the devastating September 1938 hurricane):

Mrs. George M. Angier of Waban and Marion is building a permanent home, a nine room cottage with four baths, one large unfinished room, and a two-car garage. The structure is Dutch Colonial and partly English Colonial, the sharp pitched roof being a replica of the Aptuxet Trading Post, with exterior antique brick. Located in South Street, it is being built by the Howard W. Marshall Company for approximately \$25,000, with all modern improvements.

The article included a photo of the house under construction (Photo 4). Also attached here is a photo of the Aptuxet Trading Post in Bourne (Photo 5). As noted in the article, this house was built in 1939 by "Mrs. George M. Angier" – referring to Scotland-born Amelia Gill (1870-1944) who had married Missouri-born George Angier (1867-1926) in Boston in 1896. Her husband was listed as an owner of a chemical manufactory. They had two children, Albert and Donald. Albert Angier was killed in France during World War I. This house passed to their other son, Daniel Angier. In 1973, the estate of Daniel Angier sold this house out of the family.² Amelia Angier had also purchased 25 South Street (MRN.286) in 1938 and that house also passed to her son.

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.

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

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Dempsey, Claire. MHC Area Form AB, South Street, 2021.

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Sippican Historical Society Collections.

Smith, Pete, ed., *A Picture Post Card History of Marion, Massachusetts*. Sippican Historical and Preservation Society, 2007.

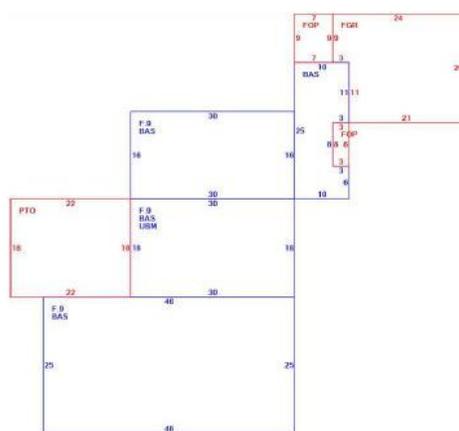


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View from South Street, looking northwest.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Cert. of Title 52104.

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Photo 3. View of barn, Nov. 8, 1938 (2016.048.026).



Photo 4. 1939 view from South Street, looking northwest (SHS 2003.010.016).



Photo 5. Aptuxet Trading Post (<https://capecodwave.com/aptuxet-trading-post-bourne-slideshow/>).



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

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).