

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-70	Marion	N, AB	MRN.296
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**Town/City:** MARION

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 48 South Street

**Historic Name:** Edith Austin House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1902

**Source:** Deed research, 1903 Atlas

**Style/Form:** Shingle style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Three-bay garage (early-20<sup>th</sup> c., rehabbed, Photo 2)

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

None on record.

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.38 acres

**Setting:** This parcel is located at the west end of South Street. The surrounding area includes late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century houses, most set fairly close to the street on small lots. This house is centered on its parcel. An asphalt driveway leads to a three-car garage. The front yard is landscaped with lawn and foundation plantings.

## 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

48 SOUTH 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.*

This commodious house, built in ca. 1902, is an example of summer-colony development at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is a good example of the Shingle style. The Shingle style, popular from ca. 1880-1910, was uniquely American, combining Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque and Colonial Revival forms and details. The complex forms were wrapped in wood shingles (hence the style name). This house rests, like most 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century houses in Marion Village, on a raised rough-cut granite and fieldstone foundation. The elevations, as the style suggests, are clad in wood shingles that wrap the corners (i.e. no cornerboards). The roof is clad in asphalt shingles but would also have been clad in wood shingles originally.

The form of the house consists of a 1½-story rectangular, side-gable block with a high gambrel, side-gable roof, and a prominent, centered, gambrel-roofed bay on the front elevation. Below this centered bay, the roof extends forward creating an open entry porch that is supported by square columns that rest on shingled half walls. Shed dormers flank either side of the central bay. The main gambrel roof has a complex, layered box cornice which includes console brackets on either side of the centered bay.

Fenestration consists primarily of replacement 1/1 windows set in molded surrounds. The three-part window system above the entrance has a surround with unusual pilasters (flat columns). Above this window system is small, deeply-recessed window, the inward-curved surround of which is clad in wood shingles (very characteristic of the Shingle style).

What may have begun as an early-20<sup>th</sup> century garage/shed appears to have been moved and largely rebuilt into the current three-bay garage (Photo 2, Figure 3).

## 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.<sup>1</sup> Residential development was initially concentrated along Main Street, and the harbor became the site for maritime-related utilitarian buildings and wharfs. 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. There was also substantial residential development along the eastern block of South Street, but this western block was not yet in place. By the time the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas was prepared, this block was labelled as "(contemplated)" with some development near the intersections with Front and Pleasant Streets (Figure 2). By the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, a substantial number of houses (and a fire station) had been built along this western block of South Street, including this house (Figure 3).

Much of the land on this side of South Street was owned by James T. Wittet in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. James T. Wittet (1833-1908) was a sailmaker, and son of sailmaker James Wittet (1799-1872) who lived and worked at what is now 1 Main Street (MRN.218). James T. Wittet himself bought land on the north side of South Street and built the ca. 1899 house at 47 South Street (MRN.295), likely as a rental property. He was listed in the 1903 and 1907 Rochester Directories living on Front Street.

<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.

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Wittet sold the land on which this house was built in 1901 to Edith Austin of Boston.<sup>2</sup> The house was in place by the time the 1903 Plymouth County Atlas was prepared. Edith Austin (b. 1877) was the youngest daughter of James Walker Austin (1829-1895). A graduate of Harvard College and Law School, James Austin moved to Hawaii in 1852, where he rose to be one of the most prominent lawyers in the Kingdom, was a member of its parliament, and was appointed to its supreme court. In 1885, he built the large summer cottage at 75 Water Street (MRN.171).

It is not clear if, or for how long, Edith Austin lived in this South Street house. There is no record of her living in Marion as of the 1910 US Census. In the 1920 Census, Edith was listed living with her much older brother and four servants on Water Street in a house valued at \$50,000 (presumably their father's house). In the 1930 Census, she was living alone in that house. Next door was England-born James Mouse (1889-1957), living in a rented house and working as a chauffeur for a private family. The rental house was likely on the Austin property, and the private family he worked for was likely Edith Austin. In 1938, she sold the house on South Street, for unspecified consideration, to Mouse.<sup>3</sup> Mouse appears to have used this house as a rental property – he was listed living next to Edith Austin on Water Street, still working as a chauffeur, in the 1940 and 1950 US Census. Mouse owned this house until 1945.<sup>4</sup>

Mouse sold the house in 1945 to D. Stuart and Madeleine McIntyre of Marion.<sup>5</sup> Provincetown-born D. Stuart McIntyre (1905-1970) was listed as a civil engineer in census records. In 1968, the McIntyres sold this house to Roger S. and Constance M. Walen of Marion.<sup>6</sup> Roger Walen (d. 2012) was an electrical engineer with Lincoln Labs, Woods Hole Oceanographic, PAVE PAWS and Thompson Engineering. He also played trumpet with the New Bedford Symphony in the 1970s. This house stayed in the Walen family until 2014.

## 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.

1908, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908.

Ancestry.com – Vital records.

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

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

<https://imagesofoldhawaii.com/james-walker-austin/>

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

[www.currentobituary.com/obit/118301](http://www.currentobituary.com/obit/118301) (Roger S. Walen obituary).

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 828/ Page 362.

<sup>3</sup> PCRD, Book 1750/ Page 448.

<sup>4</sup> PCRD, Book 1895/ Page 344.

<sup>5</sup> PCRD, Book 1895/ Page 344.

<sup>6</sup> PCRD, Book 3453/ Page 484.





**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).