

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-79

Marion

N,
AB

MRN.301

Town/City: MARION

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

Address: 59 South Street

Historic Name: Leonard and Sally Delano House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1832-1855]

Source: Vital records, deed research, 1855 Walling Map

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ Leonard Handy

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two-bay, side-gable garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Addition (1999)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.30 acres

Setting: This parcel is located at the west end of South Street, near the intersection with Pleasant Street. The surrounding area includes late-19th and early-20th century houses, most set fairly close to the street on small lots. A clamshell driveway leads to a detached garage behind the house. The front yard is landscaped with a wood picket fence, lawn and foundation plantings.

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

59 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.

This house has an Assessor date of 1790, but architecturally can be classified as an example of a Greek Revival-style, side-gable, center entrance cottage, built in the early- or mid-19th century. 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. The form of this house consists of a 1½-story, side-gable main block, with a shallow enclosed porch on the right (east) side elevation (added in the early 20th c.), and an angled addition built in 1999.

The original house rests, like most 19th century houses in Marion Village, on a rough-cut granite block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (wood shingles originally), and has a molded cornice with two-part frieze boards across part of the front elevation (a Greek Revival detail). Tall, parged chimneys rise from both edges of the main roof ridge.

A broad wall dormer spans the front elevation, and appears to span the rear elevation. Fenestration includes wood 6/6 windows in flat surrounds, and wood diamond-paned sash on the second story that add a degree of whimsy. A small, enclosed entry porch is centered on the front elevation. This entry has a hip roof and a wood panel door set in a surround with partial sidelights, cornerboards, and a two-part lintel above.

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. 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 3). By the early-20th century, however, a substantial number of houses (and a fire station) had been built along this western block of South Street.

According to the Wharf Village Area Form (MRN.N), this house dates to ca. 1790, and was one of a number of houses in the Handy family. Based on title research, and the form of the house (see Architectural Description above), that construction date does not appear to be accurate. This house appears to have been built sometime between 1832 and 1855.

This house was built on land that Elisha Luce sold to Stephen Delano. Elisha Luce (1786-1850) was the son of Rowland and Elizabeth Luce. Maj. Rowland Luce (1756-1835) married Elizabeth Clark (1762-1833) in Marion in 1778, and they went on to have ten children. In 1779, Elizabeth's mother, Thankful Clark (1734-1812), sold Rowland Luce over 35 acres of land for 2,000 pounds, including 5 acres in Marion Village.² Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on

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.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 60/ Page 80.

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the development of the village. Elisha Luce (1786-1850) was one of the "Two Captains" who lived at 2 Main Street (MRN.220). It is possible that this land had been inherited from his father, the 1859 deed referred to adjacent land as being held by heirs of Rowland Luce.

Unfortunately, the deed wherein Luce sold this land to Stephen Delano has not yet been located. Stephen Delano, Jr. (1785-1858) was listed as a "sailor – water transportation" in the 1850 Census (the first census to list occupations). He had married Sally Haskell (1785-1840) in Marion in 1807. In 1859, his estate sold this property, with reference to buildings, to William H. Handy.³ This is the deed that states that the Delano had acquired this land from Elisha Luce (without a specific deed reference).

A month later, Handy sold this property to David P. Hiller of Mattapoisett.⁴ That deed states that the property was "now occupied" by Leonard Handy. Indeed, the house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map with the name "L. Handy" (Figure 2). David Hiller clearly bought this property as an investment. Leonard Handy was still living here as of 1865, when Hiller sold him the property.⁵ This deed was not actually recorded until 1892. Recorded at the same time was an 1864 deed from David Hiller to Leonard Handy for a strip of land next to the house. In that deed, the strip of land was described as "being near the house that said Leonard Handy built & now occupies."⁶

Leonard Handy (1806-1890) had married Bethiah Randall (1809-1879) in 1832. The questions are, when did Leonard Handy build this house, and what was the arrangement with the property owner at the time since he did not yet own the land? Presumably, the house was built by Handy while this land was owned by Stephen Delano (since the 1859 deeds reference Handy living here). Most likely, Handy would have built this house sometime after his marriage in 1832 and certainly before 1855 when his name is shown here on the 1855 Walling Map (Figure 2). They went on to have four children, Sarah H., Anna, William H. and Joseph L. Handy. Leonard Handy was listed as a laborer in all census records except the 1870 Census where he was listed as a wood sawyer.

In describing the house next store at 73 Pleasant Street (MRN.273), the 1998 Marion Village Area Form (MRN.N) stated that, "From the late-18th until the early 1900s, Pleasant Street north of Pitcher was essentially a Handy neighborhood with a number of dwellings in this area associated with this family." That house is dated to 1790 as well, and has a form more suitable for that construction date.

In 1922, the heirs of Leonard Handy sold this house at public auction to Aruna B. Crowell of New Bedford, and Crowell immediately sold it to Mary A. Baker of Marion.⁷ Mary Baker was living here alone at the age of 97 according to the 1940 US Census, yet it was not until 1948 that she sold this house. She sold it to Leila B. Sherman of Marion.⁸ Leila's husband, Erland Joseph Sherman, Sr., was listed in the 1950 US Census as a proprietor of a technical school. The next year, they lost this house through foreclosure deed to the Wareham Co-operative Bank.⁹

The bank sold it in 1955 to Paul Lipsitt of Marion, and it then passed back and forth between him and his father, Joseph Lipsitt. The two of them, plus two of Paul's brothers, founded the *Sippican Compass*, reportedly the first newspaper in Marion. Joseph Lipsitt was a newspaper man and had become city editor for the *New Bedford Times*.¹⁰ This house remained in the Lipsitt family until 1973. The Lipsitt family also owned 13 South Street (MRN.282) from 1938-1983, and 38 South Street (MRN.289) from 1946-2000.

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.

³ PCRD, Book 300/ Page 212.

⁴ PCRD, Book 497/ Page 273.

⁵ PCRD, Book 625/ Page 468.

⁶ PCRD, Book 625/ Page 467

⁷ PCRD, Book 1416/ Page 449, Book 1421/ Page 347.

⁸ PCRD, Book 2076/ Page 31.

⁹ PCRD, Book 2136/ Page 379.

¹⁰ <https://sippican.theweektoday.com/article/brothers-reminisce-about-creating-first-newspaper-marion/3713>.

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Ancestry.com – Vital records.

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

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

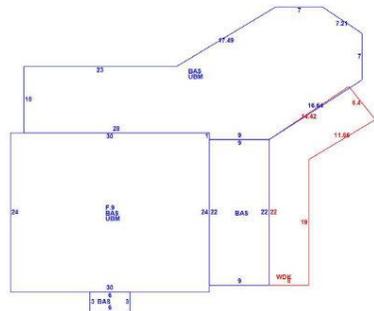


Figure 1. Marion Assessor Sketch.

Photo 2. View from South Street, looking northwest.

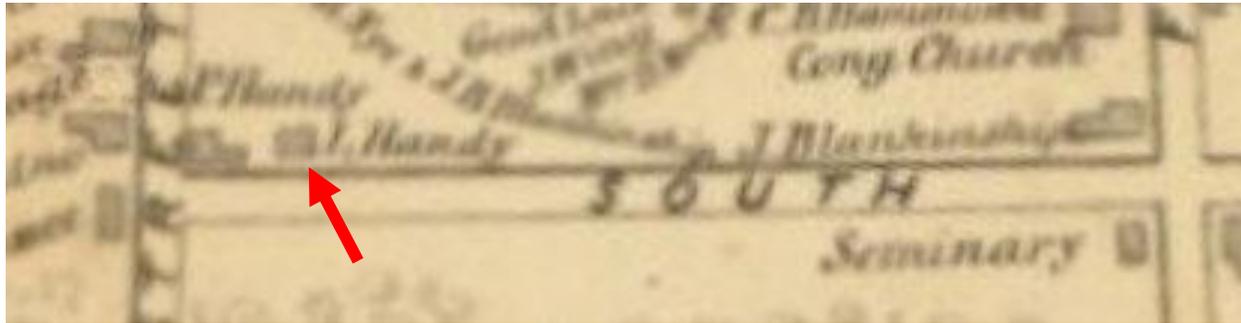


Figure 2. Detail of 1855 Walling Map of Marion (arrow added).



Figure 3. Detail of 1879 Plymouth County Atlas.

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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).