

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-19	Marion	MRN.H	MRN.114
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**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:**(neighborhood or village): Marion Village / Old Depot

**Address:** 362 Front Street (Formerly 360)

**Historic Name:** Hezekiah Coleman House

**Uses:** Present: Mixed Residential / Commercial

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** 1865-1879

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** Stick Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Cottage (1981)

**Major Alterations** (with dates):

Replacement windows (2018)

Rear addition (21<sup>st</sup> century)

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.41

**Setting:** Small, primarily residential neighborhood developed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Housing stock represents a range of styles including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival. Surrounded mostly by moderately-sized, wood-frame, single-family houses on small to medium-sized lots.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (month / year): July 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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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.*

**360 Front Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot spanning the triangle between Front and Spring Streets. It is roughly centered on the parcel and faces east. The property is maintained in lawn at the façade (east elevation) and in lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees at the western (rear) half. The house is surrounded by sparse foundation plantings. A paved driveway enters the property from Front Street along the north elevation of the house and ends at a small cottage sited near the northern property line. A parking area entering from Front Street runs along the south elevation of the house; behind the building it joins a large cleared area currently used for boat storage. The lawn is bordered by a low granite retaining wall where it meets the parking area.

The building comprises an asymmetrically massed, one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with a steeply pitched intersecting hipped roof. A single addition at the rear comprises one- and two-story components. Constructed between 1865 and 1879, it retains the majority of its original character-defining features and is an example of the Stick Style, which is infrequently seen in Marion. A shallow hip-roofed porch spans the façade (east elevation) and partially wraps the north elevation. The house rests on a granite block foundation and is clad in painted wood shingles finished with contrasting wood trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the main block.

The main block is trimmed with narrow corner boards and patterns of applied vertical and horizontal stickwork. Rectangular stickwork panels under the deep eaves and at the dormers frame areas of contrasting fish scale shingles. The projecting cross gable at the northernmost bay contains a hipped wall dormer with narrow mulled windows and scroll brackets at the cornice. A smaller gabled wall dormer to its left is surmounted by a jerkin head gable. Both dormers are edged with sawtooth fringe. Hipped one-bay wall dormers occupy the north and south roof slopes. Fenestration at the first story at the façade comprises double and tripartite double-hung one-over-one windows with flat surrounds flanking the main entry. Windows at the side elevations are double-hung, one-over-one sash with flat surrounds. The one-one-one windows replaced two-over-two windows seen in the photograph of the house on the 1998 MHC Area Form H for Old Depot.

The four-panel wood door is framed by a narrow, molded surround and a transom. The door fronts a four-step wooden stair and a brick walkway leading to the sidewalk; a second brick walkway and four-step stair approaches the porch at its south end from the parking area. The porch has narrow rectangular replacement posts and a spindlework railing; the porch floor has been modified on the north side to serve as a handicapped access ramp. Matching hip-roofed dormers with stickwork trim and scroll brackets occupy the north and south roof slopes.

The rear addition, which contains two apartment units, comprises a shallow, one-story cross-gabled block topped by with a small second-story block. A side-gabled, one-story wood-shingled cottage built in 1981 is sited at the northern property line.

362 Front Street is an excellent example of the Stick Style. Inspired by medieval English building traditions, the Stick Style provided a transition from the Gothic Revival to the Queen Anne styles. Houses in the Stick Style are characterized by steeply pitched gable roofs with cross gables, decorative wood trusses in the gable apexes, overhanging eaves with rafter tails, and patterns of horizontal, vertical and diagonal boards (stickwork) applied to the wall surface. Employed in the United States from 1860 to 1890, the style was broadly disseminated in house pattern books of the time. The Stick Style features seen in this house include the steeply pitched roof and cross gable, deep eaves, decorative treatment at the dormers, and the applied stickwork.

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## 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.*

The town of Marion was established in 1852 when it broke off from the town of Rochester. The Old Depot area of Marion (MRN.H) is named for the building which housed Marion's first rail station. It was the location of the Marion stop on the Fairhaven Branch of the Cape Cod Railroad which brought rail service to the town in 1854. Located in the northern section of Marion Village (Old Landing), the area's residences are located in or around the triangle formed by the intersection of Wareham Road, Spring Street, and Front Street. The 1855 map shows this section of town with very few buildings — the train station, a school, and a lone house. The advent of rail service to Marion sparked the town's growth as a desirable vacation destination for well-to-do city dwellers from Boston and New York. A coach service carried passengers arriving at the station to various hotels or cottages located in Sippican Village.

As rail service expanded, the 1855 depot was replaced by a larger building. The depot was sold to the prominent Front Street resident, Captain George Delano Allen (1843-1916) who lived in the grand Greek Revival/Italianate "hybrid" style house at 357 Front Street (ca.1860, Capt. George D. Allen House, MRN.113). Allen moved the old depot building approximately 150 feet to a site on his large estate. This area came to be known as Allen's Corners after the enterprising seaman who converted the old depot building into a combination store and pool hall. Near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Allen subdivided his property to create building sites for several smaller houses along Front Street. By 1903, there was a cluster of houses in this area supported by several stores. Today, a number of the historic resources in the area are used for commercial or mixed-use purposes.

This house does not appear on the 1855 map. It is seen on 1879 map with H. Coleman as the owner and on the 1903 map with D. Sisson, Est. as the owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale of an approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre parcel of land by Jirah Clifton to Hezekiah Coleman in 1864 for \$84. No mention of buildings was made in the property description. The property was sold again in 1883 by the widow of Hezekiah Coleman, Priscilla Coleman, to William H. Handy for \$2,000 with "the buildings thereon." Given the apparent age of this Queen Anne/Stick Style house and the selling price in 1883, it is therefore probable that it was built sometime between 1865 and 1879 by or for Hezekiah Coleman. Until 1876 Hezekiah Coleman owned the house across the street at 357 Front Street (ca.1860, Capt. George D. Allen House, MRN.113).

Hezekiah Coleman (1805-1881) was married to Priscilla Delano Dexter (1807-1896) of Rochester, the daughter of Benjamin & Ruth Delano Dexter. Census records show Priscilla and Hezekiah living in New Bedford in 1850 and 1860, but by 1865 they had moved to Marion when the Massachusetts census of that year shows his occupation a carver. His occupation in later censuses was noted as house painter. Priscilla Coleman sold the house in 1883 to William H. Handy, who sold it two years later to Joseph S. Sisson and David Sisson.

David Sisson (1812-1886) was born in Westport and was married to Almira Smith (1811-1899). Census reporting shows his occupation as a farmer. Joseph Smith Sisson (1850-1900), one of the couple's sons, was married to Sarah Elizabeth Tripp (1855-1905). David Sisson died three years after this purchase, but it can be assumed that his wife Almira continued to live in the house until her death in 1899. The property, which was referred to in her will as the "Coleman place," was divided equally among her surviving children. In 1890 Joseph S. Sisson sold his one-half interest in the property to his sister Sarah and brother-in-law Robert H. Luce. In 1911 another of the Sisson daughters, Emily Sisson Martin (1845-1918), sold her one-fourth interest in the property to Sarah (1855-1937) and Robert Luce (1854-1914), who now owned the property in its entirety. Census reports indicated that the Luces lived in New Bedford, so it is likely that this house had become a rental property. Sarah Luce took out a mortgage on the property with the Wareham Savings Bank that was foreclosed in 1937, the year of her death. The house and land were sold that year to James B. Winifred Cushing who owned it until 1974.

Today the building is mixed use with two businesses and two rental apartments.

## Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
03-02-2020	52590-8	KEB Realty, LLC	Kai Srisrikul
10-13-2009	37853-168	Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC	KEB Realty, LLC

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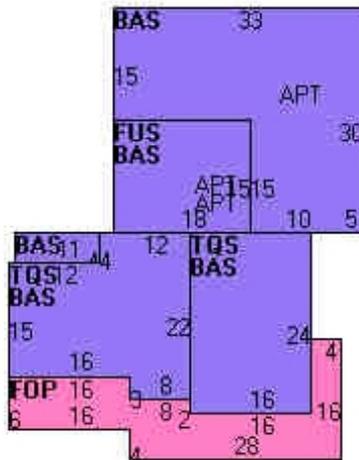
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09-25-2009	37747-206	Bayview Financial Small Business Funding, LLC	Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
05-18-2007	34567-149	Home Port Nominee Trust	Bayview Financial Small Business Funding, LLC
11-27-2002	23540-263	Christopher W. Dawson	Home Port Nominee Trust
08-16-2001	20388-64	C. Elyse Leonard	Christopher W. Dawson
01-11-2000	18205-148	Guillermo Gonzalez	C. Elyse Leonard
08-03-1998	16468-98	Sippican Harbor Realty Trust	Guillermo Gonzalez & C. Elyse Leonard
05-08-1986	6756-204	Eugene R. & Phyllis T. Forant	Sippican Harbor Realty Trust
09-24-1974	4021-429	Winifred A. Cushing	Eugene R. & Phyllis T. Forant
11-20-1937	1738-276	Wareham Savings Bank	James B. & Winifred A. Cushing
11-17-1937	1736-505	Sarah S. Luce (Foreclosure)	Wareham Savings Bank
07-05-1930	1595-224	Sarah S. Luce (Mortgage)	Wareham Savings Bank
Probate		Robert H. Luce	Sarah S. Luce
05-06-1911	1080-367	Emily F. Martin (1/4 <sup>th</sup> Interest)	Robert H. Luce
Probate		Almira Sisson	Emily F. Martin (1/4 <sup>th</sup> Interest)
09-05-1885	522-214	William W. Handy & Judah Hathaway	Joseph S. Sisson & David Sisson
04-03-1883	492-525	Priscilla Coleman	William W. Handy
05-07-1864	323-13	Jirah Clifton	Hezekiah Coleman

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories  
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*Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855* H.F. Walling  
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 Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.  
 Plymouth County Registry of Deeds  
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.  
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.  
 Scully, Vincent J., Jr. *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style*, revised edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971.  
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Assessor's card plan

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ Lynn Smiledge \_\_\_\_\_

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This house is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for the Old Depot Area of Marion Village. The Old Depot Area (MRN.H) is recommended as eligible for listing as a National Register District at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. Old Depot is an area of mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century residences on and around a triangle of land formed by Spring Street, Front Street, and Wareham Road (Route 6). It is named for the building at the apex of the triangle, Marion's first rail station. The area has significant historical associations with transportation improvements in Marion, including the introduction of the Fairhaven Branch of the Cape Cod Railroad and the New Bedford and Onset Street Railway lines during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, respectively. The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 MHC survey for the Old Depot Area (MRN.H).

**Under Criterion A**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with transportation advances in Marion, including the arrival of rail service in 1854 and the building of a rail station now at 381 Front Street (1855, Old Depot, MRN.120). The advent of rail service sparked the town's growth as a desirable vacation destination for well-to-do city dwellers from Boston and New York and had significant impact on the community's economy.

**Under Criterion C**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level in the area of Architecture for its nearly intact collection of houses that provides a sense of the progression of architectural styles from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Old Depot Area contains a range of small- to large-scaled one-and-one-half to two-story wood-frame dwellings that represent the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. Several of these houses have been converted to commercial use.

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