

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

11-63

Marion

MRN.H

MRN.556

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 369 Front Street

Historic Name: Lester Look House

Uses: Present: Commercial

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca.1920

Source: Deed research, visual analysis

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None apparent

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

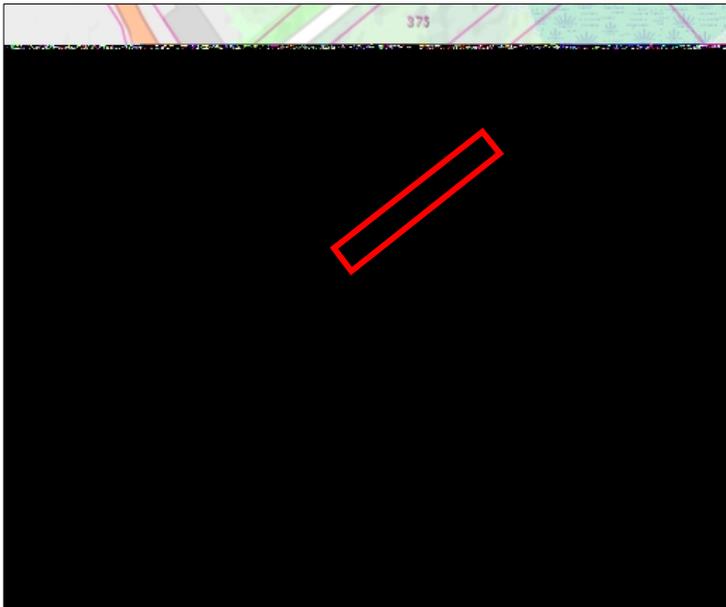
Acreage: 0.15

Setting: Small, primarily residential neighborhood developed in the mid-19th – early 20th 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

369 Front Street

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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.

369 Front Street occupies an extremely narrow rectangular parcel on the north side of Front Street. The house is positioned close to the street in the western quarter of the parcel and faces west. The property is otherwise heavily vegetated with shrubs and mature trees. A paved parking area entering from Front Street spans the façade. A wooden stockade fence borders the northern property line.

The building is a 600 square-foot, one-story, two-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled wood-frame cottage with a rectangular plan. The west slope of the gullwing roof shelters a full-width open porch at the facade. Constructed ca. 1920, it reflects no particular architectural style. The house rests on a cinder block foundation. It is clad in weathered wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof.

Trim is limited to a deep box cornice. Openings at the facade comprise a double-hung one-over-one window with a flat surround and blinds and an entry with a contemporary glass-and-panel door. The windows at the side elevations comprise single double-hung sash with flat surrounds and a shallow bay window on the south elevation containing paired double-hung sash. The full-width porch is supported by narrow rectangular posts and is spanned by a three-step wooden stair.

369 Front Street is a modest dwelling whose form resembles the traditional hall-and-parlor folk house seen in the second half of the 19th century in the American South.

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 20th century Allen subdivided his property to create building sites for several smaller houses along Front Street, including this modest subject house. 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 property does not appear on any of the historic Marion maps. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale of a parcel of land in 1916 by the heirs of George D. Allen to Amos C. Delano. Captain George Delano Allen (1843-1916) was the son of carpenter John Delano Allen (1815-1904) and Sarah Hathaway Allen. According to the 1860 census George was

Continuation sheet 1

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at sea at by the age of 16 and was a ship's master by the time he was 25, when he married Magdalena Delano (1850-1905). After his death in 1916, his children subdivided the estate, selling a portion to Amos Delano who immediately sold it to Lester L. Look. That deed made no mention of a building, but the deed conveying the property when it was sold by Look specified the inclusion of a building. Lester Look (1894-1963) was born in Oak Bluffs, Martha Vineyard, the son of Thomas and Nellie Look. A house carpenter, Thomas Look may have worked on the well-known "gingerbread" cottages at Oak Bluffs, a town that has been an historically important center of African American culture since the eighteenth century. Lester Look lived in Fairhaven for a number of years and worked as an automobile salesman in New Bedford. It seems probable that the house was built during Look's ownership, perhaps by his father.

This house has seen a number of owners since it was built ca. 1920. The longest owner was Stella Kirby Tripp (1879-1974), daughter of Theodore J. Tripp (1844-1930) and Rebecca Elizabeth Kirby (1850-1916). A single woman, she lived in this house from 1931 after her parents died until her own death in 1974. Census records do not note an occupation for her other than the 1910 census which reported her working in a general store as a salesperson.

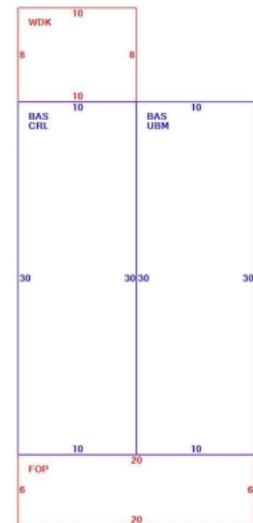
The house is currently used as a commercial property.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
08-29-2014	44694-268	Marilyn G. Whalley	Hector B., Jr. & Michelle R. Rodriguez
03-03-2005	30089-207	Lee A. Enos	Marilyn G. Whalley
04-17-2002	21925-320	Christopher W. Dawson	Lee A. Enos
10-06-2000	18951-344	Donald C. & Diane M. Siddell	Christopher W. Dawson
09-27-1996	14679-99	Michael G. & Stephanie L. Thompson	Donald C. & Diane M. Siddell
08-26-1986	7066-147	Michael G. Thompson	Michael G. & Stephanie L. Thompson
08-05-1985	6243-231	Arthur C. Thompson	Michael G. Thompson
11-16-1976	4218-707	Peter C. & Donna Lee Tufts	Arthur C. Thompson
07-12-1974	4010-443	Estate of Stella Kirby Tripp	Peter C. & Donna Lee Tufts
04-15-1931	1609-525	Jerry T. & Myra Robinson	Stella Kirby Tripp
10-08-1921	1398-593	Frederick O. Tripp	Jerry T. & Myra Robinson
04-24-1920	1363-519	Lester L. Look	Frederick O. Tripp
07-05-1917	1279-404	Amos C. Delano	Lester L. Look
05-22-1916	1279-405	James S.H. Allen et al.	Amos C. Delano

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories
Atlas of Plymouth County, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879
Atlas of Plymouth County, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903
Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855 H.F. Walling
 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
 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.
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 Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



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-19th to early 20th 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-19th and early 20th 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-19th through the early 20th 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.