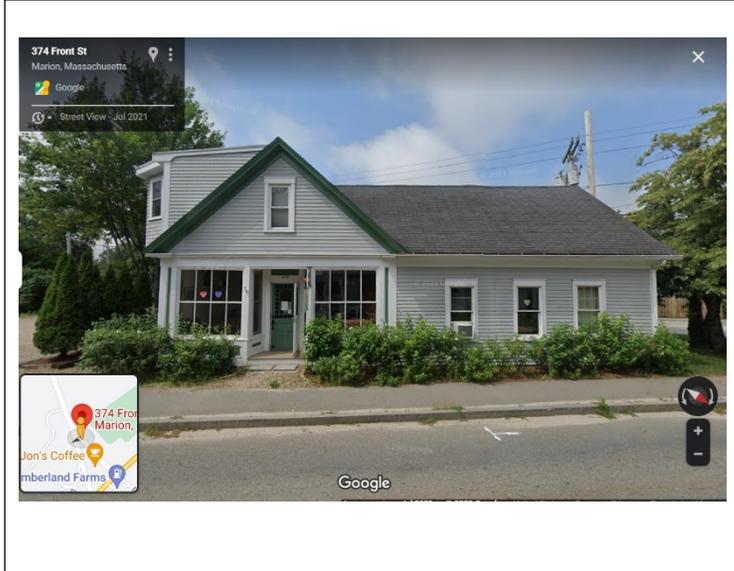


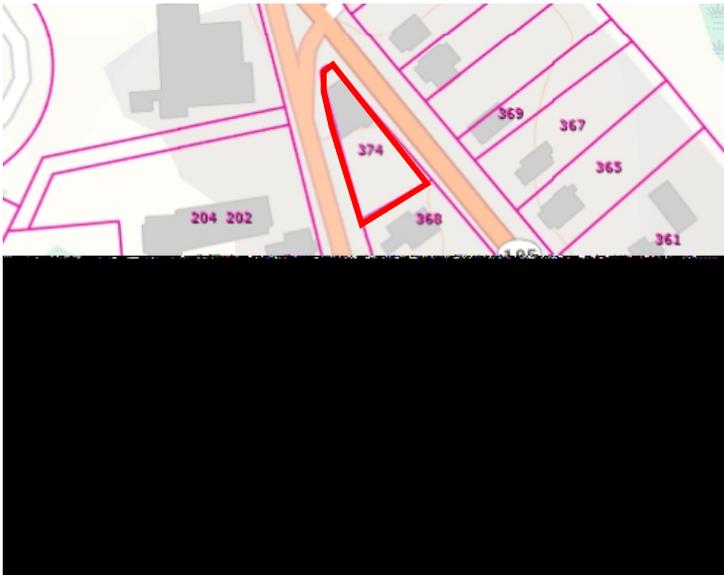
# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph (Google Earth)



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

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

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

13 -17

Marion

MRN.H

MRN.117

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 374 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Freeman F. Gurney Store

**Uses:** Present: Residential-Commercial

Original: Commercial

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1890

**Style/Form:** No style

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

**Major Alterations (with dates):**

Replacement windows

Dormers

**Condition:** Damaged by fire (2020)

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

**Acreage:** 0.14

**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.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

374 Front Street

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MRN.H

MRN.117

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.*

NOTE: The subject building sustained extensive damage in a 2020 fire and was being rebuilt at the time of the site visit. The following description is based on images from Google Earth and the Marion assessor's card.

**374 Front Street** occupies a triangular lot at the intersection of Front and Spring Streets. The building is positioned near the tip of the parcel and faces east. A gravel parking area along the south elevation of the building spans the parcel, providing access from both Front and Spring Streets. The southern property line bordering the parking area is maintained in shrubs and mature trees. Trees dot the south elevation of the building and a cluster of trees occupies the lawn at the tip of the parcel, which is maintained in lawn. Low foundation plantings surround the building behind a narrow strip of grass.

The building comprises a one-and-one-half story, four-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with an L-shaped, cross-gabled plan. The storefront is located in the front-gabled block facing Front Street. Constructed around 1890, it has been significantly altered and retains few of its original character-defining features. Its stone foundation, storefront, and a lone decorative window suggest late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction. The building rests on a granite foundation and is clad in wood clapboards at the façade (east elevation) and wood shingles at all other elevations. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

The building is trimmed with narrow corner boards, frieze boards, and a molded cornice at the pediment over the storefront. The simple wood storefront contains large eight-light replacement display windows over a shallow paneled bulkhead. The original storefront windows would likely have contained many more lights. The display windows flank a recessed entry with a narrow, molded surround containing a glass-and-panel door and a transom. The entry side walls contain four-light glazing. The majority of windows at the building are single, double-hung, one-over-one replacement sash with flat surrounds and lipped lintels. A small, diamond-shaped multi-light window is nestled between the frieze board and corner board at the north wall of the front-gabled block.

The side-gabled block has a sliding door at the west (rear) elevation and a gable dormer at the west roof slope containing paired, mullioned windows. The front-gabled block has two glass-and-panel doors at the west elevation sheltered by a hip-roofed open porch with narrow rectangular posts; the doors lead to apartments on the upper level. Tall shed dormers that meet at the roof ridge occupy both roof slopes of the front-gabled block. The south dormer contains a semi-hexagonal oriel at the east bay and a box oriel with contemporary glazing at the west bay. The west dormer surmounts an entry and is adjacent to a circular fire escape at the southwest corner of the block.

This building was described as Queen Anne in the 1998 MHC Area Form H for Old Depot, but few discernable features of that style remain apart from the decorative window and elements of the storefront.

## 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-

*Continuation sheet 1*

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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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, 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 building does not appear on the 1855 or 1879 maps. It is shown on the 1903 map with A.F. Gurney as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property as part of a continuous chain of ownership was its sale by George W. Parlow and his wife Abbie to Annie F. Gurney in 1890. The deed for this conveyance could not be examined because, while it is indexed (Book 596, Page 44) at the Plymouth County Registrar of Deeds, that indexing is not linked to the correct document. It can be reasonably assumed, however, that the parcel included not only the land on which this building rests, but also the house located at the southern end of this small lot, now 368 Front Street (ca.1845, George W. Parlow House, MRN.116), a building which appeared on the 1855 and 1879 maps. Another possibly related transaction (Plymouth County Registrar of Deeds, Book 326, Page 121) was found from 1864 in which George W. Parlow purchased a triangular parcel of land in this area for \$54 from Jirah Clifton. George Wilson Parlow (1836-1908), the son of George Washington Parlow (1807-1873) and Eveline Mendell (1805-1888), was married to Abbie Fish Ryan (1840-1897) in 1865. The 1865 and 1885 censuses record the senior Parlow as a stone cutter and his son George Wilson Parlow as a painter. George Washington Parlow was one of the earliest inhabitants of this area, which came to be known as "Parlowtown."

Annie Fulton Parlow (1865-1945) Gurney who purchased this triangular parcel in 1890 was the daughter of George Wilson Parlow's nephew, Charles Parlow (1829-1876), and Ann Sophia Cahoon (1836-1875). She was married in New York City in 1881 to Freeman Franklin Gurney (1857-1932), the son of Rufus Hathaway Gurney (1822-1887) and Phoebe Benson Cahoon (1822-1891). Prior to 1890, Freeman Gurney lived in Wareham according to census reporting from 1865, 1870, and 1880. Census records from 1900 to 1930 record his occupation as a grocer living in Marion. It appears, therefore, that Freeman and Annie Gurney moved to Marion, purchased this land, and opened a grocery store at this now busy corner of town sometime around 1890. The 1907 city directory [Wareham] notes the location of his grocery as the corner of Front and Spring Streets, a convenient location across from the train depot. The parcel which Annie Gurney purchased from her great uncle was subsequently subdivided, with this store at the northern point of the triangular lot and the Greek Revival Cottage below it at 368 Front Street (ca. 1845, George Washington Parlow House, MRN.116).

Freeman and Annie Gurney lived nearby at 202 Spring Street (ca.18XX, Freeman F. Gurney House, MRN.122). The couple had 11 children who inherited the subject property after Annie's death. In 1967 the surviving siblings conveyed their interest to their sister, Esther Gurney (Osborne) Wing. The property left Gurney family ownership in 1975 when it was purchased by Robert W. Mower.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
10-15-2019	51793-0107	Real Investments LLC	Marion Dental Products
08-25-2009	37663-170	Christopher W. Dawson	Real Investments LLC
05-11-2000	18512-323	Marion P.D. Realty Trust	Christopher W. Dawson
04-16-1993	11842-185	Leonard J., Jr. & Paulette Dennis	Marion P.D. Realty Trust
12-19-1989	9518-203	Joan M. Plaud	Leonard J., Jr. & Paulette Dennis
12-24-1985	6497-222	Lawrence R. Plaud	Joan M. Plaud
09-14-1983	5457-185	Robert W. Mower	Lawrence R. & Joan M. Plaud
07-22-1975	4088-275	Estate of Esther O. Wing a/k/a Esther S. Wing	Robert W. Mower
06-04-1979	4680-176	Darrough S. Gurney	Robert W. Mower
08-25-1967	3524-429	Darrough S. Gurney, Freeman F. Gurney, Jr., & Marie G. Burgess	Esther S. Wing

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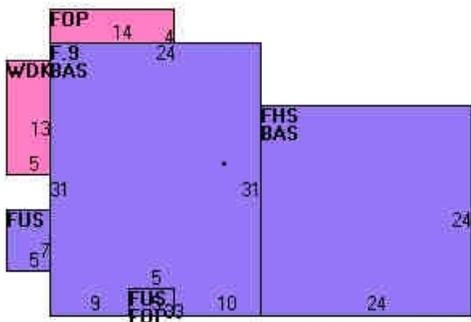
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	Probate	Estate of Annie F. Gurney	Esther O. Wing
	Probate	Estate of Annie F. Gurney	Darrough S. Gurney, Freeman F. Gurney, Jr., & Marie G. Burgess
05-19-1890	596-44	George W. Parlow	Annie F. Gurney

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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- Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling
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- Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
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Assessor's card



East and south elevations. Sept. 2022 during fire repairs.

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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

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that represent the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. Several of these houses have been converted to commercial use.