

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

24-36

Marion

MRN.H

MRN.122

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 202 Spring Street

Historic Name: Freeman F. Gurney House

Uses: Present: Commercial

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca.1875

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood composite/ composite

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vinyl siding and trim

Replacement windows

Portico enclosed with railing

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.9

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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.H

MRN.122

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.

202 Spring Street occupies a large polygonal lot on the west side of Spring Street and faces east. The house is positioned near the street at the southeast corner of the parcel and fronts a shallow strip of lawn. A side yard at the south elevation is maintained in grass; the balance of the property is vegetated with shrubs and mature trees. Foundation plantings surround the house. A tall hedge row starting at the northeast corner of the house extends north on Spring Street and turns west along the northern property line. A composite walkway runs from Spring Street along the south elevation of the house and provides access to the main entry at the rear (west) elevation. A gravel driveway entering the property from Village Drive provides access to the rear (west elevation) of the house.

This former dwelling comprises a two-story, side-gabled house with an L-shaped plan. The main block is three-bays-by-three-bays with a steeply-pitched roof and steep center cross gable. The house was built around 1875 and is one of the few Gothic Revival-style houses in Marion. It retains a Gothic Revival form and original character-defining features, although most of the latter have been replicated in wood composite.

The main block is trimmed with deep box cornices, narrow corner and frieze boards, and short eave returns. The centered main entry contains a two-leaf paneled wood door with a single-light transom and molded surround. It is sheltered by a shallow pedimented portico with rectangular posts. The tympanum contains an incised starburst design; the spool-work cornice trim seen at the portico in the photograph of the house in the 1998 MHC Area Form H for Old Landing is no longer extant. This door is no longer used as entry to the house and is enclosed by a slat work railing. Paired, mullied vinyl replacement windows with two-over-two sash, channeled mullions, and molded architraves flank the entry. A distinctive double-arched window with a pointed-arch enframement and raised quatrefoil ornament occupies the cross-gable peak. The windows at the side elevations are double-hung, two-over-two wood sash with surrounds matching those at the facade.

The rear wing is parallel-gabled to the main block and is two bays deep; it aligns with the south elevation of the main block. The windows have wood two-over-two sash with vinyl enframements matching those at the façade.

202 Spring Street is an example of the Gothic Revival style. Begun in England in the late 18th century and drawn from Medieval design themes, the style's most important identifying characteristic is a steeply pitched roof with steep cross gables, as seen in this house. Considered a romantic or "Picturesque" style, the Gothic Revival was seen in American domestic architecture between 1840 and 1880 and popularized through the pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing. The identifying Gothic Revival features of this house include the steeply pitched roof with steep cross gable, deep eaves, arched double gable window, and porch pediment.

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.H	MRN.122
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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 house does not appear on the 1855 map, nor is it shown on the 1879 map, although it seems likely that it was outside the border of the map area on the west side of Spring Street, where it would have faced the property owned by Priscilla and Ezekiah Coleman (see below). It is shown on the 1903 map with F.F. Gurney as owner. Freeman Franklin Gurney (1857-1932) was the son of Rufus Hathaway Gurney (1822-1887) and Phoebe Benson Cahoon (1822-1891). He was married in New York City in 1881 to Annie Fulton Parlow (1865-1945), the daughter of Charles Parlow (1829-1876) and Ann Sophia Cahoon (1836-1875) of Marion. The Parlow homestead at 368 Front Street (ca. 1845, George Washington Parlow House, MRN.116) was located directly across Spring Street from, but not facing, this house. Census records from 1865, 1870, and 1880 recorded Gurney living in Wareham, and the 1900 to 1930 censuses record his residence in Marion with his occupation listed as grocer. Gurney’s store was located on Front Street at the apex of the triangle formed by Spring and Front Streets. See MHC Building Form B for 374 Front Street (ca. 1890, Freeman F. Gurney Store, MRN.117).

Prior to 1903 ownership of the subject property is not clear. Although it is not in the direct chain of deed records, in 1899 Freeman Gurney purchased at auction a property on Mill Street which included land and buildings from the estate of Priscilla Coleman for \$1,000. Priscilla Coleman and her husband Hezekiah had purchased this parcel of land from Peleg Blankinship in 1881 for \$250. Priscilla and Hezekiah’s deed did not mention buildings. The Colemans owned a house at 360 Front Street (1865-1879, Hezekiah Coleman House, MRN.114), directly across Spring Street from the subject house. Given the apparent age of the subject house, it seems likely that it was built by Priscilla and Hezekiah Coleman ca. 1875 and purchased by Gurney when he moved to Marion.

This Gothic Revival house was owned by various descendants of Freeman F. and Annie F. Gurney until 1983 although limitations in available records preclude establishing who might have actually lived in the house during that time. The couple had 11 children including Freeman Franklin Gurney, Jr. (1905-1982) who was married to Anna Blossom (1904-1998). Ownership of the house and land eventually fell to another of their children, Eunice Gurney Watts (1895-1977). In 1983 the grandchildren and heirs of Annie F. and Freeman Gurney sold their interest in the subject property to the widow of Franklin Freeman, Jr., Anna B. (Blossom) Gurney. Her short 1945 obituary noted that she had been living in her house on Spring Street.¹

The property left Gurney family ownership in 2000. It 2008 it was converted to commercial use.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
04-30-2008	35909-287	Sherman Briggs et al.	SBS Marion Partners, LLC
11-15-2007	35304-187	Sherman Briggs et al.	SBS Marion Partners, LLC
11-01-2002	23330-298	George T.J. Walker	Alice M. Briggs & Arnold Briggs
04-07-2000	18436-314	Estate of Anna B. Gurney	George T.J. Walker & Sherman Briggs
11-28-1983	6217-161	Anna [B.] Gurney et al. (Parcels 1 & 2)	Anna B. Gurney
		Parcel 1	
	Probate	Estate of Eunice M. Watts	Anna Gurney et al.
06-18-1970	3598-764	Robert D. Hale	Eunice M. Watts
06-04-1970	3598-763	John L. Tripp	Robert D. Hale
05-27-1967	3400-609	Lewis P. Hankins	John L. Tripp

¹ “Mrs. Annie F. Gurney,” *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, March 21, 1945.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

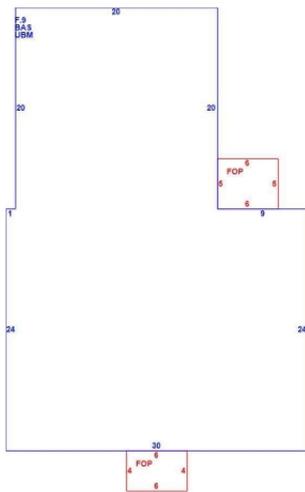
Area(s) Form No.

MRN.H	MRN.122
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10-11-1955	2483-107	Mary A. Winters	Claire E. & Lewis P. Hankins
05-07-1935	1689-417	Harvey L. Delano	Franklin A. & Mary A. Winters
11-18-1927	1629-149	Sarah M. Gammons	Harvey L. Delano
05-29-1926	1505-547	Sarah M. Gammons	Harvey L. Delano
12-01-1925	1501-95	Horace M. Humphrey	Sarah M. Gammons
		Parcel 2	
08-25-1967	3535-728	Darrough S. Gurney et al.	Eunice M. Watts
	Probate		Darrough S. Gurney et al.
02-10-1936	1701-195	Town of Marion	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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 Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



Assessor's card plan

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

MRN.H

MRN.122

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.