

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-18	Marion	MRN.H	MRN.116
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**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 368 Front Street

**Historic Name:** George Washington Parlow House

**Uses:** Present: Commercial

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1845

**Source:** Deed & map research, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival Cottage

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Replacement windows (after 1998)

**Condition:** Excellent

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

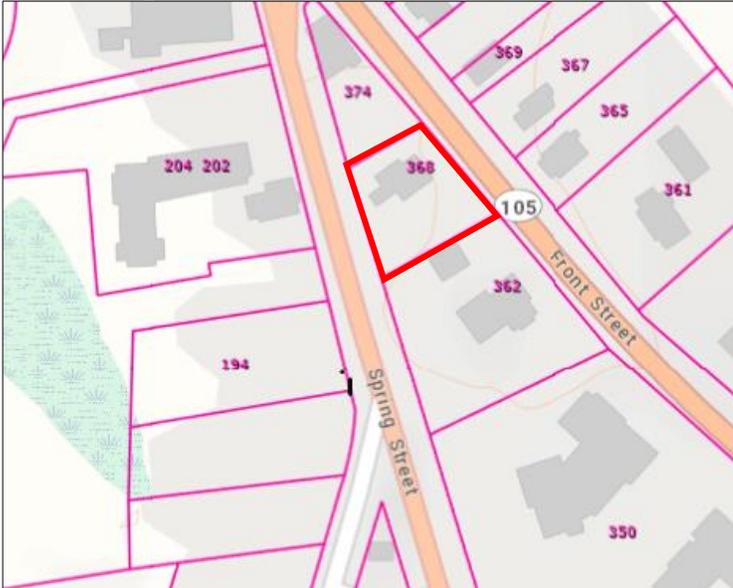
**Acreage:** 0.27

**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

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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.*

**368 Front Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the west side of Front Street spanning the triangle between Front and Spring Streets. The house is positioned in the northern half of the parcel and faces east. The property is maintained in lawn at the façade and in lawn dotted with tall shrubs and trees along the north elevation of the house. The rear (western) portion of the parcel bordering Spring Street is heavily vegetated. A parking area enters the property along the south elevation of the house and joins Spring Street at the western property line. A low, manicured hedge borders Front Street behind several granite bollards.

This wood-frame house comprises a one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled, five-bay-by-one-bay main block with three rear dependencies. The dependencies include an early addition at the northwest corner of the main block, a late-19<sup>th</sup> century addition, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century infill addition. It was constructed ca. 1845 in the Greek Revival Cottage style, a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century form that combines the façade of a knee-wall full Cape with a shallow plan and Greek Revival detailing. It retains the majority of its character-defining features. The house rises from a high granite block foundation and is clad in wood clapboards at the façade and wood shingles at all other elevations. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A substantial corbelled brick chimney is centered at the roof ridge of the main block.

Trim elements at the main block and early northwest addition include box cornices, frieze boards, eave returns, and corner boards. Fenestration comprises single double-hung, four-over-four replacement sash with molded surrounds and lipped lintels. The centered entry at the main block contains a modern glass-and-panel door framed by a flat surround and denticulated entablature. It fronts a two-step stone stair with a wrought-iron railing.

The early, cross-gabled, one-and-one-half story addition at the northwest corner of the main block is four bays in length; it projects one bay beyond the north elevation of the main block, where it contains an east-facing entry. Four rectangular eyebrow windows, a distinguishing feature of the Greek Revival style, touch the frieze board. A gabled, one-story, late-19<sup>th</sup> century block extends from the southwest corner of the early addition. A recent modern infill block with contemporary fenestration occupies the intersection of the main block, the early addition, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century addition.

**368 Front Street** is an example of the Greek Revival Cottage style, a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century form that combines the façade of a one-and-one-half-story, knee-wall full Cape with a shallow, one-or-two-bay-deep plan and Greek Revival detailing. A "high post" or "knee wall" Cape is a common 19th-century form in which the stud wall extends past the first floor to create additional space on the second floor. The full Cape (five bays with center entry) was one of the later iterations of the architectural style, which originated on Cape Cod around 1690 and saw continued use through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration, side-gabled roof and center chimney. The corner and frieze boards, deep cornices with eave returns, and eyebrow windows are character-defining features of the Greek Revival style.

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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 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 appears on the 1855 map with Geo. W. (Washington) Parlow identified as the owner. Given the apparent age of the house it is likely that it was built around 1845. Prior to the construction of the railway station in the early 1850s, there were only two buildings in the Old Depot area: a one room school house which stood just to the north of the Captain George D. Allen House at 357 Front Street (ca. 1860), and the George Washington Parlow House. The 1998 MHC Area Form H for Old Depot states that "the Parlow House may represent the only surviving building from a node of 18th and early 19th century residences called "Parlowtown." A Native American trail, later known as the Parlowtown Road, ran from this area northwestward into Rochester."

The house is shown on the 1879 map near the apex of the angle formed by the intersection of Front and Spring Streets with the owner noted as the Hrs. [heirs] of Geo. W. Parlow. On the 1903 map A.F. Gurney is shown as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was its sale by George Wilson Parlow and his wife Abbie to Annie F. (nee Parlow) Gurney in 1890.

George Wilson Parlow (1836-1908) was the son of George Washington Parlow (1807-1873) and Eveline Mendell (1805-1888). The 1865 and 1885 censuses recorded the senior Parlow as a stone cutter and his son George Wilson Parlow as a painter. In 1865 George Wilson married Abbie Fish Ryan (1840-1897). 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 his wife Ann Sophia Cahoon (1836-1875). Annie F. Parlow Gurney 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).

The parcel which Annie F. Gurley purchased from her great-uncle was subsequently divided. The northern portion became the site of a grocery store operated by her husband Freeman Gurney at 370 Front Street (ca.1900, Freeman F. Gurney Store, MRN.117). Census records from 1900 to 1930 recorded his occupation as a grocer and city directories noted that his store, which was located at the corner of Front and Spring Streets, was built sometime between 1890 and 1903. The subject building of this form is sited on the southern portion of the original parcel.

In 1931 the house was conveyed to Annie F. Gurney's daughter Esther, who was first married in 1917 to Charles Osborn, a carpenter from Vermont. The couple both worked at the Lancaster State Industrial School in 1920. By 1930 they had moved to Marion, and the 1930 and 1940 censuses reported their place of employment as a boat shop and their residence, which they owned, located on Front Street. Esther Osborn was later married to Harry B. Wing. The house left the family after Esther Osborn Wing's death in 1975. It is currently used as a commercial building.

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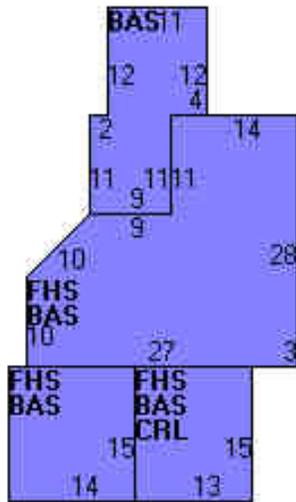
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## Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
09-28-2017	49009-255	Real Investments LLC	Rodriquez Realty LLC
11-03-2009	37896-249	Marion Peninsula Nominee Trust	Real Investments LLC
03-28-2003	24655-346	E. Lynn Giordano & Janet B. Keeler	Marion Peninsula Nominee Trust
10-28-2002	23245-211	Daniel Gifford	E. Lynn Giordano & Janet B. Keeler
05-10-1997	15218-171	William D. Doyle	Daniel Gifford
08-29-1995	13791-160	Bernice Doyle	William D. Doyle
03-04-1985	5996-21	Robert William DeRosa	William D. & Bernice Doyle
09-17-1979	4755-117	Bettie A. Kreplick	Robert William DeRose
11-11-1975	4115-169	Robert E. Mower	Bettie A. Kreplick
07-31-1975	4008-274	Estate of Esther O. Wing a/k/a Esther A. Wing	Robert E. Mower
11-18-1931	1623-58	Annie F. Gurney	Esther O. Osborne (now Esther O. Wing)
05-19-1890	596-44	George W. & Abbie Parlow	Annie F. Gurney

## 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.  
 Sommer, 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.  
 Sippican Historical Society: online database  
 Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008



Assessor's card plan



East and north elevations.

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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.