

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 -33

Marion

MRN.I

MRN.125

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 298 Front Street

Historic Name: Susan Hadley Johnson House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 18th century

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Half-Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Two-story rear addition (19th century)

Attached garage (20th century)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.21

Setting: Linear development of residences and a boatyard primarily developed in the late 18th–mid 19th centuries. Mid- to large-size wood-frame, single-family houses in the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles predominate. Neighborhood borders the northwestern shore of Sippican Harbor.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2022

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MRN.I

MRN

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.

298 Front Street occupies a narrow rectangular parcel on the west side of Front Street facing Sippican Harbor. The house is deeply set back from the street and positioned near the northern property line. The property is largely maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees. A segment of stockade fence and a drystone wall mark the rear (west) property boundary. A short row of stone bollards marks the northern property line. A gravel driveway enters the property from Front Street along the southern property line and terminates at the stockade fence.

This house, which appears to have been constructed in the mid-18th century, may be among the earliest structures in Marion. Further physical investigation would be required to determine the building's actual age. It comprises a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with two rear additions. It was built in the half Cape style and retains the majority of its original character-defining features, including a slightly bowed roof. The house is clad in wood shingles and rests on a stone foundation. The roof is surfaced with wood shingles. A large brick chimney rises from the roof ridge of the main block in alignment with the entry. A short brick chimney rises from the east roof slope of the hip-roofed rear addition.

Trim at the main block is limited to narrow corner boards. The windows are double-hung, six-over-nine sash at the façade and six-over-six at the attic level at the side elevations. The window openings are small in size relative to the wall area and have flat surrounds. The main entry at the southernmost bay contains a six-panel wooden door framed by a narrow flat surround and a simple architrave. The door fronts a wooden porch with a vertical slat skirt that spans the façade; a three-step wooden stair approaches the porch at the entry. There is a stone-walled cellar bulkhead at the north elevation.

A nearly square, two-story rear addition with a hipped roof is set back from the south elevation of the main block and projects two bays beyond the north elevation. A similarly-sized addition in this location is seen on the 1855 map. It contains a combination of late 19th, early 20th, and late 20th century windows. These include single and paired, double-hung two-over-one sash, and fixed single-light sash of various sizes. An entry at the southeast corner of the two-story addition fronts a shallow concrete stoop and an adjacent brick patio. A one-story, hip-roofed, one-car garage is attached to the rear addition by a flat-roofed hyphen.

298 Front Street is a handsome example of a half Cape. The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19th century. The half Cape design was one of the earliest iterations of this house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house and supportive of an early construction date include the half Cape configuration (three bays with off-center entry), side-gabled bow roof, chimney in alignment with the entry, narrow corner boards, simple entry surround, and small six-over-nine windows.

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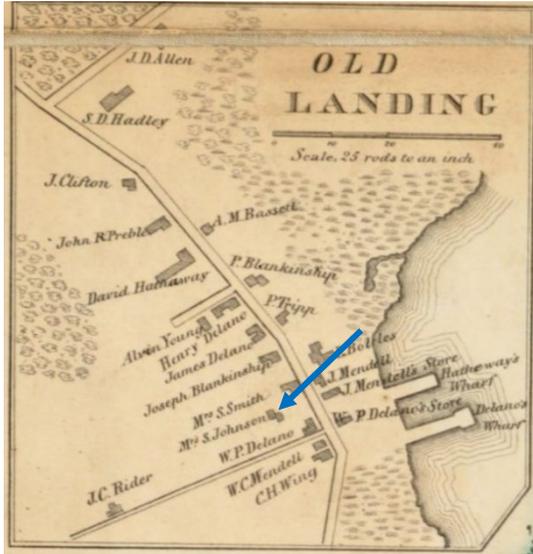
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.



1855 Walling map of Marion.

The town of Marion was established in 1852 when it broke off from the town of Rochester. The Village of Marion, the commercial and residential center of the town, is set on the western shore of Sippican Harbor which leads into Buzzards Bay. The northern portion of the Village running along Front Street, where this house is located, has been referred to historically as Old Landing. While there are several late 18th century buildings in the area, most of the houses along this northern section of Front Street were built in the first half of the 19th century. With a very few exceptions, the first owners of the houses were seamen. Maritime industries were dominant in Marion until the mid-19th century, when the advent of rail service began to facilitate tourism. At the same time, new cultural and educational institutions endowed by the founder of the nearby Tabor Academy, Elizabeth P. Taber, dramatically enriched the town. With this economic shift, some of the properties on Front Street became summer residences for city dwellers. Others were acquired by Tabor Academy for use as dormitories and several became commercial properties, including the boatyard complex on the harbor side of Front Street.

This house appears on the 1855 map with Mrs. S. Johnson shown as owner. It is shown on the 1879 map with Capt. J.E. Hadley as owner and on the 1903 map with C.H. Smith as owner. The earliest recorded conveyance found for the property registered its sale by Stephen D. Hadley to Susan Johnson in 1841.

Stephen Delano Hadley (1814-1892) was the son of Joseph Hadley (1789-1821) and Susan Delano Clapp (1793-1868). Joseph Hadley died in 1821 and in 1824 his widow Susan married Captain Andrew Johnson (1794-1827). Susan's son Stephen Hadley, also a sea captain, married Mary Soule (b. 1818) in 1840. The following year, in 1841, Stephen Hadley sold the subject property to his mother, who had been widowed for a second time. Several years later he and his wife Mary built a large house nearby at 345 Front Street (ca. 1846, Stephen Hadley House, MRN.138). No title reference was made in Stephen Hadley's deed nor could any prior conveyances matching this property be found, so it is unclear how and when he obtained the property. The appearance of this half Cape house suggests that it might date to the mid-18th century; further research would be required to determine if it was first owned by a Hadley ancestor. In 1856 Susan Hadley Johnson sold the property back to her son, who in turn conveyed it to his younger brother, sea captain Joseph Emerson Hadley (1817-1897) and his wife Mary Miller (1821-1879). After Mary Hadley's death in 1879, Joseph Hadley was married a second time to Georgiana Leonard (1843-1904), who with her husband sold the property in 1896.

The property was purchased in 1898 by Charles H. Smith (1835-1916) of Haverhill. He was the son of Martin Smith (1799-1884) and Salome Ellis (1810-1843) of Wareham. Census records indicate that he was living outside of Marion during his period of ownership, and the city directories (Marion section of the Wareham Directory) of 1910 and 1916 listed him living on Front Street as a summer resident. After his death in 1916 the property was inherited by his brother, William Warren Smith of Fall River (b.1838). William, who married Anna W. Davol in Fall River in 1869, was also listed in the 1928 Marion directory as a summer resident. The couple's marriage register identified William's occupation as painter. After his death the property was inherited by his daughter, Annie Remington (Smith) Borden (1870-1954), who was married to Nathaniel Briggs Borden (1871-1934). Census records suggest that the Bordens also resided in Fall River and that they used the house as a summer residence or rental property. In 1949 the property was sold to Thomas and Ruth Quinn of Marion. Thomas J. Quinn (1893-1972) was married to Ruth Nye (1899-1981), daughter of Barnabas Blankinship Nye (1956-1933) and Effie Ophelia Young (1859-1936) of Marion. Census reporting shows the couple and their three daughters living in Somerville and then later in Chicopee. The 1949 deed from Annie Borden noted their residence as Marion. The house was purchased in 1972 by George E. Mellor, in whose family it remains.

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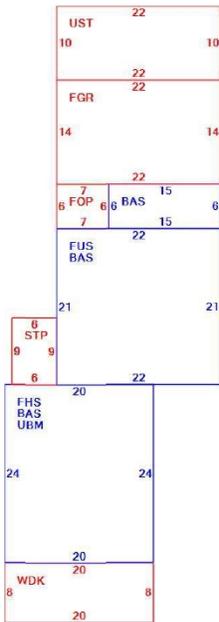
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Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
06-09-2003	26765-338	Mary T. Mellor	Christopher Mellor
01-14-1975	4043-301	George E. Mellor	Mary T. Mellor
01-31-1972	3749-77	Thomas J. & Ruth Quinn	George E. Mellor
04-15-1949	2044-387	Estate of William W. Smith & Annie R. Borden	Thomas J. & Ruth Quinn
	Probate	Estate of Charles H. Smith	William W. Smith
10-13-1898	770-217	Leonard B. Moody	Charles H. Smith
07-28-1896	728-23	Joseph E. & Georgina Hadley	Leonard B. Moody
09-11-1875	420-5	Stephen D. & Mary D. Hadley	Joseph E. Hadley
08-27-1856	351-256	Susan (Hadley) Johnson	Stephen D. Hadley
05-05-1841	214-37	Stephen D. Hadley	Susan (Hadley) Johnson

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- 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.
- 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 Landing Area of Marion Village. The Old Landing Area (MRN.I) 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 Landing is among the oldest neighborhoods in Marion, with development dating to the 18th century. Historically a maritime community with two wharves and a boat yard near the head of Sippican Harbor, the Old Landing area is a linear development of residences extending from Tabor Academy's campus on the south to Wareham Road (Rte. 6) on the north. The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 MHC survey for the Old Landing Area (MRN.I).

Under Criterion A, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with Marion's the maritime industry, upon which the economy of Marion depended from the 18th century to the mid-19th century. Home to two wharves and many mariners in the 19th century, the area today maintains its connection to the sea with the active operation of Burr Brothers Boatyard located on Sippican Harbor along the eastern boundary of the area.

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 late 18th through the early 20th centuries. The Old Landing Area contains mostly moderate- to large-scaled, one-and-one half to two-story wood-frame dwellings on generous lots in the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne styles. Along with several high-style examples of these styles, the area also includes several earlier dwellings that pre-date the building boom that began in the second half of the 19th century.

The majority of the resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet criteria A and C at the local level, with areas of significance in social history and architecture.