

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-9	Marion	MRN.I	MRN.129
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 309 Front Street

Historic Name: Pardon Tripp House

Uses: Present: Commercial

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1850

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite & concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

North and northeast additions (19th century)

South addition (20th century)

Replacement windows

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.33

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

309 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.I

MRN.129

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.

309 Front Street occupies an irregularly-shaped parcel on the east side of Front Street and faces west. The building and land have been incorporated into the large Burr Brothers Boatyard complex on the northwest shore of Sippican Harbor. The house is positioned close to the street and fronts a shallow lawn that meets the roadbed. There are foundation plantings at the façade (west elevation). A gravel driveway enters the property from Front Street along the north elevation and a large parking area, also entered from Front Street, flanks the south elevation.

This wood-frame former dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-four bay main block with two one-story flat-roofed dependencies and a gabled rear addition. Constructed around 1850 in the Greek Revival style, the house retains the majority of its original character-defining features despite the additions. The main block rests on a granite foundation, while the additions have concrete-parged masonry foundations. The entire structure is clad in wood clapboards and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

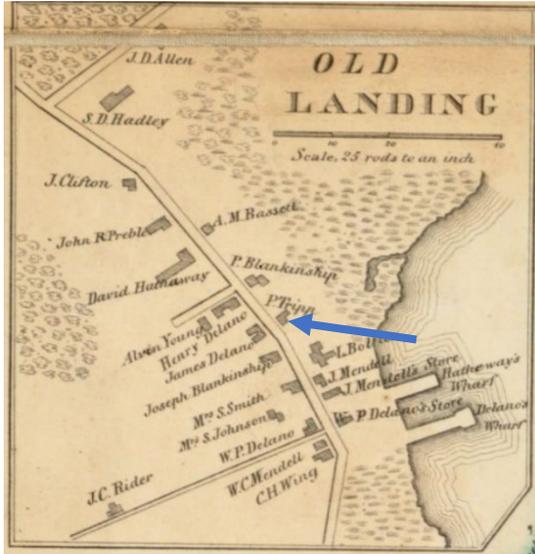
The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, one and two-part frieze boards, eave returns, and corner pilasters. The side hall main entry at the northernmost bay contains a five-panel wood door framed by partial-height sidelights and pilasters supporting a denticulated entablature. The door fronts a two-step wooden stair that ends at the lawn. The windows throughout are single, double-hung, six-over-one replacement sash with flat surrounds and capped lintels. A rectangular eyebrow window, seen at the south elevation on the photograph of the house in the 1998 MHC Area Form I for Old Landing, has been obscured by the south addition. A two-bay shed wall dormer occupies the south roof slope.

The footprint of the house seen on the 1879 map appears to include the north and east additions. The flat-roofed, one-by-one-bay north addition is set back slightly from the façade of the main block. It has matching trim including heavy corner pilasters and a deep two-part frieze board. The denticulated cornice with paired brackets, along with the flat roof, reflect the Italianate style. The one-story, gabled east addition is three bays deep and integrates with the north wall of the main block; this addition connects the house to the east wall of the large maintenance building to the rear. Its trim matches that on the north addition. The one-by-four-bay, flat-roofed south addition spans the south elevation of the main block. Constructed after 1998, it replicates the Italianate form and trim of the north addition.

309 Front Street was built in the Greek Revival style. Greek Revival was the predominant style of American architecture from about 1830 to 1850, but the form continued to be used well into the second half of the 19th century. Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greek temples and associated with democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin. The identifying Greek Revival features of this house include the front-gabled orientation of the main block, box cornice, corner pilasters, eave returns, one and two-part frieze boards, and main entry surround. The partial-height sidelights flanking the entry are more characteristic of the earlier Federal style, and the flat-roofed additions with their cornice trim reflect the later Italianate style.

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.



R.E. Walling 1855 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 subject house which is now part of the Burr Brothers Boatyard on the harbor side of Front Street. See MHC Area Form MRN.Q, Burr Brothers Boatyard, for more information.

This house appears on the 1855 and 1879 maps with P. Tripp shown as owner and on the 1903 map with Mrs. S.E. Leonard as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was the sale of a parcel of land (no mention of buildings) for \$40 from Leonard Bolles to Pardon Tripp in 1864.

Captain Leonard Bolles (1800-1867) was the son of Savery Bolles (1775-1826) and his wife Mercy (1778-1854). Leonard was first married to Louisa Clifton Hathaway (1807-1830), daughter of Alexander Hathaway (1783-1859) and Mary Westgate (1784-1852). After her death at age 23, Leonard Bolles married her younger sister, Eveline Hathaway (1811-1867). The couple had one son, Leonard Anderson Bolles (1840-1915). Census records showed the senior Bolles to be a master mariner, as was also noted on his 1831 marriage registration. Since the house appeared on the map in 1855 but the land transfer to Tripp didn't occur until 1864, it is likely that Bolles had allowed Pardon Tripp to build the subject house on a portion of his land under a rental arrangement. Bolles later subdivided the land and sold Tripp "his portion." There are other examples in Marion where a landowner allowed another party to build a house on his land.

Pardon Tripp (b.1815), also a mariner, was the son of Stephen Tripp II (1784-1872) and Hannah Gifford (1787-1875). He was married in Rochester in 1844 to Fanny Clifton (1817-1892) and likely built this Greek Revival house sometime between 1845 and 1855. Fanny Tripp died in 1892 and the house was sold the following year to Sarah E. Leonard.

Sarah Elizabeth Sears Leonard (1830-1922) was the daughter of Joseph Sears (1804-1885) and Susan Willis Snow (b.1809) of Rochester. She was the widow of Seth Cobb Leonard (1808-1872), whose occupation in the 1860 and 1870 censuses was reported as expressman. An expressman was someone responsible for ensuring the safe delivery of gold or currency being shipped by railroad and secured in the "express car." Sarah Leonard owned the house until 1916, when it was purchased by Melissa Corse.

Born Melissa Freeman Sherman, Melissa Corse (1869-1954) was the daughter of James G. Burny Sherman (1840-1893) and Lucina Perry Landers (1841-1907). She was married in Marion in 1886 to Samuel Leggett Corse (1865-1924), the son of Frederick Augustus Corse (1840-1874) and Kate C. Corse Hicks (1843-1865). The couple had two children, Bessie Sherman Corse (1908-1990) and Samuel Hallett Corse (1888-1963). The senior Samuel Corse and his young family lived in Rochester, where Samuel first worked as a blacksmith and later became a farmer. The 1920 census reported him living in Rochester and occupied as a poultry farmer. The 1930 census listed Melissa Corse, by then a widow, living in Marion with her daughter Bessie and her son-in-law, James R. Dougall. By the time of the 1950 census, Melissa Corse was living alone in this house on Front Street. After the death of Melissa Corse in 1954 the property was inherited by the Corse children, Bessie S. Dougall and Samuel

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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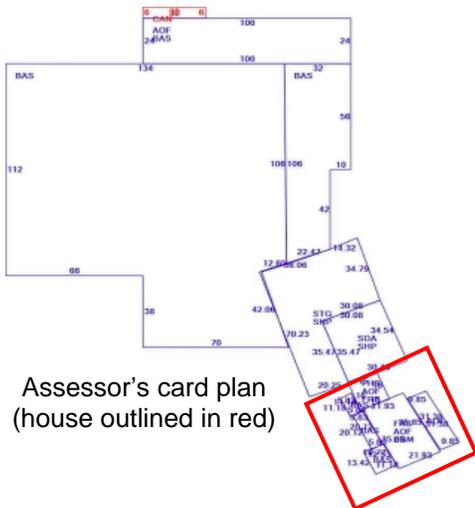
H. Corse. Samuel Corse was married to Lucy Vaughn Lawrence (1887-1979) and worked in Rochester as a civil engineer and regional surveyor. The property was sold to Burr Brothers Boats in 1962 and now serves as part of that boatyard complex.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-04-1962	2908-323	Samuel H. Corse & Bessie S. Dougall	Burr Brothers Boats, Inc.
10-2-1916	1260-202	Walter K. Perry, William H. Cobb, & George B. Crapo	Melissa F. Corse
05-31-1916	1255-177	Sarah E. Leonard	Walter K. Perry, William H. Cobb, & George B. Crapo
04-04-1893	648-249	Pardon Tripp	Sarah E. Leonard
11-21-1864	327-259	Leonard Bolles	Pardon Tripp

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.



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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.