

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-27	Marion	MRN.I	MRN.131
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 314 (formerly 80) Front Street

Historic Name: Capt. Henry Delano House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1840

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows at facade (2022)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.45

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

314 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.I

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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.

314 Front Street occupies a rectangular lot on the west side of Front Street and faces east toward Burr Brothers Boatyard and Sippican Harbor. The house is positioned close to the street at the northeast corner of the parcel and fronts a shallow front lawn. The side and rear yards along the south and west elevations of the house are maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees. A delicate wrought iron railing and shallow granite curb border the eastern property line along Front Street. Foundation plantings line the façade (east) and north elevations and a low hedge marks the southern property line. A shared gravel driveway that enters the property from Front Street along the north elevation of the house allows access to both 314 Front Street and the adjacent property at 318 Front Street.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a two-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-four bay main block with a gabled, L-shaped rear addition. Constructed around 1840 in the Greek Revival style, the house retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a high pink-granite foundation. It is clad in wood clapboards at the façade and wood shingles at all other elevations. Tall corbeled brick chimneys rise near the eaves from the south and north slopes of the roof, which is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A third chimney rises from the roof at the north-south block of the rear addition.

The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, frieze boards, short eave returns, a water table at the façade, and narrow, channeled corner pilasters. The side hall main entry at the northernmost bay contains a five-panel wood door framed by full-height sidelights, channeled pilasters, and a molded cornice-headed entablature surmounted by a substantial pediment. The door fronts a three-step granite stair that ends at the lawn. The windows at the façade are single, double-hung, one-over-one replacement sash with flat surrounds and capped lintels. The windows at the side elevations and addition are double-hung, six-over-six sash with channeled or flat surrounds and capped lintels; those at the second story touch the frieze board. A triangular multi-light window with a molded surround occupies the gable peak at the facade. According to the 1998 MHC Area Form I for Old Landing, a similar attic window appears on the Rev. Leander Cobb House at 28 South Street (1841, Rev. Leander & Selena Cobb House, MRN.287), one of only a few such windows on Greek Revival houses in Marion.

The gabled, one-and-one-half story, L-shaped rear addition seems to appear on the footprint of the house seen on the 1855 map. It is set back from the south elevation of the main block and aligns along the north elevation. It is trimmed with narrow corner and frieze boards and contains a single entry with a flat surround and architrave at the north elevation. The north-south block of the addition is surrounded by vegetation and few details are visible. A square screened porch that extends from its south elevation is surrounded by a patio that spans the west elevation of the house.

314 Front Street is a handsome example of 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, frieze boards, corner pilasters, eave returns, triangular attic window, and main entry surround with full-height sidelights, entablature, and pediment. The six-over-six sash configuration seen at the side elevations (and at the façade in earlier photographs of the house) are also characteristic of the Greek Revival.

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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.



R.E. Walling 1855 map of Marion.

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 Henry Delano noted as owner. It is shown on the 1879 map with H. Delano as owner and on the 1903 map with L.J. Gibbs as owner. Prior to 1948, the chain of ownership for this property is unclear. Biographical research is consistent with the historic maps, confirming

Capt. Henry D. Delano as the owner of the property in 1855 and 1879 and his daughter Laura Jane Gibbs as the owner in 1903. The 1998 MHC Area Form I for Old Landing reported that this Greek Revival house was built for Capt. Delano in 1837, but a reference for that date was not cited.

Captain Henry Delano (1798-1888) was one of the five sons of Jabez Delano (1758-1817) and Rhoda Blankinship (1762-1806), all of whom became sea captains. He was married in 1824 to Laura Allen (1803-1886), daughter of Justus Allen (1774-1820) and Sylvia Bassett (1773-1830). Henry Delano went to sea at age 13 and eventually commanded his own ship, the schooner *Oliver Cromwell* which was built at the Old Landing Shipyard.¹ Laura and Henry Delano had seven children including two daughters, Laura Jane Delano (b. 1836) and Louise Delano (1844-1944), who inherited this property after the death of their father. Laura Jane Delano was married to Oliver C. Gibbs (1825-1875).

Oliver Gibbs was born in Nantucket, the son of a Methodist minister. After first going to sea and becoming a ship master, he found a career in the grocery business. Gibbs served in the Civil War in the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a volunteer organization providing medical care, food, and clothing for soldiers. By 1870 he had moved to Newton with his wife Laura and was an agent for the Chemical Fire Engine Company. Oliver Gibbs died in 1875, and at some point after 1880 Laura returned to Marion and occupied the subject house until her death in 1925. The 1920 census showed that Laura had been joined in the house by her sisters Louise and Charlotte (1831-1932). Charlotte had been married late in life in 1906 to Job Sampson Parris of New Bedford.

While not supported by title history documentation, it is very likely that this house passed to Louise Delano after the death of her sisters. She lived until 1944, just a few days short of her 100th birthday. Her obituary noted that she lived on Front Street with her niece, Susie Gibbs Delano (1886-1964), who was the daughter of her brother Charles Henry Delano (1834-1922) and Anna Maria Richmond (1853-1903). Susie Gibbs Delano purchased the house in 1952, returning it to Delano family ownership. It is unclear how an intervening owner, Manuel Perry, might have acquired the house after the death of Louise Delano.

The property was purchased by the current owners in 2004.

¹ "Marion Woman is Dead at 99," *New Bedford Standard Times*, March 8, 1944.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

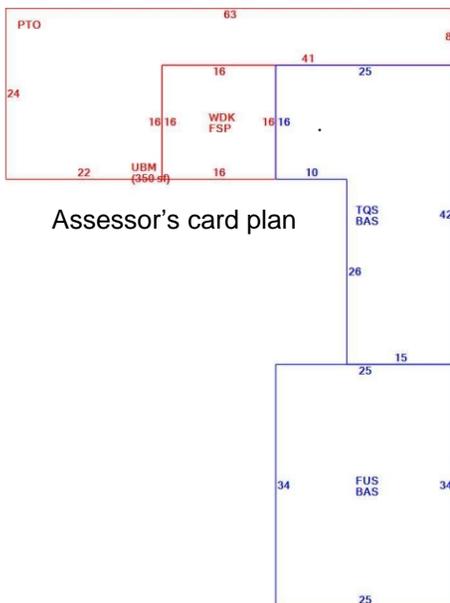
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Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-30-2011	40803-286	Evangelia L. Kalkanis	Evangelia L. & Ted Kalkanis
10-04-2004	29199-197	Katherine C. Jackson	Evangelia L. Kalkanis
04-03-1974	3977-170	Albert P. Ford II	Katherine C. & James N. Jackson
04-27-1973	3884-451	Peter A. & Mary T. Lalli	Albert P. Ford II
08-01-1966	3312-617	Helen Fournier	Peter A. & Mary T. Lalli
Probate		Susie Gibbs Delano	Helen Fournier
01-07-1952	2188-114	Ernest W. Briggs	Susie Gibbs Delano
04-08-1948	2002-330	Manuel Perry	Ernest W. Briggs

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.
- 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



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.