

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-1B	Marion	MRN.I	MRN.138
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 345 Front Street

Historic Name: Capt. Stephen D. Hadley House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1845

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Greek Revival / Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Second floor addition at rear wing (20th century)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.92

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

345 Front Street

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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.

345 Front Street occupies a large polygonal lot on the southeast corner of the intersection of Front Street and Wareham Road. The house is deeply set back from the intersecting streets at the northwest corner of the parcel and faces west. The parcel is largely cleared with an extensive paved and gravel parking lot surrounding the house beyond which is lawn and a border of mature trees at the perimeter. A narrow strip of lawn and sparse foundation plantings encircle the house. Driveways enter the parking area from Front and Wareham Road. Low granite curbing lines the north and west property lines along the street; the curbing curves at the northwest corner of the parcel enclosing a small stand of tall trees.

This handsome wood-frame former dwelling comprises a two-and one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-four bay main block with a flat-roofed open porch and two dependencies. The dependencies include a two-story, gabled rear wing and a two-story, flat-roofed infill block at the junction of the rear wall of the main block and the north wall of the rear addition. Constructed around 1845 in the Greek Revival style with later Italianate features, the house retains all of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a high granite block foundation. It is clad in wood clapboards at all elevations and has an asphalt shingle roof. Corbeled brick double-flue chimneys rise from the south roof slope near the roof ridge and near the east gable eave.

The house is trimmed with channeled corner pilasters, a denticulated box cornice with paired scroll brackets, one and two-part frieze boards, and eave returns. The side hall main entry at the northernmost bay of the main block contains a five-panel wood door framed by full-height sidelights, a molded surround, and a denticulated architrave. The door fronts a two-step wooden stair with granite-block cheek walls and a short, paved sidewalk leading to the parking area. A flat-roofed porch spans the façade and the south elevation of the main block; the porch is open except at the two easternmost bays at the south elevation, which are enclosed. It has a denticulated entablature with paired scroll brackets and is supported by rectangular Doric columns with tall rectangular cutout slots. The first story windows at the west (façade) and south elevations of the main block are tall, single, double-hung, six-over-six sash with molded surrounds and deep, eared, molded hoods. Most of the remaining windows at the house are six-over-six sash with molded surrounds and deep, denticulated entablatures with scroll brackets. A tripartite window at the gable peak with a matching surround surmounts stacked signboards reading: CAPTAIN HADLEY STORE and MARION. A triangular multi-light window with a molded surround occupies the gable peak at the rear (east) elevation of the main block.

The gabled, two-story, five-bay-by-one-by rear wing is seen on the footprint of the house seen on the 1855 map. An 1890 photograph (see below) shows it to have been one-story tall; it gained a second story sometime in the 20th century. The lower portion of the two-part frieze board has cut-out openings accommodating the second story windows, which touch the cornice. An entry at the westernmost bay on the south elevation is sheltered by a small flat-roofed porch that is trimmed to match the front porch; it fronts a five-step wooden stair leading to the parking area. A brick ramp approaches the porch landing from the southwest corner of the house and provides handicapped access to the building.

A three-bay-by-one-bay, two-story flat-roofed infill addition occupies the space between the rear wall of the main block and the north wall of the rear wing; its roof deck is enclosed by a slat-work railing with heavy posts. The infill addition ends one bay short of the rear wall of the adjacent wing, where a flat-roofed porch with a roof railing occupies the southeast corner of the house. This porch shelters an entry at the west wall which fronts a masonry stair leading to the parking area. The infill addition shares a granite foundation with the main block, suggesting that it was an early addition. Its cornice treatment suggests that its second story was acquired at the time that the adjacent rear wing was heightened.

345 Front Street is a handsome example of the Greek Revival style with the later addition of Italianate-style ornamentation. 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

Continuation sheet 1

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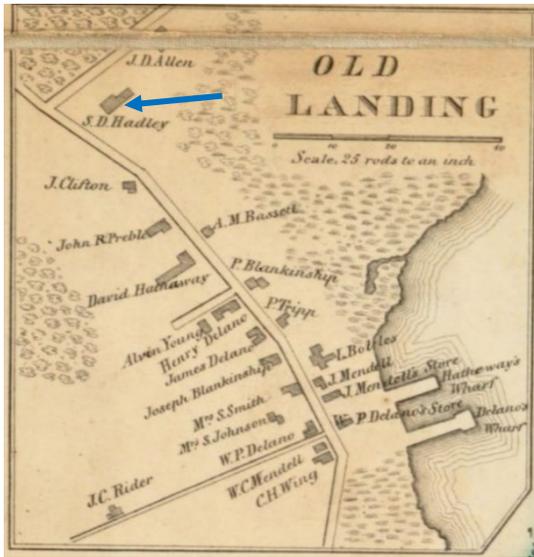
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democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin. The identifying Greek Revival features of this house include the front-gabled orientation of the house, denticulated box cornice, frieze boards, corner pilasters, eave returns, six-over-six window sash, denticulated window entablatures, triangular attic window, and side-hall main entry surround with full-height sidelights and denticulated architrave. Italianate details include the paired scroll brackets at the cornices and window surrounds and the full-width, flat-roofed porches with their slotted posts. The Italianate style began in England as a response to the formal classical styles such as Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival that had long dominated architecture. The style emphasized informality and decorative detailing.

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.

The owner of this house is shown as S.D. Hadley on the 1855 and 1879 maps and the Hadley Estate on the 1903 map. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was its sale by the heirs of Stephen D. Hadley, Sr. to Thomas J. and Mary Walker of Little Rock, Arkansas in 1911.

Sea captain Joseph Hadley (1789-1821) and Susan Delano Clapp (1793-1868) of Rochester had four children: Stephen Delano Hadley (1814-1892), Joseph Emerson Hadley (1817-1897), Eliza Hadley Blankinship (1812-1887), and Andrew J. Hadley (1817-1897). A seaman like his father, Captain Stephen Delano Hadley was married to Mary Soule (b.1818). The couple had one daughter, Anna Eliza Hadley (1842-1923), who did not marry and for whom her father built a house on the other side of the street at 318 Front Street (1880-1890, Anna Eliza Hadley House, MRN.133). The 1998 MHC Area Form I for Old Landing suggests that this house was built by Captain Stephen Delano Hadley in 1846, which seems reasonable given its appearance. However, the area form includes a misunderstanding about later owners of the house. The Stephen D. Hadley whose heirs sold this house in 1911 was in fact not Captain Stephen D. Hadley but his nephew, the son of his brother Andrew J. Hadley. Andrew Hadley was the proprietor of the Marion General Store for many years. Like his father, Stephen D. Hadley (1857-1910), later referred to as Stephen D. Hadley, Sr., was a merchant working in the family business. He was married to Martha Louise Abbott (1858-1953), with whom he had four children: Stephen D. Hadley, Jr. (1884-1967), Mary Soule Hadley (1886-1966), Martha Louise Hadley (b.1889), and William A. Hadley (b.1889). The four children of Stephen D. Hadley, Sr. and his wife Martha apparently inherited or purchased the property and subsequently sold it in 1911.

The house was purchased in 1911 by Thomas J. Walker and his wife Mary Dreyer Walker (1861-1937), daughter of Henry Conrad and Margarethe Elizabeth Dryer of Marion. The couple divorced three years later and Thomas Walker conveyed the property to Mary Walker, who lived in the house and operated an antiques shop there until 1936, when she conveyed it to her son. It was acquired in 1941 by Clifford and Laura E. Edge. Known professionally as "Cledge Roberts," Edge operated a theater known as the Harbor Playhouse and served variously as producer, director, and backstage manager for the company.¹ The

¹ "Harbor Playhouse Opens in Marion, Cledge Roberts Found Able Director," Newspaper article, June 30, 1940 Sippican Historical Soc. Object #V034.045.

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subject property was used by Edge as a residence for himself and the theater players. Two years later, the property was purchased by William H. Bourne of New York City, who according to a contemporary newspaper article was a millionaire theatre "angel."² Bourne had apparently allowed Edge to remain in the house for the 1944 season only, but three years later Edge still occupied the Hadley House. In 1947 Bourne sued to evict Edge and the judge found in favor of Bourne.³ That decision was upheld a year later in Plymouth County Superior Court after an appeal by Edge. Despite the dispute, the show did go on, and the Harbor Playhouse continued in operation.

Bourne sold the property in 1955 to William Knowles, who used the house as a gift shop and guest house. Knowles subdivided the large parcel as shown in a 1956 plan (Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 2504, Page 375), creating an adjacent parcel at 339 Front Street (formerly 335 Front Street). The 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.I suggests that a stable from the subject property was located at 339 Front Street. The house currently at 339 Front Street is a Colonial Revival style house built in 1958 that incorporates a front-gabled wing attached by a hyphen to the main block at its north elevation. It is possible that the wing might have originally been a small, freestanding barn or stable but further investigation would be required to determine its origins.

The subject property was sold in 1959 to Helen Billings Tucker, who used the building to house several shops. In 2002 the Sippican Historical Society Preservation Fund and the Croll Foundation facilitated the purchase of the property by the Captain Hadley House LLC. The intent was to ensure the future preservation of the building and prevent possible demolition or significant changes to its exterior. The property was sold in 2016 with preservation restrictions in place and continues to be used for commercial purposes.⁴

Deed Research

Date		Grantor	Grantee
03-18-2016	46701-217	Captain Hadley House LLC	Sky Development LTD
12-09-2004	29634-289	George T.J. Walker & L. Kelly L. Walker	Captain Hadley House LLC
08-31-1994	13115-34	John L. & Thelma L. Hayward	George T.J. Walker & L. Kelly L. Walker
06-30-1966	3305-320	Gerard F. & Jacqueline A. Cusick	John L. & Thelma L. Hayward
09-25-1962	2968-166	Helen Billings Tucker	Gerard F. & Jacqueline A. Cusick
06-12-1959	2706-228	William Knowles, Jr.	Helen Billings Tucker
08-06-1955	2445-137	William H. Bourne	William Knowles, Jr.
08-28-1943	1851-371	Clifford & Laura E. Edge	William H. & Mary V. Bourne
10-28-1941	1816-254	Byron D. & Hazel Leavitt Smith	Clifford Edge
06-17-1939	1768-439	William Walker & Ruth Putnam Claflin	Byron D. & Hazel Leavitt Smith
09-30-1936	1714-349	Mary D. Walker	William Walker Claflin
01-04-1915	1207-548	Thomas J. Walker	Mary D. Walker
11-29-1911	1099-554	Stephen D. & Mary Hadley, William A. Hadley, Martha L. Hadley, and Martha L. Abbott Hadley	Thomas J. Walker

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
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Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855 H.F. Walling
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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
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 Smith, Pete (ed.). *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.

² "Millionaire 'Angel' of Marion Playhouse Sues for Accounting," *Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, March 3, 1947.

³ "Eviction Started Against Director - New Yorker Seeks Marion Property," *Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, October 30, 1947.

⁴ "Capt. Hadley House Sold," Chris Reagle, *The Sippican Sentinel*, March 24, 2016.

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MARION

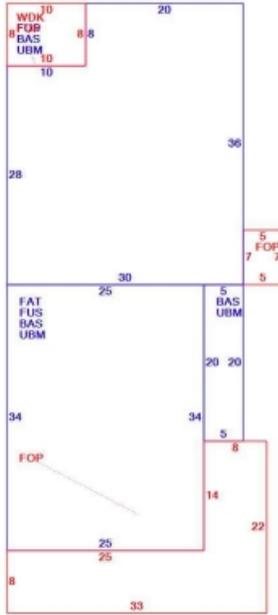
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Assessor's card plan



West and east elevations.



Photograph ca. 1890 courtesy of the Sippican Historical Society.

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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.