

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-38	Marion	MRN.J	MRN.150
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**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Rev. Oliver Cobb

## Photograph



**Address:** 466 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Edward W. Cobb House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1860

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Barn/storage building

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

Dormers (20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 1.23

**Setting:** Dense linear development of residences developed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> – late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Housing stock includes mid-sized wood-frame, single-family houses in the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles on small to medium-sized lots.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): August 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

466 Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

MRN.J

MRN.150

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.*

**466 Front Street** occupies a large trapezoidal lot on the west side of Front Street and faces east. The house is positioned close to the street at the southeast corner of the parcel and fronts a shallow front lawn dotted with shrubs. The balance of the property north and west of the house is cleared with a perimeter of dense trees and vegetation. Foundation plantings are minimal. A wooden fence comprising stockade and rail portions borders Front Street at the façade (east elevation). A crushed shell driveway framed near the house by segments of stockade fence enters the property from Front Street at the southern property line and travels to a barn/storage building at the southwest corner of the property; it then curves to the northwest and continues west beyond the property line. A paved portion of the driveway at the south elevation of the house serves as a parking area.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-two-bay main block with an extensive rear addition. Constructed ca. 1860 in the Greek Revival style, the house retains the majority of its original character-defining features. It rests on a granite foundation and is clad in weathered wood shingles with contrasting trim. A tall, narrow brick chimney rises from the south roof slope of the main block. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, two-part frieze boards, eave returns, and corner pilasters. The side hall main entry at the southernmost bay contains a six-panel wood door framed by full-height sidelights, pilasters, and an entablature. The door fronts a small granite stoop and a three-step concrete stair that ends at the front lawn. The windows at all elevations of the main block are single, double-hung, six-over-six sash with flat surrounds and architraves; those at the side elevations touch the frieze boards. Shallow shed wall dormers containing paired windows are centered on the north and south roof slopes. Scroll side panels mark the dormers at the eave breaks of the main block.

The rear addition comprises two contiguous gabled blocks that project beyond the south elevation of the main block. A one-story shed-roofed, one-bay-by-three-bay enclosed porch occupies the junction of the main block and rear addition and extends to the center of the main block's south wall.

466 Front Street exemplifies 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, two-part frieze boards, corner pilasters, eave returns, main entry surround with full-height sidelights and an entablature, and six-over-six window sash.

## 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 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 northernmost portion of what has been historically known as Marion's Upper Village runs along Front Street from the intersection of Front and Spring Streets to Interstate 195. Less than a mile from the Rochester town line, the Rev. Oliver Cobb Area, where this building is located, is centered along Front Street immediately north of the Old Depot area, the former site of the rail station. It is so named because the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century home of Oliver Cobb, the first minister of Marion's First Congregational Church, was located here at 460 Front Street (1799, Rev. Oliver Cobb House, MRN.149). Initially Oliver Cobb served both the church at Rochester and the one at Marion, and his parsonage was situated at a convenient mid-

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

466 Front Street

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

MRN.J

MRN.150

point between the two churches. A sparsely settled agricultural area during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, its rapid residential development began in the mid-1800s. There are two late 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings in this small area, including the Cobb house and the Hammatt House at 429 Front Street (late 18<sup>th</sup> c., MRN.144). The mostly modest residences in this area were built throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This house first appears on the 1879 map with E.W. Cobb shown as the owner. Mrs. L.M. Coffin is the owner on the 1903 map. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was its sale by James H. Cobb to Lucretia M. Coffin in 1899.

James Herbert Cobb (1865-1926) was the grandson of Reverend Oliver Cobb and the son of Edward W. Cobb (1823-1895) and Mary S. Washburn (1827-1896). He had inherited this property from his mother after her death. His grandfather, Oliver Cobb [Sr.] (1770-1849) was born in Kingston, the son of Seth Cobb (1740-1821) and Margaret Cooke (1741-1810). Cobb was a graduate of Brown University and was later awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity by the same school. He was called to be the minister of the First Church (Congregational) in Rochester in 1798. The original settlement town of Rochester separated into several political entities, including Marion, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Reverend Cobb first served both the church in Rochester and the one in Marion before eventually becoming the fulltime minister of Marion's First Congregational Church. He served that church until his death in 1849.

Edward W. Cobb (1823-1895) was one of the two sons of Oliver Cobb's second wife, Hannah Burgess (1808-1860), daughter of Prince Burgess and Martha Crowell. Edward W. Cobb was married in Rochester to Mary S. Washburn, daughter of Rowland Washburn (1796-1857) and Betsey Smith Swift (1809-1886). The 1855 census notes his occupation as farmer. In 1860, Edward sold his interest in his father's house at 460 Front Street to his brother Oliver for \$300 and presumably built this house next to his family home shortly thereafter. His brother Oliver was a house carpenter, and it is quite possible that he built or helped build the subject house. Oliver lived next door at 448 Front Street (1850-1860, Oliver S. Cobb [Jr.] House, MRN.148). In 1899 Edward Cobb's son James H. Cobb (1865-1926) and his wife Ruth Alice Hammond (1886-1926) sold the house to Lucretia M. Coffin.

Lucretia M. Coffin (1846-1930) was born Lucretia M. Hathaway, daughter of Rufus F. Hathaway (1805-187) and Ruth L. Sampson (1809-1896) of Wareham. She was married in 1885 to merchant and banker William Barney Coffin (1850-1895). Coffin died ten years later and Lucretia purchased this house where she raised the couple's only child, Ansel Gurney Coffin (1887-1957). The 1920 census reported Coffin living in Pennsylvania with his mother, and in 1930 with his wife Edith Adelle Wentworth (b. 1891). It is probable then that the house was used as a rental property during his ownership. Ansel Coffin's mortgage of 1934 was foreclosed in 1939, and the property was acquired by William B. and Barbara Macy. Ansel Coffin returned to Marion by 1940 where he lived until his death in 1957.

William Barstow Macy (1910-1980) was born in New Bedford and was married in 1936 to Barbara C. Hersey of the same city. Census records and city directories reported his occupation as yachtsman and sea captain. The property was purchased by the current owner in 1985.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-11-2009	38035-144	Susan K. Connor f/k/a Susan K. Johnson	Kenneth M. & Susan K. Connor
12-30-1985	6510-80	Barbara A. Macy	Susan K. Johnson
08-29-1970	3640-444	William B. Macy	Barbara A. Macy
07-09-1940	1791-121	Home Owner's Loan Corporation	William B. & Barbara H. Macy
09-07-1939	1775-67	Ansel G. Coffin (foreclosure)	Home Owner's Loan Corporation
04-11-1934	1670-137	Ansel G. Coffin (mortgage)	Home Owner's Loan Corporation
03-16-1908	976-521	Lucretia M. Coffin	Ansel G. Coffin
04-01-1899	776-256	James H. & Ruth R. Cobb	Lucretia M. Coffin
Probate		Mary S. Cobb	James H. Cobb

**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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

466 Front Street

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

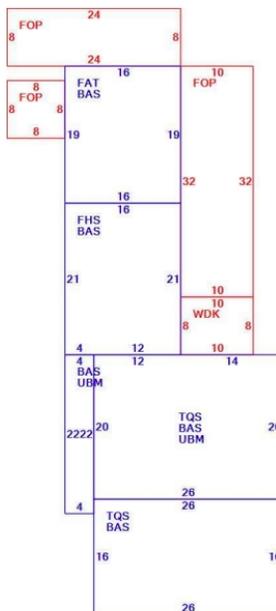
Area(s)

Form No.

MRN.J

MRN.150

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- 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.  
Olive Hill Sommers, *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

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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MRN.J	MRN.150
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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 Rev. Oliver Cobb Area of Marion. The Rev. Oliver Cobb Area (MRN.J) 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. Less than a mile south of the Rochester town line, the Rev. Oliver Cobb Area is a linear development along Front Street immediately north of the Old Depot area, the former site of the rail station. A sparsely settled agricultural area during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, its rapid residential development began in the mid-1800s. The area is so named because the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century home of Oliver Cobb, the first minister of Marion's First Congregational Church, was located here at 460 Front Street (ca.1799, Rev. Oliver Cobb House, MRN.149). The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 MHC survey for the Rev. Oliver Cobb Area (MRN.J).

**Under Criterion A**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with Rev. Oliver Cobb, who simultaneously served both the Congregational church at Rochester and the one at Marion in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. His house, the late 18<sup>th</sup> century parsonage at 460 Front Street, was situated at a convenient mid-point between the two churches.

**Under Criterion C**, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level in the area of Architecture for its collection of architecturally significant houses dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include two distinguished Federal style properties, the Rev. Oliver Cobb House and the Hammatt House at 429 Front Street (late 18<sup>th</sup> c., MRN.144), along with houses in the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles.

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.