

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 -47

Marion

MRN.J

MRN.141

Photograph



Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 416 (formerly 418) Front Street

Historic Name: Capt. John K. Hathaway House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1854

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Gothic Revival / Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None apparent

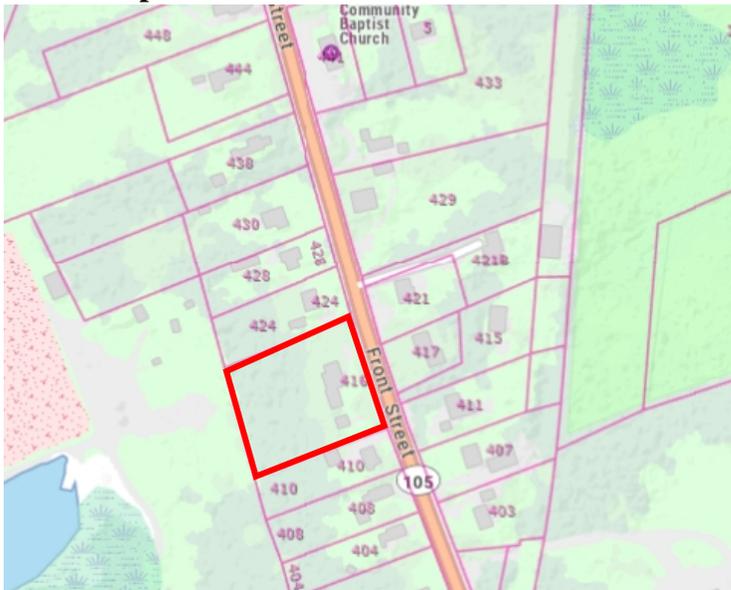
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.35

Setting: Dense linear development of residences developed in the late 18th – late 19th 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

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.

416 Front Street occupies a large trapezoidal lot on the west side of Front Street and faces east. The house is set back from the street in the eastern half of the parcel and fronts an area of lawn. The side yard at the north elevation at the house is planted with wildflowers. The balance of the property is heavily vegetated with shrubs and mature trees. Foundation plantings surround the house. A tall stockade fence edged on both sides with shrubs and mature trees borders the western property line along Front Street; the portion of fence at the northwest corner of the house is set back from the street and fronts a row of trees behind a line of granite boulders. A wide paved driveway enters the property from Front Street near the southern property line and ends at a garage adjacent to the house. A gravel driveway off Front Street enters along the north elevation of the house.

This dwelling comprises a two-story, side-gabled main block with a rectangular plan and a one-story, four-bay-by-three-bay gabled addition at the south elevation. The main block is five-bays-by-three-bays with a steeply-pitched roof and a steep center cross gable. The house was built ca. 1854 and exhibits a Gothic Revival-style form with a blend of Gothic Revival and Greek Revival details; it appears to retain the majority of its original character defining features. The house rests on a high granite foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and carries brick chimneys at the ridge at the northernmost and southernmost bays.

The main block is trimmed with a deep box cornice and corner and frieze boards. The centered main entry is sheltered by a shallow, flat-roofed portico with square columns featuring tall rectangular cut-outs. It has a deep entablature and a slat work roof balustrade with cut-out posts resembling those at the portico. The side walls at the portico are filled with latticed screens. The entry contains a paneled wood door flanked by full-height sidelights with contemporary vertical muntin patterns. The door fronts a paved walkway which runs south along the east elevation and ends at the driveway. The windows at the house are uniformly double-hung, six-over-six sash with flat surrounds and lipped lintels.

The one-story, four-by-three-bay gabled dependency at the south elevation is set back one bay from the façade of the main block and aligns along its rear elevation. Its granite foundation suggests that it is early and integral to the house. It has an entry at the façade at the intersection of the addition and main block and a second entry at the south elevation containing a vertical slat door with strap hinges. The door fronts two granite steps.

The front-gabled, two-car garage just south of the house is clad with wood clapboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. It contains a single garage door and is capped by a vented, hip-roofed cupola.

416 Front Street has a character-defining Gothic Revival form with its steeply pitched roof and steep cross gable. Begun in England in the late 18th century and drawn from Medieval design themes, the Gothic Revival was seen in American domestic architecture between 1840 and 1880 and popularized through the pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing. The identifying Greek Revival features include the portico, full-height sidelights at the entry, and six-over-six window sash configuration. 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 Classical architecture of ancient Greek temples and associated with democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin.

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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.

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

The subject house appears on the 1855 map with J.K. Hathaway shown as owner. The 1879 map identifies the heirs of J.K. Hathaway as owners, and on the 1903 map the owners were Mrs. Z. Crocker and Miss Hathaway. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was from Susan B. Smith to master mariner John K. Hathaway in 1842. [Note: At some point there was a change in spelling of the surname from Hathaway to Hatheway for this branch of the family. For the purposes of consistency Hathaway has been used here.]

Susan B. Smith (1815-1895) was the widow and second wife of Isaac Smith (1801-1849). She was born Susan Turner, daughter of Walter Turner and Lydia Swift (1773-1849). Isaac Smith was the son of Joseph Bates Smith (1780-1858) and Sarah Eaton (1776-1861). His 1849 death certificate noted his occupation as shoemaker. Susan and Isaac Smith were married in 1838 and had two children together, Augustus Hallett Smith (1841-1917) and Isaac B. Smith (b. 1849). Smith had one daughter from his previous marriage to Asubah Wing (1804-1834), Lucy (1834-1874). After her husband's death Susan sold the property to Captain John K. Hathaway. There was no mention of buildings in the deed.

Capt. John K. Hathaway (1815-1879) was the second son of David and Abigail Hathaway. David Hathaway (1788-1861) was born in Freetown to Gilbert Hathaway (1745-1829) and Mary Evans (1751-1826). He was married in 1811 to Abigail Keen (1787-1878), with whom he had a very large family. Several sources suggest that David Hathaway was a shipbuilder and owner of one of the two wharfs at the head of Sippican Harbor. The 1855 map labels the northernmost wharf as Hathaway's Wharf, but the 1850 and 1855 censuses reported David Hathaway's occupation as farmer. The 1860 census listed him as a merchant. Regardless of his vocation, however, he appears to have been quite prosperous. His 1861 will devised his considerable estate consisting of a number of properties and businesses to his wife Abigail and his children.

John Hathaway was 39 years old and a master mariner when he purchased this property from Susan Smith in 1854. It is likely that he built the house shortly thereafter. He was married in Rochester in 1840 to Mary Cottle Hammett (1815-1889), the daughter of Joseph Hammett (1780-1853) and Hannah Claghorn (1788-1857) of Martha's Vineyard. John and Mary Hathaway had three children surviving to adulthood, Philura C. (1843-1904), John Franklin (1859-1917), and Mary Hammatt (1863-1909). [Note: In various title and biographical resources concerning the Hammatt family, their surname is variously spelled Hammat, Hammatt, Hammet, and Hammett. For purposes of consistency, Hammatt will be used in this form.] Mary Hammatt Hathaway married Zenas H. Crocker (1845-1902) in 1896. Philura did not marry. The 1903 map suggests that Mary Crocker, at that point a widow, was living with her sister in her parents' home. In 1912 after the deaths of his sisters, John F. Hathaway sold the house.

The property was purchased by Frederick B. and Jennie N. Barden who sold it five years later in 1919 to Charles F. Holmes, the owner-operator of a sawmill in Wareham. Born in 1869 in Rhode Island, Holmes was married to Mary E. Holmes. His mortgage on the property was foreclosed in 1925 by the Wareham Savings Bank, which sold it to Helen Pierce in 1931. Marion store owner Elliot Davis Pierce (1884-1993) and his wife Helen Freeman Pierce (1886-1952) assumed the mortgage. In 1948 Helen subdivided the two-plus acre tract of land. The subject house occupied the larger northern portion and a small house was built on the southern portion, which became 410 Front Street. Pierce sold the smaller house and land to Annie Ester Sloat in 1931, and in 1949 sold the larger section with the subject house to Roger W. Converse, Jr. and his wife Evelyn Chase Converse.

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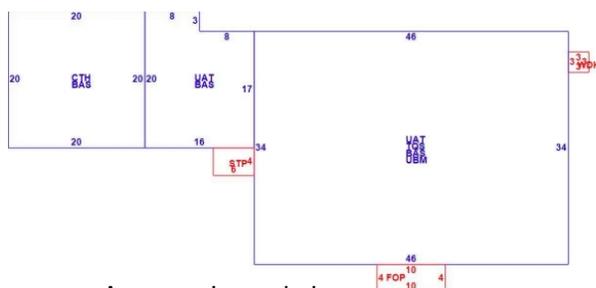
Roger W. Converse, Jr. (1922-1949) was the grandson of Colonel Harry Elisha Converse (1863-1920) and great grandson of the Malden shoe manufacturer Elisha S. Converse (1820-1904). In 1853 the senior Converse established the Boston Rubber Shoe Company, which eventually employed 3,500 people and became known as the Converse shoe company. Harry Converse served as an executive of the shoe company and in 1903 built "The Moorings" (demolished in 1924), considered to be the largest wood frame house in New England. Harry's son Roger Wolcott Converse (1900-1969) worked in the real estate business in Boston and lived in Dedham and then later in Brookline. Roger Wolcott Converse's son, Roger W. Converse, Jr., attended Yale University and served in the Pacific theatre in the Marine Corps during World War II. After the war he became a fulltime resident in Marion and was employed in his father's real estate business. Roger died suddenly shortly after purchasing this house. His widow Evelyn C. (Converse) Holmes sold the property in 1951 to Tabor Academy which owned it for eight years. It was purchased by the current owner in 1992.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
10-05-1992	11314-93	Barbara A. Sanderson (f/n/a Barbara A. Brewster)	Robert & Barbara A. Sanderson
04-09-1979	4638-301	Helen Shirley Westergard	Barbara A. Anderson
07-15-1975	4083-571	Alfred Westergard	Helen Shirley Westergard
08-27-1964	3139-29	Alfred Westergard Mary Edna Westergard	Alfred & Helen Shirley Westergard
07-07-1960	2786-432	Henry R. & Elizabeth C. Landwehr	Alfred Westergard Mary Edna Westergard
09-03-1952	2228-420	Tabor Academy	Henry R. & Elizabeth C. Landwehr
04-30-1951	2146-351	Evelyn C. Holmes (f/n/a Evelyn C. Converse)	Tabor Academy
05-31-1949	2066-33	Helen F. Pierce	Roger W. Jr., & Evelyn C. Converse
10-13-1931	1621-129	Wareham Savings Bank	Helen F. Pierce
07-17-1925	1489-460	Charles F. & Mary E. Holmes (Mortgage)	Wareham Savings Bank
06-14-1919	1324-290	Frederick B. & Jennie N. Barden	Charles F. Holmes
04-26-1912	1116-242	John F. Hathaway	Frederick B. & Jennie N. Barden
10-02-1854	269-49	Susan B. Smith Guardian of Augusta H. & Isaac B. Smith minor children of Isaac Smith	John K. Hathaway
10-02-1854	267-268	Susan B. Smith	John K. Hathaway

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

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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 18th and early 19th centuries, its rapid residential development began in the mid-1800s. The area is so named because the late 18th-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 19th century. His house, the late 18th 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 18th to the late 19th centuries. These include two distinguished Federal style properties, the Rev. Oliver Cobb House and the Hammatt House at 429 Front Street (late 18th 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.