

FORM B – BUILDING

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

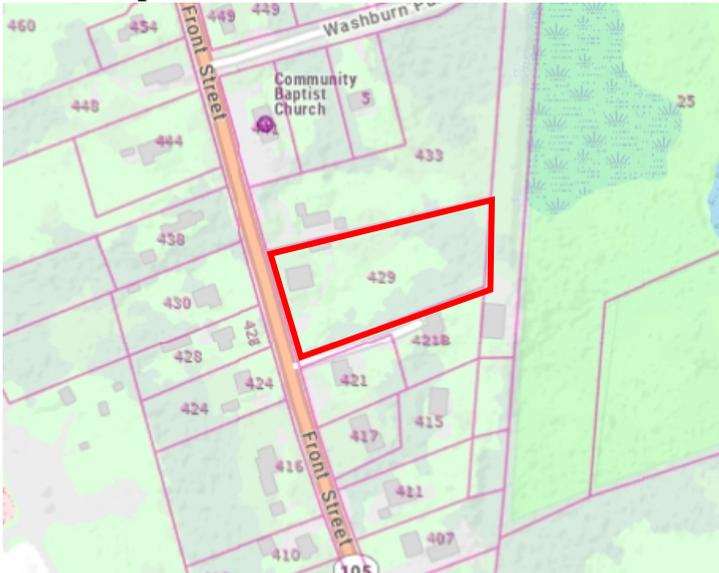
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

11-21A Marion MRN.J MRN.144

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge
Organization: Marion Historical Commission
Date (month / year): August 2022

Town/City:	Marion
Place: (<i>neighborhood or village</i>):	Rev. Oliver Cobb
Address:	429 Front Street
Historic Name:	Hammatt House
Uses: Present:	Residential
Original:	Residential
Date of Construction:	Ca. 1780
Source:	Deed and map research
Style/Form:	Three-quarter Cape
Architect/Builder:	Unknown
Exterior Material:	
Foundation:	Brick
Wall/Trim:	Wood shingle / Wood
Roof:	Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:	Garage (1987) Shed
Major Alterations (<i>with dates</i>):	Enclosed porch at south elevation (20 th century)
Condition:	Good
Moved: no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date: 19th century
Acreage:	1.62
Setting:	Dense linear development of residences developed in the late 18 th – late 19 th 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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

Front Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

429 Front Street occupies a large trapezoidal lot on the east side of Front Street and faces west. The house is positioned near the northwest corner of the parcel and is closely set behind a tall hedge that spans the property along Front Street. The hedge, which is bordered by a row of large fieldstones at the street, breaks at the entrance to the main block, at the north elevation of the house, and near the southwest corner of the parcel where a driveway enters the property. The driveway runs diagonally across the parcel and ends at a garage at the northern property line. A garden occupies a large area of the southwest corner of the house. The parcel is otherwise maintained primarily in grass dotted with shrubs and mature trees and surrounded by dense vegetation at the perimeter. A vertical slat wooden fence lines the northern property line. The main block of the house is surrounded by low foundation plantings at the west and north elevations.

This house is one of the earliest structures in this section of Marion. It comprises a ca. 1780 three-quarter Cape main block and a 19th century block, both moved to the site from East Marion in the 19th century according to the current owner. The main block is a one-and-one-half-story, four-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled, wood frame, knee wall Cape that retains the majority of its character-defining features. The large space between the façade openings and the cornice defines the “knee wall” or “high post” Cape, a variant of the style in which the stud wall extends past the first floor to create additional space on the second floor. The irregular placement of the openings at the west elevation suggest that the façade may have been altered. The house rests on a brick foundation. The walls are clad in painted wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A substantial off-center brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the main block.

Trim elements at the main block are limited to narrow corner and frieze boards. The windows at the facade are double-hung twelve-over-eight sash with flat surrounds and molded, lipped lintels. A double-hung, four-over-four window set at the cornice surmounts the entry. Openings at the second story at each of the side elevations include a centered twelve-over-six window flanked by six-over-six sash, all with flat surrounds and molded, lipped lintels. The main entry, which is centered at the façade, contains a wood-panel door framed by molded side panels and an elliptical fanlight with a molded surround embellished with beaded and incised details. The door fronts a two-step granite stair and a gravel walkway lined with granite pavers leading to Front Street. There is a gabled wall dormer at the rear (east) roof slope. The full-width, one-story, hip-roofed, three-by-one-bay enclosed porch spanning the south elevation of the main block has banked windows over a knee wall. Triple mulled, six-over-six double-hung windows flank a glass-and-panel door accessed by a four-step stair.

The 19th century rear block, suggested by the author of the 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.J to have originally been a small house or portion of a house, connects to the main block with a cross gable and aligns with it along the north elevation. It has a saltbox roof and is set back one bay from the south elevation of the main block and faces south. At the first story the rear block contains a double-leaf glass-and-panel door and a semi-hexagonal bay window sheltered under a shallow hip-roofed porch. A shallow, two-bay gabled wall dormer occupies the second story. Openings at the rear block include a combination of six-over-one replacement windows and small three-over-three and two-over-two sash. A single entry with a gabled hood occupies the northernmost bay.

The four-bay-by-one-bay, side-gabled garage at the northern property line is wood-shingled. It has two garage door openings, one with an overhead door and one with a vertical plank wooden door with strap hinges, and a bank of contemporary windows.

The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19th century. The three-quarter Cape design was one of the earlier iterations of the house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include its form and massing, side-gabled roof, nearly-centered single chimney, and small window openings relative to the wall surface area.

Continuation sheet 1

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Twelve-over-twelve, twelve-over six, nine-over-nine, and six-over-nine window sash configurations are characteristic of the Georgian (1700–1780) period; six-over-six windows were typically seen later and are identified with the Federal (1780–1820) style. The elaborately decorated elliptical fanlight is characteristic of the Georgian period.

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.

[Note: In the various title and biographical resources concerning this property, the surname of an early owner is variously spelled Hammat, Hammatt, Hammet, and Hammett. For the purposes of consistency, Hammatt will be used in this document.]

This house appears on the 1855 map with Mrs. H. Hammatt shown as the owner. The owners are identified as W. Hammet Est. on the 1879 map and West Luce Est. on the 1903 map. The parcel represents part of what was once a 6+-acre farm. The subject house comprises two connected structures, both of which were moved to the site from East Marion sometime after the gale of 1818 as reported by the current owners and attested to by interior features and the building foundations. The Cape portion was moved before the creation of the 1855 map, upon which it appears.

The Mrs. H. Hammet on the 1855 map was Hannah Claghorn Hammatt (1788-1857), the daughter of Joseph Claghorn (b.1753) and Anna Haskell Mendall (1755-1834) of Rochester. She was married to Joseph Hammatt [Jr.] (1780-1853) of Martha's Vineyard, the son of Joseph Hammatt [Sr.] (1753-1781) and Abigail Daggett (1759-1813). The younger Joseph Hammatt was a farmer according to the 1850 census. Robert William Hammatt (1818-1878), the youngest of the couple's seven children, was also a farmer according to the same census. Robert Hammatt was married in 1857 to Isabella Gray Hallet (1835-1870) of Yarmouth. After her death in 1870, Robert Hammatt left Marion for Bear Valley in the Central Sierra mountains of California, where he worked as a butcher according the 1872 Great Register of Mariposa, California. He died there in 1878. The property ownership passed to Robert Hammatt's older sister, Philusa (1815-1901) and her husband West Luce (1814-1895). Censuses report various occupations for Luce including depot master, clerk in foundry, and farmer. The couple's son, Joseph Hammatt Luce (1846-1894) was married to Sarah S. Sisson (1855-1937), the daughter of David Sisson and Almira Smith of Dartmouth. After West Luce's death in 1895, Sarah married his younger brother Robert H. Luce (1854-1914). Once again widowed in 1914, she sold the property in 1922 to George A. Richards, Charles R. Richards, John W. Richards, and Jennie N. (nee Richards) Barden of Marion. The four Richards were the children of George Fisher Richards (1842-1914) and Eliza Jane McAllister (b.1847) of Dedham.

John Wesley Richards lived at 90 Main Street (ca. 1904, Handy-Nye House, MRN.262) from 1920 until 1950. Richards joined the town water department in 1907 and went on to become Commissioner of Public Works, Superintendent of the Highway Department, and Cemetery Commissioner. His sister, Jennie Newell Richards (1876-1964) was married in 1900 to Frederick Brooks Barden, a Marion shopkeeper. They owned the property until 1932 when it was sold to Robley E. and Ada M. Buckman. An electrician, Buckman operated the Buckman Electric Company located on Pleasant Street in Marion. In 1965 the house was purchased by Richard H. and Kathleen P. Reis. Reis was a professor of English and chair of the English department at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. The current owners purchased the property in 2005.

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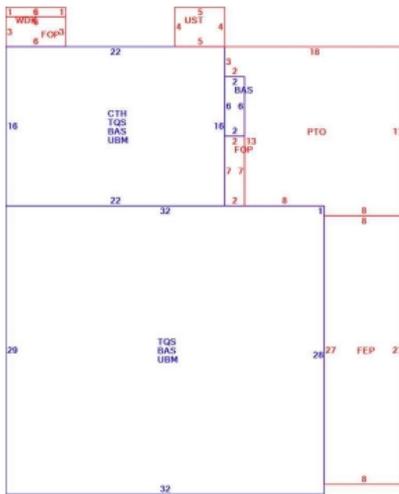
MRN.144

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
02-07-2005	(106811)	Richard H. & Kathleen P. Reis	L. Sheldon Daly, III & Bernadette M. Kelly
04-16-1965	(37055)	Richard D. & Eleanor D. Bower	Richard H. & Kathleen P. Reis
04-07-1951	(17097)	Robley E. & Ada M. Buckman	Richard D. & Eleanor D. Bower
06-02-1932	(4746)	John W. Richards & Jennie N. Barden	Robley E. & Ada M. Buckman
01-01-1922	1416-215	Sarah S. Luce	George A. Richards, Charles R. Richards, John W. Richards, & Jennie N. Barden

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.
- 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.
- Discussion with owners L. Sheldon Daly, III and Bernadette M. Kelly, Sept. 8, 2022.



Assessor's card plan



South and west 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 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.

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