

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-41

Marion

MRN.J

MRN.149

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 460 Front Street

Historic Name: Rev. Oliver Cobb House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1799

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Late Georgian

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn (mid-19th century)

Workshop

Greenhouses (1995 and 2004)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows (21st century)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

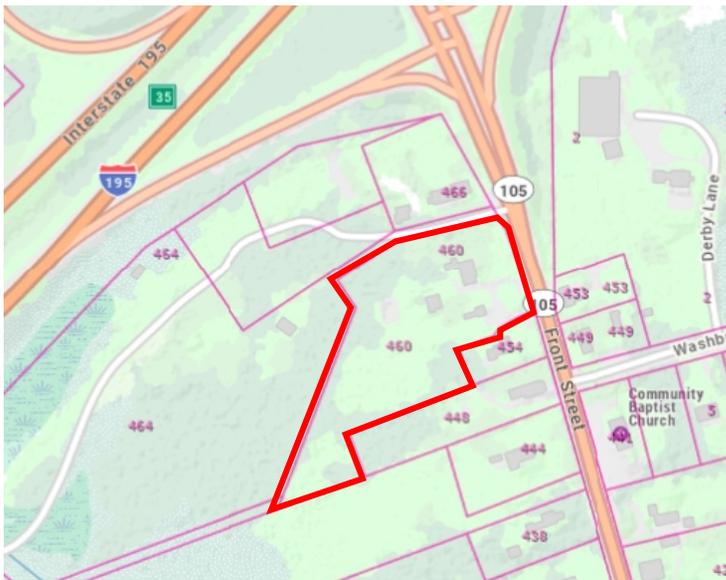
Acreage: 3.0

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.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): August 2022

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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.

460 Front Street occupies a large, irregular, polygonal parcel on the west side of Front Street. The house is deeply set back from the street at the approximate north-south midpoint of the parcel and faces east. It is surrounded by an expansive lawn with a recently-planted orchard at the northeast corner of the parcel and a large vegetable garden behind the house. The northern and western property boundaries are lined with dense shrubs and mature trees. Low foundation plantings surround the house. The southern property boundary is marked by a low drystone wall. The property is bordered by a vinyl picket fence along Front Street and by segments of vertical slat and rail fencing behind the cottage and greenhouses. A paved driveway enters the parcel from Front Street and runs along the south elevation of the house to end at the barn; an offshoot creates a circular driveway at the southeast corner of the parcel which surrounds a planting bed.

This wood-frame building comprises a two-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block with a one-story rear addition and a one-story enclosed porch at the south elevation. It is a particularly large and impressive dwelling for its time, when smaller Cape-style houses were the norm. Constructed ca.1799 in the Late Georgian style, the house retains many of its original character-defining features. It is clad in wood shingles; trim is limited to narrow corner boards and frieze boards at the gable ends. The house rests on a fieldstone foundation and has an asphalt shingle roof. A brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge at the main block; a second chimney rises from the rear addition.

The windows at the main block comprise double-hung, six-over-six replacement windows with false muntins, flat surrounds with lipped lintels, and blinds. A narrow eight-light fixed sash is centered over the entry at the second story, where all of the windows touch the cornice. The main entry contains an eight-panel wood door framed by fluted pilasters, a five-light transom, a molded architrave and pediment. The entry fronts a brick stoop and a two-step brick stair leading to the lawn.

The one-story, five-by-two-bay, enclosed porch spanning the south elevation has a flat roof with overhanging eaves. The porch has full glazing over a paneled knee wall, with flat pilasters separating the paired one-over-one windows and marking the corners. The flat roof has a deep overhang. The centered entry at the south wall comprises a contemporary unit with sidelights and a transom. The one-story, L-shaped, cross-gabled addition at the northwest corner of the main block could not be well visualized during the site visit.

The mid-19th century gabled barn sited behind the house near the north-south center of the parcel is directly accessed by the driveway. It is shown in a photograph in the 1998 MHC Area Form J for the Rev. Oliver Cobb area with a simple rectangular plan and an elliptical window at the gable. Since that time shed-roofed wings constructed of vertical boards have been added at the side elevations and the elliptical light replaced with a six-over-six window. The barn was being re-sided with clapboards at the time of the site visit.

A three-bay-by-one-bay, side-gabled workshop (MRN.558) sited south of the house appears to date to the early-to-mid 19th century and may have been moved to the site; town assessors' records state that it was constructed in 1995 but that date probably only references the attached greenhouses. It has a center chimney and is clad in wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards. Paired four-over-four replacement sash flank a door with an early surround that includes pilasters and a frieze board that touches the denticulated cornice. The door fronts two granite steps that join the circular driveway. The workshop has a parged concrete block foundation. Gambrel-roofed greenhouses with parged concrete block foundations extend from the south and west elevations of the workshop.

460 Front Street was built in the Late Georgian style, a transition between the Georgian style (1700-1780) and the Federal style (1780-1800). Georgian was the predominant style for domestic construction in the United States from 1700 to 1780 and derived

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its name from the succession of English kings named George, beginning with George I in 1714. In the United States the style included variations on a simple theme: a symmetrical, two-story, side-gabled house with a center entry and windows aligned horizontally and vertically and touching the cornice at the second story. Front doors typically had a decorative surround with an entablature and window sash had small lights (nine or twelve) and thick muntins. Early houses had center chimneys and later ones, paired chimneys. Georgian style characteristics seen in this house include the center chimney and pedimented door surround. The six-over-six sash configuration at the replacement windows is a Federal-era characteristic.

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 after Oliver Cobb, the first minister of Marion's First Congregational Church and the owner of the late 18th-century subject property of this form. 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.

This house appears on the 1855 map with O. & E.W. Cobb shown as owners. On the 1879 map O. Cobb is the owner, and on the 1903 map it is Oliver Cobb. The earliest recorded conveyance found for this property found was its sale in 1861 by Edward W. Cobb to Oliver Cobb.

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 assumption that he built the house shortly thereafter is consistent with the apparent age of the structure. The original settlement town of Rochester separated into several political entities, including Marion, in the early 19th century. Rev. Cobb served both the church in Rochester and the one Marion until 1827, when a church council advised that the two churches be divided. Rev. Cobb was assigned to the First Congregational Church in Marion and served there until his death in 1849. Another minister was appointed to the church in Rochester.

Cobb was married twice, first in Kingston in 1795 to Sarah Everson (1773-1819), daughter of Robert Everson (1740-1776) and Hannah Putnam (1743-1797). The couple had six children who survived until adulthood including the Rev. Leander P. Cobb who would take his father's place in the pulpit of the First Congregational Church in Marion. After Sarah Cobb died in 1819, Oliver Cobb married Hannah Burgess (1808-1860), the daughter of Prince Burgess and Martha Crowell. Two of their sons, Edward and Oliver Cobb, inherited this house after the death of the Rev. Cobb.

Edward W. Cobb (1823-1895) was married in Rochester to Mary S. Washburn, daughter of Rowland Washburn (1796-1857) and Betsey Smith Swift (1809-1886). The 1855 census noted his occupation as farmer. His brother Oliver C. Cobb's occupation was listed as carpenter. A Civil War veteran, Oliver C. Cobb [Jr.] (1828-1918) was married to Lucy Crocker Ellis (1830-1921), the daughter of Reuben Lawrence Ellis (1801-1887) and Hepsibah [sic] R. Bacon of Barnstable. In 1860, Edward sold his interest in the house to Oliver for \$300. Edward Cobb lived next door at 466 Front Street (ca. 1860, Edward W. Cobb House, MRN.150).

Two of Lucy and Oliver Cobb's children survived them and inherited the subject house. Oliver Warren Cobb (1858-1949) and Albert Crocker Cobb (1868-195) both became physicians. Albert Cobb practiced in Marion and Oliver Cobb in Easthampton. In 1923 the brothers sold the house to their nephew, Fred L. Cobb (1885-1978), the son of their brother Charles Lawrence Cobb (1854-1894). Fred L. Cobb was a co-owner of the Marion General Store. After close to two hundred years the house left Cobb family ownership in 1986. It is now the Silvershell Inn, operated by its current owners.

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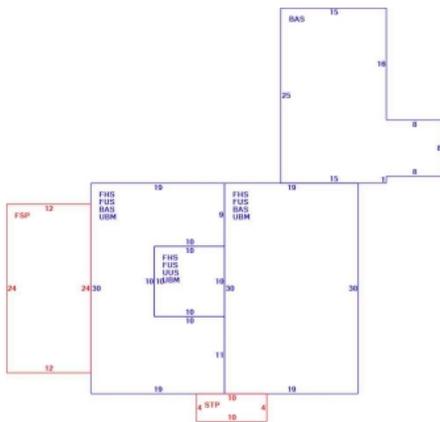
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Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
03-23-2018	49618-227	Ryan Bruce & Kathleen Marie Hill	George H. & Jean L. Linzee
06-29-2015	45733-141	Elizabeth Robertson	Ryan Bruce & Kathleen Marie Hill
12-17-1987	8192-154	James H. Scott & Marjorie C. Brunelle	Dale & Elizabeth Robertson
12-03-1987	8164-144	Marjorie C. Brunelle f/n/a Marjorie Brunelle Scott	James H. Scott & Marjorie C. Brunelle
08-07-1986	7014-71	Estate of Fred L. Cobb	Marjorie C. Brunelle f/n/a Marjorie Brunelle Scott
01-12-1923	1441-300	Oliver W. & Ella F. and Albert C. & Mary S. Cobb	Fred L. Cobb
Probate		Lucy C. Cobb	Oliver W. Cobb & Albert C. Cobb
Probate		Oliver Cobb	Lucy C. Cobb
12-27-1861	971-466	Edward W. & Mary S. Cobb	Oliver Cobb

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories
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Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855 H.F. Walling
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 Olive Hill Sommers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.
 Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
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Assessor's card plan



East (facade) and north elevations. Orchard at lower right.

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Workshop (MRN.558), 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 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.