

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-80 Marion N, Y MRN.203

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

**Town/City:** MARION

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -  
Barden-Hiller (MRN.Y)

## Photograph



**Address:** 155 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Frederick Brooks Barden Store

**Uses:** Present: Commercial

Original: Commercial

**Date of Construction:** [1899-1903]

**Source:** Vital records, Assessor, 1903 Plymouth County Atlas

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

Replacement of double-hung storefront windows with fixed sash (date unknown)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.07 acres

**Setting:** This small level parcel is located on the east side of Front Street in the heart of Marion Village. The surrounding area includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional resources, including the Hiller Brothers property which abuts this parcel to the east. This building is set at the street edge. There is no formal landscaping.

## Locus Map



Aerial Imagery, 2021

**Recorded by:** Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant

**Organization:** Sippican Historical Society

**Date** (*month / year*): February 2023

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

155 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.*

This building is a unique example in Marion Village of an extant, purpose-built, one-story commercial building. Built in ca. 1899-1903, the building form consists of a one-story, deep rectangular block with a flat roof and an open porch that reaches to the street edge. This porch was added sometime between 1908 and 1921 (see Figures 1, 2). The porch is supported by square posts with plain bases. The building appears to rest on a brick and fieldstone foundation, and the elevations are clad in wood shingles with broad cornerboards at the front corners which mimic the outlying porch posts. An early-1930s view shows the building's appearance at that time (Photo 3). The building was lengthened in the rear sometime before 1933. The only other major alteration has been the replacement of the paired double-hung windows on each side of the centered entrance with large undivided storefront windows (date unknown). The side elevations are minimally fenestrated with individual wood 6/6 windows.

## 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.*

While there had been some economic activity and residential development in Sippican Village prior to the Revolution, residential development accelerated in the early-1800s, as happened in many coastal Massachusetts towns, with boat building, whaling, coastal schooner trade, and the salt industry driving the economy. The construction of the First Congregational Meeting House in 1799, now Marion General Store (140 Front Street, MRN.22), also helped make Sippican Village the center for spiritual and civic life.<sup>1</sup> Residential (and limited commercial) development was initially concentrated along the Front Street/Main Street axis, and the harbor became the site for maritime-related utilitarian buildings and wharfs. By the time the 1855 Walling Map was prepared, additional streets had been laid out, but Main Street from the harbor west to Pleasant Street was the most densely developed street in the village.

Located just north of the primary village intersection at the corner of Front and Main Streets, this area was first developed with a handful of dwellings along Front Street, and then increased in density and variety of uses over time. Behind the dwellings to the east, the land was developed for industrial and maritime-industrial uses. This stretch of Front Street became increasingly commercial with the construction of purpose-built stores and the conversion of residences in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century.

This small store was located on the same parcel as the ca. 1840 house of Fredrick Barden (1811-1877) and his wife Charlotte Barden (1812-1882) at 153 Front Street (MRN.202). The Barden family were important in the development of this part of Marion Village. The house passed to their mariner son, Albert D. Barden (1849-1888), and then to Albert's son, Frederick B. Barden (1877-1963). Frederick had married Jennie Newell Richards (1876-1964) in Marion in 1900.

It is not known exactly when this store was built. It has an Assessor date of 1899, and the building is first shown with the name "F. B. Barden" on the 1903 Atlas (Figure 4). That year, the Rochester Directory included an advertisement for Frederick Barden's meat shop on Front Street (Figure 5). The building is shown on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map with the label "Meat" (Figure 1), and on the 1921 Sanborn map, it is labelled "Fish Market" (Figure 2). Frederick Barden's work was listed as Retail Merchant, Provisions Dealer and then Provisions Store in census records. The store is shown in a 1920s photograph with the signboard "F. B. Barden" (Photo 4). Most notably, he also founded Barden's Boat Yard in 1927. In 1969, five years after her death, the estate of Jennie Barden sold this property to Bradford L. Eames of Brockton.<sup>2</sup> The building continues to have a commercial uses.

<sup>1</sup> Marion was first settled in 1679 as Sippican, a district of Rochester, and was not incorporated as a separate town until 1852. The name Sippican Village continues to be used interchangeably with Marion Village.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3496/ Page 305.



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Figure 4. Detail of 1903 Plymouth County Atlas (arrow added).

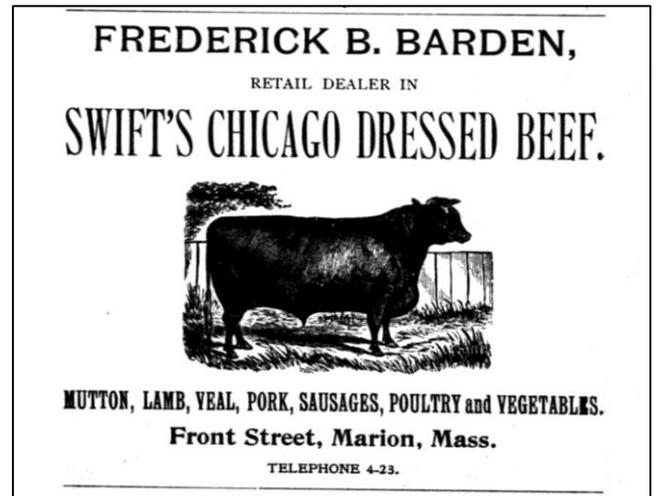


Figure 5. 1903 *Rochester Directory* advertisement.



Photo 3. Ca. 1900 view, Frederick B. Barden second from right (SHS 2008.002.001).



Photo 4. Early-1920s view, cropped (SHS 2008.001.025).

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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\_\_Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant for Sippican Historical Society

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This property is a contributing resource in the combined Areas of Wharf Village-Sippican Village (MRN.N) and Water Street (MRN.L), hereinafter referred to as Marion Village.\*

Marion Village is recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Maritime History. Marion Village contains the great majority of buildings connected to Marion's historical maritime development beginning in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century. With the rise of saltmaking, shipyards, and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, as did residential development in Marion Village. In addition to the houses built by those in the maritime industry, Marion Village contains numerous buildings and structures associated with maritime industrial activity, including a chandlery, sail loft, cooperage, and wharves. As Marion Village's prosperity became linked to Sippican Harbor, Marion Village also became the commercial, political and institutional center of the town.

Marion Village is also recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/ Recreation. Starting in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, maritime activity declined significantly. The decline in maritime activity was eventually replaced by the rise in the 1870s of a summer colony as Marion Village emerged as an elite summer resort. This was facilitated by the arrival of train service in the 1854. Summer visitors, including artists and writers, were drawn Sippican Harbor's beauty and tranquility. A large hotel, the Sippican Hotel, was located at the corner of South and Water Streets, and a few houses were converted to inns. While the hotel was town down in 1929, a large livery complex built by the Hiller Brothers at 147 Front Street (MRN.216) is extant. They provided horse-drawn vehicles to summer visitors registered at the Sippican Hotel, and ferried guests back and forth between the hotel and the train depot. In Marion Village, ownership (or occupancy through rental) of many houses began to shift from local maritime families to seasonal residents, including nationally-noteworthy politicians, businessmen, artists and writers. During this period, Marion Village also saw the addition of high style, architect-designed summer cottages and recreation resources.

Marion Village is recommended as eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Marion Village is a remarkably intact historic town center, including a compact collection of historic dwellings, along with a few churches, schools, commercial buildings and recreation buildings. Marion Village contains a great concentration of Federal and Greek Revival houses; and examples of later Victorian-era styles, including high-style examples of summer house architecture along Sippican Harbor and large institutional buildings not found elsewhere in Marion.

The great majority of resources in Marion Village retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association.

\*The potential Marion Village district boundaries include surveyed areas within the boundary of MRN.N completed in 2020-2022 for Barden-Hiller (MRN.Y), Cottage Street (MRN.Z), Main Street (MRN.AA), South Street (MRN.AB), Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC), and Upper Main Street (MRN.AH).