

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-63 Marion N, Y MRN.200

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: 146 Front Street

Historic Name: Blankinship Store

Uses: Present: Commercial

Original: Commercial

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: Historic maps, Barden-Hiller Area Form MRN.Y

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone, granite

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Renovation and expansion (ca. 1998)

Kitchen addition (2015)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** [1908-1921]

Acreage: 0.08 acres

Setting: This small level parcel is located on the west side of Front Street. The surrounding area includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional resources in the heart of Marion Village. The building is set close to the street where there is a raised bluestone stoop. The building occupies most of its parcel, which is bordered to the south and west by a parking lot.

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

146 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 was built as a store on the corner of South and Front Streets in ca. 1855-1879. Other than the two prominent, multi-paned storefront windows, the building has the form of a 1½-story, gable-front house. The ornamental details, most notably the roof cornice brackets, are characteristic of the Italianate style. The Italianate style, popular from ca. 1840-1885, was a reaction against the formalism of earlier styles, and was intended to create a more "picturesque" effect reminiscent of Italian villas and farmhouses.

The building was moved to this location in ca. 1908-1921. There is a 1940s view of the store in its current location (Photo 4). The building appears to rest on a fieldstone and/or granite foundation. The elevations are clad in wood shingles with corner pilasters (flat columns) that have lancet-shaped recessed panels. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally), and has a prominently-projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends (a holdover from the Greek Revival style). In addition to the brackets, the cornice frieze boards are ornamented with dentil (teeth-like) molding.

In addition to the storefront windows, fenestration includes modern 6/6 windows on the front elevation with molded lintels that also have dentil molding. The centered front entrance has a similar molded lintel. The side elevations have modern 6/6 windows in flat surrounds, and broad shed wall dormers.

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.¹ 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. Front Street at that time stopped after South Street (Figure 2).

This building, built ca. 1855-1879, was originally located at the corner of Front and South Street on the property of the Samuel W. Luce, Sr. House, [25 South Street](#), MRN.286 (Photo 3). The Sippican Historical Society provides the following description for this photo in their digital archives:

Was Drug Store on corner of South and Front Sts. in Marion, Mass. The store was a butcher shop for Ben Waters' father who came from England in the 1800's. Later became a store for Dr. Ellis's brother. This is the present location of the Robert and Joanna Bennett house [this may not be accurate]. Was a store and post office at that location for many years. Later was the P. C. Blankinship grocery store. Moved to center of Marion in the 1930's and later became Browne's Drug Store.

This location on Front Street was vacant on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 3), but the store is shown in this new location on the 1921 Sanborn map, labelled as "Gro." (Figure 4). It is also worth noting that the building to the south was shown as a dwelling on the 1908 Sanborn map, but had been converted to a hardware store by 1921. A 1940s photograph shows the three commercial buildings (Photo 4). The middle building was later demolished to create the current parking lot.

¹ 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.

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MARION

146 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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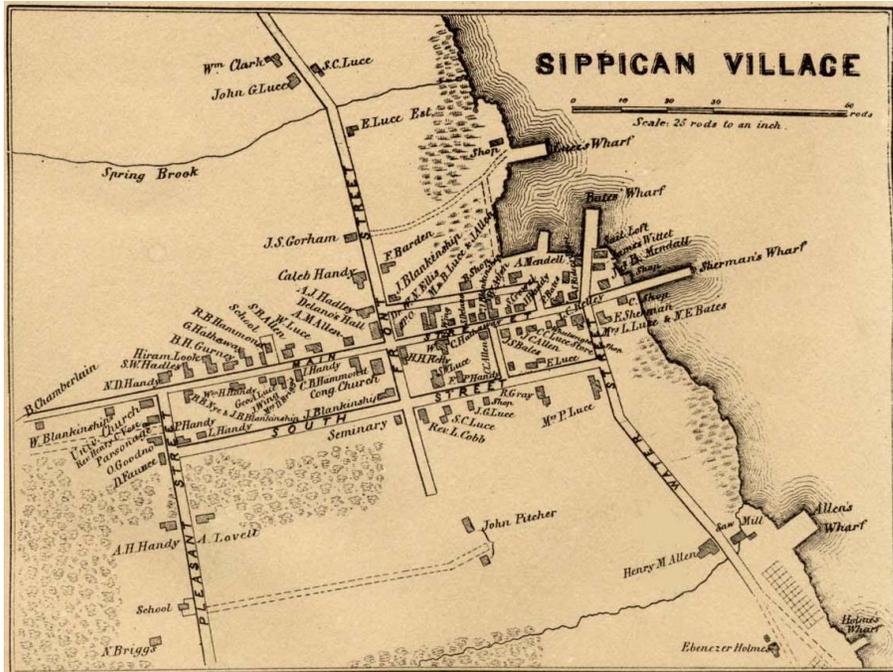


Figure 2. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map.

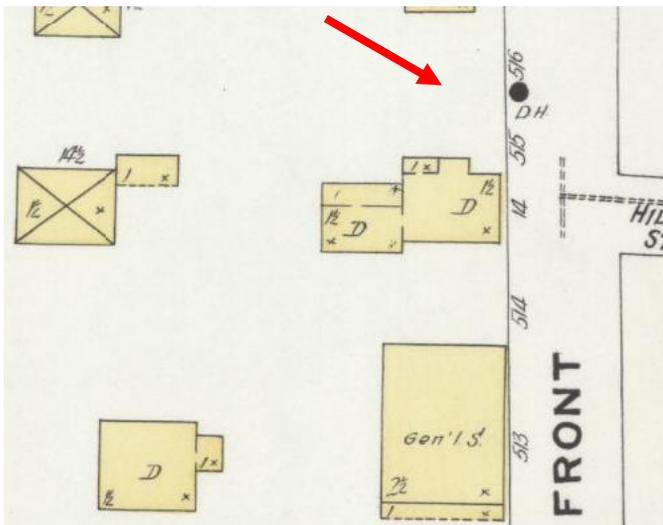


Figure 3. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Fire Ins. Map (arrow added).

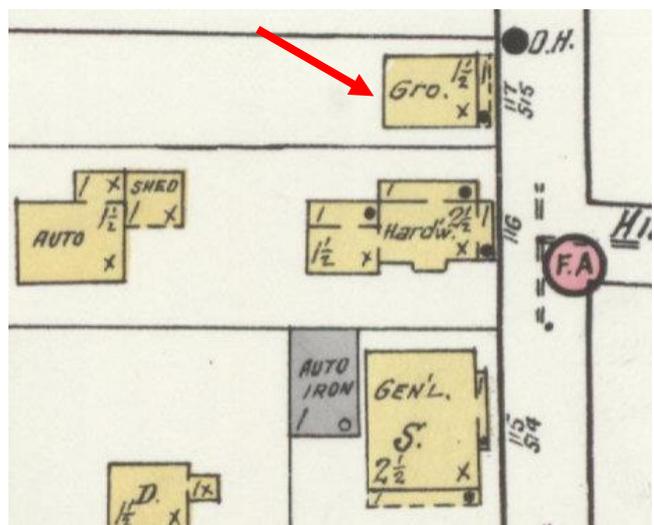


Figure 4. Detail of 1921 Sanborn Fire Ins. Map (arrow added).

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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-18th century. With the rise of saltmaking, shipyards, and whaling, maritime activity increased dramatically into the mid-19th 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-19th 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).