

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-81 Marion N, Y MRN.202

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:** 153 Front Street

**Historic Name:** Frederick and Charlotte Barden House/  
Andrew Commercial Building

**Uses:** Present: Commercial/Office

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1840, poss. rebuilt ca. 1908

**Source:** Assessor records, 1855 Walling Map, 1908  
Sanborn Map, deed research

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*)\*:  
Storefront redesign (dates unknown)

\*Based on Property Card and/or observation

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.08 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 south and east. This building is set right at the street edge. A gravel parking area behind the building is accessed across the Hiller property. 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

153 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N, Y	MRN.202
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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 first shown on the 1855 Walling Map with a rectangular footprint and a rear ell (Figure 2). That form is again shown on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas map (Figure 3). It is unclear if the present building is an adaptively reused version of the dwelling shown on those maps, or a replacement commercial building. There are a few clues that the original house may have been replaced with a commercial building that, itself, evolved over time. One clue is that the building has a unified low-pitched hip roof, but on the 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map, the right portion of the main block is only one-story, and sat closer to the street (Figure 5). By the time the 1921 Sanborn Map was prepared, the right portion appears to have been unified in height with the left two-story portion, and that left two-story portion was expanded forward to align closer to the street (Figure 6). That may have been the time when the hip roof was built. Another clue is the fact that, as can be seen in photographs, the right side of the front elevation, which was originally one-story in height, appears to be on a higher foundation (rough-cut granite and fieldstone), i.e. the floor plates did not (do not?) align.

The full two-story height is shown in an early-1920s view (Photo 3). That view shows that the storefront on the left side had a recessed entrance and the storefront windows appeared to rise up to a projecting beltcourse. That beltcourse is still present, but the storefront has since been built out to the street and now has a large multi-paned window. The first floor appears to have been divided in two parts: the left storefront included what is now the centered entrance, and the right smaller part of the front elevation appears to have had a similar configuration to what is has now, i.e. a window set up into the beltcourse and a raised entrance. The fenestration pattern on the second story is similar to the 1920s photo – the only change is the two centered single windows that have been replaced by a large multi-paned fixed window.

The building is clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards, and has a low-pitched shed roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a small, one-story rear ell with gable roof.

## 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, and there was some development along Front Street (Figure 2).

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 increased in density and functional complexity over time. Behind the dwellings to the east, land was developed largely for industrial and maritime-industrial uses. The commercial zone on Front expanded with the construction of purpose-built stores and the conversion of residences after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<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.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

153 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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N, Y	MRN.202
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This building has an Assessor date of 1840, and within the current building may lie the bones of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house with rear ell shown on the 1855 Walling Map of Marion with the name "F. Barden" (Figure 2). This refers to Frederick Barden (1811-1877), husband of Charlotte Barden (1812-1882).

The residential building is again shown on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas, now part of a large parcel that extends to Sippican Harbor with the name Charlotte M. Barden (Figure 3). The Barden family were important in the development of this part of Marion Village. Frederick Barden was listed as a mariner and then master mariner in census records and street directories. The house passed to their mariner son, Albert D. Barden (1849-1888), and then to Albert's son, Frederick B. Barden (1877-1963). This building is shown with the name "F. B. Barden" on the 1903 Atlas (Figure 4). By that time, the large Hiller Brothers complex had been built behind the house. Whether this building had been converted to commercial use in whole or part by this time is unclear.

In 1907, Barden sold this parcel (just 153 Front Street). That same year, the Bardens bought the house at 157 Front Street (MRN.204). They also continued to own the small store at 155 Front Street (MRN.203). The fact that the Bardens bought that house the same year as they sold this property suggests that they may have been living here at 153 Front Street before the sale, and it had not yet been fully converted to commercial use. Barden's work was listed as Provisions Dealer (1920 US Census) and then Provisions Store (1930 Census). Most notably, in 1927, he founded Barden's Boat Yard (MRN.O).

Barden sold this property to William Andrew of Marion.<sup>2</sup> Born in England, William A. Andrew (1869-1921) was listed as a real estate agent in the 1920 US Census. It is very possible that it was Andrew who converted or rebuilt this building for commercial use. By the time the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map was prepared (Figure 5), this building no longer had a residential use – it is labelled "Lunch" on the left and "Ins Off" on the right. It should be noted that the right portion of the building is also labelled as one-story on the 1908 map. On the 1921 Sanborn map (Figure 6), the right portion had been expanded to two-stories, but was still separated by a dash line from the left part of the building. The left part of the building had been expanded out closer to the street, now in alignment with the right portion. The uses are shown as "fruits periodicals" and "insurance off."

In 1900, William Andrew had purchased for his family the 1861 Augustus Handy House at 68 Pleasant Street (MRN.271). That house stayed in the Andrew family until 1966. The Andrew family owned this building until 1958. Locally, the building was known as the Ross Shop. The insurance agency and a real estate office here was long associated with Franklin A. Winters. The building continues to have office and retail uses.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

### Maps and atlases:

1855, Walling, H. F. *Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*, 1855.

1879, *Atlas of Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1879.

1903, *Atlas of Surveys of Plymouth County*. Springfield, MA: L. J. Richards Co., 1903.

1908, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908.

1921, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1921.

1933, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933.

Ancestry.com – Vital records.

Dempsey and Clemson. MHC Area Form Y, Barden-Hiller, 2021.

Gordon, Edward. MHC Area Form N, Wharf Village, 1998.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 980/ Page 279.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

153 FRONT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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N, Y	MRN.202
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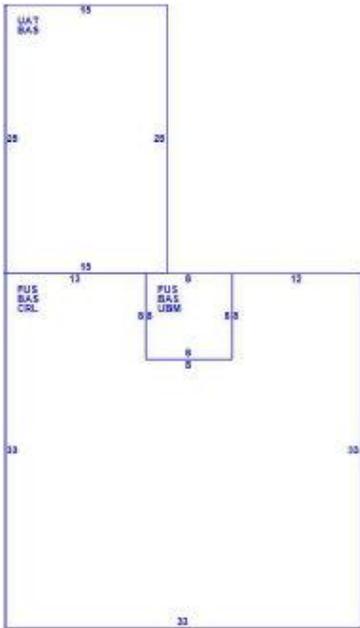


Figure 1. Marion Assessor sketch.



Photo 2. View from Front Street, looking southeast.



Photo 3. Early-1920s view, looking south, 155 and 153 Front Street at left (SHS 2008.001.025).



N, Y	MRN.202
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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).