

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-66

Marion

N,
AC

MRN.269

Town/City: MARION

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village -
Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC)

Photograph



Address: 61 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Austin and Ann Lovell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1849

Source: Deed research, 1850 US Census

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Cottage (2006)

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

Rear addition (date unknown)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.47 acres

Setting: This house is located on the east side of Pleasant Street. This northern section of Pleasant Street has a collection of 19th and early-20th century houses on varying-sized lots, most set close to the street. This house is also set fairly close to the street. The parcel is landscaped with lawn, trees and shrubs, and mature foundation plantings. An asphalt driveway leads along the north side of the house to a small cottage in the rear.

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

61 PLEASANT STREET

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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 is one of two, intact gable-front Greek Revival-style houses along upper Pleasant Street, the other being the ca. 1833 Universalist Parsonage at 78 Pleasant Street (MRN.275). The form of this house consists of a 1½-story, gable-front main block, a stepped-down rear ell, and a rear addition. The Greek Revival style, popular from ca. 1825 to 1860, was inspired by then new Greek archeological discoveries, and employed temple forms and details for domestic American architecture. As employed here, the gable-front form itself was intended to evoke a temple, especially with the projecting molded box cornice with partial returns across the gable ends and broad frieze boards below on the side elevations, and the corner pilasters (flat columns). The front door surround is also typical of the style with the full sidelights (obscured by shutters), and pilasters.

The building rests, like most 19th century houses in the village, on a raised, granite block foundation. The elevations are clad in wood clapboards with broad corner pilasters. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally). An open porch spans the front elevation that has a low-pitched hip roof supported by Tuscan columns. Fenestration on the house consists primarily of modern, replacement 6/6 double-hung sash set in surrounds with projecting lintels. The 6/6 muntin pattern was commonly employed for Greek Revival-style houses. The second story on the right (north) elevation of the main block has no openings. The south side elevation is another matter. It has a narrow window set into the broad frieze of the roof entablature, and there are two unusual curvilinear dormers with skirt boards.

The 1855 footprint of the house shows a small rear ell (Figure 2). By the time the 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map was prepared, the rear ell was expanded with another one-story component (Figure 3). That same footprint is shown on the 1933 Sanborn Map. A more recent two-story, side-gable addition appears to have replaced that second rear ell (Photo 2, Figure 4). It is unknown when the rear ell was expanded to its current form. An outbuilding is shown on both maps, but that was replaced in 2006 by the current cottage.

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. Pleasant Street had been in place since the early-19th century, leading to Converse Point (then referred to as Charles Neck), but no buildings are shown on an 1830 map. By the time the 1855 Walling Map had been prepared, however, a number of houses had been built at this northern end, including this one (Figure 1).

This house is shown on the 1855 Walling Map with the name "A. Lovell" (Figure 2). This refers to Austin Lovell (1819-1894). Lovell purchased the land on which this house would be built from Rowland Luce, Jr. in January 1849.² Capt. Rowland Luce, Jr. (1791-

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.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 230/ Page 168.

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1851) was the son of Maj. Rowland Luce (1756-1835) and Elizabeth Luce (1762-1833). Tisbury-born Rowland Luce married Elizabeth Clark in Marion in 1778, and they went on to have ten children. In 1779, Elizabeth's mother, Thankful Clark (1734-1812), sold Rowland Luce over 35 acres of land for 2,000 pounds, including 5 acres in Marion Village.³ Rowland and Elizabeth Luce and their descendants would go on to have a great impact on the development of the village.

Lovell built this house soon after the 1849 purchase. He is shown living here as of the 1850 US Census, when he was listed as a mason. He was listed as a brickmason in 1860, and expressman in 1870. Austin had married Anne W. Handy (1822-1913) in 1844. She was the daughter of Polly and Jonathan Handy, Jr. After her husband died in 1856, Polly moved in with her daughter and son-in-law. According to the 1998 Marion Village Area Form (MRN.N), from the late-18th until the early 1900s, the northern section of Pleasant Street was essentially a Handy neighborhood with a number of dwellings in this area associated with this family.⁴

By the 1870 Census, they were living here with their four children, Anna (schoolteacher), Ethan (store clerk), George (clerk) and Mathias (at school). The next year, they were living in Middleborough and they had sold this house to Reuben F. and Bethia Morss Hart of Boston.⁵ Reuben Freedom Hart (1832-1887) married Bethia Morss (1838-1940) in 1864 in Marblehead. The 1998 Marion Village Area Form (MRN.N) provides a colorful history of the Harts:

Mrs. Hart was born in Tenant's Harbor, Maine... moving to Marblehead, MA in 1851. Her first husband was Gamaliel Morss of Marblehead who was a member of the 8th regiment. He was part of the unit that escorted the Prince of Wales during his 1859 visit to Massachusetts. Morss was "one of the first men killed in the Civil War." Mrs. Hart met Captain R. F. Hart while on a visit to Washington during the Civil War. The Harts remembered being in a boat moored alongside that of Abraham Lincoln on the Potomac River at City Point, Washington, D.C. The first eight years of the Harts' marriage was spent at sea.

Bethia Morss lived in this house until her death in 1940. This house was inherited by her daughter, Mary A. Hart. She sold it out of the family in 1964.⁶

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.

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

Ancestry.com – Vital records.

Dempsey, Claire. MHC Area Form AC, Upper Pleasant Street, 2021.

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

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

Sippican Historical Society Collections.

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 60/ Page 80.

⁴ Lovell would later sell a northern portion of his land on which the ca. 1900-1903 Luce House at 67 Pleasant Street (MRN.408) was built.

⁵ PCRD Book 379/ Page 244.

⁶ PCRD, Book 3134/ Page 238.

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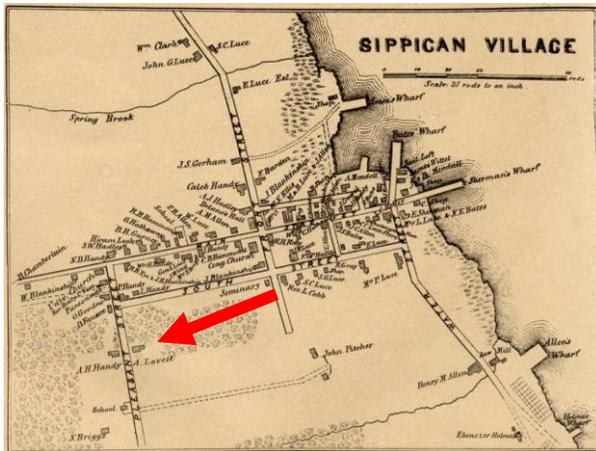


Figure 1. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map (arrow added).



Figure 2. Detail of 1855 Inset Map.



Photo 2. View from Pleasant Street, looking northeast.

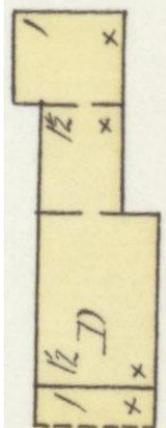


Figure 3. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Map.

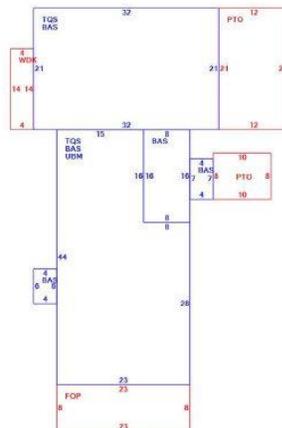


Figure 4. Marion Assessor Sketch (decks, porches in red).

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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 salting, 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 torn 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).