

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

9-4	Marion		MRN.12
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Town/City: Marion

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 82 County Road

Historic Name: Ezra S. Parlow House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Possibly ca. 1847

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Stable
Shed

Major Alterations (with dates):

Rear infill additions

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.61

Setting: Rural residential area of low housing density and moderate to large-sized parcels. Populated with scattered farmsteads in the late 18th and early 19th centuries with later development occurring in the mid-19th through early 20th centuries. House types range from Federal through Queen Anne.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (month/year): October 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

82 County Road

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.

82 County Road occupies a trapezoidal lot on the east side of County Road just north of its intersection with Point Road. The house is set back from the street on a slight rise in the southern half of the parcel and faces west. The front and side yards along the north, south and west elevations of the house are maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and mature trees. The rear (eastern) portion and the perimeter of the parcel are heavily vegetated. Tall foundation plantings surround the dwelling. A gravel driveway enters the property from County Road and runs along the south elevation of the house, ending at the west elevation. A stone walkway bordering the north side of the driveway along the south wall of the house leads to an entrance at the rear ell. A fenced paddock spans the north elevation of the main block.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled, three-bay-by-four bay main block with an early rear ell and two small infill additions. Constructed around 1847 in the Greek Revival style, the house retains the majority of its original character-defining features. It rests on a high granite block foundation and is clad in wood shingles. Tall, narrow corbeled brick chimneys rise from the south roof slope at the main block and the roof ridge at the ell.

The main block is trimmed with a box cornice, two-part frieze boards, eave returns, Doric corner pilasters. The slightly-recessed side-hall main entry at the northernmost bay contains a late-19th/early 20th century glass-and-panel door with a rectangular glass inset. It is framed by full-height sidelights, Doric pilasters, and a molded cornice-headed entablature. The door fronts a shallow wood porch and three-step stair with simple open railings that ends at the lawn. The windows at the main block are single, double-hung, six-over-six sash with flat surrounds and capped lintels.

The one-bay-by-three-bay rear ell appears to be original to the house. It is set off the southeast corner of the main block and projects one bay beyond its south elevation. An entry with a simple flat surround occupies the west elevation and three small six-over-six windows pierce the south elevation. Infill elements at the eastern end of the house include a one-story flat-roofed block with a single entry at the north elevation and an attached cross-gabled block.

82 County Road exemplifies a Greek Revival-style rural dwelling. Greek Revival was the predominant style of American architecture from about 1830 to 1850, but the form continued to be used well into the second half of the 19th century. Inspired by the architecture of ancient Greek temples and associated with democratic ideals, it was widely disseminated through the house plan books of Massachusetts architect Asher Benjamin. The identifying Greek Revival features of this house include the front-gabled orientation of the main block, box cornice, two-part frieze boards, corner pilasters, eave returns, and main entry surround with full-height sidelights, pilasters, and an entablature. The six-over-six window sash configuration is also characteristic of the Greek Revival period.

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.



1879 map.

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 subject property is located in the northwestern part of town above the Old Landing section of the Village. County Road branches off Front Street (Rte. 105) south of the Marion-Wareham town line and runs north to cross the Sippican River and enter Wareham. This rural area was largely populated with scattered farmsteads during the 19th century and remains thinly settled.

This house appears on the 1855 and 1879 maps with E.S. [Ezra Smith] Parlow shown as the owner. On the 1903 map the owner is A.F. [Alpheus Ferdinand] Lane. The earliest conveyance found for the property was its sale in 1899 by the estate of Ezra S. Parlow to Mary Cole Lane.

Ezra Smith Parlow (1826-1899) was born in Rochester, the son of Nathan D. Parlow and Alice Wing. He was married in 1847 to Almira Doanne Linnell of Harwich. Census records state that like his father and brother Charles Parlow, he was a house carpenter. It is reasonable to assume that Ezra S. Parlow built this Greek Revival house around the time of his marriage. In 1880 Ezra

Parlow's occupation was noted to be "agent for Parlow's Mills," which he operated. The 1879 map shows a building on the Sippican River a short distance north and west of the subject house labeled "E.S. Parlow's Box & Shingle Mill." The shingle mill is pictured in a 1905 watercolor painting by F.E. Parlow (see below). The 1879 map also shows the house (no longer extant) of Nathan D. Parlow, Ezra's father, just south of the subject house.

The property was sold in 1899 to Mary Elizabeth Cole Lane, (1851-1921), the daughter of Josephus Carlos Cole and Mary Dupin. She was married in 1881 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Alpheus Ferdinand Lane (1828-1911), the son of Ezekial Lane and Rachel Thayer Fish. Lane was a disabled Civil War veteran who had served as a private in the 15th Independent Battery of the Massachusetts Light Artillery. He lived for a time in Lowell, where the 1866 directory recorded his occupation as house agent.

The couple's son Ferdinand Lane (1885-1984), who inherited the house, was born in Minnesota. The family had moved several times due to financial difficulties. They eventually settled in Marion, where Ferdinand attended Tabor Academy. In 1910 after working his way through Boston University and attending courses at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was hired as a writer at America's first monthly baseball magazine, *Baseball Magazine*. Ferdinand Lane worked there for 27 years, 26 of them as editor, and wrote hundreds of articles about the sport and interviewing all of the important players of the time. After his retirement and a brief period teaching journalism and heading the history department at Piedmont College in Georgia, Ferdinand and his wife Emma (d.1985) moved to Wellfleet. While there he followed his avocation by writing general interest books on nature with titles such as *All About the Flowering World* and several books for young readers including *The Story of Mountains*. In 1961 he authored a book of poetry called *On Old Cape Cod*.¹

Ferdinand Lane conveyed the subject house to his sister, Ruth Lane Savery (1882-1980) in 1922. The widow of Rufus H. Savery (1881-1920), Ruth Savery was a teacher in the Marion public schools and served for 21 years as the registrar of voters.²

The house stands on one of three parcels which comprised the original Parlow property. It was purchased by the current owners in 1981.

¹ Fred Ivor Campbell, "F.C. Lane," *Society for American Baseball Research*, <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/f-c-lane/> (Originally published as a 2000 reprint of F. C. Lane's *Batting*)

² "Woman Seeks Place on Board at Marion," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA. February 29, 1940.

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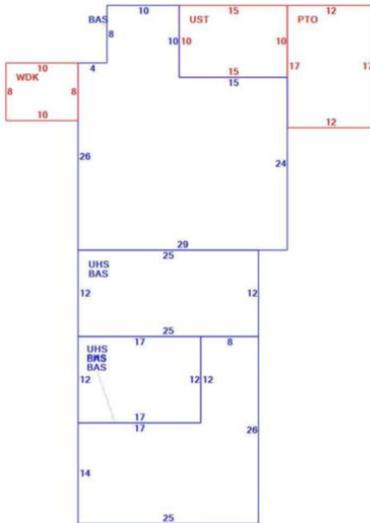
MRN.12

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee	Plan Reference Book-Page
05-02-1981	4986-440	Esther Jean Arroccena f/n/a Facemyer	Richard & Lucille F. Jardin	22-216
08-03-1978	4506-84	Daniel Duane & Esther Jean Facemyer	Esther Jean Facemyer	
08-18-1977	4388-207	Esther S. Osborne	Daniel Duane & Esther Jean Facemyer	
12-26-1972	3850-563	Ruth Lane Savery	Esther S. Osborne	
10-25-1922	1422-528	Ferdinand C. & Emma T. Lane	Ruth Lane Savery	
Probate	29704	Estate of Mary Cole Lane	Ferdinand C. Lane	
12-01-1899	791-538	Estate of Ezra S. Parlow	Mary Cole Lane (wife of Alpheus Lane)	

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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 Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
 Sippican Historical Society: online database
 Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



Assessor's card plan



Watercolor painting by F.E. Parlow (1905). Courtesy of Sippican Historical Society.