

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14-86

Marion

N, Y

MRN.212

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)

Address: 5 Hiller Street

Historic Name: Harvey Everest-John and Elizabeth
Edwards House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1908-1921]

Source: Deed research, historic maps

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Mortared fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Sea wall and pier, hip-roofed carport

Major Alterations (*with dates*)*:

House raised (1994)

New windows (2018)

*Based on Property Card and/or observation

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** [1903-1933] if the
original house was incorporated into existing house.

Acreage: 0.30 acres

Setting: This deep parcel on the north side of Hiller Street
extends down to the harbor and Barden's Boat Yard
(MRN.O). The house is set well back from the street. A
gravel driveway extends down to the west side of the
house, and a hip-roofed carport is located at the southeast
corner of the parcel.

Photograph



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

5 HILLER STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 large house is an example of early-20th century, summer colony architecture in Marion Village. Up until the 1908 Sanborn Insurance Map (Figure 5), there was a 1½-story house with side ell set close to the street. By the time the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map had been prepared, the current two-story house with rear ells was in place, set well back from the street (Figure 6). Whether any portion of the original house was incorporated into the current house is unknown (by this surveyor). The house was raised to its current height in 1994.

The elevations are clad in wood shingles that wrap the corners, i.e. there are no cornerboards. The hipped roof is clad in asphalt shingles (likely wood shingles originally) and the roof has a deeply projecting box cornice. Fenestration consists of modern, replacement 6/6 double-hung sash set in molded surrounds. The original muntin pattern could have been 6/6 or possibly 2/2 or 2/1. One of the prominent features of this house is the use of gable wall dormers (dormers that extend up from the wall below), animating the roof line. It is unknown to what extent the original rear ells were retained or rebuilt when the house was raised.

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 (Figure 2).

This house has a Hiller Street address, but is more connected historically to the development patterns of Main Street than to the unique maritime and industrial history of Hiller Street and its surrounds. There is a house shown in this location, set close to Hiller Street, on the 1855 Walling Map with the name "A. Mendell" (see Figure 3). This likely refers to Asa Mendell (1782-1864). He was listed as a laborer living with his wife, Mercy (Blankinship) (1793-1872) and two of their children in the 1850 US Census, but by the 1860 US Census, Asa and Mercy were living alone, and Asa was now listed as a farm laborer.

A house is again shown on this parcel, close to the street, on the 1879 Plymouth County Atlas, with the name "R. Gray" (see Figure 4). This likely refers to Russell G. Gray (1843-1917). He was the elder brother of Rufus Gray (1831-1872), to whom he had sold the house at 160 Front Street (MRN.205) in 1857. Russell Gray had married Asa and Mercy Mendell's daughter Abby. Russell Gray, was a sailor like his father (1880 Census) and then painter (1900 Census), perhaps a sign of the declining maritime industry.

After Russell G. Gray's death, this property was sold to Harvey W. Everest in 1897. Everest may have bought it as an investment – Everest had a house built for himself and his wife in ca. 1900-1903 at 28 Cottage Street (MRN.185). It was Everest who received permission to fill in part of the harbor here in 1902.

A 1½-story house with side ell is again shown on the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map set close to the street (Figure 5). Harvey Everest sold the property to Elizabeth D. Edwards in 1909.² She bought it as a summer house; as of the 1910 US Census,

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 1034/ Page 545.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Elizabeth was living in Brookline with her lawyer husband, John, one son and three servants. It is unknown if it was Everest who built the house close to the water before selling in 1909, or if it was the Edwards who built the house. It is also unknown if the original house was incorporated into the larger house. In 1923, Elizabeth Edward's estate sold this property to John Holden of Cohasset.³ The property remains in the Holden family.

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 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.

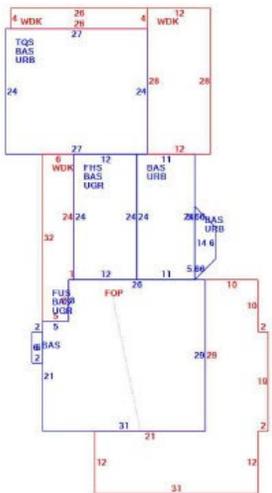


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.

Photo 2. View from Hiller Street, looking north.



Photo 3. View from town pier, looking SSW.

³ PCRD, Book 1453/ Page 2.

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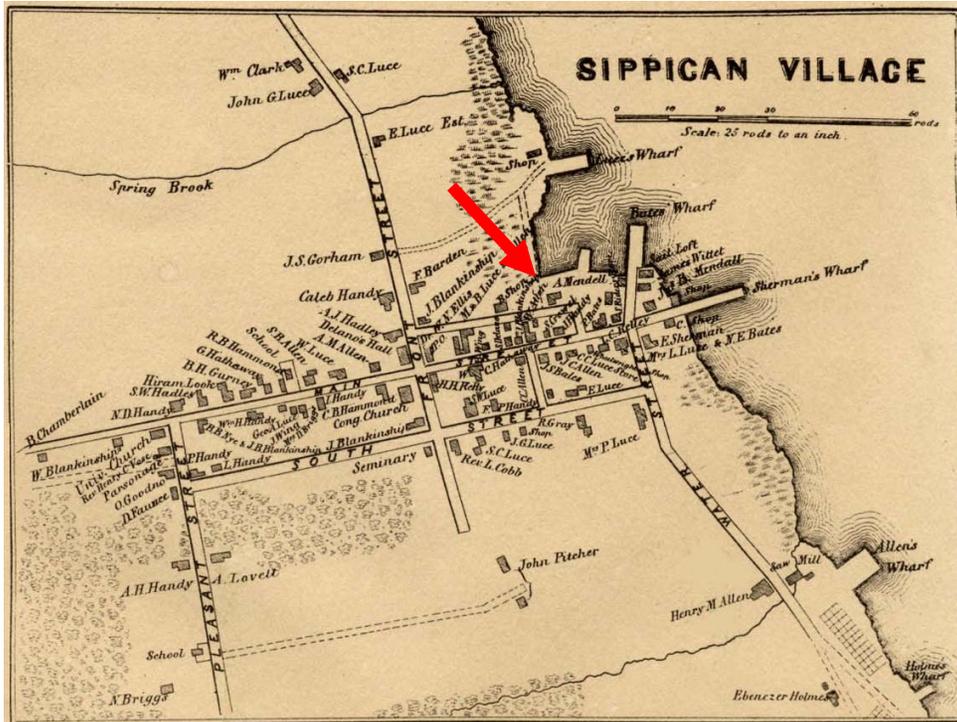


Figure 2. 1855 Walling Map of Marion, Sippican Village Inset Map (arrow added)

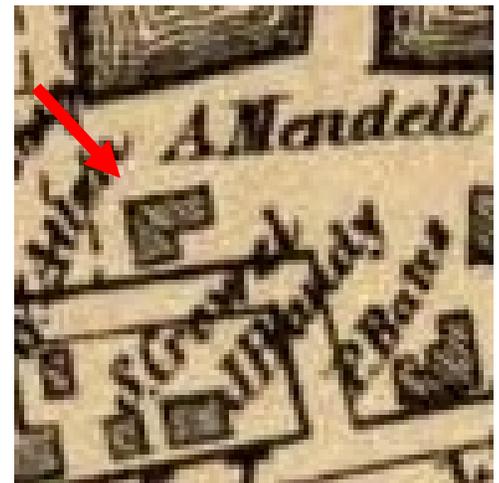


Figure 3. Detail of 1855 Walling Map of Marion (arrow added).



Figure 4. Detail of 1879 Atlas.

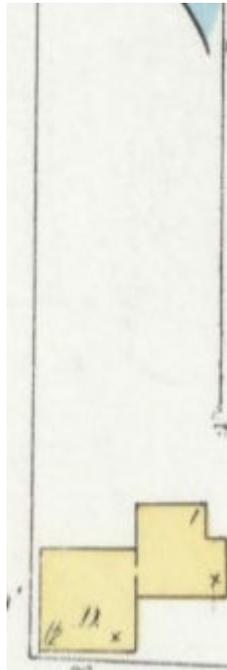


Figure 5. Detail of 1908 Sanborn Map.

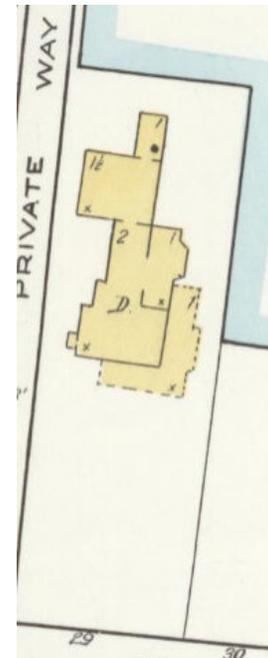


Figure 6. Detail 1921 Sanborn Map.

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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).