

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14-14A	Marion	MRN.AH, N	MRN.496
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## Photograph



**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village

**Address:** 103 Main Street

**Historic Name:** J.J. Hammond—John & Ann Rockwell House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1780

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** Full Cape, altered

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Gambrel cross-gable (19<sup>th</sup> c.)

Garage and connecting hyphen addition (2010)

Replacement windows

Rear screened porch (ca. 1985)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:** 1982

**Acreage:** 0.43

**Setting:** Diverse residential neighborhood developed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Housing stock represents a range of styles including Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. Surrounded mostly by moderately-sized, wood-frame, single-family houses on small to medium-sized lots.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

103 Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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MRN.AH, N

MRN.496

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.*

**103 Main Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot that is deeply set back from Main Street on its north side and connected to it by a narrow right-of-way running along the eastern property line. The house is roughly centered on the parcel and faces south. The area east of the house is cleared and the balance of the parcel is densely populated with mature trees. A picket fence lines the long gravel driveway that enters the property from Main Street along its west side.

The main block of the building is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame full Cape house with a gambrel-roofed cross gable centered at the south elevation. The Cape house was constructed ca. 1780; the gambrel-roofed cross gable, added in the late 19th century when the house was in its original location, obscures the original centered entry. The assemblage was cut in half and moved from the town of Mattapoisett to its current location in 1982. The house retains a number of original character-defining features, although they are removed from their original context. The house rests on a concrete foundation. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles and a brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the junction of the main and cross gables. The walls are clad in painted wood shingles. A two-car garage was constructed and connected to the main block in 2010.

The house is trimmed with narrow corner and frieze boards. Fenestration at the Cape component includes double-hung twelve-over-twelve, six-over-nine, and six-over-six windows with flat surrounds, architraves, and triangular trim pieces below the sills. The six-over-six windows have false muntins. There are fixed four-light eave closet windows at the east elevation; according to the former owner who moved the house, these are the only remaining original windows. The gambrel-roofed cross gable at the south elevation has similarly-trimmed, single and paired, one-over-one and two-over-two windows. A band course delineates the upper and lower stories.

The two-car garage is sited just off the southwest corner of the house and faces east. One-and-one-half-stories in height, it is side gabled with a steep roof and two gambrel dormers at the east elevation. A continuous shed dormer occupies the west roof slope. The overhead garage doors are ornamented with arched multi-light windows and cast-iron hardware to lend the appearance of two-leaf carriage doors. A one-story diagonal hyphen connects the main block to the garage; it has a hipped roof and contains the main entry to the house, which is framed by undivided partial-height sidelights and an entablature.

**103 Main Street** likely represents the only 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling in this part of Marion. The full Cape design was one of the later iterations of the architectural style, which originated on Cape Cod around 1690 and saw continued use through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, center chimney, and corner boards. The early twelve-over-twelve and nine-over-nine window sash, although they are not original, are characteristic configurations of the Georgian (1700–1780) period. The gambrel-roofed cross gable reflects the Colonial Revival style and probably dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 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.*

Marion Village, the commercial and residential center of the town, is set on the western shore of Sippican Harbor. The town has historically consisted of a northern portion, often referred to as the Old Landing, and a southern portion, known once as Wharf Village but more commonly referred to today as The Village or Marion Village. Main Street runs east to west through Marion Village from Sippican Harbor to Mill Street (Route 6). The western portion of Main Street between Spring Street and Mill Street, along with Park Street to the north and Briggs Lane to the south, comprise the neighborhood know as Upper Main. The 1855

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MARION

103 Main Street

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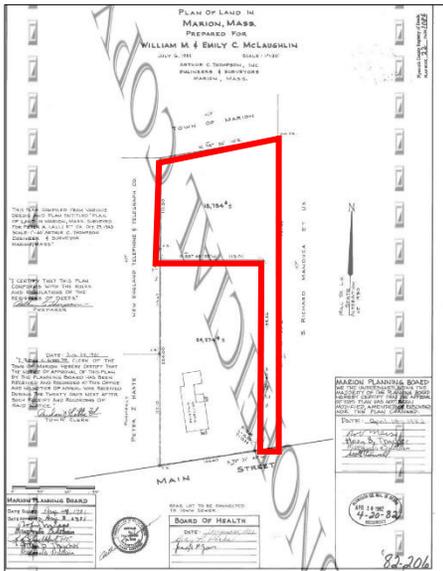
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map shows this part of Main Street to be sparsely settled compared to the more densely built eastern end of the street. Later maps show that most of the resources in this section of Main Street were built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first owners of the earlier houses in this area were typically mariners and farmers.

This house was moved to its current location in 1982 after the parcel that it occupies was broken off from the larger street-facing property that contains 107 Main Street. Until the subdivision of the property, the two pieces of land shared the same ownership history. The first recorded conveyance found for this property registered the sale of a parcel of land by Elijah Braley to Albert C. Blankinship in 1876 for \$250. No mention of any buildings was made in that deed.

Elijah Braley (1808-1896), a carpenter, was first married to Susan J. Blankinship (1811-1843), a member of another branch of the Blankinship family, and later to Sylvia (nee Carswell) Robbins. He built and occupied the high-style Greek Revival house across the street at 108 Main Street (1835-1845, Elijah Braley House, MRN.268) and after the Civil War operated it as a “tramp house,” a haven where itinerant veterans could obtain lodging and food.



Albert Chatman Blankinship (1841-1929) was the son of Warren M. (1816- 1898) and Emily Clarke (1816-1853) Blankinship of Rochester (later Marion), part of the very large and prominent Blankinship family. Many members of the family, like Warren, were carpenters. Warren’s son Albert Blankinship also became a carpenter, but not before first going to sea as a young man. In 1862 he was recorded as a crew member aboard the ship Azor, which sailed to Portugal. The 1900 census reported his occupation as carpenter and the 1910 census specified house carpenter. Albert and his brother Franklin inherited his father’s carpentry shop and tools, as noted in Warren Blankinship’s will. Franklin (“Frank”) Blankinship (1850-1935) was also a carpenter and housewright but it is not clear if the brothers worked together. It is probable that the late Greek Revival house at 107 Main Street (ca. 1876 Albert C. Blankinship House, MRN. 267) was built by Albert Blankinship around 1876, perhaps with the help of his carpenter father and brother.

In 1869 Albert Blankinship was married to Ella Gertrude Jones (1845-1899), the daughter of John H. Jones of West Scituate. The couple had three children, Albert C., Gertrude C., and Joseph H. Blankinship. The 1920 census records the widower Albert Blankinship living on Main Street with his daughter Gertrude C. (Blankinship) Baker. It is unclear who occupied the house after Albert’s death in 1929. It was not sold by his estate until 1950.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Plan #206.

The house and land were purchased in 1966 by William McGlaughlin (1930-2008) and his wife Emily (1932-2018). William served in the Navy and was awarded the National Defense Medal for his work with underwater explosive ordinance disposal. The couple subdivided the property and in 1982 sold the northern parcel outlined in red on the 1981 plan they commissioned for \$15,500. No mention of any building was made on the deed nor is one shown on the land plan.

In 1982 the parcel was purchased by Marion residents John and Ann Rockwell, who had acquired an 18<sup>th</sup> century house in Mattapoisett with the intent to move it to Marion. The house was originally located on Old Brandt Island Road abutting the former Old Colony railway line (now converted to a bicycle trail) and close to a water tower stop for trains. J.J. Hammond is shown as owner on the 1879 map and Arthur Robbins on the 1903 map.

The full Cape house was probably built by James Hammond, Jr. (1762-1826). Hammond was the son of James Hammond, Sr. (1725-1780) and Hannah Barlow (1732-1772), who were married in Rochester in 1753. Gideon Hammond (1785-1848), one of the couple’s sons, was married to Rebecca Blossom (1792-1872); it was Gideon and Rebecca’s son, Joseph Jenny Hammond (1813-1893), whose name appeared as owner on the 1879 map. Joseph was married in New Bedford in 1835 to Nancy Ingraham (1814-1870). Censuses from 1850 to 1880 show his occupation as farmer or master farmer. Joseph Hammond sold the farmstead in 1888. His deed (Plymouth County Registry of Deed Book 562/ Page 187) notes that the property being conveyed was the same premises which were devised to his father Gideon Hammond by his grandfather James Hammond.

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The property was subsequently owned by Arthur Robbins, shown as owner on the 1903 map. Censuses and city directories listed Arthur Robbins (1857-1935) and his wife Agnes G. Barnes (1867-1925) living primarily in New Bedford during their period of ownership, although the city directories of 1916 and 1919 reported them living on "Brandt Island Road n RR crossing." Arthur Robbins' occupation was consistently listed as clerk-broker. According to a former owner of the house, when Robbins lived there he commuted to his job in New Bedford by hopping on and off the train when it made its usual water stops near his house. The house was purchased in 1936 by G.E. Tucker Barnes, who sold it to Maurice and Norman Langevin in 1943. The Langevin family owned the house in 1982 when it was acquired by John and Ann Rockwell.

The new owners had the full Cape house with its center chimney and gambrel-roofed cross-gable cut in half and moved by tractor trailer to its current location, where it was set on a new foundation. The Rockwells were experienced with relocating antique houses and incorporating historic architectural salvage into their designs. In the late 1970s the couple, both skilled carpenters, purchased a 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse on 28 acres of land in Marion and moved it closer to the nearby Sippican River. It was turned to face the river and modernized and expanded with both new and recycled elements. In 1986 the Rockwells sold the subject house on Main Street to its current owners, who constructed the two-car garage and connected it to the house with a hyphen.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
12-31-1986	7399-347	John & Ann H.W. Rockwell	Joann T. & Christopher B. Bryant
05-05-1982	5144-115	William M. & Emily C. McLaughlin	John & Ann H.W. Rockwell
07-29-1966	3312-536	Peter A. & Mary T. Lalli	William M. & Emily C. McLaughlin
08-23-1963	3054-221	New Bedford Institution for Savings	Peter A. & Mary T. Lalli
06-18-1958	2637-237	James A. & Estelle S. Giffin (Mortgage)	New Bedford Institution for Savings
06-18-1958	2637-236	Kenneth M. Nelson & Claude B. Ellis et ux.	James A. & Estelle S. Giffin
11-14-1957	2605-417	Albert E. & Wanda Holt	Kenneth M. Nelson & Claude B. Ellis et ux.
05-12-1950	2093-76	Estate of Albert C. Blankinship	Albert E. & Wanda Holt
09-10-1876	546-364	Elijah & Sylvia Braley	Albert C. Blankinship

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903  
*Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling  
 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.  
 Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.  
 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.
- "One Man's Junk, Another Man's Furnishing," in *The Boston Globe*, July 10, 1987.  
 Interview with Christopher Bryant, owner, 4.28.22.  
 Communications with John Rockwell, former owner, May & June, 2022.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

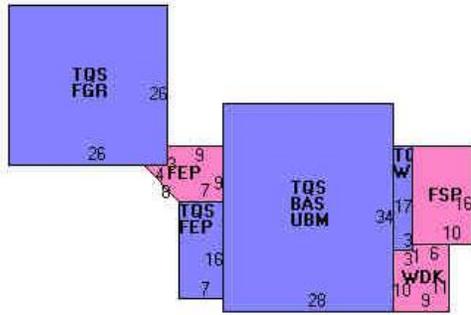
MARION

103 Main Street

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Assessor's card plan



Garage and entry addition and main block (at right). East and south elevations.

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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 Claire W. Dempsey / edited by Lynn Smiledge

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This house is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District which would include the Upper Main Street Area. The Upper Main Street Area (MRN.AH,N), a subsection of the larger Wharf Village Area (MRN.N), is a collection of houses constructed in the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries in which simple, small-to-mid-sized dwellings predominate. Along with the other surveyed areas listed below, it is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for Marion Village. Known variously as Sippican, Wharf Village, and Lower Village, Marion's center is an exceptionally well-preserved harbor village including an important array of public buildings, stores and workplaces, and dwellings dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The village constitutes a small, dense grid along two early and principal streets, Main Street running east-west and Front Street running north-south. Other east-west (Briggs, Cottage, Hiller, and South) and north-south (Spring, Park, Pleasant, School) streets were added as the village grew. The proposed district includes typical public buildings, including churches and schools, as well as a group of exceptional gifts to the town from Elizabeth Taber. The concentration of early dwellings on Main Street is exceptional. Front Street is one of Marion's commercial zones, with shops and other businesses serving the community; some resources from the village's maritime history survive as well, there and on Hiller and off Main. Dwellings here present fine examples of regionally popular forms including Capes, ell houses, end houses, and picturesque cottages, with a handful of later dwellings interspersed. The comparatively small scale of the buildings and lots, as well as the uniform treatment of wood shingles and clapboards, combine to create an extraordinary historic landscape deserving of greater recognition and continued preservation.

The potential district's boundaries are those of the surveyed areas covered during 2020/22, for the 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,N) areas. To these areas should be added the town's public buildings (Town Hall and Library and Natural History Museum (MRN.59 and 60) at 2 and 8 Spring Street as well as their neighbors and might extend further up and down Front Street.

Most of the resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet criteria A and C at the local and possibly at the state level, with areas of significance in architecture, maritime history, and social history.