

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14-14	Marion	MRN. AH, N	MRN.267
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## Photograph



**Town/City:** Marion  
**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village  
**Address:** 107 Main Street  
**Historic Name:** Albert C. Blankinship House  
**Uses:** Present: Residential  
Original: Residential  
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1876  
**Source:** Deed and map research  
**Style/Form:** Greek Revival  
**Architect/Builder:** Albert C. Blankinship, probable  
**Exterior Material:**  
Foundation: Brick  
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood  
Roof: Asphalt shingle

## Locus Map



**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Two sheds

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Replacement windows (1994)

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.56

**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.

**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

107 Main Street

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MRN.AH, N

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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.*

**107 Main Street** occupies a deep trapezoidal lot on the north side of Main Street and faces south. The house is positioned near the southwest quarter of the parcel, which is maintained chiefly in grass in the southern half and is more densely vegetated with shrubs and mature trees in the northern half. Low foundation plantings dot the primary elevations at the main block. A low drystone wall borders the property along Main Street and runs north along the gravel driveway which enters the property from Main Street along the east elevation of the house. The driveway ends in a parking area defined by an east-west running fence, and then circles back, enclosing a planting bed and rejoining Main Street along the eastern property line. A second driveway extends north from this point to reach the adjacent parcel to the rear at 103 Main Street.

This wood-frame dwelling comprises a one-and-one-half story, three bay-by-three-bay, front-gabled main block with two primary rear (north) dependencies. Constructed around 1876 in the late Greek Revival style, it retains its original character-defining features and is one of only a few houses of this era in Marion with eyebrow windows at the frieze. The house rests on a brick foundation and is clad in painted wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from just below the ridge at the west roof slope at the main block; a second brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge at the southernmost rear dependency.

The house is trimmed with a boxed cornice, eave returns, corner boards, and two-part frieze boards. The windows are single, double-hung, six-over-six replacement sash with flat surrounds, splayed lintels, and blinds. Two fixed rectangular eyebrow windows touch the frieze board at the east elevation. A flat, capped surround frames a glass-and-panel door at the side hall entry at the easternmost bay; the door fronts a brick-surfaced concrete stoop and steps.

The primary rear dependencies include a one-and-one-half-story gabled wing that aligns with the main block along the west elevation and a one-story, shed-roofed, cross-gabled projection that extends east from the northwest corner of the gabled wing. These dependencies are seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map. A one-story, flat-roofed infill structure with a roof deck occupies the space between the dependencies. It contains an east-facing door that serves as the main entry to the house.

**107 Main Street** reflects the Greek Revival style. 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, side-hall entry, corner boards, boxed cornice, eave returns, frieze boards, and 6/6 window sash configuration.

## 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 map shows this part of Main Street to be sparsely settled compared to the more densely built eastern end of the street. Later

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107 Main Street

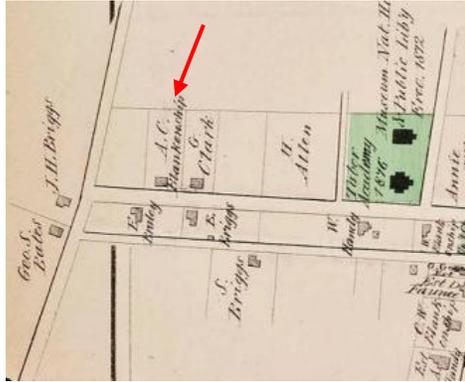
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maps show that most of the resources in this section of Main Street were built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first owners of the earlier houses in this area were typically mariners and farmers.



1879 map.

This building does not appear on the 1855 map but is shown on the 1879 and 1903 maps with A.C. Blankinship as owner. 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 is 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 Blankenship’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 this late Greek Revival house 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. 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 undeveloped northern portion of the parcel. A ca. 1780 house was moved to this new parcel from Mattapoisett around 1983 and the property now maintains the address 103 Main Street (ca. 1780, John and Ann Rockwell House, MRN.496).

## Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
03-21-2018	49616-289	Elizabeth X. Sweeney (Lederman)	John S. Spinale & Minhtam Thi Tran
09-30-2002	23010-129	Ilya A. Broughton	Andrew J. & Elizabeth Lederman
04-02-2001	19691-45	James & Ilya A. Broughton	Ilya A. Broughton
07-12-1991	10375-134	Judith W. Rosbe	James & Ilya A. & Broughton
03-17-1987	7551-123	Russell W., Jr. & Laura G. Anderson	Judith W. Rosbe
12-15-1983	5533-343	William M. & Emily C. McLaughlin	Russell W., Jr. & Laura G. Anderson
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. Griffin	New Bedford Institution for Savings
06-18-1958	2637-236	Kenneth M. Nelson & Claude B. Ellis et ux.	James A. & Estelle S. Griffin
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

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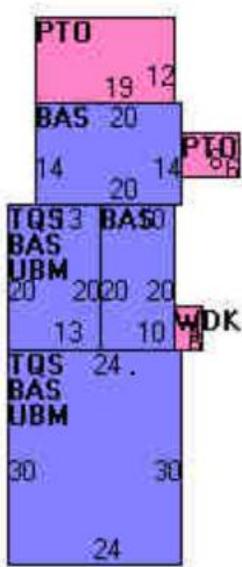
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*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903  
*Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling  
McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.  
Olive Hill Sommers, *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



Assessor's card plan



East and south (facade) 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.