

FORM A - AREA

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

14	Marion	N, O, Y	See data sheet
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Photograph



Front Street looking south, 153 and 155 on left, 140, 146, and 150-52 on right.

Town/City: Marion

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Center, Marion Village, Wharf Village

Name of Area: Barden- Hiller

Present Use: commercial and residential

Construction Dates or Period: 1800-1950

Overall Condition: good

Major Intrusions and Alterations: none

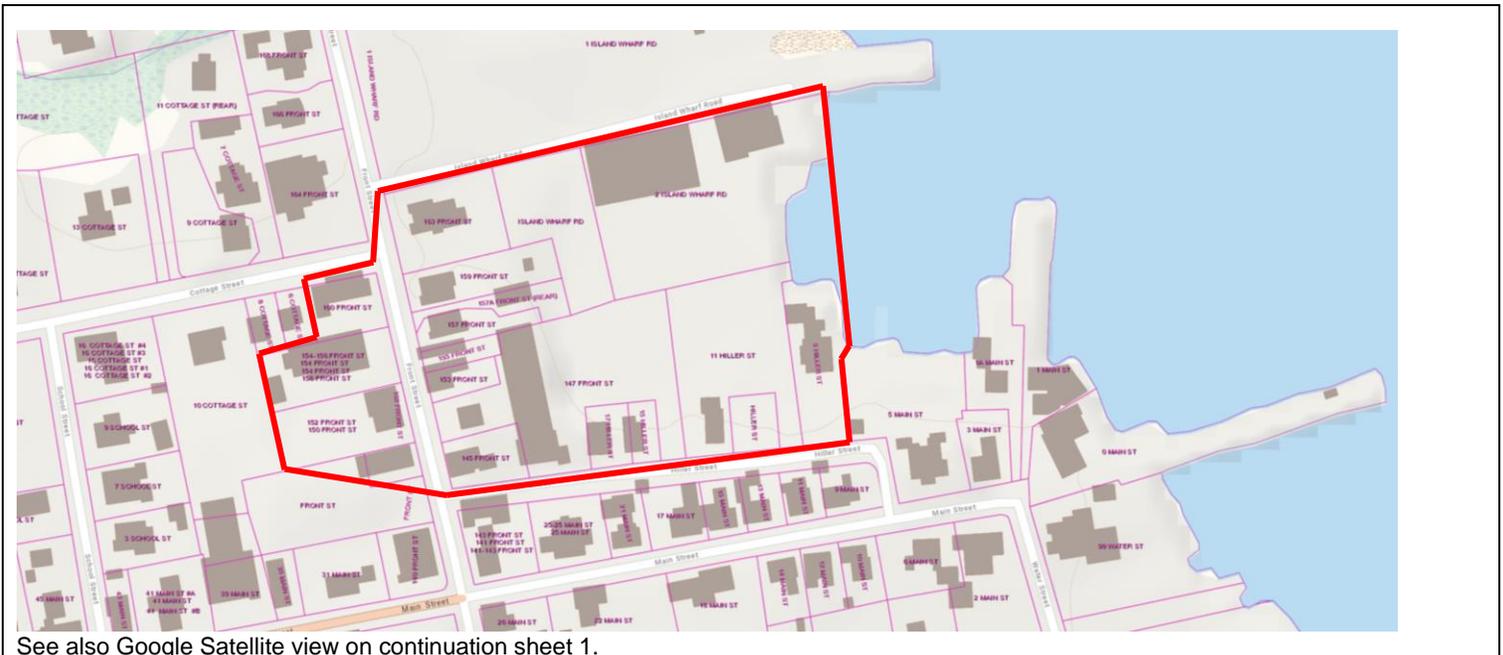
Acreage: 6.67 acres

Recorded by: Dempsey and Clemson

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): October 2021

Locus Map



See also Google Satellite view on continuation sheet 1.

see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

BARDEN -- HILLER

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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.

This area was surveyed as part of the very large Wharf Village Area (MRN.N) in 1998 and as part of the smaller Island Wharf and Barden's Boatyard Area (MRN.O) in 2002. These areas were reorganized into more manageable sections in 2021, including this area, and at that time, property identifications (addresses, assessor parcels) were clarified and historical research revisited.

A note on dating: Like many small towns, Marion has only a small number of primary sources available to date its historic buildings. There are only a handful of directories and no reverse directories nor are there street or poll lists before 1966. In addition, streets were often unnumbered before that time. Selected properties were subject to title work, to provide general guidelines to landholding patterns.



Google Satellite View.

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INTRODUCTION

The Barden – Hiller Area is located within Marion Village in its northeast quadrant, stretching along north-south Front Street, along east-west Hiller Street and Island Wharf Road, and extending to Sippican Harbor on the east. Located just above (north) the primary village intersection at the corner of Front and Main, the area was first developed with a handful of dwellings along Front Street and increased in density and functional complexity over time. Behind the dwellings to the east, parcels were developed with industrial spaces and dwellings on Hiller. The commercial zone on Front expanded with the construction of purpose-built stores and the conversion of residences after the turn of the 20th century. The area also includes a significant amount of open space that today is used as a boat yard. The area was distinctive for the proximity of diverse uses.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Barden - Hiller Area represents one section of development stretching out to the northeast from the critical village core at the corner of Main and Front streets. The location of the first Congregation Church beginning in 1799 (and surviving today as the Marion General Store 140 Front Street, MRN.22), as well as its successor across the street at 28 Main Street (1841, MRN.39) and adjacent to Sippican Harbor, this intersection attracted residents, institutions, and businesses to create the civic and commercial core of the town. Several additional streets were added to create a part of the village grid and linked Front Street to the water and waterfront properties. Hiller Street ran east-west just above Main and Island Wharf Road paralleled it further to the north, both laid out between 1830 and 1855 and forming the area's boundaries. Island Wharf Road was long unnamed, and known as Shore Road in 1921 and 1933, while Hiller was known as Second Street in 1879 and deeds refer to it also as Back Street. A north-south private way ran from Hiller to Island Wharf, contemplated as early as 1855, and in place until at least 1933, though its north end had been truncated with the construction there of Barden's Boatyard. Although first developed with dwellings, the Barden - Hiller Area eventually encompassed both the densest commercial block and a critical portion of harbor-side development of the larger village.

The waterfront portion of the subject area is located between two of the town's earliest wharves, one extending east from the end of Main Street, known variously as Sherman's, Central, and Long Wharf, and another to its north at the end of Island Wharf Road, long known as Luce's Wharf. An annotated version of the Walling map of 1855 includes two wharfs between these: a short wharf labelled "oldest wharf in lower village" and Bates Wharf extending at an angle above Long Wharf and labelled 1800. By 1879, the small wharf was still in place, but gone to infill by 1903. The land area was expanded into the harbor after 1902, when the owner of 5 Hiller was permitted to add a sea wall and fill. Bates Wharf was later known as Union Wharf (1879), also expanded and regularized at about this time; it was unnamed in 1903 and on later maps. These structures are characterized by rectangular construction supported by large roughly hewn granite blocks with gravel or other earthen, projecting into deep enough water to accommodate ocean-going vessels. The land part of the structure is traditionally known as a wharf and the adjacent waterway a dock. See figures 1, 2 and 3.

Over time, a significant number of dwellings were constructed along the village grid spreading out from the Main-Front intersection where the old and new church, and for a time a schoolhouse, were located. The subject area to the north attracted five dwellings along Front Street and one dwelling and a blacksmith's shop on Hiller Street by 1855. It seems likely that only three of these buildings survive. One property has an early date of **1812** assigned to it, the **Caleb Handy House and Tavern at 150-152 Front Street (MRN.6)**, which became Marion's Women's Club in 1923. This center-chimney salt box includes a commercial addition and recent research confirms its traditional date; it is covered by a B form. The dwelling at the northeast corner of Front and Hiller streets, the **Blankinship-Hiller House (145 Front Street, by 1855)** also takes an early form, the square plan type, suggesting a similar date, but its early history has not been established. It is believed to have been owned by Jarvis Blankinship (1813-1864) and held by members of his wife's family until 1901. Blankinship was a mariner or sailor, noted on a number of ships in the Whaling Crew Database and lost at sea. His wife was Celia Sherman Blankinship (1819-1876) and their son died as a young child. It was her siblings, Edwin Sherman and Lucy Sherman Bruce, who inherited the property and seem to have jointly occupied the house, living here in 1880 with their children (two Bruce teenagers and the two young adult Shermans), a female boarder, and their

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mother. Edward was a carpenter and his son a sexton.¹ Another building in place **by 1855** is the **Gorham House at 160 Front Street**, at the corner of Cottage, and likely more recent in date than the other two houses, based on its end house form. Its 1855 owner or occupant was John S Gorham (b ca 1827), a painter who was also in Marion in 1850. He lived with his wife Susan, another painter Isiah Gorham, perhaps his brother, and 16-year-old Chs N Silva, another painter born on the Western Islands, likely the Azores.² The house was next owned by mariner Rufus Gray (1831-1872). Born on Cape Cod, he was already at sea at age 13 when he received a US Citizenship Affidavit in Philadelphia; he was also at sea when he was listed as eligible for the draft in 1863. He and his wife Abby Susan Mendell (1830-1884) at first lived with her father in Marion before living on their own with their daughters. They were succeeded here by painter Charles H Damon (1826-1889), whose family held the house from 1885 until 1922.³

Three buildings of 1855 have been lost. On the west side of Front Street formerly stood the house of Andrew J Hadley, located north of the General Store at 140 Front Street where today there is a parking lot. Hadley (1820-1897), a dry goods and grocery merchant, was a well-known town figure and built an end house next door to his store (demolished 1956 for the parking lot). At the time of his death, he also owned parcels associated with the store (1/7 of an acre) and the house (5/8 of an acre), 1¼ acres on the north side of Cottage Street and ¼ acre on the south side, and other real estate, together valued at \$8575.⁴ On Hiller Street in 1855, one building labelled 'B Shop' is thought by some researchers to be Rufus S Briggs blacksmith's shop surviving at 15 Hiller Street. Instead, it appears that the building associated with that label and name had been moved or demolished between 1929 and 1933; the area remains vacant. Another building, farther to the east on Hiller on the lot now occupied by **5 Hiller Street (Edwards House, 1908 - 1921)** but close to the street not the water, was labelled A Mandell in 1855 and R(ussell) Gray in 1879. Asa Mendell (1782-1864) reported his occupation as laborer.⁵ His daughter Abby Susan married Rufus Gray in 1854 and lived nearby at **160 Front**. The house was later owned by Russell Gray, who may be related to Rufus, but how is not clear. Gray (1812-1889) was a retired ship master in 1880, living with his wife and two adult children.⁶ The property held by Russell Gray until after his death, then sold to Harvey W Everest in 1897, perhaps as an investment as he is believed to have lived at 28 Cottage Street (see Cottage-School Area, MRN.Z). It was Everest who was licensed to fill in part of the Harbor here in 1902. The next owner was Elizabeth D Edward of Brookline when she made the purchase in 1909, but who later made Marion her home. She owned the property until 1923, and it was likely during her ownership that the new house was constructed.⁷

The final building in place by 1855, noted on the east side of Front in the vicinity of **Barden-Ross Store, 153 Front Street (1908-1921)**, seems to have been significantly altered or not to have survived. But it associated with an important family in the development of this neighborhood and evidence of their long history of landholding here. Labelled F Barden in 1855 and Charlotte Barden in 1879, it was likely the residence of Frederick Barden (b ca 1811-1877) and his wife Charlotte Dexter Barden (1812-1882). Frederick was consistently described as a mariner in period census documents, a trade at least one son, Albert D Barden (1848-1888), followed as well.

¹ Full title research on this property was not possible, but 20th century deeds note Celia Blankinship as an earlier owner, and maps note J Blankinship (1855), L Bruce (1879) and Mrs. Bruce (1903). biographical research linked these family members. Ancestry.com: Celia Blankinship Probate Records (PCRP # 2154); Glenkits family tree: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/49086170/person/402197278192/facts?_phsrc=ldt5&_phstart=successSource; Find-a-grave Charlotte and Jarvis; Marion Vital Records, MA Census 1855, 1865; US Census 1850, 1860, 1880. PCRD: 952:470 (1907); 946:85 (1906), 817:473 (1901).

² PCRD: Gorham could not be located as a grantor or grantee for this land. Ancestry.com: MA Census, 1855, US Census 1850, 1860. They may have been in Williamsburg, Brooklyn by 1860. Some sources claim the house was built from the lumber of a saltworks damages by a hurricane in 1815, but this could not be confirmed as the title could not be extended back; *Postcard History* p 90.

³ Rufus Gray died by suicide in Norfolk VA. Ancestry.com: Citizenship Affidavits for US Seamen; MA Census 1855; MA Death Records; US Census 1860, 1870; US Civil War Draft Registration. The house was held briefly by Benjamin E Waters and Emma J Waters, and part by Clara M Lewis. PCRD: 1405:586 (1922), 876:179 and 879: 57 (1903), and 536:223 and 538:306 (1885).

⁴ Hadley's inventory noted nearly \$10,000 in savings, notes, and debts as well as the real estate. He owned the store, a dwelling house, barn and other outbuildings including an ice house; half the "Point Rock land;" two cranberry bogs; three parcels of marsh; and 22 woodlots. Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; Plymouth Probate Records, #9521; US Census 1870, 1880. See also Smith, *Postcard History*; house is pictured on p 18 and 19. On p 17, he suggests Hadley had owned the house at 3 Main Street (MRN.221).

⁵ Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1850, 1860.

⁶ Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1880.

⁷ PCRD: Land Court Certificate 37419 (1965); 1889:256 (1945); 1452:2 (1923); 1319:576 (1919); 1307:432 (1918); 835:370 (1902); 749:478 (1897).

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After Charlotte Barden's death, her heirs sold some of their holdings, including a large square lot at the corner of Front Street and Island Wharf Road. Sarah E E Ryder Perine (1830-1911), daughter of Jonathan Ryder of Rochester/Marion, bought two acres of this land at auction in 1883. Born while the family was in New York, she married there in 1847 to ship builder William Perine (1807-1869). By 1880 she was back living in Marion with her mother Elmira Ryder.⁸ By 1903, three houses had been constructed along the east side of Front Street on the land she had owned. The first sale by Perine came two years later when she sold the bulk of the property to physician Henry H Luce (1843-1899).⁹ He sold the back portion of the parcel to George L Luce, as shown on the atlas of 1903, and likely built **the Luce – Hiller House at 163 Front Street before 1890**, which was noted as his homestead by that date. The property was owned by Capt Zenas Crocker from 1895 until 1900 when it was sold to Ellen A Hiller (Mrs I E Hiller in 1903), and it remained in that family until the 1970s. In addition to the house, there were apparently large frame storage buildings on this parcel; see below for information on the Hillers.¹⁰ The **Wittet House at 159 Front Street (1883-1890)** was also likely built at about this time. Perine sold a parcel with buildings to Annie E and Elizabeth C Wittet in a deed written in 1890 but filed in 1908. Annie Wittet (1831-1908) was the daughter of Joseph A Wittet (1851-1930), born here but later living with his family in Boston and working as a clerk. Elizabeth was her mother, Joseph's wife. The property was next owned by Beatrice Wittet (1890-1962), Annie's niece, daughter of her brother Joseph, and was sold by her estate to Elizabeth Barden Coulson.¹¹ **Sarah Perine's own house was at 157 Front Street**, but its construction date can only be estimated as **between 1883 and 1903**. In 1907, she sold it to Jennie Newhall Richards Barden (b 1876), wife of Frederick B. Barden, and it was then held by her heir Elizabeth B Coulson until 1969.¹²

Not long after this sale, the guardians of the minor children Albert D Barden sold land to the south to the Hiller brothers in 1893 and 1894. One lot faced Front Street but a second larger parcel extending back from it, and this parcel is still traceable in the parcel bounds today. Robert B (1863-1937) and Isaac E (1866-1948) Hiller were born in Mattapoisett and established their livery, lumber, and coal business in this area after these purchases. The surviving buildings on the interior of this area are associated with their business, that would be continued by several generations of the family, shifting their transportation services from horses to automobiles and operating a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership for several decades. The building with the address of **147 Rear Front Street** was their **livery stable**, a large frame block later used for auto storage and **in place by 1903**. Between **1908 and 1929**, the cinder block building facing Hiller Street (aka #19), was added to the south end of the stable. With the shift to automobiles, the Hillers added underground gas tanks to their Front Street facing lot at **147 Front Street** by 1921 and **by 1933** had added the flat-roofed brick building long a Gulf Station and now operating as **Hiller Fuels**. There was also a Hiller coal pocket or coal shed on Hiller Street, in the vicinity of **13 Hiller**, though the present building appears to be a refined version of that form; perhaps it was later improved as its function shifted. Another long narrow building noted on Hiller Street was labelled as a shed in 1908 and 1921 and as an auto garage in 1933; it is not clear that the building on that site, **15 Hiller**, is the same structure.¹³ A dwelling added here, now **17 Hiller Street**, was labelled **R B Hiller in 1903**, and may be the same building noted in this vicinity as an outbuilding in 1879. It appears to have been his residence in 1903 and 1907, but probably not later. As noted above, Isaac's wife Ellen bought the house now at the corner of Island Wharf Road and Front Street, **163 Front Street (Luce-Hiller House, 1885-1890)**, in 1900. They also purchased the house at **145 Front Street (Blankinship-Hiller House, by 1855)** from the Blankinship/Sherman heirs in 1901, 1906, and 1907. The Hiller brothers also became involved in cranberry culture, holding 75 to 100 acres of bog in the town. At East Over Farm in Rochester they operated a dairy and later beef

⁸ Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; NY Vital Records, MY Methodist Church Records; Plymouth Probate # 20868: US Census 1850, 1880, 1900, 1910. PCRD: 498:6 (1883). Her surname is sometimes written as Penine. She was later reported as living with one of her siblings in Allendale NY, but may have visited Marion seasonally. Perine's heirs were her Ryder nieces and nephews, some still living in Marion, including Alice K Ryder.

⁹ Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1880.

¹⁰ PCRD: 521:284 (1885), 702:36 (1895), 813:506 (1900/01).

¹¹ PCRD: 1010: 350, 351 (1890/1908), 3302:716 (1966). Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1900. Later owners included Taber Academy, William G Saltonstall; it is now condominium; 4242:72, 6148:284, 287.

¹² PCRD 498:6 (1883), 976:330 (1907), 3496:302 (1969). Now two parcels, house and outbuilding separated.

¹³ Need to add references.

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cattle farm, the land and building complex today held by the Trustees of Reservations and the towns of Marion and Rochester. See figures 3, 4, 5, and 7.¹⁴

These sales left the Barden heirs with their house lot on Front Street, which was acquired from the other Barden heirs by Frederick's grandson and Albert's son Frederick Brooks Barden (1877-1963) in 1898. It was at this time that the property was shifted to retail use. The junior Frederick was a provisions dealer and likely added next door the small single-story **Barden Store at 155 Front Street by 1903**; its function was listed as meat in 1908, fish market in 1921, and store in 1933. The family owned it until 1969. Barden sold the lot and building at **153 Front Street (Barden-Ross Store, 1908-1921)** in 1907 to William A Andrews, whose family owned it through 1958. It was indicated as "lunch," in 1908, fruit, periodicals in 1921, and store in 1933, with an insurance office next door, and seems to have been altered from its early form between 1908 and 1921. It was regularly referred to as the Ross Shop by local sources. The insurance agency and real estate office was long associated with Franklin A Winters. The Barden family was listed as residing on Front Street through the 19th and early 20th century, likely at **153 Front** and later at **157 Front Street (Penine House, 1883-1903)** purchased by Frederick B's wife Jennie Newell Richards Barden (1876-1964) in 1907 (as noted above). See figures 3, 4, 5, and 7.¹⁵

This shift from dwellings to stores can also be seen on the west side of Front Street. Three of the dwellings on this block were converted to retail space. The Hadley House was shifted to a hardware store by 1921 and was operated as such by Church & Stowell and later by Carl Stevens. It was demolished in 1956. The **Caleb Handy House and Tavern (150-152 Front Street, MRN.6)** was purchased by Marion's Women's Club in 1923 and its wing became a shop, selling fruits and vegetables and later women's clothes. The house at **160 Front Street (Gorham House, by 1855)** was held by Alice A Ryder from 1923 to 1946, and for a time it was operated as the Rosamond Inn. Thereafter Herbert L Jenkins who had a toy shop there and expanded it with a lunch counter. Two purpose-built stores were added as well. The building at **146-148 Front Street** is said to have been formerly located at the corner of Front and South streets, operated as a **store by PC Blankinship**. It appeared **in this location between 1908 and 1921** and served first as the John Alden Store, later as Brown's Pharmacy. It was expanded and restored by the Sippican Historical Society in 1998-99. Another store was built at **154-56 Front Street in 1947** on a formerly vacant lot and first known as **Barden's Market & Freezer** though apparently not owned by that family but rather by Richard Angle and James Barlow. In addition to operating as a modern grocery store, it offered "sharp freezing," 20 degrees below freezing, and freezer storage compartments for use by individuals and businesses. An ephemeral component of this shift to commerce was the property formerly located between 11 and 5 Hiller Street labelled T J Trip in 1903 and as a bakery in 1908; it was gone by 1921. See figures 8 and 9.¹⁶

The Barden family's next venture was **Barden's Boat Yard**, said to have been founded in 1927 and appearing at **2 Island Wharf Road** between 1921 and 1933. Frederick continued to report his occupation as provisions, but he was involved in its operation, which remains in the family. A large wood frame building at 2 Island Wharf Road was in place by 1933 and may have been moved from closer to Front Street after 1921, but repeated damage by hurricanes make it difficult to date the building seen today. Figure 10 illustrates the building as it appeared before the Hurricane of 1938, which nearly flattened it. Department of Public Safety records include plans for a building here dating to 1950 designed to serve as the home of the Beverly Yacht Club; see figure 11. These plans are by the successor firm to H H Richardson, which was initially Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge (1886-1915) that later reorganized as Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott (1924-1952), still active as Shepley Bulfinch.¹⁷ An account of the history of this important local institution is included with MRN.303, Sherman's Inn – Luce, Barnabas – Edward Sherman and Celia Sturtevant House, 99 Water Street, the current home of the Beverly Yacht Club. According to the club's history "during the early 1950s the club rented

¹⁴ Sippican Historical Society, "Robert Hiller is dead at 74," 1937.

¹⁵ *Postcard Histories*....

¹⁶ Smith, *Postcard Histories*, pp 18-22, 90. PCRD: 1930:0347 (1946), 1435:327 and 1435:327 (1923); 1405:586 (1922), 876:179 and 879: 57 (1903), and 536:223 and 538:306 (1885). "Barden's Market & Freezer," "Cold Storage Firm Opens Marion Plant," newspaper clippings of 1947, SHS V069.081.

¹⁷ Kara G. Morrison, "Architects Renovate 1960s Building, Invite Public to 'Living Room of the City,'" *Arizona Republic*, Sep. 20, 2014, p. F2.

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part of Barden's Boat Yard. When the Barden's yard facilities were destroyed in another hurricane in 1954, the club found a new home..." However drawings, reproduced below as figure 9, suggest the possibility that the Barden's Yard clubhouse in fact survives as this building, which somewhat resembles the drawings. William Coulson (1905-1972) had been a building estimator when he married the Barden's daughter Elizabeth (1905-2004); they relocated from the Boston area to Marion and he reported his occupation as boat shop painter in 1940; their son William Coulson III (1928-2000) was also in the business as boatyard manager.¹⁸

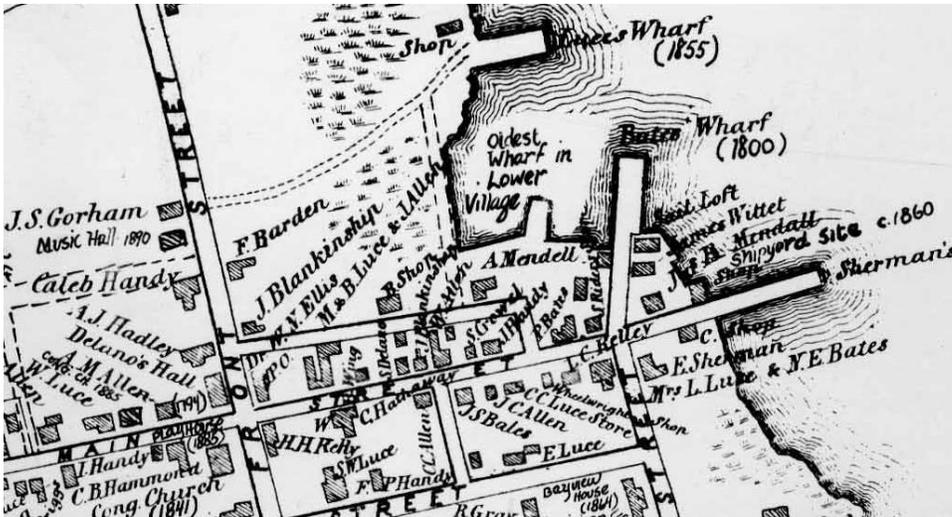


Figure 1: Detail of Walling map, 1855, annotated. Some notes are not consistent with recent research.

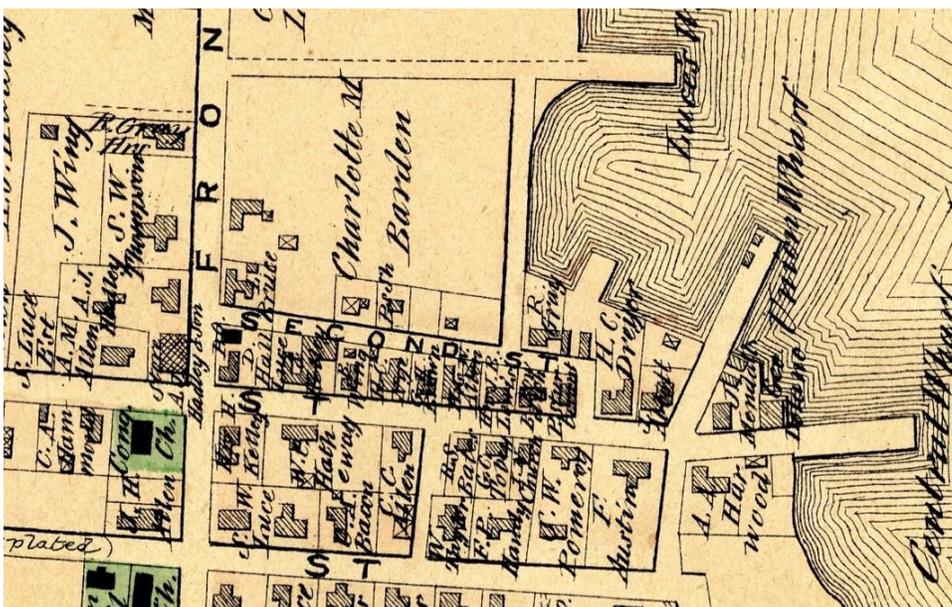


Figure 2: Detail of Atlas, 1879.

¹⁸ Ancestry.com: https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/151508474/person/302170756852/facts?_phsrc=wGh3&_phstart=successSource

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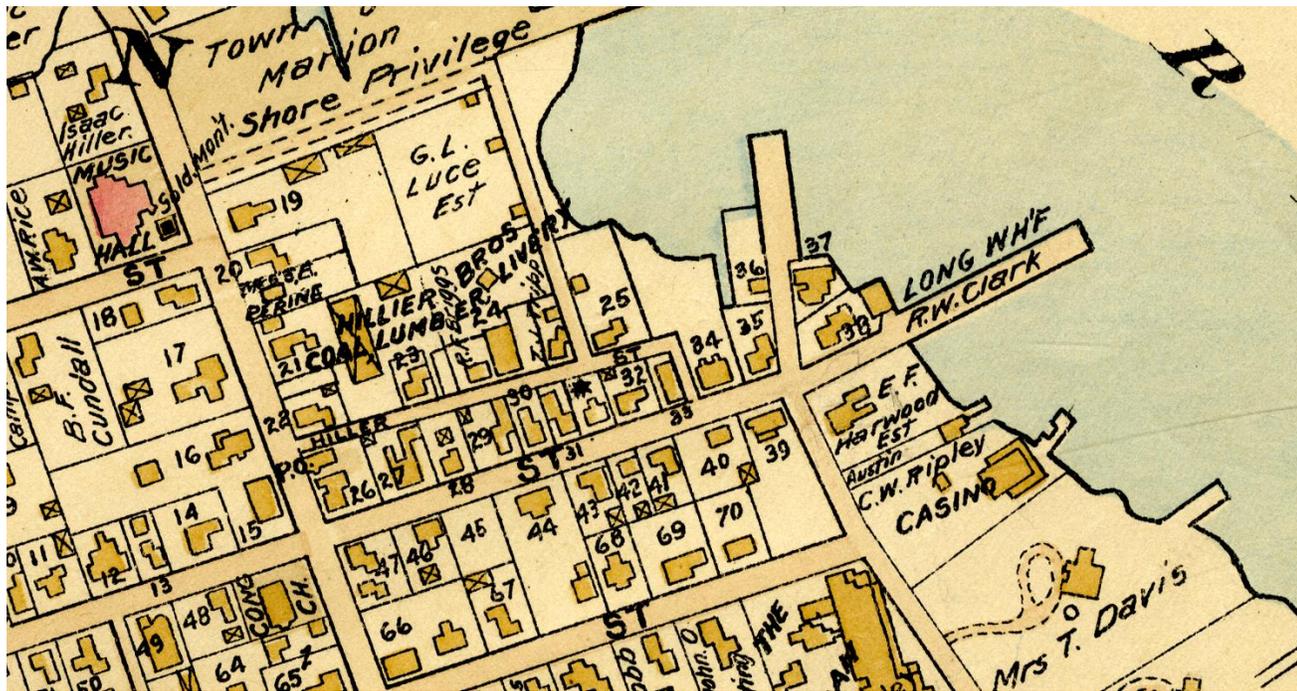


Figure 3: Detail of Atlas 1903.

FREDERICK B. BARDEN,
RETAIL DEALER IN
SWIFT'S CHICAGO DRESSED BEEF.



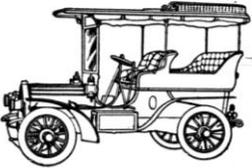
MUTTON, LAMB, VEAL, PORK, SAUSAGES, POULTRY and VEGETABLES.
Front Street, Marion, Mass.
TELEPHONE 4-23.

HILLER BROS.
Livery, Boarding and Sale Stables
BARGE TO ALL TRAINS
AGENTS FOR HATCH & CO. EXPRESS
All orders promptly attended to.



TEAMING AND JOBBING
ALSO DEALERS IN
Coal, Wood and Lumber. Nails, Paints, Etc.
Front Street, MARION

— ALSO —
Automobile Garage



HILLER BROS.
Front Street, - - - - MARION, MASS.

Figure 4: Ads from Marion sections of directories, 1903 on left, 1907 on right.

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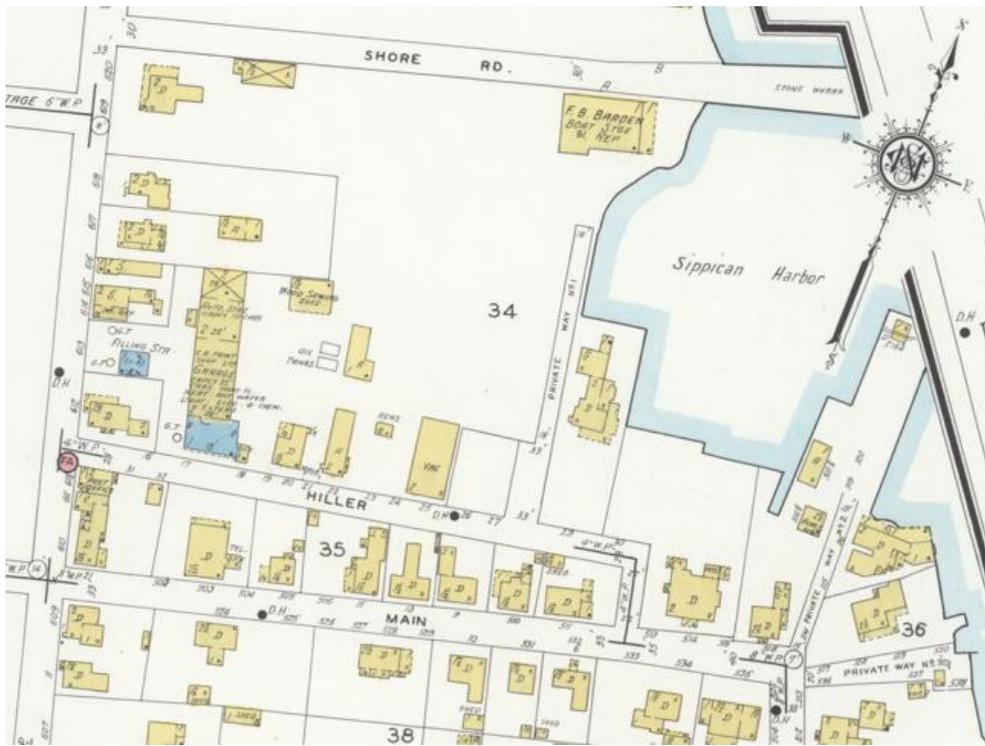


Figure 5. Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas details, 1933.



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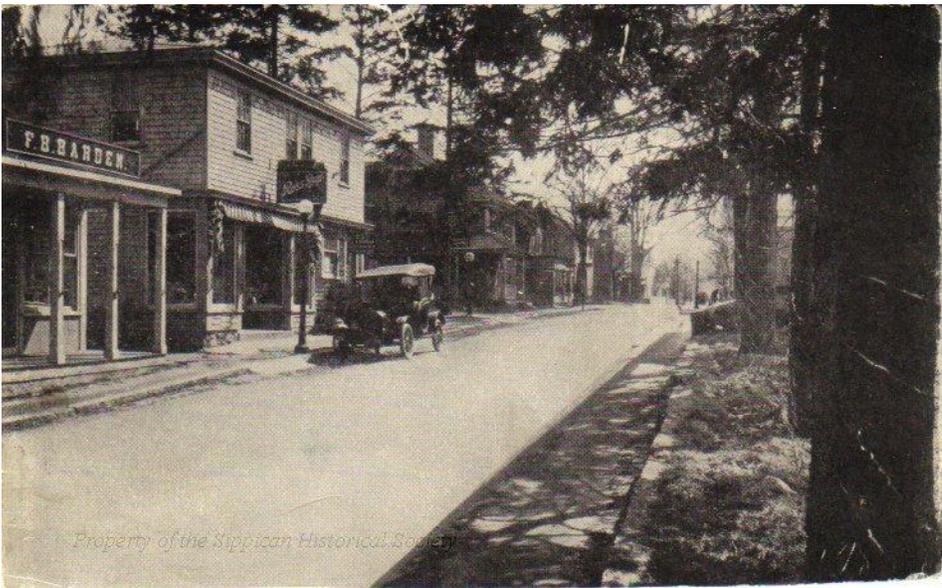


Figure 6: F B Barden, 155 Front Street, and Ross Shop, 153 Front Street. SHS 2004.006.010



Hiller & Company, Inc., Marion, Mass. Chrysler and Plymouth Sales, Service and Parts. They also maintain a machine shop fully equipped to handle repair work. Dealers in Coal, Fuel, Oil and Auto Supplies. Tel. Marion 19.

Figure 7: Early view from *Wareham Courier* (nd)of the Hiller's buildings viewed from Front Street. SHS V114167.

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Figure 8: Front Street, west side, looking south; General Store (140 Front) left of center, former Hadley House converted to store, center (now parking lot), Blankinship store (146-148 Front), said to have been moved, added to this location between 1908 and 1921. SHS 2008.001.023.

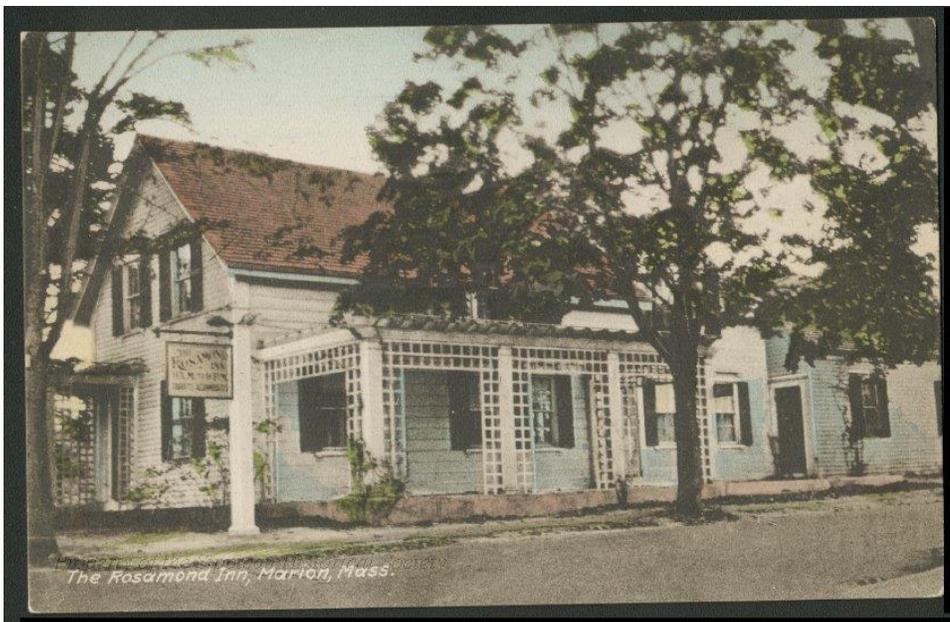


Figure 9: 160 Front Street in early 20th century when serving as the Rosamond Inn. SHS 2008.001.140.

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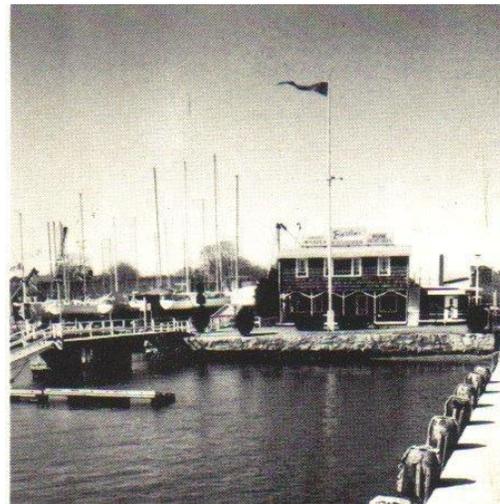


Figure 10: Barden's Boat Yard. Left, before the 1938 Hurricane, SHS 2004.009.023. Right, cropped, no date, 2004.008.009.

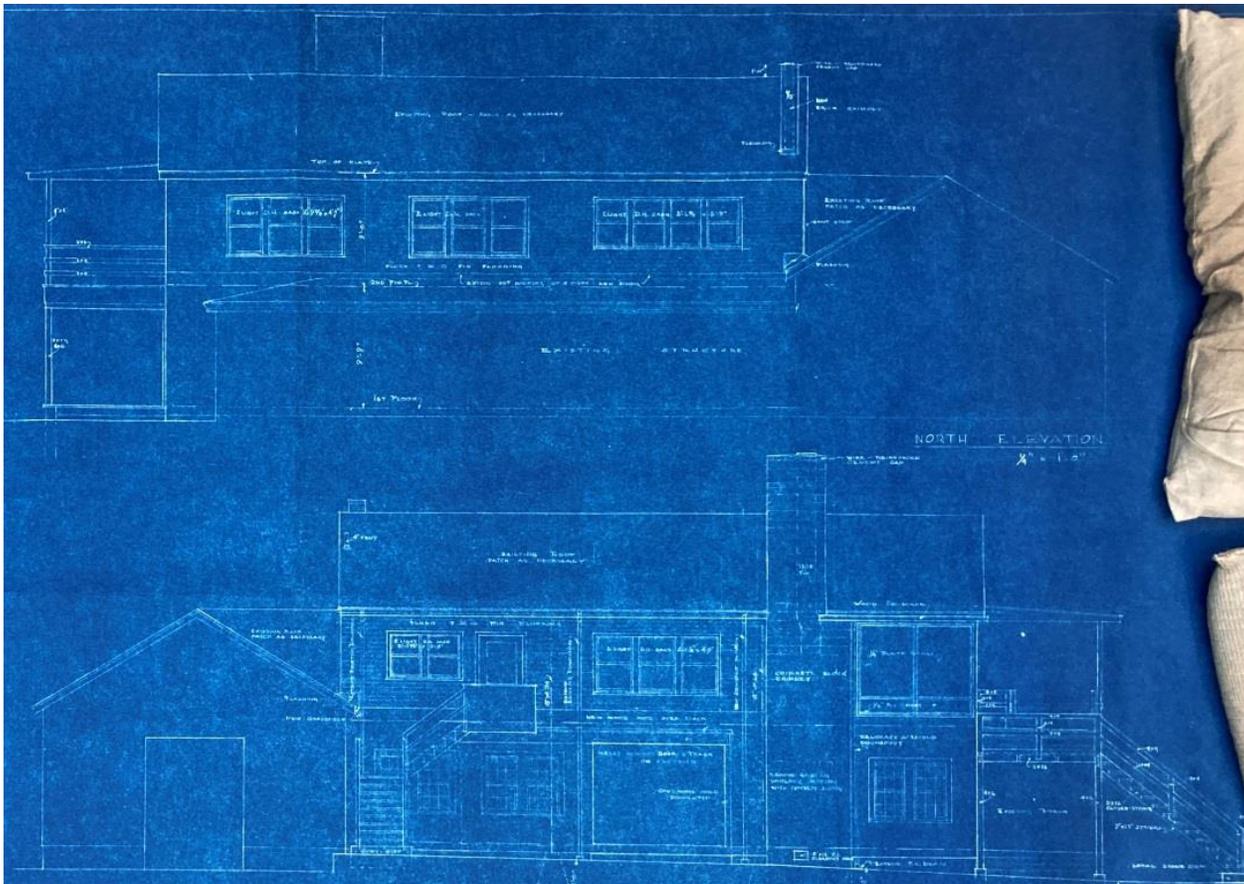


Figure 11: Massachusetts State Archives, Department of Public Safety inspection (73817) drawing of 1950 showing a plan for the Beverly Yacht Club that may survive as part of the Barden Boatyard offices.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Barden – Hiller Area is an eclectic mix of early 19th through early 20th century domestic, commercial and industrial buildings, constructed as this block of Front and the cross-street Hiller evolved into a commercial node during the late-19th through early 20th centuries. The oldest surviving buildings are domestic and located on Front Street, and several were converted to commercial use. Beginning in about 1900 or shortly before several industrial or small commercial buildings were constructed in the area for utilitarian use related to the neighborhood's proximity to the port. Since the middle of the 20th century tourist-driven businesses have come to occupy both types with up-scale commercial use. This has resulted in a high level of preservation and created a built environment that remains a legible document of Marion's social, maritime and mercantile past.

The area is located along both sides of Front Street, an important early north-south thoroughfare, and extends east to Sippican Harbor. Several additional streets were added to create a part of the village grid including Hiller Street, east-west just above Main, and Island Wharf Road, parallel and further to the north. The dwellings and stores are located along these streets, mostly in close proximity to the street and to one another, except where there is a parking lot between 140 and 146-148 Front. But behind these buildings the area includes a large amount of open, paved space, now associated with Barden's Boat Yard but some of it owned earlier by the Hillers. It is used for the storage of private yachts off season. Another large parcel is associated with 11 Hiller Street, a lawn with a circular drive. The edge of the harbor appears to be retained by concrete or granite block wharfing and several modern piers connected to floats and a slip for hauling project from this edge. The water's edge today is reinforced and angular, though the parcel bounds shown on the location map are more irregular, and recent piers extend from the adjacent parcels into the sheltered harbor area.

Dwellings

The oldest surviving building in the area is the **Caleb Handy House and Tavern-, 150 Front Street, 1812 (MRN.6)**. This appears to be a New England center chimney house of two stories with a saltbox profile and a façade of five bays with a center entrance. This building exhibits 18th century attributes including the placement of the main plate directly against the upper-story lintels, a shallow, molded, boxed cornice, and protruding window frames on the façade and sides. A newer, single-story, side-gabled wing to the left (south) with a full porch and eaves decorated by a paired bracketed cornice in the manner of the Italianate style and a well-lit, center-entry shopfront was added by 1903. This building, later the **Women's Club**, is described in greater detail in individual MHC form. The appearance of another large, full-two-story, side-gabled house, the **Blankenship-Hiller House, 145 Front Street, by 1855**, also suggests construction at about the turn of the 19th century. This double-pile building has a central chimney whose placement suggests it may be a square-frame house, a framing system popular in southeastern Massachusetts. The house seems to have had a rear ell early on, and it has been expanded over time by a deep two-story ell that extends to the right under a shed and a smaller two-story bay on the same side. Articulation that includes pilasters, overhanging cornice with denticulation, and a trabeated entry surround with sidelights are suggestive of Greek Revival fashions. A hipped entrance porch that wraps the left side of the building may be a late-19th century addition.

Another dwelling likely constructed closer to 1855 is the gabled end house with knee-wall massing and a double-pile plan at **160 Front Street (Gorham House, by 1855)**. What appears to be a largely original trabeated door surround with paneled pilasters supporting a plain, deep entablature with a dentilated cornice suggests a Greek Revival treatment but the two upper-story windows with bracketed hoods and the open-soffit eave suggest Italianate. However the blending of these styles has been observed elsewhere in Marion and throughout the region. During the 20th century, when it operated as an inn and later a store, this house was converted to commercial use by the addition of latticework porch later enclosed as a flat-roofed storefront wing on the right (north) and the insertion of a large shop window in the main-body façade; both are well lit by divided light window walls. Another 20th-century addition entailed a large extension of the main gabled mass, likely encompassing an early rear ell, toward the rear to enclose an additional three piles, the rear of which is expanded by a larger cross gable extending on the south side. Here the upper knee wall is lit by large gabled dormers on the north side.

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The last quarter of the 19th through first decades of the 20th century witnessed diverse, eclectic development in the neighborhood's domestic improvements. Map evidence indicates a similarly massed gabled end house of two full stories was built somewhat later at **159 Front Street (1883-1890), the Wittet House**. This well-preserved three-bay, side entry (right, south) house retains unpainted wood shingle siding, molded window hoods, and a likely later entrance porch with turned posts. A large wing expanding the rear of two piles extends to the right, which may have been altered later, was also expanded by a hipped single-story bump out in the re-entrant angle. A similar end house, the **Perine House** was constructed at roughly the same time at **157 Front Street (1883-1903)**. This three-bay wide, three pile deep domestic building is typical of its period and retains wood clapboard siding and molded window hoods. Map evidence suggests that it once had a wrap-around porch on the street and the right side, but the location of its primary entry is not clear. Today its entry is into shed roof sections along the right-side elevation, one a long single-story volume, with a higher section at the center extending from the roof. A larger, more ambitious Queen Anne house, the **Luce-Hiller House, 163 Front Street (1885-1890)** was constructed at the northeast edge of the area with views of the harbor and open land and is characteristic of the town's resort era. This large, two-and-a-half-story pile under a high hipped roof is expanded by a cornice-height canted bay in the right (south) end of the façade, large wall dormers on each roof facet, and a deep shed porch that wraps the north side of the house. A large rear ell appears to be a more-recent addition. The house retains wood clapboard siding, two-over-two sash, bracketed porch posts with a decorative balustrade, and double-leaf door. At the other end of the spectrum is a diminutive cottage at **17 Hiller Street, the Robert B House (by 1903)**. This appears to be a picturesque "cottage" type house expanded by a ridge-height façade gable and an elaborately bracketed door hood and molded window hoods suggesting Italianate fashions; an early paired-light door survives as well. An array of features suggest it may be a late-19th century conversion from maritime utilitarian to domestic use, including its asymmetrical four-bay width and its plates resting directly on the window lintels. The building appears to have been greatly expanded during the 20th century by a two-story rear addition.

Just over two decades later another resort era property was built at **5 Hiller Street (1908-1921), the Edwards House**. This is a large-scale, two-story complex pile under a high hipped roof with a large hyphen to the north connecting to a second large structure that may be a former carriage house converted to living space. This house faces east toward the harbor, where the main body, canted bay and hyphen are wrapped by a deep hipped porch. The hipped and gabled roofs are pierced by multiple wall gables that light the second level on all sides and the entire complex rests on a high masonry foundation pierced by multiple at-grade garages. This house may have undergone more than one layer of alteration, including an expansion of a full story in 1991, so its style is difficult to analyze, but its generally unadorned massing and wood shingle finishes suggest an Arts and Crafts aesthetic.

Stores and storage facilities.

Elsewhere this neighborhood witnessed commercial or industrial development, and purpose-built stores were added on both sides of Front Street. A two-part commercial block, the **Barden-Ross Store, 153 Front Street (this form 1908-1921)**, may have been in place by 1855 and may have begun life as a domestic building. Map evidence is ambiguous with regard to its original appearance and use but by 1908 it was depicted as a narrow two-story building labeled "lunch" with a single story wing at its south end labeled "ins. off.," insurance office; by 1921 both sections of the building had been raised to two stories. Currently the three-bay building has a flat roof, is covered in unpainted wood shingles and lit by a combination of domestic window openings in a regular pattern and larger picture windows, all with six-over-six sash or divided light. The shopfront, separated by a molded cornice from the second story, is divided into two sections: a wider one on the left (north) at grade and a narrower one, right accessed by a low brick stoop. Next door, the **Barden Store, 155 Front Street (1903-1908)** is a narrow, flat-roofed, one-part commercial block with a full, open porch sited directly on the frontage. This minimal example of the type is wood framed with unpainted wood shingle siding and an undivided window wall with a center entrance; the sides are lit by domestic sash. The well-preserved **Blankinship Store at 146-148 Front Street** was apparently; moved here **between 1908 and 1921**. This building retains an elaborate Italianate cornice with deep eaves, rake and returns supported by elaborate brackets, with paneled pilasters and molded window heads. Although it resembles similar domestic buildings elsewhere in the area, the first-story façade with a center entrance flanked by projecting, divided-light window-wall bays may be original, suggesting it is a dedicated commercial building. A larger two-story, two-part commercial block, **Bardon's Market & Freezer, 154-156 Front Street**, dates to **1947** with a broad asymmetrical gable lit by large, divided-light shop windows interspersed with three entrances under

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hipped pent roofs is sited at a deeper setback than its neighbors. Although less traditional in its appearance and siting, it utilizes unpainted wood shingles to blend with its older surroundings.

Between **1893 and 1903, Hiller Brothers Coal, Lumber and Livery** was developed at **147 Front Street, rear**. This large, two-story industrial or storage loft with a nearly flat gable to the side has overall dimensions of 143 feet wide, its longer eave Front Street-facing orientation, and 43 feet deep. This building, wood-frame, clad in unpainted shingles, and abundantly lit in a regular, symmetrical pattern by large domestically scaled window openings filled with six-over-six sash, is a rare survival of its type. The building is accessed by several wide openings in its banked, east-facing basement level, on the west-facing ground level, and the upper loft level. Its siting at a deep setback and parallel to Front Street near dock space to the east relate it to Marion's maritime history, where shipments of coal, lumber and other bulk commodities entered the town during the 19th century. Its appearance suggests an original use of lumber and animal storage; coal pockets likely occupied other areas of the site but were not depicted on period maps. As late as 1908 the building was labeled "livery." By 1921 a large single-level wing with a slightly steeper roof pitch was constructed between the south end of the original building and the Hiller Street frontage. See additional photos. This wing of decorative rusticated cinderblock is lit by larger windows and accessed by an articulated garage door fronting Hiller. At the same time a smaller, gabled, forward-projecting wing was placed at the southeast corner of the main wing addition. This smaller component of the building, sheathed in smooth stucco and lit by domestic windows, likely served as office space for the company. At this time the entire complex was labeled "Hiller's Garage" and in use for the storage of automobiles (25 cars, concrete floor). **By 1933**, a detached one-part commercial block of matching cinderblock, positioned perpendicular to the main building near **Front Street at 147 (Hiller Fuels)**, was constructed. In 1933 it was labelled "filling station," indicating its original use. This building is constructed of rough-faced concrete block with overhanging eaves and brackets and may have originally resembled 147 Front rear's addition. It appears to have undergone a later remodel by the addition of a modernist brick façade with a flat, unembellished parapet filled by a solid window wall framed in aluminum and with a right-side entrance, perhaps in the 1950s. This storefront retains a sign reading "Hiller Fuels, Inc." indicating the complex remains in its early general use and ownership.

Two other utilitarian buildings were added to the north side of Hiller Street during the 20th century. By **1903** an elaborate barn or stable appeared at **11 Hiller Street**. According to that year's map this building was identified with **Hiller Brothers Coal and Lumber Yard (147 and 147R Front Street)**. In 1903 through 1921 it was labeled "coal shed" and by 1933 "vacant." Its elaborate appearance, with wood shingle siding, multiple gabled wall dormers lit by domestic six-over-six sash, a decorative molded band course and skirt at the second-floor level and thick, molded cornice decries this prosaic use. A large carriage door remains in its south- and Hiller-facing narrow elevation, suggesting its use as a garage or barn. An equally attractive barn building was built at **15 Hiller Street in 1980 according to assessor's records**. This single-story, gable front building lit by shed dormers in the loft and a small cupola near the north end of the ridge has traditional unpainted shingle siding, six-over-one sash and domestic openings. Its "barn" use, beyond the cupola, is suggested by a narrow sliding board-and-batten door in the southeast corner. However a photograph included in the previous form by Gordon prepared in 1998 suggests this building is somewhat earlier and began life as a gable-front end house with a side entry in a three-bay facade. See additional photos.

Just to the north of the Hiller property the land was developed during the 20th century with facilities for the maintenance and storage of privately owned pleasure boats known as **Barden's Boat Yard, 2 Island Wharf Road**. Currently this building is a large single-story, wood-frame gabled structure massed in a T with a cross gable at its west end. The east end of the building is expanded by a shed-roofed second story over an open porch and another shed-roofed addition fills the north re-entrant angle of the T. The south elevation has an exposed basement. An upper-level deck reached by an open wood stair accesses the main level above. The building's finishes, with unpainted wood shingles and a variety of tri-part picture and standard domestic windows, appears to have been altered more than once. The yard's facilities also include two large metal storage buildings. The west building is under a high gable with an equally scaled shed extension to the west. A larger building with a nearly flat gable, also with a smaller shed, is located next to it to the east. Both have high enough stud heights to accommodate boat storage and are entirely unlit. The Barden Boat Yard sign attached to the north side of the larger building facing Island Wharf Road includes a full-scale half model of a Herreshoff 12½. See additional photos.

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Additional photos after data sheet.

Research protocol: Historic maps, selected title and biographical research.

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See Research Protocol	Name, address, date #	Assessor's number	MHC
	<p>Blankinship-Hiller House, 145 Front Street, by 1855 MRN.199</p> <p>Federal square frame and plan Wall Material: Shingles projecting square bay, large rear ell, wrap porch</p> <p>Jarvis and Celia Blankinship before 1855; see text.</p>	<p>14_83</p>	
	<p>Hiller Fuels, Inc, 147 Front Street, 1921 - 1933 MRN.394</p> <p>/ One-part Commercial flat-roofed, brick veneer and play glass facade Wall Material: Concrete block well preserved</p> <p>underground tanks, 1921; filling station added by 1933</p>	<p>14_82</p>	
	<p>Hiller Bros Livery Stable, 147 rear Front St, 1879 - 1903 MRN.216</p> <p>/ multiple volumes Wall Material: two-story long frame block, concrete block end gabled addition well preserved</p> <p>1903 labelled as Hiller Bros (etc), outbuilding frame; see text.</p>	<p>14-82</p>	
	<p>Blankinship Store, 146-48 Front Street, here 1908 - 1921 MRN.200</p> <p>Italianate / One-part Commercial center entry, shop windows, rear ell Wall Material: Clapboards dormers, rear addition</p> <p>1921: grocery; 1933: store. Moved, see text.</p>	<p>14_63</p>	

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	<p>Caleb Handy House & Tavern, 150 Front Street, 1812 14_62_1 MRN.6</p> <p>Federal center chimney</p> <p>See MHC B forms MRN.6</p>
	<p>Barden-Ross Store, 153 Front Street, 1908 - 1921 14_81 MRN.202</p> <p>/ Two-part Commercial flat roof, shop windows and domestic windows. Wall Material: Shingles this form from 1921; well preserved.</p> <p>1855 F Barden; 1903 atlas F B Barden; 1908 'lunch' and 'insurance office'; 1921 fruit, ins off; 1933 store, ins off.</p>
	<p>Barden Market & Freezer, 154-156 Front Street, 1947 14_62A_1_3 MRN.395.</p> <p>Traditional / One-part Commercial saltbox profile, store windows, dormers Wall Material: Shingles</p> <p>Built 1947, see text.</p>
	<p>Barden Store, 155 Front Street, 1903 - 1908 14_80 MRN.203</p> <p>/ One-part Commercial flat roof, center entry, plate glass windows, porch Wall Material: Shingles well preserved</p> <p>1903 atlas same lot as 153 Front St labelled 'meat' 1908, 'fruit market' 1921, store 1933.</p>
	<p>Penine House, 157 Front Street, 1883 - 1903 14_79 MRN.204</p> <p>/ end gabled block end gable to street, side entries into shed roofed volumes Wall Material: Mixed wood carriage house in rear, end gabled block, is now separate parcel</p> <p>1903: S E E Penine; see text.</p>

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	<p>Wittet House, 159 Front Street, 1883 - 1890 14_78 MRN.396</p> <p>Victorian Eclectic / end house large clipped-gable wing, entry porch Wall Material: Shingles hip-roofed addition into reentrant angle</p> <p>1903: Annie E Wittet; see text.</p>
	<p>Gorham House, 160 Front Street, by 1855 14_61 MRN.205</p> <p>Italianate / end house core domestic volume, wall dormers Wall Material: Clapboards shop window, shop wing, extensive rear additions</p> <p>1855: J S Gorham; see text.</p>
	<p>Luce-Hiller House, 163 Front Street, 1885 - 1890 14_77 MRN.206</p> <p>Queen Anne /center hall house high hip roof, project bays, dormers, wrap porch Wall Material: Clapboards large rear addition</p> <p>1903 Mrs I E Hiller, later owner; see text.</p>
	<p>Edwards House, 5 Hiller Street, 1908 - 1921 14_86 MRN.212</p> <p>Craftsman / Large house raised in high foundation, complex massing Wall Material: Shingles garages added?</p> <p>Earlier building on front of lot by 1855. Replaced between 1908 and 1921, raised 1991.</p>
	<p>Hiller Coal Pocket? 11 Hiller Street, by 1903 14_82C MRN.213</p> <p>Shingle Style / end gabled block hip-roofed, multiple dormers Wall Material: Shingles Renovated ca 2010.</p> <p>By 1903, coal shed 1908, 1921, vacant 1933.</p>

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	<p>house, 15 Hiller Street, assessor 1980 14_84 MRN.214</p> <p>/ end gabled block Wall Material: Shingles recently remodeled to resemble outbuilding, added dormers</p> <p>site of long narrow shed, 1908, 1921, auto 1933.</p>
	<p>Robert B Hiller House, 17 Hiller Street, by 1903 14_82B MRN.215</p> <p>Victorian Eclectic / cottage asymmetrical facade with large wall dormer Wall Material: Mixed wood two story rear ell added</p> <p>1903: R B Hiller, see text.</p>
	<p>Barden Boat Shop, 2 Island Warf Road, see text 14_77A MRN.310</p> <p>Traditional / multiple volumes multiple volumes Wall Material: Shingles multiple rebuilds after hurricane damage</p> <p>1933: Barden Boat Stge & Rep</p>

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Additional photos



15 Hiller: Left: current assessor's image. Right: Survey 1998?



2 Island Wharf Road. Additional buildings at Barden's Boat Yard.



Open space and boats behind the boat yard.

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Above and below, 147 rear Front Street.



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

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

The Barden-Hiller Area 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 18th through the 20th 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 (Cottage, Hiller, and South) and north-south (Spring, 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), and Upper Pleasant Street (MRN.AC) 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, community planning and development, maritime history, and social history.