

# FORM A - AREA

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

14, 15, 16

Marion

MRN  
.N,  
AA

see data  
sheet

## Photograph



Main Street looking west, 2, 6, 10, 12.

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Name of Area:** Main Street

**Present Use:** primarily residential

**Construction Dates or Period:** most 1790 to 1855

**Overall Condition:** good

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** none

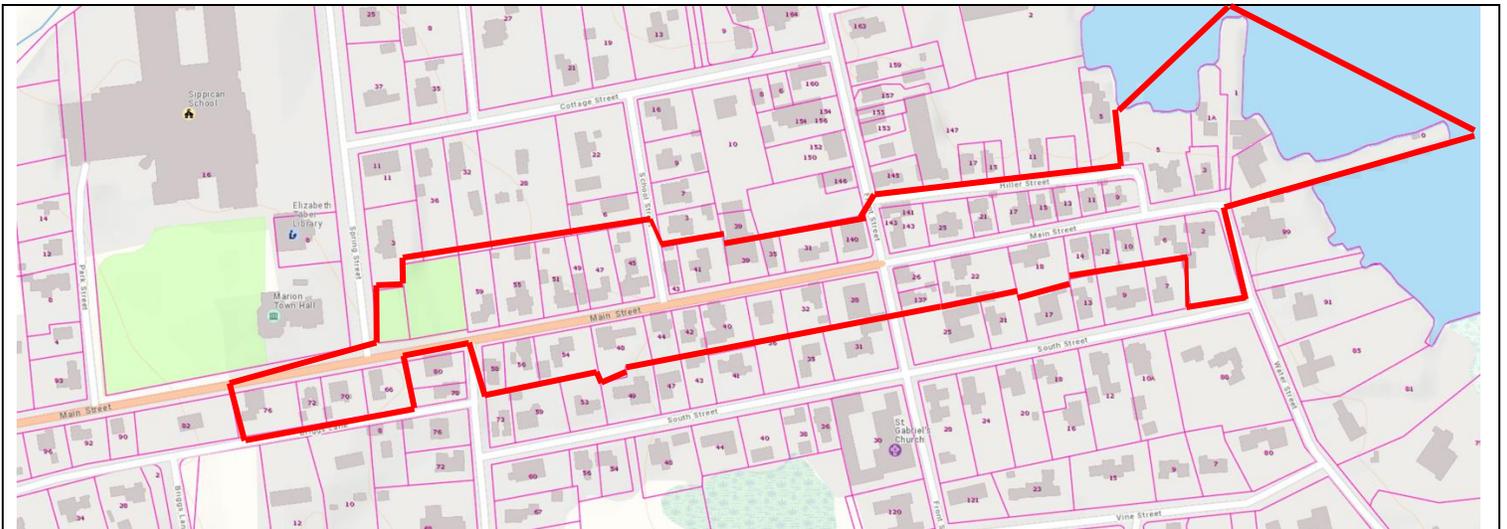
**Acreage:** 14.28 acres

**Recorded by:** Claire W Dempsey

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date (month/year):** October 2021

## Locus Map



see continuation sheet

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

MAIN STREET

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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. That area was reorganized into more manageable sections in 2021, including this one, and at that time, property identifications (addresses, assessor parcels) were clarified and historical research revisited. Properties with B forms include the MHC MRN number in their description.*

*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. This issue is compounded for an area with many early buildings, like this one, which require special research techniques, including full title and more detailed biographical research, as well as visits made to their interiors, careful examination of physical fabric, and dendrochronological testing. Until this intensive research is undertaken, the details of the development process can only be approximated.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Main Street Area covers the primary east-west street at the core of Marion Village, stretching from Sippican Harbor to the vicinity of the town's public building complex just past the intersection of Main with Spring Street (to the north) and Pleasant Street (to the south). The area was the site of a meetinghouse from 1799 and attracted other public buildings and workplaces, including a cluster of wharves on a small cove at Sippican Harbor; public buildings were covered in MHC B forms. A handful of dwellings were in place by 1830 and the area increased in density over the next 25 years; by 1855 this section of Main Street was almost entirely built out. The selected bounds encompass the area developed at that time; the street continues west to terminate at Mill Street. The area includes a significant number (13) of Cape Cod houses in various forms, and a group of two-story houses (8) in familiar regional forms of the turn-of-the-19<sup>th</sup> century era. Forms emblematic of the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, classical cottages and end houses account for a dozen more houses here. A handful of houses were added at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially at the west end of the subject area. Three houses have been demolished and replaced by new dwellings in the postwar era. For the most part, the distinctive village landscape of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century can still be recognized and appreciated.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Main Street Area represents the earliest section of the village known as Sippican, Lower or Wharf Village, and Marion Center. Two factors attracted residents, institutions, and businesses to create the civic and commercial core of the town in this vicinity. The first of these was the choice of this location for the first Congregational 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 (Marion Congregational Church, 1841, MRN.39)**. The second factor was the development of Sippican Harbor, with wharves and businesses reflecting the increased importance of maritime employment in the town's growing and maturing economy. The subject area includes the earliest development in the eastern block between the water and Front Street, where these public buildings, schools, and dwellings were in place by 1830; see figure 1. That area increased in density over the next two decades and construction continued in the eastern section and extended just past the intersection of Pleasant Street by 1855, creating the western bound of the subject area; see figure 2. The maritime depression of the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought rapid development to an end and served as well as a preservation agent. The village soon attracted the philanthropy of Elizabeth Taber, bringing a new public building to this area, the **Congregational Chapel of 1885 (39 Main Street, MRN.40)**. With the town's emergence as a summer resort, some new construction came later to the area, including expansions of the small dwellings there.

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Research on the historic landscapes of southern New England has demonstrated that most villages emerged at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the same appears to have been the case here. Although the details of land division in Rochester have not been covered in local histories, it appears that even house lots were large, measuring 20 acres in the first division in 1679, with another 40-acre woodlot to each proprietor. Sixteen of these parcels were located in the vicinity of Sippican village. Local historians and commentators note agriculture and dispersed settlement here in the town's early years. In 1838, it was reported that "[f]or over a century after its settlement agriculture was almost the exclusive pursuit of its inhabitants, and the population was scattered with equality over its surface." As a result, "[a]s the interests of the town quarter have always been agricultural, no very concentrated village has even formed within it." But that pattern began to shift at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with the harbor villages emerging along the shore, and by 1786, "[o]ur navigation is such an object of our attention as to be a great disadvantage to our husbandry." In particular, the manufacture of salt became the "leading business." Few buildings in town have traditional dates associated with this agricultural phase in the town's history.<sup>1</sup>

Sippican was Rochester's most important harbor, its "situation" the "best in the place for shelter," according to an 1815 description which noted three wharves there.<sup>2</sup> The waterfront portion of the subject area includes two of the earliest wharves. One extends east from the end of Main Street, known variously as Sherman's, Central, and Long Wharf. The other is almost perpendicular to it, extending north from Main and known as Bates Wharf and labelled 1800 on the annotated version of the 1855 Walling Map. Bates Wharf was later known as Union Wharf (1879) and was expanded and regularized by 1903 when it was unnamed; see figures 1 and 2. As seen on the 1855 map, this vicinity had a number of shops and stores, and some may survive. On the west side of Bates Wharf, a building was labelled S Rider's Store while the building behind it (**1A Main Street**) is said to have been a cooperage; it was held as part of 3 Main until 1903. Between Bates and Sherman Wharf were a sail loft and house, which are said to be part of the complex at **1 Main Street**. In 1855, the house and loft were held by sailmaker James Wittet and later held by the owner of 0 Main, James Mendall. The two buildings were later joined and converted into a rambling house owned by summer resident Dr Maurice Richardson at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Above Sherman's Wharf was a shop, behind Mendall's house and later owned by George Delano and R W Clark; it does not survive. Nearby, on the south side of Main were a wheelwright's shop and Luce's store (said to be **10 Main Street**). See figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

In Marion, Old Landing probably emerged slightly earlier than the Lower Village, but once the meetinghouse was added here (**Meetinghouse/General Store, 140 Front Street, MRN.22**), the multiplier effect seems to have led to a boom in construction in succeeding decades. There is also some evidence that there were concerted efforts to lay out small lots here. For example, in an early deed that seems to relate to the **Job & Hannah Blankinship House at 15 Main Street (c 1795, MRN.230)**, a lot sale by Rowland Luce to Job Blankinship in 1791 (recorded 1800) notes that the lot was on Main Street "as it is named in a plan laying out a number of lots by said harbor," and other deeds also specify numbered lots as well. Whether this was a town plan or a local landowner's has not emerged from research to date, but it does offer a context for the many small lots in the area. Data is also accumulating to suggest that one of the key landowners in this vicinity was Luce, and this process would benefit from further study. The senior Rowland Luce (1756-1835) was born in Tisbury on Martha's Vineyard and was in Rochester at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Clark in 1778; he served as a mariner in the Revolution and achieved the rank of major. He made only one purchase of land in Rochester before 1801, two parcels for 2000 pounds, from his mother-in-law the widowed Thankful Clark, who had the land from her father Samuel Wing. This may be the property later developed in Sippican village and perhaps the source of his wealth (he was also known as gentleman).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Mattapoisett and Old Rochester* (1907), first quote from town meeting report on the location of town meetings, p 174; second quote from the authors, p 48, third from Mattapoisett's minister, p 148, fourth quoting John Warren Barber p 159. See also Joseph Wood with Michael Steinitz, *The New England Village* (1997).

<sup>2</sup> *Mattapoisett and Old Rochester* (1907), p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> PCRD: 60:80 (1779); 49:215 (1765); 43:96 (1755). This was a five-acre parcel near the harbor and half of thirty acres of marsh that apparently extended from the seaside to Spring Street. His only other certain purchase was a fifth share in Wing's Wharf, with Barnabas Luce, Ebenezer Holmes, and George Bonam Nye, 99:146 (1791/1804); there may have been late filings. Much information

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Previous researchers have for the most part only assigned general dates to these early village properties, with few buildings assigned a single date or a narrow, bracketed date of construction. One document has recently come to light that suggests that some more specific research was undertaken, apparently by Olive Hiller Somers, on the eastern-most block of the area; see figure 4. Purporting to identify property owners in 1820, it does not seem to have been used explicitly in her book, though it may be the source of her comments about buildings in place by 1820. In several instances, these names are confirmed by our title work, though it is important to bear in mind that these are earlier owners but not necessarily the builder. Note as well that Rowland Luce is identified as owning open land to the west and to the north of this stretch of Main Street, as well as in a house on Main Street. A *preliminary* assignment of 1820 names to present addresses is included below.

South side of Main		North side of Main	
E Luce, N E Bates	2 Main	J Blankinship	0 Main
J Pitcher	6 Main	M Brown	1 Main
J White	12 Main	J Berry	3 Main
J Blankinship (2)	14 Main	P Bates	5 Main
T Pitcher	18 Main	J Handy	9 Main
		W Clark	11 Main
		S Hammond	13 Main
		A Kendrick	15 Main
		E Wing	21 Main
		R Luce, Jos Allen	25 Main
		School	corner of Front

The state map of the town of Rochester shows 16 houses in the village of Sippican 1830, as well as the meetinghouse and two schools, all along Main Street; see figure 1. This figure may not be far off, comparing well to survivals today and the general dates assigned to them. Nineteen dwellings in this area have been assigned to the period between 1790 and 1830 based on general research and their conformity with established building practice. (see description section). The most common house type is the single-story Cape Cod house, known from 11 examples, as well as three larger two-story center chimney houses, two small square frame houses, and four center hall houses. Unfortunately, it has not been possible for this project to provide many more secure dates for these dwellings, because only a handful of properties have been subject to title research and even these have often not provided hard dates. Although many of these dwellings have had names assigned to them in the past, most of these could not be confirmed by general research or appear to be later owners; we have not repeated them in this document. This is an exceptional group of buildings that deserves to be better understood and more widely known.

Research has clarified the history of some early dwellings, confirming the value of additional intensive research, but other examples highlight the challenges of this work. For the **Barden House at 21 Main Street (MRN.233)**, for example, research now suggests it was constructed not in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century but rather a century later, as its builder Stephen Barden (d 1823) noted in 1800 that he built his dwelling “some years ago,” perhaps about the time of his marriage in 1784. Others have been clarified and specified over the course of this research, as for example the **Blankinship House at 15 Main Street (MRN.230)**, noted above and built ca 1795, the **Handy-Hathaway House at 22 Main Street (MRN.234)**, now dated to about 1829, based on deed evidence which identified its owner-builder before the Hathaways. In many instances, title research simply bottoms out, when there is no earlier deed reference and when the deed indexes do not identify an appropriate grantee. Attempts to confirm the residence of the senior Rowland Luce, for example, were unsuccessful, though there is mounting evidence that it may be the building his heirs shared at **25 Main Street (Luce-Allen House)**. Rowland senior’s daughters Elizabeth and Mary lived here in half the house in 1855 and remained until Mary’s death in 1886 and in the family until 1905. The other half was apparently owned by mariner Joseph

on Luce family members comes from gravestones in Marion’s Evergreen Cemetery available through Find-a-grave and confirmed with the significant amount of research on the family has been undertaken over the course of this project. See Ancestry.com: Massachusetts Vital Records and US Revolutionary War Pensioners for Rowland SR; no probate docket could be located.

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Allen (1781-1860) and was occupied by his widow Polly as late as 1870; later owners are not clear.<sup>4</sup> The house at **0 Main Street (Blankinship- Mendall House)**, long associated with mariner James Mendall (c 1817-1884), now appears to have been held by his wife Mary (1816-1905) Blankinship's family. James and Mary lived with her father John (1785-1850/55) and his wife Lydia Blankinship, and the house was described as the homestead of George Blankinship (1751-1837), John's father. The Mendalls held the property until 1887.<sup>5</sup>

Construction evidence in the area suggests that the building boom continued into the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Congregational Society built a new church (**28 Main Street, MRN.39**) in **1841**, the old building became a meeting hall (**140 Front Street, MRN.22**), and eight more houses were added in this area. They are similarly scaled to the earlier houses, mostly a story and a half in height. The most ambitious of these may be carpenter **William H Handy's house at 54 Main Street** built at the end of this period between **1849 and 1855** with a picturesque silhouette and rich ornament perhaps advertising his trade. Research on the **Chamberlain-Handy House at 76 Main Street (1842-1855)** clarified its history and its neighbors to the east (see below). The lot was purchased by carpenter Nathan Savery (1774-1858) in 1842 and the house was in place and occupied by him, his daughter Patience (1803-1885), her husband Benjamin Chamberlain (1803-1874), a blacksmith, and their three children by 1855.<sup>6</sup> They soon left for Carver and sold the land to its long-term owner William Handy in 1866. Handy (1831-1904) reported his occupation as mariner, sea captain, and retired sea captain, and lived here with his wife Ellen (1853-1902) until their deaths.<sup>7</sup> Recent research on **45 Main Street, the Hammond House**, suggests it was there **by 1840**, when it was owned by Sylvia Blankinship Hammond (1775-1840), widow of Nathaniel Hammond (1770-1812), who died at sea. It was not possible to determine how she or her husband acquired the property, but it may have been built **near their marriage in 1793**. Just before her death she gave the property to the children of her son George Hammond (b 1803), a carpenter who lived here with his six children for the next several decades.<sup>8</sup> The **Handy House at 59 Main Street (1830-1855)** was another example where research could not establish how the property was acquired by its early owner. Carpenter Noah D Handy (1816-1883) lived here with his wife Cynthia Mandell (1820-1892) and their children through the 1880s and was succeeded here by their daughter Cynthia.<sup>9</sup> Further research like this, and closer examination of the buildings themselves, would make a significant contribution to deepening our understanding of this important landscape.

The 1855 census provides the first opportunity to generalize about the residents of Main Street, since names there can be linked to the Walling map of the same year. Thirty dwellings in the census listings have been linked to the map, and most of these appear in close proximity to one another in the census record, suggesting they have been correctly identified as the occupants of these dwellings. Half of the dwellings were occupied by single nuclear households, ranging widely in their size and the age of parents and children. Two older households had no children at home, Jonathan and Mary Handy at **9 Main** and Isaac and Clarissa Handy at **40 Main**. Younger couples had only one child, like the Allens at **12 Main**, the Wm H Handys at **54 Main** and the Stephen Hadleys at **55 Main**. Older couples had more children, including five with five children, two with two or four, and one each with seven and eleven children. The

<sup>4</sup> The Luce part of the property (the west) was bequeathed by Mary Luce to her nephew Jonathan (1853-1886), likely son of her brother Rowland's son Edwin (so actually her great or grand nephew). Plymouth Probate Docket # 2433. After his parents' early deaths, Jonathan had lived with his great aunts. Ancestry.com: MA Vital records; MA Census 1855, 1865, US Census 1860, 1870, 1880. Re Allen: Ancestry.com: MA Vital records and MA Census 1855, 1865; US Census 1860, 1870. It was not possible to determine how Allen acquired the property.

<sup>5</sup> PCRD 550:166 (1887); 272:211 (1856); 210:108 (1839/43); 59:20 (1777/76). This is not a complete chain, and questions remain about how the property was transferred from George Blankinship to his heirs and later owners. George appears to have bought this parcel from John and Thankful Clark, noted above as the senior Rowland Luce's in-laws. Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; MA Census 1855; Rochester Birth Records; US Census 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> Ancestry.com: A W Savery, *A Genealogical Record of the Savery Families* (1893); Find-a-grave; MA Census 1855; US Census 1850, 1860. PCRD: 339:217 (1842).

<sup>7</sup> Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; Family Tree, US Census 1870, 1880, 1900.

<sup>8</sup> PCRD 5017:478 (1981), 1621:552 and 1619:376 (1931), 660:93 (1891), 514:188 (1882/85), 477:161 (1882), 463:63 (1880/81), 420:115 (1876), 201:21 (1840). Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; MA Census 1855, 1865; US Census 1850. Sylvia was the daughter of George Blankinship and John Blankinship's older sister (0 Main Street).

<sup>9</sup> Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1870, 1880.

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other half of the dwellings included multiple households with different surnames living together. One household was headed by a female, Desire Briggs, who seems to live with her two sons and a woman who may be a daughter and her two young children at **42 Main**. In some cases, it appears that these individuals were parents of the wedded couple, as was the case in the Chamberlain household at **76 Main** as noted above; this may also be the case at the Hammond household at **45 Main**. The household of Weston and Nancy Allen appears to include three men who were employed, like he and his son, as carpenters, so may include an apprentice as well as employees or partners. Others may be boarders, as at the Dr Willis household at **141-143 Front Street**, where teacher Orange Spoor boarded with his wife in a household that included five children, a foster child, and an Irish-born young woman who may be a servant. Others seem to colleagues or friends rather than relatives, as at **2 Main Street**, occupied by two traders and their families, Noble and Sarah Bates and Elisha and Lucretia Luce. Other dwellings with two households include the Blankinships and the Browns at **15 Main**; the Kelleys and Cobbs at **26 Main**; and the Wings and Luces at **44 Main**. Other households appear quite complex, as the household of Paddock Bates at **5 Main** where the couple were joined by four individuals with three different surnames; similarly, households with three or more surnames lived at **17 Main, 22 Main, and 25 Main**.

The 59 occupations pursued by male residents in the neighborhood reflect the trends described above – most were artisans or followed maritime pursuits. Only a small number were employed in agriculture, including six farmers and a “cow laborer.” The single most common job category was carpenter, recorded for seventeen men; there is some question whether this meant ship or house builders or general members of the trade. Others in the building trade included two masons and a painter. The second most popular employment was mariner, reported by fifteen men. Other maritime trades included two sailmakers, a rigger, and a caulker. Other craftsmen included two coopers, two blacksmiths, a wheelwright, and a shoemaker. Five men managed maritime commerce, including one merchant, three traders, and a clerk. As noted above, the physician and the teacher lived together.

As in many coastal Massachusetts towns, maritime endeavors most closely associated with the harbor dropped precipitously after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in Marion, and industrial and processing activities did not replace them. As the authors of *Mattapoisett and Old Rochester* noted in 1909: “...something of the old energy, enthusiasm, and pathos have departed that belonged to the old seafaring days. The windmills are gone from the shore, and a few crane-beams, laid up perhaps as a relic in some dry nook, are all that can be found of the great saltworks....” Between **1855 and 1879**, only one new dwelling was added along this stretch of Main Street, and it has traditionally been identified as a former post office **moved** to its current location at **58 Main Street between 1855 and 1879 (Ryder House)**. Long associated with Elmira Ryder (1810-1888), widow of farmer Jonathan, she purchased the property in 1875 and it remained in her family until 1956. But there was a building on the property when she purchased it from Sophia Briggs; she or the previous owner of the lot, Elizabeth Briggs, may have been the buildings mover and adapter.<sup>10</sup> As local development slowed, it was seaside tourism that led to a heightened appreciation of Marion’s quiet and quaint atmosphere and the buildings that contributed to it. “The harbors are still the scene of life and activity but the power-boat, the yacht, the catboat, and other pleasure craft, have taken the place of the whaleships and vessels of maritime commerce.” These same authors note that it was at this time that the village of Sippican began to “drop something of its maritime character soon after it laid aside its sibilant old Indian name.” This also coincides with the beneficence of Elizabeth Taber, the former resident who, between 1872 and 1891 commissioned and donated seven important public buildings to the town. Five of Taber’s gifts survive in the village and one, the **Congregational Chapel of 1885** is located at **39 Main Street (MRN.40)**. Other public buildings were added to the village, including two new churches church, a school, and two clubs.<sup>11</sup>

One of the important buildings of this era formerly stood at 36 Main Street, known initially as the Marion Social Club and later as Club Hall and the Nelson Block. Built in 1888, it served the Marion Social Club, founded about two years earlier; its founders and membership are not known, though Smith, in *Postcard Histories* credits the effort to summer resident James DeKay, who lived at **0 Main Street (Blankinship-Mendall House, 1790-1830)**. There were 70 members

<sup>10</sup> PCRD 4615:63 (1979); 4009:301 (1974); 2478:173 (1956); 1688:281 (1935); 964:449 (1907); 576:207 (1889); 415:270 (1875); 392:273 (1873). No purchase by Scott could be located. Somers, *Three Centuries* suggests the po had been “back of the Congregational Church” (p 104).

<sup>11</sup> Quotes from *Mattapoisett and Old Rochester* p 163.

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at this time and the building was predicted to “make an excellent place for resort for the summer visitors, especially the young, and will in many ways be useful to the town.” The Club had purchased a lot on Main Street (for \$350) and held entertainments to raise the funds for the club house, which would include a hall in the second story seating 400. There appears to have been two Boston firms consulted for the design of the building, William Gibbons Preston and Andrews & Jacques. Preston’s design was published in the *American Architect and Building News* in 1888 and he was well known in Marion, associated with Water Street summer houses and later for the Music Hall at 164 Front Street (1891, MRN.23), but for whatever reason his design was not selected by the Club. Rather, that same year, a building was constructed from the design of Andrews & Jacques at a cost estimated at \$4000. Robert Day Andrews (1857-1928) and Herbert Jacques (1857-1916) may have met while studying at MIT and formed their partnership in 1885; they later added Augustus N Rantoul as partner. Their shingled design was simpler than Preston’s, and perhaps more suitable to the budget and the village. By 1903 it was labelled “PB Hadley Club Hall,” and apparently owned by then operator of the General Store; by 1908 it was labelled, “cigars confey 1<sup>st</sup>, Hall 2<sup>nd</sup>.” In 1917, it was expanded by James Nelson from designs by Crapo & Oglesby to enclose two stores and relocate the entry and stairs; in 1921 the “Cozy Theatre motion pictures” was on the second story. This appears to be the local firm, Thomas A Oglesby (1869-1931), a native of Idaho and a house carpenter who resided on Holmes at the corner of Front Street in Marion, and George B Crapo (b ca 1874), also a house carpenter, who also lived on Front at the corner of Allen Street. According to MACRIS the pair was credited with the South Carver Grange Hall (7 Wareham Street, Carver, 1915, CAV.303), and they likely contributed to the design of the Fin-de-Siecle Club (7 School Street, MRN.276).<sup>12</sup> See figure 10.

It appears that at first outsiders coming to Marion stayed at one of the new hotels or rented rooms and houses here in the village and eventually built summer places all around the coastline. The Sippican Hotel was just outside this area, at the corner of South and Water streets, and a number of the houses within it are said to have had well-known tenants. “The Haven” at **0 Main Street (Blankinship-Mendell House, 1790-1830)** was the home of James DeKay, cousin of Helen DeKay Gilder, a painter and married to *Century Magazine* editor Richard W Gilder; the couple are said to have been influential in bringing artists, writers, and actors to vacation in Marion. The house was later owned by Dr William McDonald, an expert in the treatment of infantile paralysis who treated Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Marion.<sup>13</sup> FDR is said to have lived at **9 Main Street (1790-1830)** or at its neighbor at 7 (demolished in 1939) while receiving treatment in the 1920s. Others noted at that house were the journalist Richard Harding Davis, who rented rooms prior to his marriage to painter Cecil Clark, and by Admiral Richard Byrd. Charles Dana Gibson is said to have rented **14 Main Street (John S and Hannah S Bates House, late 18<sup>th</sup> century, MRN.229)**.<sup>14</sup> But it appears that at this time, few summer residents resided in this area. Only two were listed on Main Street in the directory of 1903, Edward B Kellogg (of Boston) and Maurice H Richardson (MD also of Boston) and only four in 1924, including doctors Edward and Foster Kellogg (still of Boston), dentist T Wilbur Mottley (of Cambridge), Vera Payne and Julia C Walsh (both of New York).<sup>15</sup>

Other improvements for local residents added at this time were both in place on the lot now occupied by Bicentennial Park at the corner of Main and Spring streets. A waiting room for the New Bedford and Onset Street Railroad was in place by 1903, connecting the town to these key urban and recreational destinations to the west and east; see figure 12. Next door, the town added the South School by 1903, serving elementary students in the village; see figure 11; it may have been remodeled by Crapo & Oglesby in 1912 and stood until at least the 1960s. Dwellings were also being used by local residents for various commercial and social purposes, including two houses serving as inns in this period. The Dreyer Inn is said to have been operated by the sisters Elizabeth S (1855-1937) and Harriet L Dreyer (1870-1909) at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at **5 Main Street (d unclear)**. Daughters of Henry C (1824-1895) and Margareth E (1822-

<sup>12</sup> For Preston see Jean Ames Follett-Thompson, [The Business of Architecture: William Gibbons Preston and Architectural Professionalism in Boston during the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century](#) (PhD Dissertation, Boston University (1986). For Andrews & Jacques, see Whitneys, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased)* (c 1956).

<sup>13</sup> PCRD LCC 1287 (1923/34/36, plan 9025). Wharf: PCRD 1424:90 (1922); 1400:415 (1921/22); 864:538 (1903). House: PCRD: 1379:41 (1920); 1077:545 (1911); 960:172 (1907); 550:166 (1887). Contact consultant for more recent owners.

<sup>14</sup> These residents are noted in Somers, *Three Centuries*, pp. 74, 76, and 78; see also Bates text on images of 7 Main or “the Hut” in the Sippican Historical Society database.

<sup>15</sup> Two directories were scanned for Main Street residents labelled ‘sr’ for summer resident.

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1909) Dreyer, he had reported his occupation as bread peddler (1870) and bread baker (1880), when his household here included Roland Briggs who drove the bread cart. In 1900, the widow and her daughters operated a boarding house here, with a chambermaid and cook in residence.<sup>16</sup> The Handy Inn was operated by Cynthia Handy at **59 Main Street (Handy House, 1830-55)** in the 1920s. The **Luce-Allen House (25 Main Street, 1790-1830)** was acquired by the Hiller Brothers (see Barden-Hiller Area, MRN.Y) and became a rental property and was later known as the Hiller Apartments.<sup>17</sup> The house at **12 Main Street (White-Tobey House, early 19<sup>th</sup> century)** was the first meeting place for the Fin de Siecle Club, founded by local residents (male) for "social intercourse and general improvement"; they later built a Clubhouse (7 School Street, MRN.276). The Cogglesalls added a stove, furnace, and range store next to the west of their house at **51 Main Street. (1790-1839)** by 1903/08, which was later relocated to Mill Street/Rt6; see figure 13. They had also added a small dwelling to the east of their house, at **49 Main Street (Coggeshall House) by 1903**, one of the few new domestic buildings added during this period. At the west end of the area, members of the long-resident William and Ellen Handy family developed two houses to the east of theirs, the **Handy-Nelson House at 70 Main (1892-1900)** and the **Handy-Hudson House (1900-1903) at 72 Main**. The houses were built one after the other in the years around 1900 and tenanted before being sold to their occupants after William and Ellen's deaths.<sup>18</sup> Similarly, L C Kelley, living at **26 Main Street**, added a house at **137 Front Street (Kelley House)**, the back section of his lot **by 1903**. It also appears, from historic images of Main Street houses, that some early houses were updated at this time, with elaborate dormers and ornamental shingles rather than plain ones appearing in early photographs.

By 1910, the employment patterns in the neighborhood had shifted significantly. The number employed in maritime trades dropped dramatically: there was only one fisherman and two boatman; the two other boatman employed by private families reflected the town's resort economy. Others employed in this sector include four of the six gardeners in the area and one hotel proprietor. The single largest category remained carpenter, employing seven men; others in the building trades included three house painters, a bricklayer, a plumber, and the town stone mason. Transportation related employment included three teamers, a driver, an expressman, and a stable master. Small businessmen included several in retail, of hardware, hay and grain, groceries and candy and cigars, a barber, an accountant, a postmaster, and a physician. Several were probably employed by the town, as treasurer, as schoolteacher, as cemetery caretaker, and two as laborers at the waterworks. One each was employed as academy principal, miner, cranberry grower, salesman, and as telephone "trouble hunter." Seven men and five women reported their employment as "own income." Two families employed a female servant. Far more women reported employment outside the home than in 1855. Many of these were in domestic positions, doing housework (five) or laundry (two). The next most common employments were boardinghouse keeper or nurse (three each), and there were two teachers, one public and one private. Several worked in retail, managing a village shop, selling candy, or keeping a tearoom; there was one dressmaker and one manicurist. Other women found employment as stenographers, in a real estate and an architect's office, and one each as a bookkeeper in the telegraph office, as a librarian at the public library, and as a "general agent perfume."

Changes to the neighborhood in the mid- and late 20<sup>th</sup> century included some building losses but generally buildings were well maintained and changes to them were often undertaken to replace materials in kind while the many building additions were added chiefly to the rear. Losses of houses include 11 Main Street in 1939, 18 Main in 1962, and more recently 41 Main Street; the house at 51 Main was raised from one to two stories. As noted in the description, questions remain about 3 Main Street. These lost buildings were each replaced by a generally Colonial Revival house at these same addresses.

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com: Find-a-grave; US Census 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930. Elizabeth reported no occupation in later years when she lived here in 1920, but with her sister Mary Walker on Front Street in 1910 and 1930; Mary was an antiques dealer in 1930 but otherwise reported no occupation. The physical history of this building is unclear. Dreyer also owned a small building facing Main across Hiller in 1903, but it was gone by 1908.

<sup>17</sup> PCRD: 18013:149 (1999); 5794:280 (1984); 1450:292 (1923); 1215:553 (1915/16); 805:213 (1915); 910:441 (1905); 515:168 (1884/85) The building was expanded and converted into condominiums in about 1999.

<sup>18</sup> PCRD: Re 72: 51992:326 (2019), 45940:20 (2015); 30186:77 (2-05), 3567:800 (1969); 211:85 (1950); 1949:73 (1947); 1258:403 (1916); 801:82 (1900). Re 70: 43350:173 (2013); 9733:143 (1990); 3783:578 (1972); 3260:145 (1965); 2236:199 (1952); 1257:1 (1916); 639:370, 371 (1892). Ancestry.com: US Census 1900, 1910.





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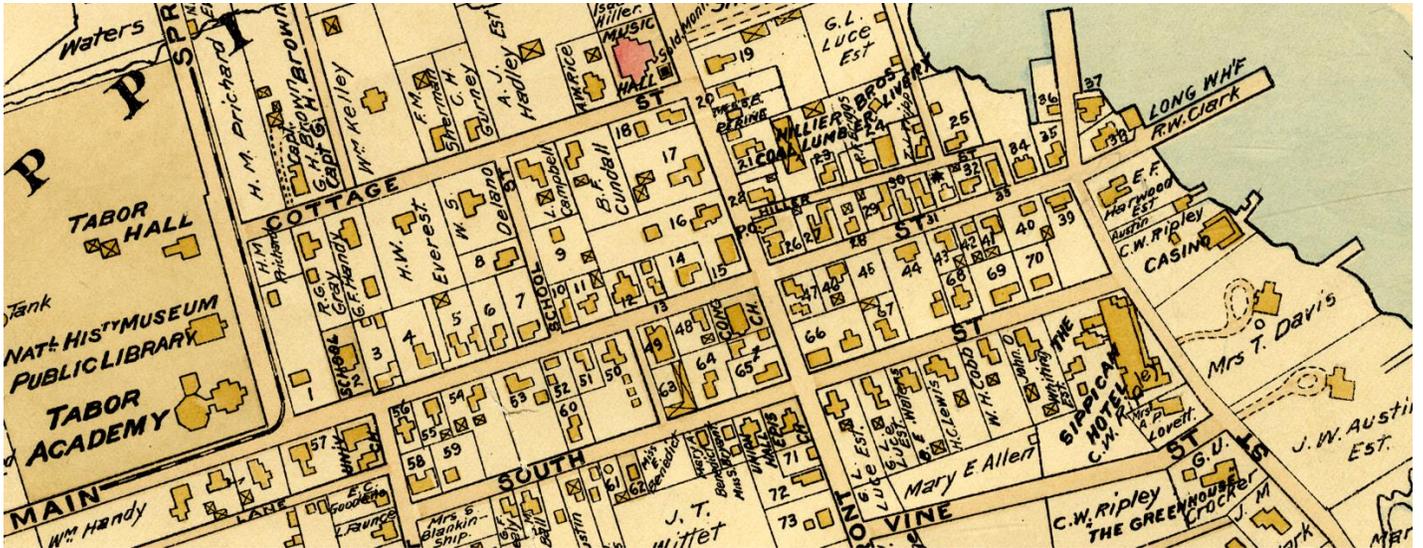


Figure 5: Detail of Atlas 1903. Key below with relevant entries marked in red.

SEE NUMBERS ON PLAN.

1 N.B.&O. St.ry Waiting Sg	39 F.B. Austin Est
2 SOUTH SCHOOL	40 M. Cushing
3 Miss C.M. Handy	41 C. L. Church
4 F.B. Allen	42 G.C. Tobey
5 F.B. Coggeshall.	43
6 C.W. Delano	44 Chas Allen Est
7 A.C. Vose.	45 W. Hathaway Est.
8 Levi. Wing	46 "
9 A.J. Hadley Est.	47 L. C. Kelley
10 Mrs A. B. H. Vose	48 C.A. Hammond
11 Silas B. Allen	49 F.B. Hadley "Club Hall"
12 CONG. CHAPEL	50 R.S. Ryder
13 C.D. Marble	51 Miss Josephine Briggs.
14 D.E. Briggs Est.	52 Augustus Smith
15 A.J. Hadley Est	53 Hiram Nye
16 " "	54 H.C. Nye.
17 Mrs M. Peterson Et AL	55 Mrs M.D. Morse
18 C.H. Damon Est	56 S.E. Perine
19 J.E. Hiller (Mrs)	57 Warren Blankinship Est
20 Annie E. Wittet	58 Mrs S. Blankinship
21 F.B. Barden	59
22 Hiller Bros. Mrs Bruce	60 Mrs M. Wittet
23 R.B. Hiller	61 W.H.H. Ryder
24 Hiller Bros (Coal Pocket)	62 FIRE. DEPT.
25 H.W. Everest	63 W.M. Handy
26 S.W. Hall P.O.	64 W.A. Gurney
27 Hiller Bros. & A.E. Luce	65 J.H. Allen Est
28 Univ. Soc.	66 Mary D. Luce
29 J.E. Hammond	67 F.M. Tripp
30 P.A. Briggs	68 J.S. Whiting Est.
31 H.M. Prichard	69 B.J. Handy
32 Benj Bowditch	70 Miss C.A. Pomeroy
33 H.C. Dreyer Est	71 Sarah Lockwood
34 " "	72 L.B. Moody
35 J.H.H. Harwood Est.	73 J.T. Wittet
36 Dr H.M. Richardson	74 J.H. Clark
37 " "	75 E.S. Clark
38 Jas. De Key	76 F.M. Patten
* E.F. Harwood Est	77 J.H. Clark

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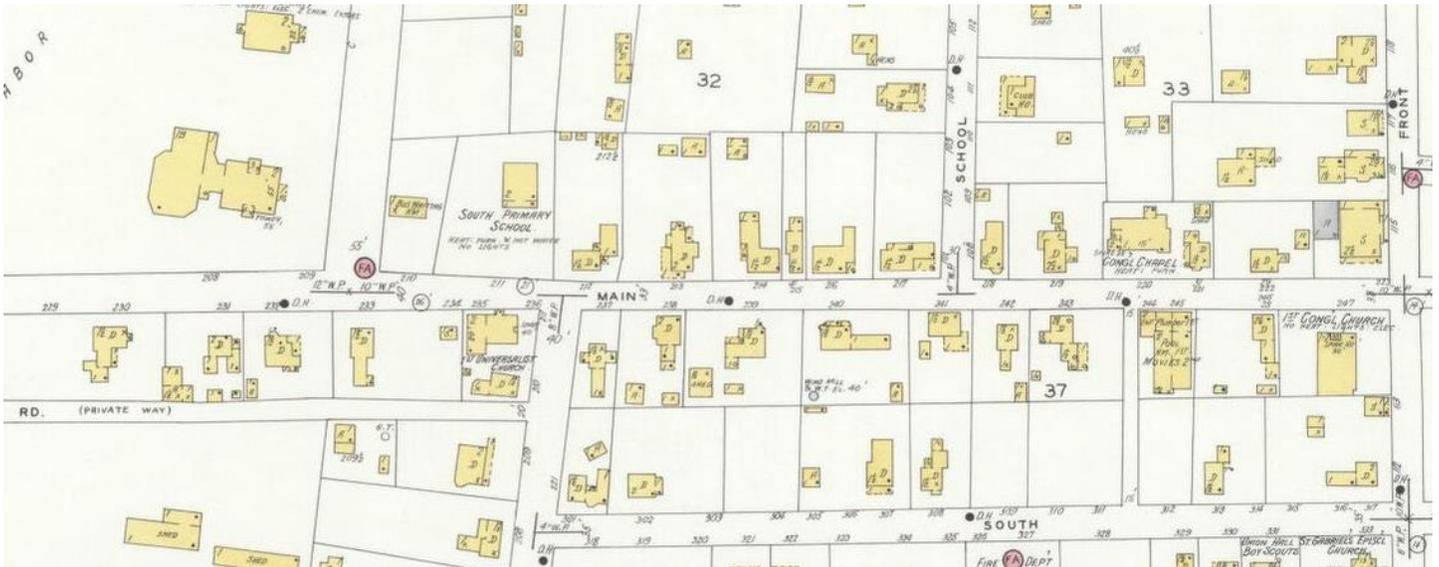
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Figure 6. Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas details, 1933, east section above and center/west section below.



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Figure 7: Two views of the Wharfs off Main Street from Smith, *A Postcard History of Marion*. Above, looking west from Long wharf at Bates showing the water side of 0 and 1 Main Street. Below, looking south from Island Wharf showing the Water side of 1 and 1A Main Street.



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Figure 8: "The Sail Loft," 1 Main Street. SHS 2006.010.054, 2006.010.006.

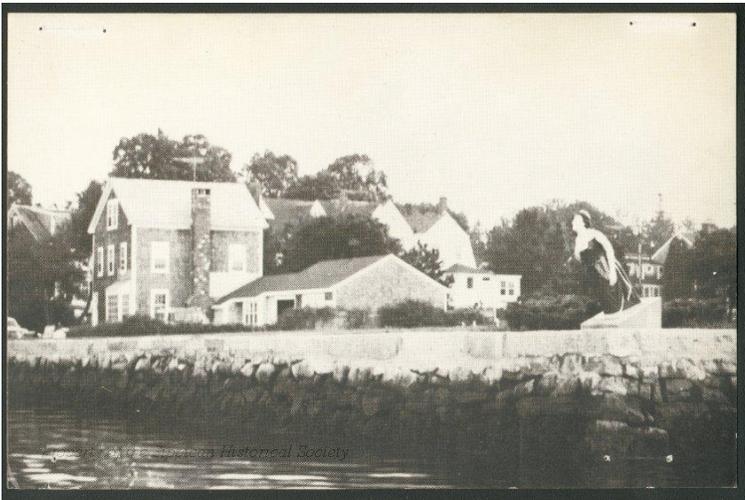


Figure 9: Cooperage, 1A Main Street. SHS 2008.001.097.

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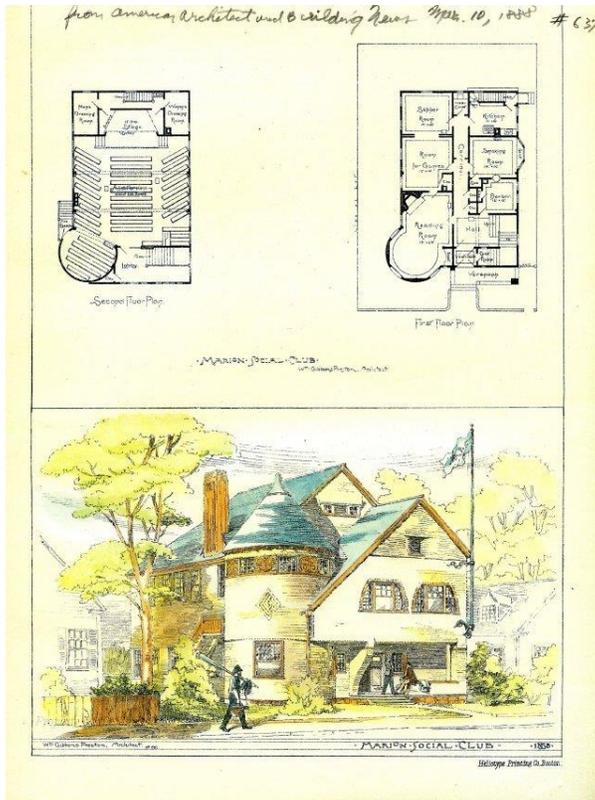
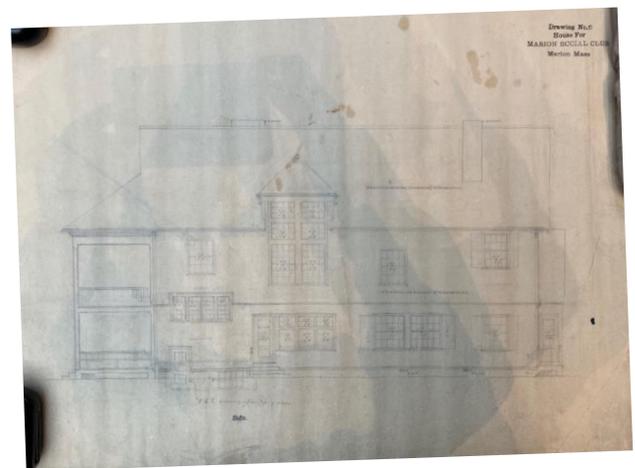
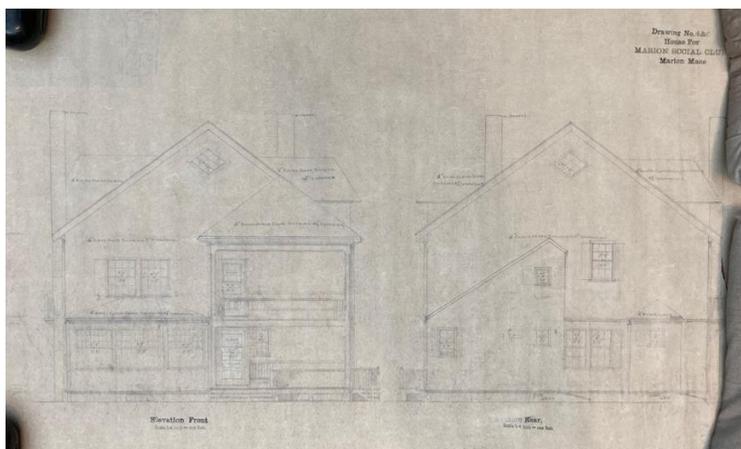


Figure 10: Multiple views of the Marion Social Club / Club Hall / Nelson Block; captions and sources noted below each image



Left: Preston's design for the Marion Social Hall, SHS 2019.001.040. Right: Andrews & Jacques design, early view, SHS 2004.006.008.



Marion Social Hall, Andrews & Jacques, elevations, Public Safety Records, Massachusetts Archives, 1888, #4968.

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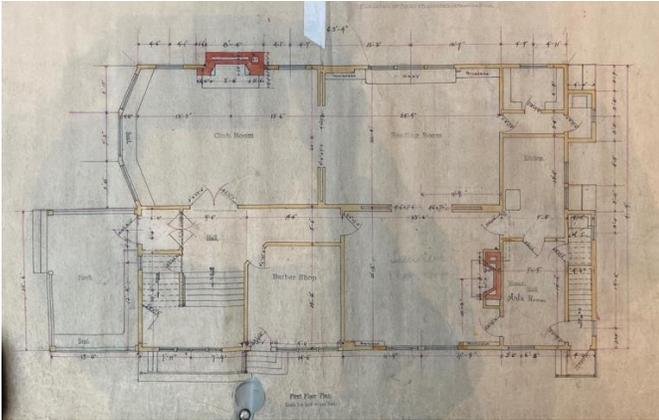
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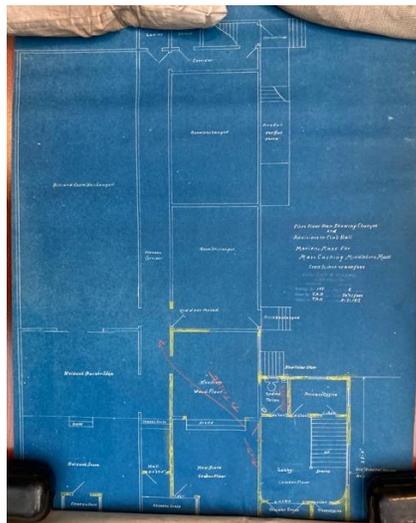
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Marion Social Club, Andrews & Jacques, first floor plan, Public Safety Records, Massachusetts Archives, 1888, #4968.



Club Hall, addition by Crapo and Oglesby, façade and first floor plan, Public Safety Records, Massachusetts Archives, 1917, #13622.



Nelson Block, SHS 2008.001.006, right 2006.010.028.



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Figure 11: South School, formerly on the site of Bicentennial Park on Main near the corner of Spring; SHS 2004.019.398.

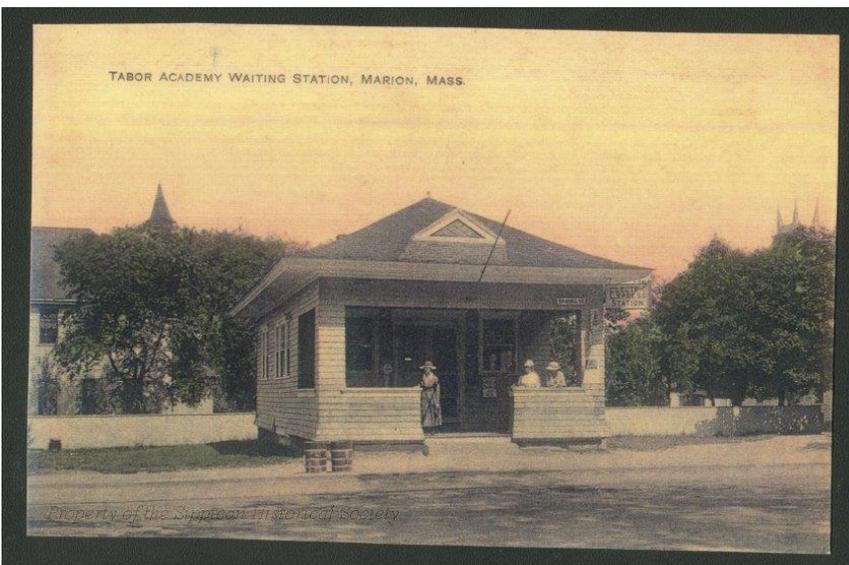


Figure 12: NB & O St Rw Waiting Room, formerly on the site of Bicentennial Park facing Spring at the corner of Main; SHS 2008.001.190

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Figure 13: Demolished or altered buildings on Main Street. Captions and sources noted below each image.



Left: The Hut before it was demolished in 1939 and replaced with the house currently at 11 Main Street. SHS 2004.019.089.

Right: The house 51 Main Street (at right), before being raised a story in recent decades; it was traditionally associated with the Look and Coggeshall families. The Coggeshall Store stood between 51 and 55 Main before it was moved to Mill Street/Rt 6. SHS 2015.009.001



Two views of the house traditionally associated with Stephen Hammond and Silas Allen before it was replaced with the house at 41 Main Street after 1998. SHS 2004.006.012, 2004.006.013.



Two early views of the house at 5 Main Street. SHS both 2008.001.031

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## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Main Street Area is an exceptional ensemble of buildings, many constructed at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a handful of buildings added over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area was the site of a meetinghouse as well as wharves, attracting both residents and additional public spaces to the long east-west street. There are several cross streets, running north and south to Main. The earliest, in place by 1830, are Front, entering from the north at the center of the area and formerly terminating there, and Pleasant, entering from the south at the west end of the area. Water Street, entering from the south at the east end was in place by 1855, and Spring Street, entering from the north and offset to the west from Pleasant by 1879. A short street ran between Main and South streets, at about the middle of the east block, in 1855 and 1879, and another ran between them within the middle block in 1903 and 1933. Most of the parcels in the area are small, few including significant side yards, and most buildings are set close to the street.

The exception is **Bicentennial Park at the corner of Main and Spring streets (61 Main, 1976)**, formerly the site of the school and the street railway waiting room. Today the open area is primarily open lawn with scattered trees and bushes. The main narrow gravel path across the space runs in an arc from Main Street to Spring. To one side of the path is an open hexagonal **gazebo**, its roof supported by square posts and its rafter tails exposed. Wood benches are placed at intervals over the lawn and there is a wood sign near the corner. A recently added memorial to the town's benefactor, the **Elizabeth Taber Statue**, has been added near the corner. A round concrete pad includes a curved granite bench proving a platform for the seated bronze figure of Taber, facing the intersection and looking across to two of her key gifts to the town, now serving as the Town Hall and Library. She is in period dress and bonnet, holding a pipe in her left hand, her right on a book on the bench. On the back of the bench, a bronze plaque displays in relief the five buildings she donated to the town. That bench is flanked by two curved benches for the public, composed of wood rails and supported by square posts. Another path links its concrete pad to both streets. Designed by New Bedford artist Erik Durant, it was dedicated October 2020.

The waterfront portion of the subject area includes two of the town's earliest wharves. One extends east from the end of Main Street, known variously as Sherman's, Central, and **Long Wharf**. The other is almost perpendicular to it, extending north from Main and known as **Bates Wharf** and labelled 1800 on the annotated version of the 1855 Walling Map. Bates Wharf was later known as Union Wharf (1879) and was expanded and regularized by 1903 when it was unnamed. These structures are characterized by rectangular construction supported by large roughly-hewn granite blocks with gravel or other earthen fill that project 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.

### Public buildings and workplaces

Key public buildings of the town were located along this street, the magnets attracting residents and businesses here; they are covered by MHC B forms where detailed descriptions can be found. The **First Congregational Meetinghouse** at the corner of Main and Front streets was built in **1799** and later converted to a meeting hall and store, now the **Marion General Store (140 Front Street, MRN.22)**. That building was replaced by the fashionable Greek Revival **Marion Congregational Church** across the intersection in **1841 (26 Main Street, MRN.39)**. Also at that intersection was the post office behind the **Ellis House**, now headquarters of the Sippican Historical Society (**141-143 Front Street, formerly 27 Main, ca 1838, MRN.237**). One of the three **schools** that had been located on Main Street survives as a dwelling (**ca 1830, 43 Main Street, MRN.245**). One of Elizabeth Taber's gifts to the town was the **Congregational Chapel**, a stone and shingle design of **1885 (39 Main Street, MRN.40)**.

A number of the buildings in the area are said to have originally served as retail stores or artisan shops and take forms that lend some credence to this assertion; they have all been converted to domestic use with familiar windows and doors. The building at **1A Main Street (1790-1830?)** is said to have been a **cooperage**, and multiple buildings appear in this vicinity from 1855 on but their function was not noted on maps. It is a tall, shingled block, now with a side entry on the east end gabled side. It is now attached to a low two-car garage located to the north which as in place by 1933. Opposite

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this building, across the private path extending north from Main Street toward Bates Wharf, is a complex house at **1 Main Street** that is said to include an early **sail loft and house (1790-1830?)**; the house today takes that name. It cannot easily be viewed from a public way or through satellite services, but a general description is possible. The core of the house includes what were once two separate buildings and were later connected by a third gabled volume; a newer addition angles to the east waterside and a verandah faces the north. The building at **10 Main Street** may be that labelled in **1855 C C Luce Store**; next door was a wheelwright's shop. Here a shallow story-and-a-half main block has been expanded with a rear ell, large front dormer, and entry porch. The building at **58 Main Street (Ryder House)** is said to have been a post office located behind the Congregational Church and moved here (**by 1879**) and served as a dwelling; Somers suggests it was contemporary to the post office at the **Ellis House (141-143 Front Street, MRN.237)**, a date in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was in place here by 1879 and serving as a dwelling. Its shingled form is unusual, an end-gabled story-and-a-half block with a center entry, that may reflect this origin; it also includes a large rear ell and flanking lean-tos. Other buildings said to have included stores and shops present today as essentially domestic.

## Early dwellings, likely 1790 to 1820/30

Most of the dwellings in this area have traditionally been assigned dates between 1790 and 1830, which appears to be generally consistent with both the scholarly understanding of the emergence of dense villages like this one and with the general appearance of the buildings, consistent with our current understanding of the broader patterns of development of domestic spaces in this period. This is a significant concentration of early buildings, especially considering the proportion of smaller, single-story houses that survive. These buildings share an array of common features noted below, that create a cohesive streetscape. As noted in the narrative history, a number of conditions contributed to this survival rate, patterns the town shares with others in the Commonwealth. And those patterns of later history were associated with familiar types of interventions over time. Many repairs appear have been made in kind, though there is likely a tendency toward more shingles than clapboards and asphalt has replaced shingle roofs; today many houses boast multi-pane sash as well. Most of the houses have also been significantly expanded over time, many with the addition of dormers to expand former attic spaces or with rear ells, the only option for most of the narrow lots. There are some features on these houses that may be evidence of local or regional practice but may also result from restoration efforts that chose them when replacing lost fabric.

The most common house type along Main Street, and perhaps the key character-defining aspect of the village, was the **Cape Cod house**<sup>19</sup> Although named for one region, these houses were built all over New England from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century within the regional "bay framing" tradition that evolved during the first two centuries of English settlement; that heavy timber frame set the interior plan. A single story in height under a side-gabled roof, these low, ground-hugging volumes ranged in size from narrow three-bay examples, known today as the half Cape, to wider four- and five-bay houses, known as three-quarter or full Capes today. These houses included dominant brick chimneys on their interiors, and their double-pile or two-room-deep plans were arranged around that key feature. A more formal room, often called the parlor, was located in the front of the building, with a second front sitting room in the larger houses. The rear section of the plan would include work spaces and eventually the central heated kitchen; larger examples divided out small unheated spaces in the rear corners. Windows were tucked under the eaves, and walls covered with shingles or clapboards or a combination of the two. The houses had simple finish, with shallow eaves, simple and narrow board trim, and occasionally a more elaborate treatment of the primary entry. Unless otherwise noted below, where additional research has suggested a more particular date, these houses were likely constructed between **1790 and 1830**.

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<sup>19</sup> At the time of their construction, these houses were described as house, house-and-a-half, and double house. The standard source on the early Cape Cod house is Ernest Connelly, "The Cape Cod House, An Introductory Study," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 19 (1960). More recent scholarship notes that houses like these were not limited to the Cape; see for example, Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (1984), which also provides an introduction to other period forms. See as well: James Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (2001) which, although also focused on another subregion, describes common practice and types for New England at large.

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On Main Street, most of the examples are five bays in width, and while several of these appear to be bilaterally symmetrical, six of them are slightly asymmetrical, usually visible in the variation in the space between the central entry and its flanking windows. While this may sometimes indicate that the building was expanded across its front plane, it is also the case that buildings of this period often chose to plan for a larger and a smaller front room. An asymmetrical example at **6 Main Street**, where this 'gap' is to the right and the chimney is aligned behind the front entry, as is the large hip-roofed dormer. The paneled door has a transom with plain surround with moldings echoing a pilaster and entablature treatment and the multipaned sash are flanked by shutters. Across the street at **9 Main Street**, the gap is to the left, with a similar entry treatment and replacement sash. It includes the distinctive dormer configuration found in three other related examples on Main. The two outer dormers are canted, with a center 6/6 sash flanked by 6-light sash and topped by pyramidal roofs. Between them is a shallow shed dormer with two fixed sash with crossed muntins. Two simpler houses appear to preserve early features at their entries. At **31 Main Street (1821?)**, the shingled facade includes an entry flanked with paired pilasters rising to an entablature, partially interrupted by a transom; the windows have angled lintels; its gap is located to the left. The clapboard facade at **44 Main Street** has its gap to the right and includes engaged attenuated columns supporting an entablature interrupted by a transom. The **Bates House at 14 Main Street (late 18<sup>th</sup> century, MRN.229)** is a simple example without dormers and including replacement sash. The house at **51 Main Street** may have been a related example, but was raised to two stories after 1933.

Four of the five-bay examples are more symmetrical on the facade. The house at **47 Main Street** echoes features noted above – there are hip-roofed dormers on the front roof slope and the center entry is flanked by paired pilasters and entablature interrupted by a transom and with angled lintels on the clapboard facade. The house at **13 Main Street** also includes large hip-roofed dormers with a shed roof-dormer running between them. Here the entry has been expanded (post 1933) by a projecting enclosed porch, with Greek Revival inflected pilasters and entablature; the gable end elevations employ the type of small windows seen on Cape Cod. Canted bay dormers can be seen at the more symmetrical **Blankinship House at 15 Main Street (ca 1795; MRN.230)**. The **Hammond House at 45 Main Street** is a Cape at its core, but received a number of later upgrades in the Italianate style. A gabled wall dormer rises above the entry, which is sheltered under an Italianate hood with ornate consoles; it supports a square bay window. The house also has a rear ell and a wing with enclosed porch.

A handful of single-story houses of this era present narrower facades. A smaller Cape is the simple, three-bay **White-Tobey House at 12 Main Street (early 19<sup>th</sup> century, MRN.227)**. The house appears to have a wide entry bay and was expanded with a lateral addition after 1933. A lesser-known alternative to the bay framing of Cape Cod houses is found in the houses with distinctive forms called **square frame and square plan houses**. These houses omit the chimney bay, instead setting their chimneys at the intersection of the tie beams near the center of the frame. They are often confused with four-bay Capes and it may be that many of that designation employ this distinct framing. These houses usually have a large front room and a medium and smaller room at the rear of the house, sometimes with a separate entry in the front of the house. The **Barden House at 21 Main Street (ca 1784, MRN.233)** has the common hallmark of an offset chimney, a quite narrow bay adjacent to the entry, and very simple trim. The house at **42 Main Street** also has the distinctive offset chimney, while its pilaster and entablature door surround, with large dentils and a pulvinated frieze, seems likely to be a restoration improvement.

Smaller in number are the **two-story contemporaries** of these house types, which share many of their attributes, including gable roofs, double-pile plans, and simple ornament. Those that share the Cape Cod plans and bay framing are known as **center chimney houses**, and three of these survive here. The **Luce-Bates House at 2 Main Street** is the largest and most elaborate example, said to have been occupied by the families of two captains, consistent with the period habit of designating houses like this, with broad fronts, as double houses; the house now also has flanking wings. Its ambitious Classical frontispiece is an exceptional design, especially if it is original to the dwelling, including fluted pilasters on high bases, swept moldings in the frieze, and rich cornices on the entablature and pediment. Nearby, the **Blankinship-Mendall House at 0 Main Street** was also likely a center chimney house, though its facade may have been altered and the main block expanded. The section of the facade aligned with the chimney is now solid wall, with small paired windows in the upper story, while the entry, located to the left side, is flanked by pilasters that support segments of entablature and an open-based pediment. The house at **32 Main Street** appears to be the narrow version sometimes

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called a "half house." Its chimney is aligned with the right-side entry, with a gabled dormer before it. The entry includes simple pilasters rising to a plain entablature.

Finally, there are a small number of houses built to accommodate a **central passage** rather than a centered chimney; as is usually the case for this period in Massachusetts, all these houses are of two stories. One example appears to be fully double pile, the **Luce-Allen House at 25 Main Street**, with a newer pilaster and entablature treatment with small brackets and angled lintels. Its ample size made it appropriate for occupation by two or more households in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and perhaps earlier and later was divided into apartments. Recently large wings and a rear ell were added and it was converted to condominiums. Assessors records for **3 Main Street** suggest the building was reconstructed in 2011; it takes the double-pile form but now has only one chimney, but it does generally resemble the building here before that date. The **Handy-Hathaway House at 22 Main Street (ca 1829, MRN.234)** includes the broad single-pile front and rear ell of the L-house, a smaller variation of the center-passage plan. It includes a simple pilaster-and-entablature entry and angled lintels. Next door, the more unusual L-house at **26 Main Street** includes a hipped section of roof on its corner and its façade is only four bays wide. It too includes a pilaster-and-entablature entry and angled lintels.

## Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings, likely 1830 to 1855.

It is also possible to distinguish buildings likely to have been constructed in the two or three decades after 1830, as they take new forms and regularly display more ornament in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. One group of these are commonly confused with Capes, but can be distinguished from them by their high post height, creating a more generous half story; they are also less likely to be planned around a large central chimney and are sometimes called **classical cottages**. Two well-preserved examples are the houses at **59 and 76 Main Street**, both retaining the typical treatment of corner pilasters rising to support an articulated entablature at the eave line. The **Chamberlain-Handy House at 76 (ca 1842)** also includes pilasters flanking its entry that also support the entablature; there are sidelights and angled lintels on the windows; it has a rear addition and shed-roofed dormers. The entry of **59 (the Handy House, trad date 1844)** is simpler, including plain trim and a frieze, similar to the window casings, and there is a deep offset rear ell. The house at **48 Main Street** has a surviving pilaster and entablature entry treatment, but more of its character derives from the picturesque features added to the cottage core. A pent roof across the façade joins a canted bay window to one side of the door to a square bay projecting from the opposite corner of the façade. The house also includes a long low wing and gabled dormers on the façade.

A new domestic form introduced at this time was the **end house**, the familiar end-gabled, side-entry form that became so popular in the mid- and late-19<sup>th</sup> century; this area has eight examples built during this 25-year period. The earliest of these, the **Ellis House at 141-143 Front Street (ca. 1838, MRN.237, facing Main)** demonstrates the end-gabled form, while the attenuation of its entablature-and-pilaster entry echoes Federal proportions. One story-and-a-half example at **66 Main Street** is Greek Revival in style, its ornament quite similar to the Greek cottages just described. Its eaves along its side walls are treated as entablatures, with small windows lighting the upper half story. Its entry includes an entablature with flanking pilasters; its corner boards are wide but not topped as columns. Two well preserved story-and-a-half examples in the Italianate style can be seen at **17 and 35 Main Street**. At 17 Main, there is an entablature at the eaves with brackets and pilaster strips and frieze at the door; the house is expanded by dormers, a rear ell, and a deep side addition. At 35, there are friezes at the entry and eaves with paired brackets and the house is further embellished with a side porch, a square bay window, and a bracket-supported hood at the entry. It has been expanded by dormers and a rear ell. Two larger, two-and-a-half story examples are located at **40 and 55 Main Street**. The house at 40 Main is clapboarded on the façade and simply trimmed with a hood at the entry supported by unusual curved brackets; there is also a tall wing set back on one side, a shorter one on the opposite side. The house at 55 Main has been stuccoed and includes a projecting bay to one side and a deep wing opposite, with an enclosed single-story section across that wing. A porch runs across the façade and one side elevation, terminating at the wing, with paired Tuscan columns set onto pedestals in the railing. A challenge is posed by the house at **56 Main Street**, an end house topped by a hip roof and including a rear ell. Though its massing is consistent with this period, the building is now treated with later Queen Anne ornament including a console-supported hood at the entry, stick-work dividing sections of the wall cover, and bands of ornamental shingles. Research on the property history did not offer clarification and a visit to the interior might be

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useful. A more unusual Italianate design is the **Handy House** can be seen **54 Main Street (1849-1855, MRN.252)**, where multiple masses and projecting elements create an exceptional picturesque silhouette and stylish features include arched openings and unusual windows, bay windows, and porch.

## Later dwellings

After this half century of rapid growth, the area entered a period of stability in new residential construction – though not, in all likelihood, in expansion and remodeling; six more dwellings were added between 1879 and 1939. A house was added at **137 Front Street** between **1879 and 1903**, on the same lot as the house at 26 Main Street, owned at this time by Mrs H Kelly and LC Kelley. It is a well-preserved Queen Anne end house, a story-and-a-half in height with an array of stylish features including a wide wall dormer on one side and gabled and shed-roofed dormers on the opposite roof slope, a gabled entry porch with a spindle screen, and a façade divided into tiers of ornamental shingles; there is also a very tall floor-length window on the façade with a 5 by 10 pane arrangement. Another Queen Anne or Stick style house is found at **70 Main Street (1892-1900)**, which like 54 Main is a complex multi-part volume; it may be an example of a parlor-by-pass house. The house is composed of two intersecting gabled volumes of equal two-story height, the larger volume presenting its gable end to the street and with a further, lower gabled mass extending from smaller of these volumes. An ell-shaped porch screens these intersections, with the entry apparently into the smaller volume. There are canted bays and wall dormers, and tiers of decorative shingles in the facade. The Shingle-style house at **72 Main (1900-1903)** is a compact gambrel-roofed core, with low gabled ells offset to the rear. Its entry is into a shed-roofed volume before the left ell, and other decorative features include a canted corner and one shed-roofed and one large gambrel wall dormer. Another gambrel volume is the house at **5 Main Street**, a Colonial Revival design that bears an assessor's date of **1920**. Sanborn map evidence on the building is ambiguous so the date is uncertain; it has also experienced a number changes, but its current appearance seems consistent with the ca 1920 date. The center-entry volume is expanded by a large rear ell, with projecting bays on each side elevation. Its façade is enriched with two layers of dormers, on the lower level, a canted, pyramidal roofed central dormer flanked by gabled dormers, and on the upper slop including small, very shallow hip-roofed dormers; its entry is screened by a wide gabled porch. An exceptionally compact house was added at **49 Main Street (1879-1903/08)**. A narrow gable end faces the street, lit by a bowed window on the first floor and paired sash above. The house is wider at the rear where the service and circulation portions of the building are located. The house at **11 Main Street** (post 1939) takes a three-bay, side-entry configuration of the early "half house" type. It is believed to have been built after the demolition in 1939 of a Cape known as the Hut, that was formerly located here. The entry here also includes plain pilasters rising to an entablature with a louvered fan.<sup>20</sup>

Only a handful of houses were added in the postwar era, each replacing an earlier building and taking a form that complements the streetscapes around them. At **36 Main Street (assessor 1966)**, a modern Cape replaced the earlier Club Hall; it includes large shed-roofed dormers, a rear ell, and raised rear roof line. A large center entry colonial is located at **18 Main Street (assessor 1967)**, with a wing leading to a two-car garage. A side entry colonial with a tall wing is located at **41 Main Street (assessor 2018)**, with a partially enclosed porch and traditional trim.

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<sup>20</sup> A newspaper piece on new buildings in the village (April 1939, SHS 2016.048.026), the replacement for "The Hut" at 7/11/ Main describes a hip-roofed two story dwelling, which does not match the building there today; it was to have been built by the SZawyer Construction Company of Boston.

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**Research protocol:** 1855 map and census; 1879 and 1903 atlases; selected title and biographical research.

**Additional photos after data sheet.**

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See Research Protocol	Name, address, date	Assessor's number	MHC #
	<p><b>Kelley House, 137 Front Street, 1879-1903, 1892 a</b></p> <p>Queen Anne / end house multiple dormers and porch                      Wall Material: Mixed wood                      well preserved</p> <p>1903 atlas, second building on lot of L C Kelley</p>	<p><b>16_157</b></p>	<p><b>MRN.198</b></p>
	<p><b>First Congregational Meetinghouse, 140 Front Street, 1799</b></p> <p>Altered</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.22</p> <p>now General Store</p>	<p><b>14_70</b></p>	<p><b>MRN.22</b></p>
	<p><b>Dr Walton Nye Ellis House, 141-143 Front St, ca 1838</b></p> <p>Greek Revival / end house</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.237; formerly 27 Main Street</p> <p>Attached USPO in rear, now Sippican Historical Society</p>	<p><b>14_91_01</b></p>	<p><b>MRN.237</b></p>
	<p><b>Blankinship-Mendall House, 0 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b></p> <p>Federal two story wing and ell behind, attached garage                      Wall Material: Shingles                      entry moved to side?</p> <p>1855 map: J &amp; L Mendall; 1855 census: mariner James B M (35), wife Mary (39),                      Lydia Blankinship (75) mo-in-law? See text.</p>	<p><b>14_90</b></p>	<p><b>MRN.217</b></p>

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	<p><b>"Sail Loft", 1 Main Street, 1790-1830?, t 1802</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_89</b> <b>MRN.218</b></span></p> <p>Traditional / multiple volumes visible only from water                  Wall Material: Shingles                  image from assessor</p> <p>1855 map: James Wittet                  1855 census: sailmaker James W (56), wife (41), seven children ages 4-23, son James T W (21) sailmaker</p>
	<p><b>coopage? 1A Main Street, 1790-1830?, t 1802</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_89A</b> <b>MRN.219</b></span></p> <p>/ end gabled block high main block                  Wall Material: Shingles                  added wing to garage</p> <p>1855 map: no name given</p>
	<p><b>Luce-Bates House, 2 Main Street, 1790-1830, t 1813</b> <span style="float:right"><b>16_165</b> <b>MRN.220</b></span></p> <p>Federal / center chimney house two wings, dormers, exceptional frontispiece                  Wall Material: Shingles                  plus new guesthouse over garage</p> <p>1855 map: Mrs. L. Luce &amp; N. E. Bates                  1855 census: farmer Noble E. B. (63) and wife Sarah (61); Lucretia L. (54) and four children (9, 12, 15, 22)</p>
	<p><b>house, 3 Main Street, 1790-1830?, a 2011?</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_88</b> <b>MRN.221</b></span></p> <p>Federal / center hall house small wing, rear ell, dormers front and rear, widows walk                  Wall Material: Shingles                  assessor: reconstructed 2011</p> <p>1855 map: S Rider's Store</p>
	<p><b>house, 5 Main Street, d unclear, a 1920?</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_87</b> <b>MRN.222</b></span></p> <p>Colonial Revival / center hall house gambrel roof, gambrel bay, dormers, entry porch                  Wall Material: Shingles                  rear addition? replaced earlier building?</p> <p>1855 map: P Bates                  1855 census: trader Joseph S Luce (32) and daughter; mariner Paddock B (68), wife, 2 other adults</p>

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	<p><b>house, 6 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float:right"><b>16_164</b> <b>MRN.223</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house asymmetrical facade, large hipped dormer                  Wall Material: Shingles                  small wing, attached garage</p> <p>1855 map: L. C. Kelley                  1855 census: wheelwright Shubad K (70), wife (69), Lemuel C K (40) carpenter, son</p>
	<p><b>house, 9 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_98</b> <b>MRN.224</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house asymmetrical facade; canted hip dormers, shed between wing; modern guesthouse</p> <p>1855 map: J. Handy                  1855 census: carpenter Jonathan H (65) and wife Mary (60)</p>
	<p><b>store? 10 Main Street, by 1855</b> <span style="float:right"><b>16_163</b> <b>MRN.225</b></span></p> <p>/ multiple volumes story and a half, dormers, enclosed entry                  Wall Material: Shingles                  complex evolution</p> <p>1855 map: C C Luce Store</p>
	<p><b>house, 11 Main Street, post 1939</b> <span style="float:right"><b>14_97</b> <b>MRN.226</b></span></p> <p>Colonial Revival / side-entry colonial                  Wall Material: Shingles                  replaced earlier building</p> <p>1855 map: S Crewel                  1855 census: mar. Seth Crowell (58), wife (57), daughter and son (21, mariner), carpenter Charles A. Clark (21)</p>
	<p><b>White-Tobey House, 12 Main Street, early 19<sup>th</sup> century</b> <span style="float:right"><b>16_162</b> <b>MRN.227</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.227</p>

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	<p><b>house, 13 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_96</b> <b>MRN.228</b></span></p> <p>Classical / Cape Cod house large hip dormers, shed between; encl entry                  Wall Material: Shingles                  rear ell, classical enclosed porch</p> <p>1855 map: W Allen                  1855 census: carp. Weston A (61), wife (55), four adults (3 carpenters); carpenter Charles F. Mendell (29) and wife</p>
	<p><b>John S &amp; Hannah S Bates House, 14 Main Street, late 18<sup>th</sup> c</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_161</b> <b>MRN.229</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.229</p>
	<p><b>Job &amp; Betsy Blankinship House, 15 Main Street, c 1795</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_95</b> <b>MRN.230</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house</p> <p>See MHC B form, MRN.230</p>
	<p><b>house, 17 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_94</b> <b>MRN.232</b></span></p> <p>Italianate / end house rear ell                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  wing, dormers</p> <p>1855 map: S. Delano                  1855 census: farmer Stephen D. located elsewhere in Marion</p>
	<p><b>house, 18 Main Street, a 1967</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_160</b> <b>MRN.231</b></span></p> <p>Colonial Revival / center-entry colonial two story wing to attached garage                  Wall Material: Shingles                  replaced earlier building, wing section recently raised</p> <p>1855 map: C C Allen                  1855 census: Charles C A (44), wife Phebe (40), 10 children, incl carpenter &amp; clerk</p>

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	<p><b>Stephen &amp; Lydia Clark Barden House, 21 Main Street, ca1784 14_93 MRN.233</b></p> <p>Federal / square frame or three-quarter Cape</p> <p>See MHC B form, MRN.233</p>
	<p><b>Handy-Hathaway House, 22 Main Street, ca1829 16_159 MRN.234</b></p> <p>Federal / L-house</p> <p>See MHC B form, MRN.234</p>
	<p><b>Luce-Allen House, 25 Main Street, 1790 - 1830 14_92_01 MRN.235</b></p> <p>Federal / center hall house interior chimneys Wall Material: Shingles high wings on each side; condos</p> <p>1855 map: M &amp; B Luce &amp; J Allen 1855 census: Elizabeth L (66) &amp; Mary L (61), cooper Lucian N. Handy (29); mariner Joseph A (72), wife Polly (60), three adult children incl painter, mariner</p>
	<p><b>house, 26 Main Street, 1790 - 1830 16_158 MRN.236</b></p> <p>Federal / L-house hip roofed, four-bay facade, three chimneys Wall Material: Shingles bowed window at rear</p> <p>1855 map: H H Kelly 1855 census: "calker" Henry H Kelley (42), wife Tamson (46), son (14); Jane D Cobb (36) and son (9)</p>
	<p><b>Congregational Church, 28 Main Street, 1841 16_94 MRN.39</b></p> <p>Greek Revival</p> <p>See MHC B form, MRN.39</p>

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	<p><b>house, 31 Main Street, 1790-1830, t 1821</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_69</b> <b>MRN.238</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house slightly asymmetrical facade          Wall Material: Shingles          wings and attached garage</p> <p>1855 map: A M Allen          1855 census: carpenter Andrew M A (59), wife Cynthia A (55), four daughters (15, 20, 26, 29)</p>
	<p><b>house, 32 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_91</b> <b>MRN.239</b></span></p> <p>Federal / center chimney house three bay, side entry, probably bay framed          gabled dormer, wing, breezeway to attached garage</p> <p>1855 map: C B Hammond          1855 census: mariner Charles B H (53), wife Ruth A H (53), two male (16, 27), two female (18, 28) children</p>
	<p><b>house, 35 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_68</b> <b>MRN.241</b></span></p> <p>Italianate / end house square bay window, entry hood and consoles          Wall Material: Clapboards          well preserved; dormer</p> <p>1855 map: W Luce          1855 census: trader West L (40), wife Philura (39), 3 children</p>
	<p><b>house, 36 Main Street, a 1966</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_90</b> <b>MRN.240</b></span></p> <p>Traditional / modern Cape raised rear roof slope, rear ell, shed dormers          Wall Material: Shingles</p> <p>Replaced earlier building: Marion Social Club, Club Hall, Nelson Block</p>
	<p><b>First Congregational Chapel, 39 Main Street, 1885</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_67</b> <b>MRN.40</b></span></p> <p>Shingle Style</p> <p>See MHC B form: MRN.40</p>

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	<p><b>house, 40 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_89A</b> <b>MRN.242</b></span></p> <p>Italianate / end house rear gabled wing at rear, entry hood with consoles                  Wall Material: Shingles                  large rear additions; is wing added?</p> <p>1855 map: I. Handy                  1855 census: carpenter Isaac H (55), wife Clarisa (51)</p>
	<p><b>house, 41 Main Street, a 2018</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_66_CM</b> <b>MRN.401</b></span></p> <p>Traditional / side-entry colonial wing w partially enclosed porch                  Wall Material: Shingles                  Replaced earlier building surveyed in 1998 as MRN.243.</p> <p>1855 Map: S B Allen;                  1855 census: carpenter Silas B A (43), wife Martha (44), 2 children</p>
	<p><b>house, 42 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_88</b> <b>MRN.244</b></span></p> <p>Federal / square frame three bay, center chimney                  Wall Material: Shingles                  very large multi-volume rear ell</p> <p>1855 map: Mrs. D Briggs                  1855 census: Desire B (66), two adult sons (27, 33, one mariner); Rhoda Bates (35)                  and two children (10, 12)</p>
	<p><b>Main Street Schoolhouse, 43 Main Street, ca 1830</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_65</b> <b>MRN.245</b></span></p> <p>End gabled block, expanded</p> <p>See MHC B form MRN.245</p>
	<p><b>house, 44 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16_86</b> <b>MRN.246</b></span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house slightly asymmetrical facade                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  rear ell</p> <p>1855 map: J Wing                  1855 census: rigger James R W (42), wife Eunice D (38), dau (19), Polly &amp; James                  Luce (59, 26)</p>

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	<p><b>Hammond House, 45 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float:right">14_55</span> <span style="float:right">MRN.247</span></p> <p>Italianate / Cape Cod house facade gable w square bay window on entry hood                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  rear ell and wining with enclosed porch</p> <p>1855 map: R B Hammond                  1855 census: shoemaker Reuben B H (26), wife (22), carpenter George H (53),                  Martin V B H (13); see text.</p>
	<p><b>house, 47 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float:right">14_54</span> <span style="float:right">MRN.249</span></p> <p>Federal / Cape Cod house hipped dormers                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  off set rear ell, expansion in progress</p> <p>1855 map: G. Hathaway                  1855 census: merchant Gilbert H. (40), wife Abigail D (44), two children (4, 14); Betsy                  Hammond (45)</p>
	<p><b>house, 48 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b> <span style="float:right">16_84</span> <span style="float:right">MRN.248</span></p> <p>Greek Revival / cottage                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  wing, rear ell, gabled dormers, bay windows</p> <p>1855 map Geo A Luce                  1855 census: mariner George A L (49), wife Elizabeth P (51), 2 children (13, 9),                  Elizabeth A Hammond (17)</p>
	<p><b>Coggeshall House, 49 Main Street, 1879-1903</b> <span style="float:right">14_53</span> <span style="float:right">MRN.250</span></p> <p>single pile story-and-a-half wider at rear with entry                  Wall Material: wood shingles                  bay window added</p> <p>1903 atlas: F B Coggeshall (same lot as residence at 51 Main)                  1903 directory: F B Coggeshall, hardware etc Main</p>
	<p><b>house, 51 Main Street, 1790 - 1830</b> <span style="float:right">14_52</span> <span style="float:right">MRN.251</span></p> <p>Federal / center chimney/entry house formerly a five-bay Cape                  Wall Material: Clapboards                  large offset rear ell; raised to two stories recently</p> <p>1855 map: Hiram Look                  1855 census: mar. Hiram L. (52), wife Keziah (45), five children (10-23, one mariner)</p>

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	<p><b>William &amp; Lucy Handy House, 54 Main Street, 1849 - 1855</b>      <b>16_82</b>      <b>MRN.252</b></p> <p>Italianate / multiple volumes</p> <p>See MHC B form, MRN.252</p>
	<p><b>house, 55 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b>      <b>14_51</b>      <b>MRN.253</b></p> <p>Classical / end house    projecting bay to one side, wrap porch            Wall Material: Stucco            added wing; large garage w living space above</p> <p>1855 map: S W Hadley            1855 census: mariner Stephen W H (41), wife Eliza C H (36), daughter Lydia R (1)</p>
	<p><b>house, 56 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b>      <b>16_81</b>      <b>MRN.254</b></p> <p>Stick Style / end house    hip roofed, projecting bay rear            Wall Material: Clapboards            rear ell</p> <p>1855 map: B B Nye &amp; J B Blankinship            1855 census (three families in two dwelling units): farmer John B B and family; farmer Ichabod N B and family; farmer Barnabas B N and family</p>
	<p><b>Ryder House, 58 Main Street, 1855 - 1879</b>      <b>16_80</b>      <b>MRN.255</b></p> <p>Traditional / end gabled block    multiple additions to sides and rear            Wall Material: Shingles</p> <p>1879 map: Mrs J Ryder            said to have been p o moved to this location; see text</p>
	<p><b>Handy House, 59 Main Street, 1830 - 1850, t 1844</b>      <b>14_50</b>      <b>MRN.256</b></p> <p>Greek Revival / cottage    entablature and pilaster trim            Wall Material: Clapboards            offset large rear ell</p> <p>1855 map: N D Handy            1855 census: carp. Noah D H (39), wife Cynthia E H (35), five children (2, 5, 7, 9, 10)</p>

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.N, AA see data sheet

	<p><b>Bicentennial Park, 61 Main Street, 1976</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>14_43A, 49</b> <b>MRN.931</b></span></p> <p>mostly open lawn; still two lots</p> <p>gazebo Elizabeth Taber Statue, MRN.932</p> <p>1903 atlas: two lots: N B &amp; O St Ry Waiting Sta, South School</p>
	<p><b>house, 66 Main Street, 1830 - 1855</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15_76</b> <b>MRN.257</b></span></p> <p>Greek Revival / end house entablature trim and entablature/pilasters entry Wall Material: Shingles rear ell</p> <p>1855 map: W Blankinship 1855 census: carpenter Warren B (38), wife Mercy P (33), five children (1-12)</p>
	<p><b>Handy-Nelson House, 70 Main Street, 1892 - 1900</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15_75</b> <b>MRN.258</b></span></p> <p>Queen Anne/multiple volumes gabled volume with two projections and porch Wall Material: Clapboards</p> <p>1903 atlas: no name but probably Wm Handy, see text</p>
	<p><b>Handy-Hudson House, 72 Main Street, 1900 - 1903</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15_82</b> <b>MRN.259</b></span></p> <p>Shingle Style/ cottage gambrel block, wall dormer, entry porch on side, offset rear ells Wall Material: Shingles</p> <p>1903 atlas: no name but probably Wm Handy, see text</p>
	<p><b>Chamberlain-Handy House, 76 Main Street, ca 1842</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15_74</b> <b>MRN.260</b></span></p> <p>Greek Revival / cottage entablature trim, pilasters at entry Wall Material: Clapboards multiple rear additions, shed dormers</p> <p>1855 map: B Chamberlain 1855 census: blacksmith Benjamin C (52), wife (52), 3 children (9-21), carpenter Nathan Savory; see text</p>

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MARION

MAIN STREET

Area Letter Form Nos.

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## Additional photos



Bicentennial Park, Elizabeth Taber Statue.



**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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MRN.N, AA	see data sheet
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35 and 31 Main Street 35 and 140 Front Street.



40, 42, 44 and 48 Main 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 Main Street 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 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 (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.