

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

18-73	Marion		MRN.606
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Town/City: Marion
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marion Village

Address: 66 Converse Road

Historic Name: Robert & Annette Gardner House

Uses: Present: Residential
Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1956

Source: Obituary, visual analysis

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

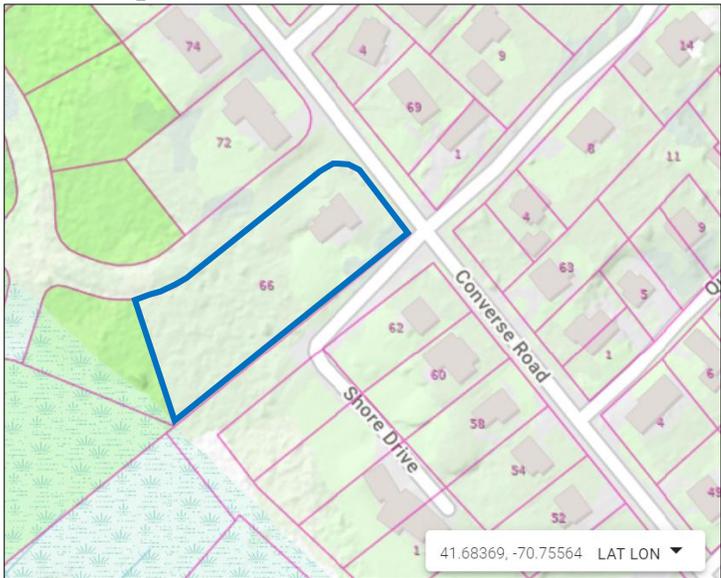
Exterior Material:
Foundation: Concrete block
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Replacement windows

Condition: Excellent
Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.89

Setting: Diverse residential neighborhood developed in the mid-19th – early 20th centuries. Housing stock represents a range of styles including Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival. Settled mostly with moderately-sized, wood-frame, single-family houses on small- to medium-sized lots.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge
Organization: Marion Historical Commission
Date (*month/year*): October 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

66 Converse Road

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

66 Converse Road occupies a polygonal lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of Converse and Shore Roads and faces east. The parcel drops sharply in grade from east to west, transitioning to marshland and beyond to Aucoot Cove. The house is set close to the road and fronts a shallow lawn and two clusters of boulders at the street. Apart from an area of lawn behind (west of) the house, the property is heavily vegetated. A gravel driveway enters the property from Converse Road at the northeast corner of the parcel, runs along the northern lot line, and ends at an attached garage off the northeast corner of the house.

This wood-frame dwelling is a two-story, front-gabled, bank-built structure with an inverted T-shaped plan. The "crossbar" of the T facing the street comprises a three-bay-by-one-bay block with a one-story, cross-gabled projection at the south elevation. The shaft of the T extends west from this block and features a cross gable with a porticoed entry at the north elevation; the shaft component is surrounded by an open deck. Constructed in 1956, it displays features of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The house rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles.

The dwelling is trimmed with corner boards, deep eaves at the side elevations, and an articulated treatment at the first story at the façade that includes a water table, band course, and channeled pilasters. Pilasters occupy the corners and frame the entry bay, which contains a glass-and-panel door and a double-hung, eight-over-one window with a stained-glass panel in the lower sash opening. The door fronts a shallow wooden stoop and step with slat-work side railings. The balance of fenestration at the house comprises single-light casements and double-hung, eight-over-eight and six-over-six sash with flat surrounds, shallow architraves, and false muntins.

The second story at the façade is ornamented with decorative wood shingles. Three diamond-shaped panels surmounting the second-story windows are in turn surmounted by a band of fish scale shingles at the gable peak. The fish scale band frames a small two-over-two window under a band of clapboards occupying the apex of the gable.

66 Converse Road displays no particular architectural style but has features of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The decorative shingles at the façade suggest the Queen Anne style (1880-1900), which is characterized by textured wall surfaces. The channeled pilasters and trim elements at the first story of the façade suggest the Colonial Revival style (1880-1955), which combined classical architectural elements from the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Marion Village, the commercial and residential center of the town, is set on the western shore of Sippican Harbor. The town has historically consisted of a northern portion, often referred to as the Old Landing, and a southern portion, known once as Wharf Village but more commonly referred to today as The Village or Marion Village.

This house is located in the southernmost portion of Converse Road which runs from Marion Village southward towards Converse Point (formerly called Charles Neck Point), the end of the peninsula which forms the western side of Sippican Harbor. Originally called Nye Street, Converse Road was also inconsistently known as Pleasant Street or Charles Neck Road. When the 1903 map was drawn, this section of Marion was largely open with only a few scattered buildings. Today, the area is settled with

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late-20th and early-21st century houses at the midpoint of Charles Neck, and much earlier dwellings on large parcels at the southern part of the Neck as it approaches Converse Point.

The subject house does not appear on any of the historic maps of Marion. The earliest recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale in 1908 of an undeveloped parcel of land by Nathan B. Nye to Abbie R. Dow and her husband Richard S. Dow. In 1916 the land was sold to Harry E. Converse, who left it to his son Parker Converse.

Nathan B. Nye (1864-1951), a well-known figure in Marion, was the son of Hannah West Bennett and John Bates Blankinship Nye and one of the many descendants of Capt. George Bonum Nye. Censuses from 1880 through 1940 showed Nathan Nye working primarily as a laborer and sometimes as a gardener at the nearby Harry Converse estate. In 1908 he sold two parcels of land to Abigail Rawson Dow (b.1865) and her husband, Boston lawyer Richard S. Dow (1863-1940), who were already Marion summer residents. In 1893 they had purchased waterfront property and commissioned William Gibbons Preston to design a cottage at 5 Water Street (c. 1895, Richard S. Dow House, MRN.164). In 1916 the Dows sold the undeveloped property to Harry E. Converse.

Colonel Harry Elisha Converse (1863-1920) was the son of Malden shoe manufacturer Elisha S. Converse (1820-1904) and an executive at the Boston Rubber Shoe Company that his father had founded in 1853. In 1898 Harry Converse was appointed a colonel in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia during the short-lived Spanish American War. In 1903 Harry Converse built "The Moorings" (demolished in 1924), considered to be the largest wood frame house in New England. It was set on a large, gardened estate at Charles Neck overlooking the entrance to Sippican Harbor and Buzzards Bay.

The property, which included three parcels, was devised to Harry Converse's son Parker Converse in 1921 (see map 19525 A below). In 1947 Lots #2 and #3 were sold by Parker Converse to Edmund H. McCarthy and Joseph M. Card. In 1954 Lot #2 was subdivided into 46 house lots and the following year McCarthy sold his interest in Lot #2 to Joseph Card. Parcels #44, #45, and #46 were purchased in 1956 by Robert and Annette Goodell Gardner (1910-2015). According to Annette Gardner's obituary, she was a physical education teacher and guidance counselor, and Robert was an automotive engineer. Annette vacationed in the 1940s and 1950s in a cottage in Marion near Aucoot Cove; after it was destroyed in the 1954 Hurricane Carol, she and her husband built a new home nearby on higher ground.¹ Small signs on the façade of the house including the dates of the 1938 and 1954 hurricanes and reading "Half a Loaf" suggest that the original cottage was so named.

The property was purchased by the current owners in 2018.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee	Plan Reference
08-20-2018	(127335)	Douglas S. Barnes et al.	Blue Crest LLC	
03-09-2018	(126502)	Robert Gardner estate	Douglas S. Barnes et al.	
01-03-1961	(30284)	Anette G. & Robert Gardner	Robert Gardner	
03-24-1956	(23333)	Joseph M. Card, Jr.	Robert & Annette G. Gardner	Lots 44, 45 & 46 19525 F
09-24-1955	(22625)	Edmund H. McCarthy	Joseph M. Card, Jr.	Lot #2 19525 A
06-21-1950	(14800)	Parker & June Butler Converse	Edmund H. McCarthy & Joseph M. Card, Jr.	Lots #2 & 3 19525 A
02-14-1947	(11405)	Court Decree	Parker & Jane Butler Converse	
10-13-1921	(1178)	Harold S. Davis	Parker & June Butler Converse	
10-04-1921	(518)	Estate of Harry E. Converse	Harold S. Davis	
09-19-1916	(97)	Abbie R. (& Richard S.) Dow	Harry E. Converse	
04-23-1908	(92)	Nathan Nye	Abbie R. (& Richard S.) Dow	
	Probate	Barnabas B. Nye	Nathan Nye	

IBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

¹ Annette Goodell Gardner obituary at <https://www.currentobituary.com/obit/181109>.

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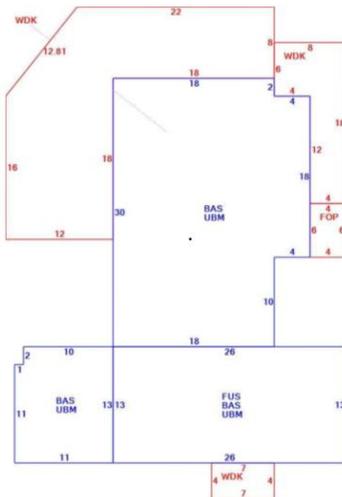
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- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories
Atlas of Plymouth County, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879
Atlas of Plymouth County, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903
Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 1855 H.F. Walling
McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
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Sommers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.
Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



Assessor's card plan