

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-81

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.84

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 13 (formerly 15) Clark Street

**Historic Name:** William Baker House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1800

**Source:** Deed & map research, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Cape, altered beyond recognition

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl clapboard / Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

Porch (1903-1946)

Hip-roofed alteration at the ell (20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Fair

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

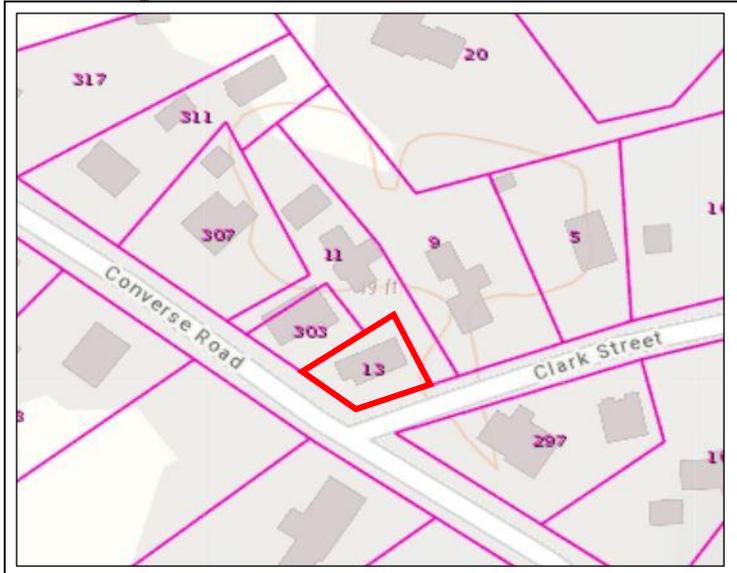
**Acreage:** 0.26

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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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.*

**13 Clark Street** occupies a small trapezoidal lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of Converse Road and Clark Street. The house is set back from both streets and faces south. The property is maintained almost entirely in grass with several trees at the perimeter. There are no foundation plantings. A vertical slat fence borders the northern property line. A short gravel driveway/parking area enters the property from Converse Road at the northwest corner of the parcel and a paved driveway enters from Clark Street and runs north along the east elevation of the house to serve the property to the rear.

Along with 317 Converse Road (ca.1780, John B. Blankinship House, MRN.92), 319 Converse Road (mid-18<sup>th</sup> c., Zoath Dexter House, MRN.95), 266 Converse Road (ca.1780, George Bonum Nye House, MRN.85) and 273 Converse Road (ca.1820, John B. Blankinship House, MRN.86), this house appears to be one of the earliest structures in this section of Marion. It comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with a one-story ell at the east elevation and a 20<sup>th</sup>-century open porch. Deed research and visual analysis suggest that the house was constructed ca.1800 in the full Cape style, although the only remaining character-defining features are its side-gabled form and massing. The house rests on a stone foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl clapboards with vinyl trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys rise from the north slope of the main block and the roof ridge at the ell.

There are shed wall dormers at the north and south roof slopes at the main block. A glass-and-panel wood door with an oval glass inset occupies the westernmost bay and is sheltered by the shed-roofed open porch that extends west from the entry across the gable-roofed portion of the ell. The door fronts a concrete step across the porch deck and a concrete walkway to the sidewalk on Clark Street. The ell is three-bays-by-one-bay; it is set back from the façade of the main block and aligns along the rear elevation. There is a glass-and-panel wood door at the easternmost bay. The porch has a shallow wooden deck with a vertical slat skirt and rectangular porch posts. A two-step brick and stone stair at the west end of the porch fronts a concrete pathway that leads to the gravel driveway at the northwest corner of the parcel. The gabled roof of the ell telescopes over a short, hip-roofed extension to the west.

The windows at the house are double-hung, one-over-over-one, vinyl replacement sash. All of the openings at the façade of the house appear to have been moved from their original, traditional locations.

**13 Clark Street** is an example of an altered Cape-style house. The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The full Cape (five bay) design was one of the later iterations of this house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include its side-gabled form and massing.

## 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.*

The town of Marion was established in 1852 when it broke off from the town of Rochester. The Village of Marion, 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 southwestern section of Marion Village centered on Converse Road (originally called Nye Street and later known as Pleasant Street or Charles Neck Road) which runs southward toward Charles Neck Point, the southernmost point of the peninsula defining the western side of Sippican Harbor. The area is named for Captain George Bonum Nye (1750-1831), the sea captain who was one of the pioneers in the salt making

*Continuation sheet 1*

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industry in Marion and who owned a house and surrounding land at 266 Converse Road (ca.1780, George B. Nye House, MRN.82).

This part of Marion was sparsely settled with a few scattered farms until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the advent of regular rail service helped shift the town's economy from traditional maritime businesses to tourism. Wealthy individuals were attracted to Marion and began to build large summer residences along the waterfront. The construction and maintenance of these properties sparked demand for a variety of service industries and trades, particularly carpentry, along with the need for housing for this new class of workers. As landowners in this area saw a new use for their properties and former farms were subdivided into house lots, this part of Marion soon became a densely settled residential quarter. Comparison of the 1879 map with the 1903 map shows how quickly this transition occurred. In a little more than two decades, large tracts of open land had become filled with streets lined with new houses. The majority of residences are relatively modest one-and-one-half to two-story frame houses dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and representing a range of styles including Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival.



1855 map

This house appears on the 1855 map with Sarah Baker shown as owner. It is seen on the 1879 map with no label, and on the 1903 map with Mrs. B. Bowditch as owner. The earliest conveyance found for the property recorded its sale in 1862 by Sarah Baker to Jane Holmes. Sarah (also known as Sally) Baker (1798-1885) was the daughter of William Baker of Rochester (1758-1833) and Phebe Bates of Wareham. The couple was married in Wareham in 1799. It is likely that William and Phebe Baker built the house shortly after their marriage.

The description of the property in an 1835 deed (Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 186/Page 28) for the nearby property at 10 Pleasant Street (ca.1850), Bennett-Blankinship House, MRN. 98) suggests that William Baker owned the subject house and that Sarah inherited it from her parents. In 1862 she conveyed it to Jane Holmes (1819-1862), the daughter of Barnabus and Priscilla Holmes. A seamstress, Jane Holmes died shortly after purchasing the property. Sally Baker died at the Mattapoisett Alms house.

In 1865, following the death of his daughter, Barnabus Holmes sold the land and the "Sally Baker House" (as it was identified in the deed) to Seth Blankinship (1823-1883). Seth Blankinship's occupation was recorded as mariner in the censuses of 1855 through 1880 and on his 1863 draft registration. Seth and his wife Catherine C. Gibbs (1831-1905) had four children. The oldest, Ruth F. Blankinship (1856-1930), married Isaac Nickerson Church (1851-1880) in Marion in 1875. Isaac Church died five years later in 1880. In 1889 Catherine Blankinship, then herself a widow, conveyed the property to her daughter. In 1903 Ruth Blankinship Church married Benjamin Bowditch (1830-1908), the son of Samuel and Caroline (nee White) Bowditch of Rochester. This was the second marriage for Bowditch, who had first been married to Mary Louisa Wing (Arnold) (1836-1902). The censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1865 reported him living in Braintree and working as a boot maker; the 1870 census listed his occupation as carpenter. By 1900 Bowditch was living in Marion, where the 1903 and 1907 directories reported him residing on Main Street and working as a carpenter. Local histories state that Bowditch lived for "many years" at the Bowditch House at 9 Main Street (ca.1785, J. Handy-Benjamin Bowditch House, MRN.224). The Bowditch House was rented for periods of time to various celebrities, including Richard Harding Davis, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Admiral Richard E. Byrd.

Benjamin Bowditch died in 1908 and in 1915 his widow sold the property to John Taber and his wife Elizabeth. John W. Taber (var. Tabor), born in Mattapoisett in 1885, was the son of John H. and Betsey (nee Hiller) Taber. In 1906 he married Elizabeth Harjula, a Finnish emigree. His draft registration card of 1917 noted his employment as chauffeur to Sidney Hosmer of Front Street in Marion. The 1920 census reported John W. Taber living on Clark Street and working as a gardener at a private estate. In 1925 the Tabers' mortgage was foreclosed and the property was sold at a sheriff's sale to Susie Washburn. Susie Washburn also purchased another parcel of land from next-door neighbor Charles Ball in September of that year.

Susie R. Oglesby Washburn (1873-1949) was the wife of Edward Payson Washburn (1868-1938). According to the 1920 and 1930 censuses, Washburn operated a cranberry farm. Susie Oglesby was the sister of Thomas Allen Oglesby (1869-1931, whose occupation was listed as carpenter/house builder in the 1910 census and contractor in the 1930 census. The Marion

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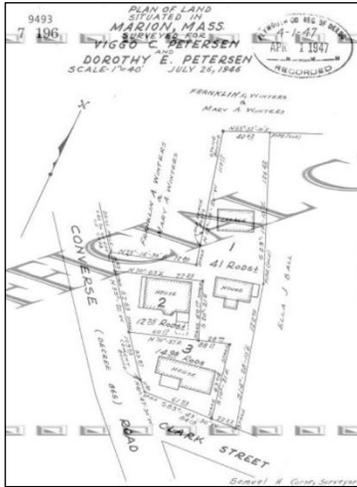
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section of the 1907 Wareham business directory listed his business as carpenter and boat builder, operating with his partner under the name of Oglesby & Crapo. The subject house was significantly altered from its 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance and it is possible that Oglesby made these changes to the house for his sister Susie. In 1927 Susie Washburn took out a mortgage which was foreclosed in 1935. In 1936, the bank sold the property, now consisting of two parcels, to Viggo C. Petersen.



Peterson's father Viggo V. Peterson, a Danish emigree, had worked as a chef at the Moorings, the estate of Harry E. Converse. In 1921 he opened an ice cream parlor on Cottage Street. After the death of his father in 1941, Viggo C. Peterson continued to operate the business, which was a Marion institution until the 1970s. In 1946 Viggo C. Peterson had the land plan at left drawn up, documenting the subdivision of the property from two into three parcels. The subject house, located in parcel number 3, was sold in 1949 to Reginald and Edith Hodgson, who owned the house until 1972. The current owners purchased the property in 1976.

1946 land plan

### Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
07-06-1976	4176-785	Susan L. Warner (McAlister)	Charles D. & Patricia L. Duane
03-27-1972	3762-717	Edith A. Hodgson & Margaret A. Nye	Susan L. McAlister
01-10-1967	3343-785	Edith A. Hodgson	Edith A. Hodgson & Margaret A. Nye
01-31-1949	2039-477	Roger W. & Evelyn C. Converse	Reginald & Edith A. Hodgson
12-15-1948	2034-302	Eileen K. & Benjamin H. Cate	Roger W. & Evelyn C. Converse
10-30-1947	2000-103	Viggo C. Peterson	Eileen K & Benjamin H. Cate
07-31-1936	1713-162	Palmer Savings Bank	Viggo C. Peterson
07-31-1936	1713-162	Palmer Savings Bank	Viggo C. Peterson
12-11-1935	1700-233	National Bank of Wareham	Palmer Savings Bank
06-02-1927	1531-405	Susie Washburn	National Bank of Wareham (Mortgage)
09-29-1925	1494-233	Charles Ball	Susie Washburn (Parcel #2)
06-27-1925	1489-4	Luke F. Kelley	Susie Washburn (Parcel #1)
04-25-1925	1481-520	John Taber	Luke Kelley (Foreclosure Deed)
09-13-1915	1227-198	Ruth F. Blankinship (Church) Bowditch	John Taber
05-20-1889	607-406	Catherine C. Blankinship et al.	Ruth F. (Blankinship) Church
Probate		Estate of Seth Blankinship	Catherine C. Blankinship et al.
10-07-1865	331-109	Barnabus Holmes	Seth Blankinship
Probate		Estate of Jane Holmes	Barnabus Holmes
01-10-1862	310-228	Sally (Sarah) Baker	Jane Holmes

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879  
*Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: L.J. Richards Co., 1903  
*Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling  
 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.  
 Olive Hill Sommers, *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.  
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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

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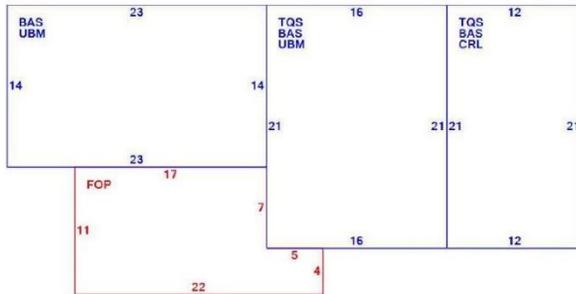
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Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.

Sippican Historical Society: online database

Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.



Assessor's card plan

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 Lynn Smiledge

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

This house is recommended as a contributing element in a potential National Register Historic District for the Nye Area of Marion Village. The George Bonum Nye Area (MRN.F) is recommended as eligible for listing as a National Register District at the local level under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. The area is named for Captain George Bonum Nye (1750-1831), a sea captain who was one of the pioneers in the salt making industry in Marion and who owned a farm house and a large tract of land on the west side of Converse Road (formerly Nye Street). The Nye and Blankenship families, the two largest landowners in the area in the 19th century, are well represented among the property owners here for more than a century.

The area is built up around George Bonum Nye's homestead at 266 Converse Road (ca. 1780, George Bonum Nye House, MRN.85) in the southwestern part of Marion Village. It runs north-south along Converse Road between Evergreen Cemetery and Lewis Street and includes the large triangle containing Clark Street and bordered by the cemetery to the north, Pleasant Street to the east, and Converse Road to the west. The potential district's boundaries are those defined in the 1998 survey for the George Bonum Nye Area (MRN.F), to which several properties on Clark Street, Converse Road, and Pleasant Street have been added.

Under Criterion A, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level for its association with the rapid residential development of the southwestern part of Marion Village in response to the need for housing for a new class of workers. In the late 19th through the early 20th centuries the town became a popular seaside resort for affluent city dwellers who began building large summer residences along the waterfront. The construction and maintenance of these grand properties sparked demand for a variety of skilled trades and service industries along with the need for housing for this new class of workers. This area became the home for many of these tradespeople seeking modest, comfortable single-family residences.

Under Criterion C, the area is recommended as eligible at the local level in the area of Architecture for its nearly intact collection of houses that provides a sense of the evolution of architectural styles from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. A densely-settled quarter, the Nye Area contains mostly modestly-scaled, one-and-one half to two-story wood-frame dwellings on small to moderate-sized lots in the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles. Along

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with several high-style examples of these styles, the area also includes a handful of earlier dwellings in the Cape and Federal styles that pre-date the building boom that began in the second half of the 19th century.

The majority 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 level, with areas of significance in social history and architecture.