

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-42

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.82

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 5 (formerly 9) Clark Street

Historic Name: Joseph H. Clark- Edwin F. Ashley House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1890

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Storage building

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

First story residing in wood shingles (post 1998)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

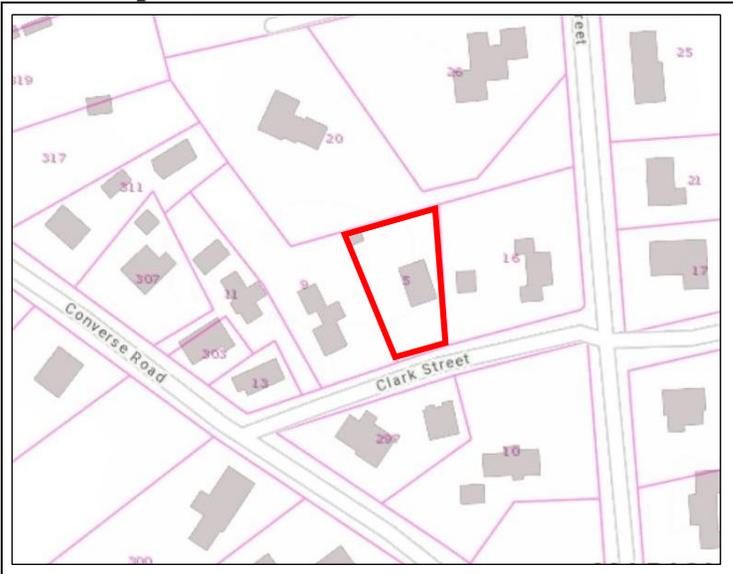
Acreage: 0.27

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. 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

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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.

5 Clark Street occupies a trapezoidal lot on the north side of Clark Street and faces south. The house is positioned at the approximate north-south center of the parcel near the eastern property boundary and faces south. The yard, which is maintained chiefly in grass, is dotted with shrubs and mature trees. The house is surrounded by low foundation plantings. The property is bordered by a manicured hedge along Clark Street and by a drystone wall at the northern lot line. A gravel driveway enters the property from Clark Street along the west elevation of the house.

The building comprises a two-story, four-bay-by-three-bay, front-gabled, wood-frame main block with a rectangular plan and two cross gables at the west elevation linked by a one-story shed-roofed segment. Constructed around 1890 and retaining many if not all of its original character-defining features, it is a handsome example of the Queen Anne style. The house is clad in weathered wood shingles finished with contrasting wood trim. The 1998 MHC Area Form F states that when it was surveyed the house was sided with clapboards at the first story and shingles at the second story; this is supported by the book illustration of the house found on the following page. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the roof ridge at the main north-south gable.

The house is trimmed with deep boxed cornices, a water table, and frieze boards. Several rows of wood shingles flare outward above a band course of trim that encircles the house and separates the first and second stories. The northern cross gable contains a semi-hexagonal bay window with a divided circular light at the center plane. The peaks at the cross gables and main gable are ornamented with contrasting bands of diagonal wood slats. The main entry at the second-most westerly bay at the façade (south elevation) has a pedimented hood filled with matching diagonal slats. The hood is supported by elaborate carved brackets and shelters an original paneled wood door. The door fronts a granite step and a path of concrete pavers that curves to the west to join the driveway.

The windows at the house include single and paired, double-hung, six-over-one and four-over-one sash in varied sizes along with a number of fixed, multi-light sash. The windows have flat, beaded surrounds that touch the band course to create continuous units of fenestration. The windows at the second story are capped with denticulated cornices.

There is a small, gabled wood-shingled outbuilding in the northwest corner of the property.

5 Clark Street is an attractive example of Queen Anne, the dominant style for domestic architecture in the United States between 1880 and 1900. Devised by a group of English architects and based on the visual vocabulary of late Medieval models, Queen Anne encompasses a wide range of architectural features from several stylistic traditions. The style gained popularity after being seen at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876. It was disseminated by the country's leading architectural magazine and by pattern books and mail-order house plans. Identifying features of the Queen Anne style seen in this house include its asymmetrical façade, cross gables, contrasting trim, variety of window sizes and muntin configurations, textured wall surfaces, and elaborate door hood.

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

Continuation sheet 1

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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 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-19th 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 19th to the early 20th centuries and representing a range of styles including Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival.

This house does not appear on the 1858 or 1879 maps. It is shown on the 1903 map with J.H. Clark as the owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the deed given by Joseph H. Clark (Jr.) and Lizzie Clark to Edwin Ashley in 1909. Clark's father, Joseph Henry Clark, Sr. (1835-1894), was the son of John Clark (1792-1863) and Eleanor Handy Clark. He married Mary Sophia Graham (1833-1888) in 1858 and the couple had three sons who survived until adulthood: Joseph H. Clark Jr. (1861-1933), Allen P. Clark (b.1870), and Ernest Sylvester Clark (b.1876). The 1880 census records the senior Clark's occupation as carpenter; two of his sons, Ernest and Joseph, Jr., were also listed as carpenters. A third son, Allen P. Clark, lived in Bridgton, Maine and worked as the paymaster in a woolen mill. Given the apparent age (ca.1890) of this Queen Anne style house, it is probable that it was built by the younger Joseph Clark. The house immediately to the west, 9 Clark Street (ca.1870, Joseph H. Clark, Sr. House, MRN.83), was likely built by his father, Joseph H. Clark, Sr., sometime earlier. The deed conveying the property to Edwin Ashley specified that it included all the buildings "except the [carpentry] shop" which would be "removed within six months" from the date of the deed.

Edwin Forest Ashley (1870-1914) was the son of Marcus S. Ashley and Susan T. Bennett. He was born in Acushnet and in 1898 married Louisa (var. Louvisa) Etta Delano (1875-1962). According to the 1910 census, Ashley was a gardener at a private estate. The couple had two sons who lived to adulthood, Alton Delano (aka "Cliff," 1903-1968) and Edwin Forest Jr. (1913-1999). The senior Edwin Ashley died while scalloping in 1914 at age 44. Louisa continued to live in the house with her young sons after the untimely death of her husband. In 1953 she and her son Alton conveyed the property to Edwin Ashley, Jr. with the provision that she could continue to live in the house. Edwin Ashley served in the Civilian Conservation Corps during World War II and was involved in the construction of airfields on islands in the Pacific theater. He later worked in the maintenance department at Tabor Academy. Edwin F. Ashley and his brother Cliff maintained a correspondence for more than 60 years that was published in 2001 as *The Ed Letters: Memories of a New England Boyhood*. The book chronicled their experiences growing up on Clark Street in Marion in the early years of the 20th century. The property was passed to Anthony and Donna Ashley in 1982. After 85 years of ownership, the house left the Ashley family in 1994.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
05-11-2007	34517-301	Midelle Moore & Christine M. Bell	Wendy E. LeClair
01-14-1998	15806-75	Peter M. & Kathleen Levine	Midelle Moore & Christine M. Bell
04-25-1994	12829-124	Anthony S. & Donna J. Ashley	Peter M. Levine
07-26-1982	5182-500	Edwin F. Ashley	Anthony S. & Donna J. Ashley
07-16-1953	2285-238	Edwin F. Ashley	Edwin F. & Nellie Helen Ashley
05-21-1947	1956-299	Louisa E. Ashley et al.	Edwin F. Ashley
01-15-1909	1014-207	Joseph H. Clark	Edwin F. Ashley

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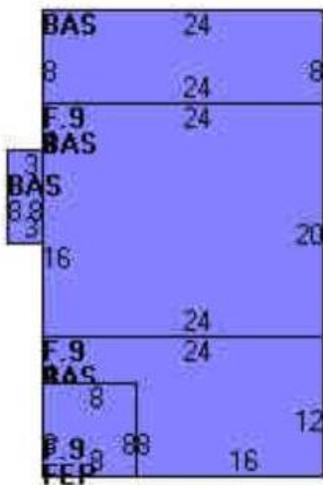
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Assessor's card plan



Illustration of 5 Clark Street from the memoir, *The Ed Letters: Memories of a New England Boyhood*.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by _____ 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.