

FORM B – BUILDING

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

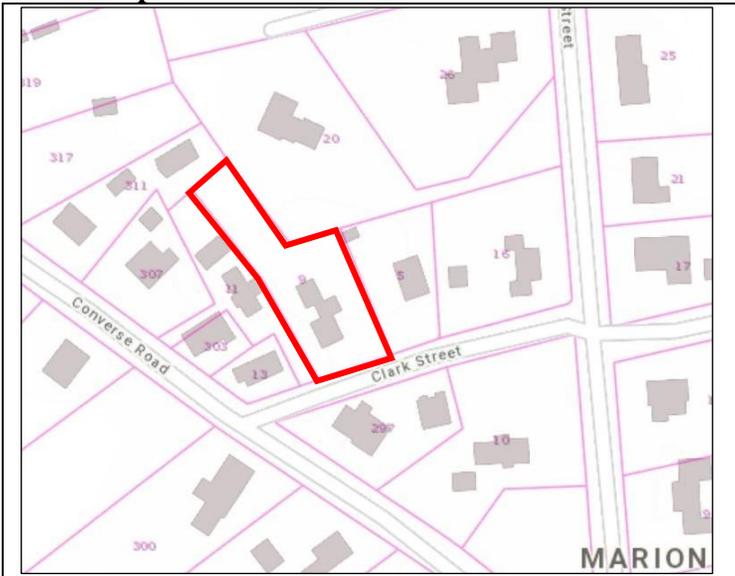
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

15-40	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.83
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Photograph



Locus Map



Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 9 (formerly 11) Clark Street

Historic Name: Joseph H. Clark, Sr. House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca.1885

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Greek Revival / Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Joseph Clark, Sr. (likely)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Lean-to and attached garage (late 20th century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.41

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.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

9 Clark Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F

MRN.83

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.

9 Clark Street occupies an L-shaped lot on the north side of Clark Street and faces south. The house is positioned at the southern half of the parcel, which is chiefly maintained in grass dotted with shrubs and mature trees. The northern portion of the parcel is more heavily vegetated. The entire parcel is strewn with boulders and smaller stones of all sizes. Overgrown foundation plantings flank the main entry and line the east elevation. A gravel driveway enters the property from Clark Street along the west elevation of the house and terminates beyond the attached garage at the rear elevation.

The building comprises a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, front-gabled house with an L-shaped plan and two dependencies. The roof at the façade sweeps down to the east to shelter an integrated porch that runs the length of the east elevation. Constructed around 1880 in a transitional blend of the Greek Revival and later styles, the house appears to retain most of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation and is clad in weathered wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is centered on the ridge of the main north-south gable; a second chimney rises from just below the roof ridge at the east wing.

The house is trimmed with a denticulated boxed cornice, narrow corner boards, deep frieze boards, and eave returns. The windows at the first story of the main gabled block are original double-hung, two-over-two sash with flat surrounds and tall lipped lintels. The side hall entry at the westernmost bay contains a wood paneled door framed by a flat surround and an entablature. The door fronts a granite step. There is a gabled dormer on the west roof slope and a pedimented eyebrow dormer on the east roof slope. The porch is supported by narrow rectangular posts and shelters an entry at the east elevation. An arched spandrel of vertical planks marks the porch opening at the south elevation, which fronts two wooden steps and a concrete walkway to the street.

The steeply-gabled, east-west wing of the house has a shed dormer at the south roof slope. Bands of sawtooth and square butt shingles are visible at the south and east elevations, suggesting that the house may have originally had more textured wall ornamentation. Windows at this wing and the upper story of the main gabled block include a variety of sizes and sash configurations. There is a small, open, vertical-plank lean-to at the west elevation of the east-west wing and an attached garage at the north elevation.

9 Clark Street reflects a blend of styles and is difficult to categorize. It has the gable-front, side hall entry form seen in both the Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles. Its box cornice, corner boards, frieze boards, eave returns, and cornice dentils are characteristic Greek Revival features. The decorative shingle patterns and two-over-two window sash are commonly seen in Queen Anne-style houses and the integrated porch and varied dormer types reflect the Craftsman style.

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F MRN.83

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 1855 or 1879 maps but is shown on the 1903 map with E.S. Clark as the owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was the deed given by Joseph H. Clark, Jr. and Allen P. Clark to their brother Ernest S. Clark in 1900; the property included both land and buildings. Born in 1876, Ernest Sylvester Clark was the son of Joseph Henry Clark (1835-1894) and Mary Sophia Graham (1833-1888). The 1880 census notes Joseph H. Clark's occupation as carpenter. Two of his sons, Joseph H. Clark, Jr. (1861-1939) and Ernest Sylvester Clark (1876-1946), were also carpenters. A third son, Allen P. Clark, lived in Bridgton, Maine and worked as the paymaster in a woolen mill. Because the conveyance of this property was from the heirs of Joseph H. Clark, Sr. —his will having specified that his real property should be equally divided among his children— it is probable that this house was built by the senior Clark after 1879.

Ernest S. Clark acquired the property from his brothers in 1900. His principal residence was listed in the 1903 directory as "Main St., near Water St." and it is probable that he didn't occupy this house. Ernest Clark's avocation was archaeology; he frequently lectured to Boy Scouts and other groups and exhibited his collection [of Indian relics] at museums throughout New England.¹ He owned the property for less than four years before selling it to William A. and Elizabeth B. Andrew. William Andrew (1869-1921) graduated from Tabor Academy and was in the insurance and real estate business in Marion. Very active in town affairs, he held several positions in town government including terms on the board of selectmen, town clerk, and auditor. Andrew was a member of several fraternal and social organizations and served as superintendent of the Congregational Church Sunday school. Andrew died at age 52 in December 1921. Shortly before his death, he sold this property to Charles and Ella Ball who owned the property until 1960. The property has been owned by Charlene Sperry since 1970.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
10-19-1975	04580-0250	Stephen C. & Charlene C. Sperry	Charlene C. Sherry
12-11-1970	3638-5	Robert C. & Florence M. Anderson	Stephen C. & Charlene Sherry
02-06-1960	2757-495	Ella J. Ball	Robert C. & Florence M. Anderson
03-25-1943	1840-584	Charles A. Ball	Ella J. Ball
08-09-1921	1398-26	William A. & Elizabeth B. Andrew	Charles A. Ball
11-19-1903	878-55	Ernest S. Clark	William A. & Elizabeth Andrew
09-02-1900	813-125	Joseph H. Clark, Jr. & Allen P. Clark	Ernest S. Clark

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.

¹ *Boston Globe*, 19 Feb 1946, pg. 17.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.83
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Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

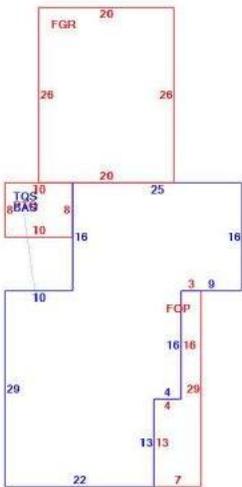
Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

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.

"William A. Andrew," *Marion Courier*, Marion, MA, December 23, 1921.



Assessor's card plan



South (facade) and east elevations.

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.