

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-39	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.483
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 11 Clark Street (also 305 Converse Road)

Historic Name: John W. and Elizabeth Taber House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1915

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Workshop (1981)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None apparent

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

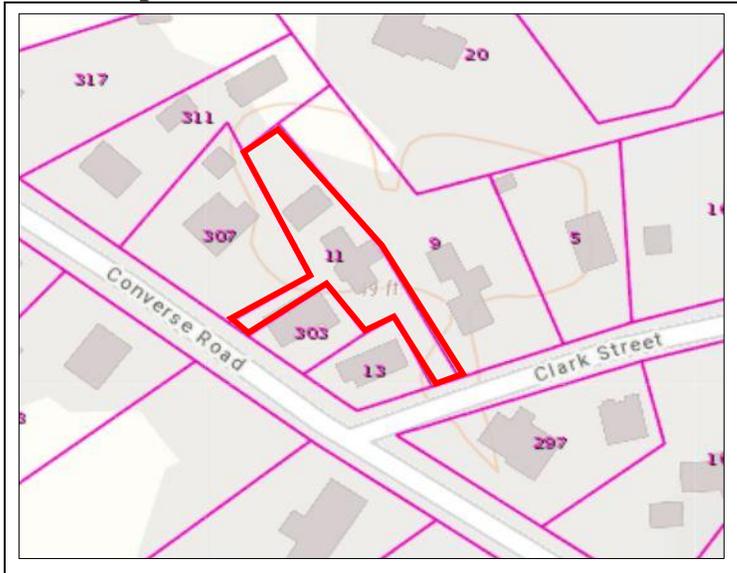
Acreage: 0.26

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*): February 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.

11 Clark Street occupies an irregular, T-shaped parcel deeply set back from Converse Road near the intersection of Converse Road and Clark Street. Narrow “arms” of the parcel reach west and south to join Converse Road and Clark Street, respectively. The house appears to face west but is completely surrounded by tall vertical slat fencing and visibility is limited. A dirt driveway approaches the house from Converse Road along the west “arm” of the parcel and a paved driveway enters the property from Clark Street along the south “arm.”

The building comprises a two-story, cross-gabled, wood-frame house with the cross gable extending from the east elevation of the main block. Built ca.1915 in the Colonial Revival style, the house retains many of its original character-defining features. The house is clad in weathered wood shingles with contrasting wood trim and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A tall gable-wall chimney built of cinder blocks rises from grade at the west elevation of the cross gable and a brick chimney rises from the east slope of the main gable.

The roof at each of the four gable ends of the house is clipped to create a projecting gambrel profile. Although only three of the four elevations of the house are visible, it appears that each gable end is treated similarly with a gambrel projection, a small rectangular or elliptical light at the gable peak, and paired windows at the second story. There is a semi-hexagonal screened porch with a knee wall at the west wall of the main block, a semi-hexagonal bay window at the south wall of the main block, and a rectangular screened porch with a hipped roof at the east elevation of the cross gable. A sliding door opens to a deck from the south wall of the cross gable. The windows at the house comprise single and paired double-hung, one-over-one wooden sash with flat surrounds.

A wood-shingled rectangular structure with a shallow hipped roof and deep eaves is sited north of the house. Built in 1981, it is described as a workshop on the assessor’s card for the property.

11 Clark Street reflects the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival period in America (1880–1955) saw a resurgence of patriotism and a return to the architectural styles of the early years of the republic. Combining the classical architectural elements of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival periods, the Colonial Revival style was the most popular style in America for private and public buildings between the World Wars. The characteristic Colonial Revival features of this house include the cross-gabled form, the prominent gambrel-roof profiles, and the elliptical window at the south gable peak.

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 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 pioneered 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).

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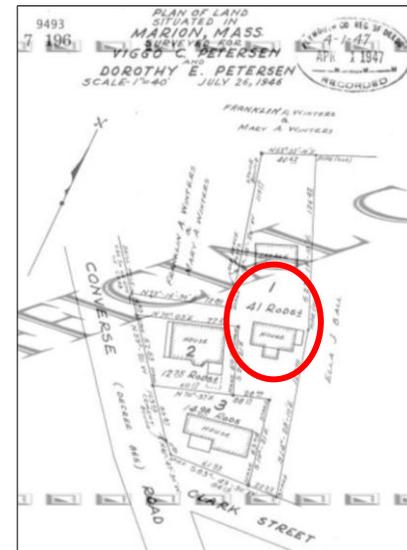
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Prior to 1852, when the town of Marion broke off from the town of Rochester, this area was sparsely settled and most of its inhabitants were engaged in farming. As the town grew and several of the farms were subdivided, the area became a more densely 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 buildings are one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half 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 1903 map. It is sited on a portion of the original large parcel that comprised the early-19th century homestead of William and Phebe Baker, later owned by their daughter Sally and referred to in early deeds as the "Sally Baker House." Ownership from 1862 to 1915 for the original parcel, which until the early 20th century contained only the adjacent house at 13 Clark Street (ca.1800, Baker-Bowditch House, MRN.84), passed through the Baker, Holmes, Blankinship and Bowditch families and is traced in detail in the MHC Building Form B for that property.

It is not known if the house was built by Bowditch or by a subsequent owner; its appearance suggests that it was constructed between 1910 and 1920. According to Marion town records the house was built in 1910, when the land was owned by Benjamin Bowditch (1830-1908) and his wife Ruth Blankinship Church Bowditch. The Bowditchs resided on Main Street and may have built the house for investment purposes. It is also possible that the house was built by John W. Taber, who purchased the property in 1915 from the widow of Benjamin Bowditch. The deed does not mention buildings. John W. Taber, 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. Washburn later defaulted on the mortgage and in 1936 the property was sold to Viggo C. Peterson.



1941 land plan.

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. The subject house of this form is circled in red on Parcel #1 of the land plan at left commissioned by Peterson in 1946.

Harold F. and Margaret A. Nye purchased the property from Viggo and Dorothy Peterson in 1946. A lifelong resident of Marion, Harold F. Nye (d. 2004) was one of the many descendants of Captain George Bonum Nye. He owned and operated the Flower Boutique in Osterville for many years.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
03-09-2016	46666-319	Elliot B. & Caryn J. Koffman	Sanford McSweeney Holding Trust
10-11-2015	4109-10	Cynthia J. Waitt	Elliot B. & Caryn J. Koffman
02-24-1971		Charles L. Jr. & Cynthia J. Waitt	Cynthia J. Waitt
02-24-1971	3652-369	Ethel Bristol	Charles L. Jr. & Cynthia J. Waitt
05-15-1964	3109-492	Richard N. & Doris C. Barrows	Ethel Bristol

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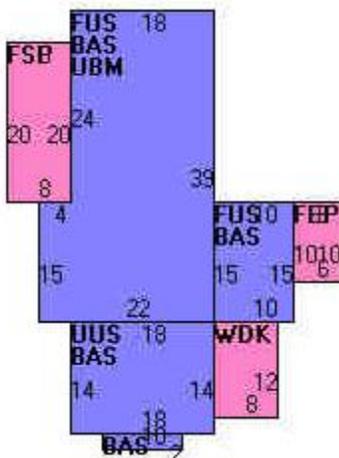
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08-11-1959	2720-405	Harold F. & Margaret A. Nye	Richard N. & Doris C. Barrows
06-31-1946	1927-201	Viggo C. & Dorothy E. Peterson	Harold F. & Margaret A. Nye
07-31-1936	1713-162	Palmer Savings Bank	Viggo C. Peterson
06-27-1925	1489-4	Luke F. Kelley	Susie Washburn
04-25-1925	1481-520	John Taber	Sheriff Luke F. Kelly
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.
- 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

Ruth F. Blankinship Bowditch obituary in the *Standard Times*, 1930.
 Harold F. Nye obituary in *The Barnstable Patriot*, December 3, 2004.



Assessor's card plan



West elevation.

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.