

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-47

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.489

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 323 Converse Road

Historic Name: George Bonum Nye II House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca.1890

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (1995)

Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Porch enclosed and entry modified (20th century)

Replacement windows, first story (20th century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.44

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

323 Converse Road occupies a roughly triangular parcel on the north side of Converse Road adjacent to Evergreen Cemetery. The house is positioned in the southeastern half of the parcel on a gentle rise and faces south. The property is maintained in lawn along the west elevation of the house and is otherwise densely vegetated with shrubs and tall trees that partially hide the house from view from Converse Road. The parcel is bordered with a low drystone wall that transitions to wooden fencing in the southeast corner of the lot. A gravel driveway enters the property from Converse Road and terminates at a garage sited west of the house at the western property boundary.

The building comprises a two-story, gambrel-roofed, two-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame house with a main block and north (rear) wing. A hip-roofed, enclosed porch wraps the south (façade) and east elevations of the main block. Built ca.1890 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. Short brick chimneys rise from the roof ridges at the main block and the north wing.

The footprint of the house seen on the 1903 map does not show the porch at the main block, suggesting that it was a later addition. It is completely enclosed and clipped diagonally at the southeast corner of the house, creating an entrance. The windows at the front wall of the porch comprise modern, tripartite sliding sash. The four openings at the east elevation of the porch are double-hung, two-over-two windows with flat surrounds; these appear to be early and may have been moved from other locations in the house. The diagonally oriented entry comprises a modern glass-and-panel door flanked by modern, three-light fixed sash, all united by a continuous surround. The entry fronts a four-step concrete stair and a slate walkway leading to Converse Road. The balance of fenestration at the main block includes double-hung, one-over-one windows at the first story and double-hung, two-over-two windows at the two shed dormers that occupy the west roof slope. Two skylights occupy the east roof slope.

Openings at the west elevation of the gambrel-roofed north wing include a modern tripartite window and a sliding door at the northernmost bay that fronts a low wooden deck that runs the length of the wing. A small, shed-roofed addition extends from the northeast corner of the wing.

The side-gabled, wood-shingled two-car garage sited west of the house was built in 1995 and replaced an earlier garage. It has a loft accessed by a wooden stair that rises along the west elevation. A front-gabled shed clad with vertical boards is situated at the northwest corner of the parcel.

323 Converse Road is a modest example of 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 prominent gambrel-roof forms and the simple, contrasting trim.

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

Continuation sheet 1

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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 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 map, but it is seen on the 1903 map with G.B. Nye as the owner. The first conveyance for the property found was the deed of George B. Nye to Marion F. Nye in 1932. That deed refers to several other conveyances to Nye of property constituting the subject parcel but no dates or property descriptions are included. These were deeds from Emily Mendell, Benjamin K. Waters, and Silas B. Allen. The 1903 map shows that the adjacent property west of the subject property was owned by the E.M. Mendell Estate.

George Bonum Nye II (1863-1933) was the son of John Bates Blankinship Nye (1831-1871) and Hannah West Bennett (1834-1914). He was a descendant of Captain George Bonum Nye and a member of the very large Blankinship-Nye family of Marion. George B. Nye was married to Lizzie Winters of Mattapoisett in 1887; his occupation was noted on the couple's wedding registry as farmer. George was listed as a day laborer in the 1900 census, a gardener on his 1905 Masonic membership card, and a supervisor at a cranberry bog in the 1910 census. The 1920 census listed George Nye and his family in two locations — in Marion on Converse Road where he was a gardener at a private estate farm and in Orlando, Florida where he was owner of a landscaping business. George apparently managed a business in Florida from his second home there. The 1930 census shows George Nye back in Marion and living on Converse Road. George and Lizzie's oldest daughter, Marion Frances (1888-1945), was deeded the property by her parents in 1932. The 1940 census records George Nye's widow, Elizabeth, living on Converse Road with her daughter. The house left the Nye family after the death of Marion Nye in 1945.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
06-03-2008	36037-2	Richard F. & Julia T. Neal	John B. Howard & David B. Howard
11-21-1977	4366-394	Michael J. & Patricia A. Kauranen	Richard F. & Julia T. Neal
06-26-1969	3529-501	Estate of Eleanor B. Corey	Michael J. & Patricia A. Kauranen
01-24-1947	1948-293	Estate of Marion F. Nye	Louis Corey & Eleanor B. Corey
04-26-1932	1628-178	George B. & Elizabeth G. Nye	Marion F. Nye

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.

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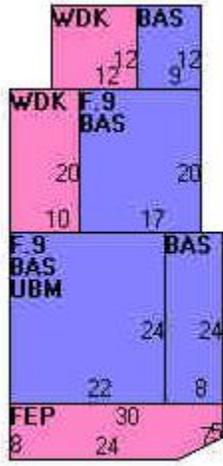
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Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.

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

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dwellings on small to moderate-sized lots in the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles. Along 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.