

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-1 Marion MRN.484

**Town/City:** Marion

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 237 Converse Road

**Historic Name:** Stanley McCormick Carriage House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Carriage house / garage

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1907

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** English Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Brick and wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

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

Northernmost one-story, wood-shingled wing (late 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> century)

**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** 1.33

**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.

## 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.*

**237 Converse Road** occupies a large, nearly-rectangular lot on the east side of Converse Road at the intersection of Converse Road and Lewis Street. The house faces west and is deeply set back from the street. It is positioned near the center of the parcel, which is maintained in lawn and scattered clusters of tall, mature trees. There are foundation plantings across the façade (west elevation) and specimen pine trees framing the entrance. The property is bordered along Converse Road and Lewis Street by a low drystone wall that breaks to admit gravel driveways that enter the property from Converse Road at the façade and from Lewis Street near the northeast corner of the parcel.

The main block of this two-story, side-gabled house is five bays wide and two bays deep with symmetrically-placed openings. Clad in brick, it is rectangular in plan with a steeply gabled roof with flared eaves and a distinctive centered wall dormer with a flared hipped roof and a balcony. The dormer surmounts three arched openings at the first story that originally contained carriage doors. Built ca.1910, the house reflects the English Revival style and retains the majority of its original character-defining features. Two dependencies project from the main block, including a two-part, one-story wing with a shallow gabled roof at the north elevation and a two-story, hip roofed wing at the east (rear) elevation. The walls of the main block are clad in bricks laid in English bond; the dependencies are clad in a combination of brick and wood shingles. Brick chimneys with elaborate tile chimney pots rise from just below the roof ridge on the east roof slope of the main block and the east roof slope of the north addition. An eave wall chimney with a matching chimney pot rises from grade at the rear wall (east elevation) of the east wing.

The three central bays at the façade have shallow, bonded brick arches. The center bay contains a wood-paneled door with an arched glass inset; ten-light, full height sidelights; and a transom, all set as a unit into a wooden panel. The window openings flanking the entry contain large, fixed, twelve-light sash with narrow sidelights. An ashlar granite water table runs under the window bays and terminates in rounded granite feet under the brick piers framing the entry. The door fronts a shallow, curved stone panel set flush with the ground and capped with small stone orbs. Paired, mullied, double-hung six-over-six windows with brick lintels occupy the outside bays at the first story. The hip-roofed wall dormer terminates at the outside bays in narrow, gabled dormers with flared eaves. The gabled dormers contain arched, double-hung, four-over-four windows with molded surrounds. The recessed balcony contains four French doors opening to an overhanging porch with exposed rafter tails. The porch has rectangular posts and a slat work railing with molded quatrefoil panels. A tall vertical plank fence extends south from the southwest corner of the main block.

The one-story, side-gabled wing at the north elevation comprises two parts. The small brick-clad portion nearest the main block has a chimney and appears to be original to the building. The adjoining portion extending to the north appears to date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> century and is three bays wide and clad in wood shingles. It contains an entry at the southernmost bay and two segmental wall dormers containing tripartite, multi-light windows. The roof is capped with a rectangular, louvered cupola with a copper roof. The west elevation of the wing fronts a rectangular brick terrace and garden enclosed by a wrought iron fence with a Tudor-arched gate.

The large, two-story wing at the rear (east) elevation of the main block is not readily visible from the front or back of the property. Three bays wide and one bay deep with a shallow hipped roof, it is clad in a combination of brick and wood shingles. Fenestration at the second story comprises ribbon windows set at the cornice at the east wall and a tripartite multi-light window with fixed sash at the north wall. A tall vertical plank fence surrounds the house at its northeast corner.

**237 Converse Street** is unusual in Marion in that it is both a brick structure and an example of the English Revival style. The original McCormick Cottage (demolished in 1953) was a brick structure whose design may have inspired the design of the carriage house. (See the image of the McCormick Cottage that follows). The English Revival style, also known as the Tudor

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style, was seen in America between 1880 and 1940. Characteristic features of the style include side-gabled forms with steeply pitched roofs, prominent cross gables, tall narrow windows with multi-light glazing, and prominent chimneys crowned by chimney pots. The subject house reflects all of these features.

## 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.

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. Affluent urban dwellers from cities like Boston and New York were now able to travel in comfort to seaside destinations like Marion. The town began to attract many notable political, literary, and art world figures seeking a genteel seaside respite. Initially visitors stayed at hotels or rented private houses, but as the end of the century neared and Marion became nationally known as a desirable vacation destination, wealthy individuals began to build their own permanent summer residences along the Sippican Harbor waterfront. These imposing houses include an outstanding collection of Shingle Style residences and fine examples of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The subject building, a former carriage house, was associated with one of these grand summer estates.

This building is located just outside the scope covered on the 1903 map. The first conveyance found for the property, dated 1881, was the sale of a 1.7-acre parcel of undeveloped land by Lizzie W.R. Allen and the brothers Stephen and Andrew Hadley to John N. Handy. Allen and the Hadley brothers were large buyers and sellers of land in Marion in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. John Nye Handy (1856-1892) was born in Marion, the son of Lucy Nye and Henry Handy. He was married to Annie G. Asley (1867-1919). Seven years after the death of John Handy in 1892, Annie Handy remarried Leroy G. Tripp of New Bedford. Annie sold the property to Stanley McCormick of Chicago in 1907. Again, there was no mention of buildings on the property in her deed.

Stanley Robert McCormick (1874-1947) was the son of Cyrus McCormick, inventor and founder of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company which would later become the International Harvester Corporation. Cyrus McCormick had owned a large property on Converse Point earlier in the century which eventually became the site of the Harry Converse estate. The younger McCormick, who graduated from Princeton and received a law degree from Northwestern University, served as comptroller of the McCormick Company. Stanley was married in 1904 to Katherine Moore Dexter (1875-1967), daughter of Chicago lawyer Wirt Dexter (1832-1890) and his wife, Josephine Moore Dexter (1846-1937) of Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1906 Stanley McCormick purchased a large harborside property at 10 Lewis Street (demolished in 1953) and completed a large brick "cottage" there in early 1907. See [10 Lewis Street](#) (1953, James G. Gibbs House, MRN.491) for more information on the McCormick Cottage. The subject building of this form is located at the intersection of Lewis Street and Converse Road just a short distance from the former McCormick Cottage. It is reasonable to assume that McCormick built the carriage house in 1907 after the completion of the waterfront residence.

Two years after their marriage, Stanley McCormick, like his sister Mary, was diagnosed with schizophrenia. In 1909 he was declared incompetent by the California Supreme Court and would live for the rest of his life at the McCormick estate, "Riven Rock," in Santa Barbara, California. In 1929 Katherine McCormick and Stanley's brother Harold were named conservators of his estate, which exceeded \$30 million. The McCormick estate, which comprised the cottage and carriage house, was occupied by Mrs. Wirt (Josephine) Dexter, Katherine McCormick's mother, until the death of her husband in 1890. Josephine Dexter moved to Boston and lived on Commonwealth Avenue until her own death in 1937; the 1910 census reported her living in Boston with her daughter Katherine and two servants.

The subject property remained in McCormick family ownership until Stanley McCormick's death in 1947. After two short-term owners, it was sold in 1949 to Clarence A., Jr. and Lois H. Smith of New Bedford, where Clarence ran a car and truck

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dealership. By 1957, when the couple sold the house, they were living in Marion. The property was purchased by Stanley J. and Florence Washburn and it remained in Washburn family ownership for 20 years.

Given the size and sophistication of the building, it seems reasonable to assume that during its use as a carriage house/garage by the McCormicks, living quarters were provided for staff in the upper floor of the structure. At some point a subsequent owner converted the three vehicular openings at the façade to a door and windows, and renovated the building for complete residential use.

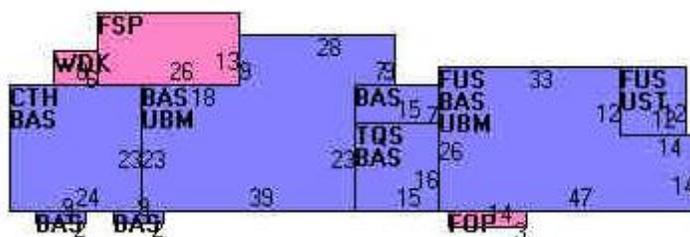
### Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
11-17-2000	19078-31	Charles F., Jr. & Louise M. Nadler	Lorinda W. Callahan
12-31-1992	11552-126	John F. & Judith L Hargreaves	Charles F, Jr. & Louise M. Nadler
08-28-1978	4531-243	Donald E. & Sally A. Barbic	John F. & Judith L. Hargreaves
01-03-1977	4236-513	Stanley J. Washburn	Donald E. & Sally A. Barbic
08-15-1973	4092-338	Fern F. Langevin	Stanley J. Washburn
		Estate of Florence J. Washburn	Stanley J. Washburn
02-14-1957	2555-5	Clarence A., Jr. & Lois H. Smith	Stanley J. & Florence Washburn
01-28-1949	2030-479	Walter J. & Francine B. Murphy	Clarence A., Jr. & Lois H. Smith
03-31-1948	1996-429	Donald & Helen C. Angier	Walter J. Murphy
06-18-1947	1966-126	Katherine Dexter McCormick	Donald Angier
		Estate of Stanley McCormick	Katherine Dexter McCormick
06-11-1907	970-56	Annie G. Tripp	Stanley McCormick
		Estate of John N. Handy	Annie G. Tripp
11-25-1881	479-297	Lizzie W.R. Allen, Andrew J. Hadley, and Stephen D. Hadley et ux.	John N. Handy

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 Kleinman, Mariam. "Rich, Famous, and Questionably Sane," National Archives *Prologue Magazine*, Summer 2007, Vol. 30, No. 2.



Assessor's card plan

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Facade (west elevation), main block.



North wing, east elevation.

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McCormick Cottage at center. Built in 1907 and razed in 1953.