

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (month / year): February 2022

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
16-10	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.485

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 247 Converse Road

Historic Name: Nathan B. Nye House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1890

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete-parged stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl clapboard / Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows (20th century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.14

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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

247 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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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.

247 Converse Road occupies a small, irregularly-shaped parcel at the northeast corner of the intersection of Converse Road and Lewis Street. The house faces west and is positioned near the southern property line close to Lewis Street. The lot is maintained in lawn with a few small shrubs along the south elevation of the house. The property is bordered along the northern boundary line by a low drystone wall. A short, paved driveway enters the property off Lewis Street at the southeast corner of the parcel.

The main block of this two-story, front-gabled house is three bays wide and three bays deep. Clad in vinyl siding, it is L-shaped in plan with a one-bay-by-two bay south wing and a small gabled addition at the east elevation of the wing. Built ca.1890, the house has been altered and reflects few if any original character-defining features. The front gabled main block exhibits the side hall entry form seen in Greek Revival and Queen Anne-style houses but all trim detail has been removed or obscured by vinyl cladding. The house rests on a concrete-parged brick foundation except for the gabled east addition, which has a concrete block foundation. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A corbeled brick chimney rises from the north roof slope.

Fenestration at the house comprises mostly one-over-one replacement windows. The main entry at the façade contains a glass-and-panel door fronting a small concrete stoop. A second entry at the south wall of the east addition contains a glass-and-panel door and fronts a three-step concrete stair and short walkway to the driveway.

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 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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

247 Converse Road

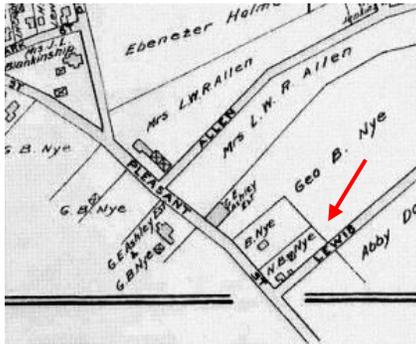
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This house first appears on the 1903 map with N.B. Nye shown as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for the property was the sale of a small parcel of land from Hannah W. (Nye) Ashley, George B. Nye, 2nd, and Hannah B. Nye to Nathan B. Nye. This was part of the large tract of land originally owned by Captain George Bonum Nye in the 18th century.



1903 map

Nathan B. Nye (1864-1951) was the son of Hannah West Bennett (1834-1914) and John Bates Blankinship Nye (1831-1871). John B.B. Nye was one of the many descendants of Captain George Bonum Nye. With Hannah, he had four children: Nathan, George B. Nye 2nd (1863-1933), Lillian West Nye McNeill (1861-1948), and Hannah B. Nye (1871-1965). After the death of John B.B. Nye his wife Hannah Ashley, now remarried, and two of her children sold this parcel of land in 1889 to her son and their brother Nathan. Nathan was married in 1890 to Emma P. Winters (1871-1943), daughter of Albert and Sephronia Winters of Mattapoisett. It is probable that Nathan B. Nye built this modest house around 1890. The 1910 census recorded Emma Nye as a laundress operating her own shop.

Nathan B. Nye was a well-known figure in Marion. A newspaper article which appeared on December 24, 1939 reported on an interview with Nathan ("Nate") Nye on the eve of his 75th birthday on Christmas Day. He described his early years working at sea, travelling

across the world doing a wide range of jobs aboard ship, "everything except cook and captain," and eventually returning to Marion after the death of his father. Censuses from 1880 through 1940 showed Nathan working primarily as a laborer and sometimes as a gardener. The article suggested that some of his work as a gardener took place at the nearby Harry Converse estate. An article in 1943 described the community garden that Nate had established on a plot of land he owned on Converse Road which kept several families supplied with vegetables. In a colorful piece published in 1943 Nathan described the letter he'd written to President Franklin Roosevelt, criticizing labor leader John L. Lewis and stating, "An' if we ever got John L. Lewis down here in Marion, we'd shanghai him aboard a fishing schooner." Nathan and Emma Nye knew Franklin Roosevelt from the two summers he spent in Marion, when Nathan assisted him and Emma cooked for him. After his death the town planted a memorial beech tree for Nye in Holmes Woods, which had been one of his favorite haunts.

The censuses during the Nye ownership of this property showed that in addition to their own large family, a number of cousins, in-laws, and grandchildren lived there as well. In 1904 Nathan and Emma Nye sold a one-quarter acre portion of their land to Emma's brother, James E. Winters (1873-1926); this represented the eastern portion of the parcel seen on the 1903 map. After the death of Nathan Nye in 1951, his son Ichabod (1906-1993) and his wife Florence C. Parker purchased the property from the other siblings. Ichabod Nye was a carpenter and gardener. Ichabod and Florence owned the property until 1996, when the house and land were sold by the estate after more than a century of Nye family ownership.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
06-20-2001	20078-64	Maureen E. Menard & Maude A. Adams	Maureen E. & Robert S. Corrieri
02-24-1997	14997-299	Maureen E. Menard & James K. Codeiro	Maureen E. Menard and Maude A. Adams
01-07-1996	14083-214	Estate of Florence C. Nye	Maureen E. Menard & James K. Codeiro
07-23-1953	2288-183	James H. & Ichabod H. Nye & Sephronia Melrose	Ichabod H. & Florence E. Nye
		Estate of Nathan B. Nye	James H. & Ichabod H. Nye & Sephronia Melrose
04-05-1904	886-138	Nathan B. & Emma P. Nye	James E. Winters (1/4 Parcel)
02-01-1889	732-171	Hannah W. Ashley, George B. Nye 2 nd , Hannah B. Nye, & Lillian McNeill et ux.	Nathan B. 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.

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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

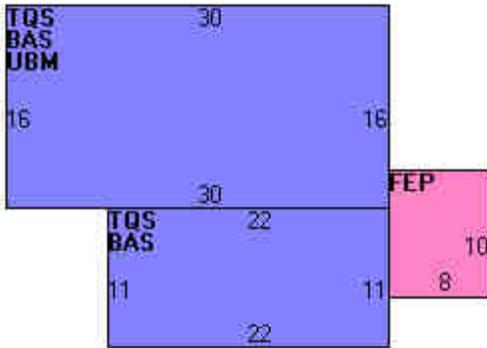
Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008

"Memories of lusty adventures come crowding as Nate Nye approaches 75," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, December 24, 1939.

"Marion Man Eager to Help President 'Handle' John L. Lewis," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, June 6, 1943.

"Marion Group Sponsors Garden," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, September 10, 1943.

"Funeral tomorrow for Nathan Nye," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, October 15, 1951.



Assessor's card plan



South 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.