

# 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

16-12

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.486

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 251 Converse Road

**Historic Name:** Barnabas Blankinship Nye House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1895

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne, altered

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl clapboards / Wood & Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

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

Replacement windows (20<sup>th</sup> century)

Vinyl siding and trim (20<sup>th</sup> century)

Shed dormers

**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** 0.47

**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.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

251 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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.*

**251 Converse Road** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the east side of Converse Road between Crapo and Lewis Streets. The house is positioned in the western half of the parcel and faces west. The yard, which is maintained in grass, is dotted with shrubs and mature trees. The west elevation (façade) of the house is partly obscured by tall shrubs and trees. The property is bordered by a dirt driveway along its northern boundary that serves neighboring properties. A row of tall trees lines the southern property boundary. A short gravel driveway/parking area with an apron of granite pavers enters the property from Converse Road near the northern property line.

The building comprises a two-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, front-gabled, wood-frame main block with a rectangular plan and two dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story, cross-gabled block at the rear (east) elevation with a telescoping addition. Constructed around 1895 in a simple iteration of the Queen Anne style, the house appears to retain few of its original character-defining features. A hip-roofed enclosed porch spans the façade of the main block, which rests on a concrete-parged rubble stone foundation. The dependencies have concrete foundations. The house is clad in vinyl clapboard siding and finished with both vinyl and wood trim. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from just below the ridge of the south roof slope at the main block.

The main block is trimmed with vinyl cornices, frieze boards, eave returns, and narrow corner boards. Rows of original wood dentils are revealed below the cornice at the façade and the side elevations. A continuous shed dormer with shallow, fixed eight-light sash occupies the south roof slope. The hip-roofed enclosed porch spanning the façade is glazed with mulled, double-hung, six-over-six windows with true divided lights above a knee wall. Windows at the west wall of the house are visible inside the porch, suggesting that the porch was originally open. The entry at the center bay contains a paneled wood door with a large, rectangular, multi-light glass inset. The door fronts two stone steps and a stone walkway that runs south across the front of the house to join a fenced courtyard off the south elevation. The openings at the side elevations of the main block include single replacement windows of various sizes and an oriel, all with vinyl surrounds. The two upper story windows at the façade contain one-over-one sash that replaced six-over-six sash seen in the photograph on the assessor's card.

The one-story, cross-gabled, two-by-two-bay east block and its telescoping addition were added in the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are set back from the north elevation of the main block and extend south to enclose a paved courtyard. The telescoping addition has a shallow gable roof with a balustrade and is glazed with continuous, double-hung, six-over-nine windows with six-light transoms. A sliding door fronts a concrete stoop and two steps to the courtyard, which is surrounded by a slat work fence and contains an arched gateway that aligns with the entry. A wooden deck extends off the rear (east elevation) of the addition.

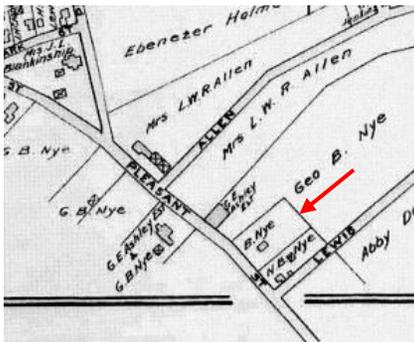
**251 Converse Road** is an altered example of Queen Anne, the dominant style for domestic architecture in the United States between 1880 and 1900. Devised by a group of English architects and based on the visual vocabulary of late Medieval models, Queen Anne encompasses a wide range of architectural features from several stylistic traditions. The style gained popularity after being seen at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876. It was disseminated by the country's leading architectural magazine and by pattern books and mail-order house plans. The only remaining identifying feature of the Queen Anne style seen in this house is its full-width porch. Some of its original surface features may have been obscured by the replacement siding and trim. The six-over-six window sash configuration and dentil trim seen at the main block are inconsistent features because they are characteristic of the earlier Greek Revival 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 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-19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and representing a range of styles including Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival.



1903 map

This house first appears on the 1903 map with B. Nye shown as owner. The first conveyance found for the property was the 1895 sale of a parcel of land for \$175 from Hannah W. (Nye) Ashley et.al. to Effie O. Nye. It is likely that Effie and her husband Barnabas B. Nye built the house shortly after their acquisition of the land.

Effie Ophelia Nye (1859-1936) was the daughter of Nelson C. and Sarah Jane Young and husband of Barnabas Blankinship Nye (1856-1933). The couple was married in 1885. Barnabas Nye was one of the many descendants of Captain George Bonum Nye and the son of Barnabas Bates Nye, Jr. (1825-1856) and Harriet Frances Potter (1827-1861). The subject parcel was conveyed to him by Hannah W. Bennett (Nye) Ashley (1834-1914), the widow of his uncle, John Bates Blankinship Nye, and her children.

Like his father before him, Barnabas Nye tried his hand at whaling, signing on in 1878 at age 22 to a whaling ship out of New Bedford, the brig *Frances Barstow*. Censuses from 1900 until 1930 reported Barnabas Nye's occupation as gardener living on Pleasant Street (later renamed Converse Road) with his wife Effie and their five children. One of the children, Sarah Lucinda Nye (1889-1977), inherited the house after the death of her mother in 1936. Sarah sold the property to Arnold Briggs in 1975; although the deed noted that Sarah was a widow, no record could be found of her marriage. Arnold sold the property just a few months later at a profit to Charles R. and Andria Savery of Marion. The Saverys owned the property until 2017 when it was purchased by the current owners.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
08-30-2017	48867-245	Andria Savery	Charles S. & Catherine R. Major
04-01-1975	4057-47	Arnold Briggs	Charles R., Jr. & Andria Savery
02-20-1975	4057-46	Sarah L. Nye	Arnold Briggs
Probate		Estate of Effie O. Nye	Sarah L. Nye
08-16-1895	708-133	Hannah W. (Nye) Ashley, George B. Nye, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Hannah B. Nye, & Lillian McNeill et ux.	Effie O. Nye

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251 Converse Road

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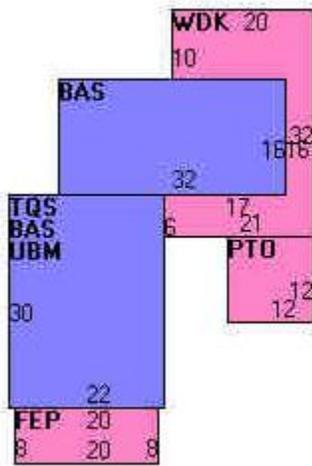
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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



Assessor's card plan



West and south 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 19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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.