

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-30

Marion

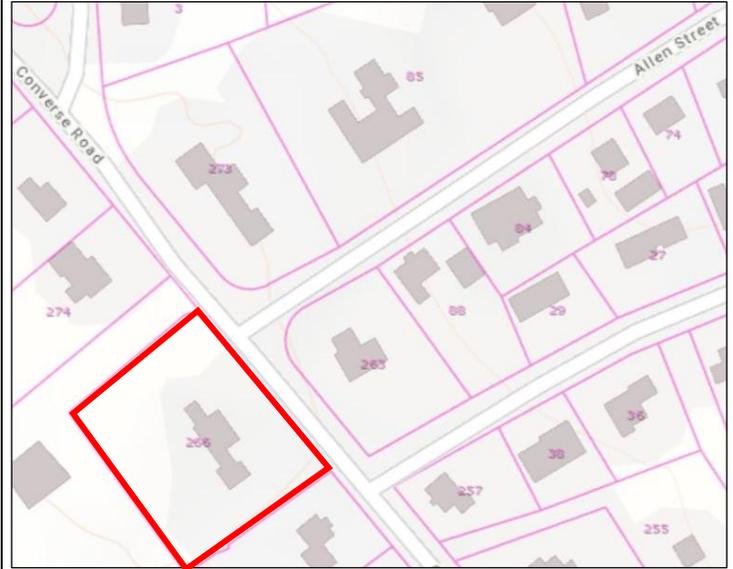
MRN.F

MRN.85

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (month / year): February 2022

Town/City: Marion

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 266 Converse Road

Historic Name: George Bonum Nye House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1780

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: Late Georgian

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Wood shingle siding (likely replaced original clapboard)

Garage addition (mid-20th century)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.86

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.

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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.

266 Converse Road occupies a nearly-rectangular parcel on the west side of Converse Road just south of its intersection with Allen Street. The house is roughly centered in the parcel and faces east. The property is largely cleared and maintained in lawn with scattered mature trees at the periphery. There are minimal, low foundation plantings along the façade. The parcel is completely enclosed within a stone wall. The wall is rustic drystone at the north, west and south property lines and mortared fieldstone along Converse Road, where it is interspersed with granite posts. The mortared wall breaks opposite the main entry with three stone steps and again at the southeast corner of the parcel, where it admits a paved driveway that enters the property from Converse Road.

Along with 319 Converse Road (mid-18th c., Zoath Dexter House, MRN.95), 317 Converse Road (ca.1780, John B. Blankinship II House, MRN.92) and 273 Converse Road (ca.1820, John B. Blankinship House, MRN.86), this house appears to be one of the earliest structures in this section of Marion. The building is a two-story, five-bay-by-three-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house with a rectangular plan. Three dependencies extend to the north and south from the main block in typical New England connected farmhouse fashion. Constructed ca.1780 in the Late Georgian style, the house retains nearly all of its original character-defining features. The house is trimmed with narrow corner boards and frieze boards. The symmetrically-placed openings at the main block comprise double-hung, twelve-over-twelve windows with flat surrounds and splayed lintels. The windows at the second story touch the cornice. The centered entry has a simple, flat surround with a deep architrave framing a six-panel door with glass insets in the upper panels. The door fronts a small stone stoop. The house rests on a granite block foundation and is clad in weathered wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A substantial brick chimney is centered at the roof ridge.

A one-story ell is set back one bay from the façade (east elevation) at the north wall of the main block. Three bays wide, the ell has an entry at the northernmost bay framed by a narrow surround and shallow architrave. It contains what appears to be a late 19th-century wood paneled door with arched glass insets. The windows are double-hung, two-over-two sash with flat surrounds. A narrow chimney rising from the roof ridge aligns with the door.

A one-story ell at the south wall of the main block is set back one bay from the façade and aligns with the rear elevation. It is three bays wide with double-hung twelve-over-twelve windows touching the cornice and a door at the northernmost bay where the ell joins the main block. The glass-and-panel door has a narrow, flat surround and fronts a granite stoop and two granite slab steps. A narrow brick chimney rises from the roof ridge near the south end of the ell.

A one-story, side-gabled, one-car garage is attached to the south ell and faces east. A wooden deck extends west from its rear elevation. The fenestration at the west (rear) elevation of the house comprises a combination of double-hung, twelve-over-twelve, eight-over-eight, six-over-six, and two-over-two windows, along with a large fixed, multi-light window and a sliding glass door at the second story,

266 Converse Road is a fine example of the Late Georgian style. The dominant style for domestic construction in the United States from 1700 to 1780, Georgian architecture derived its name from the succession of English kings named George, beginning with George I in 1714. In the United States the style included variations on a simple theme: a symmetrical, two-story, side-gabled house with a center entry and windows aligned horizontally and vertically and touching the cornice at the second story. Front doors typically had a decorative surround with an entablature and window sash had small lights (nine or twelve) and thick muntins. Early houses had center chimneys and later ones, paired chimneys. The characteristic Georgian features of this house include its side-gabled, five-bay form; symmetrical fenestration; twelve-over-twelve windows that touch the cornice at the second story; splayed window lintels; large center chimney; and main entry surround.

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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 this house and the 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 appears on the 1855 and 1879 maps with the owner shown as G.B. Nye. On the 1903 map the property owners are identified as Geo. E. Ashley Est. and G.B. Nye. The house remained in Nye family ownership for over 150 years before it was sold in 1965.

Captain George Bonum Nye (1750-1831), seaman and salt maker, was the original owner of this house. The property appears to have passed from George Bonum Nye to his grandson Barnabas Bates Nye (1799-1863). Barnabas and his wife Lucy had seven children, including George B. Nye II (1821-1908); this is probably the G.B. Nye that appears as owner on the 1855 map. George's brother, Joseph Wing Nye (1838-1863), left the property to his son William Henry Nye (1858-1876). In 1877 the property was transferred from the estate of William H. Nye to John Ashley, the husband of Hannah B. Nye (1871-1965). Hannah was the daughter of Hannah West Bennett Nye (1834-1914) and John Bates Blankinship Nye (1831-1871), son of Barnabas and Lucy Nye and brother of George B. Nye II and Joseph Wing Nye. According to the 1865 and 1870 censuses, John B. B. Nye was a farmer and market gardener.

John B. B. Nye died the year Hannah was born and her mother was remarried in 1874 to George E. Ashley (1836-1898). Hannah, her sister Lillian (1861-1948), and her two brothers, George B. Nye (1863-1933) and Nathan B. Nye (1864-1951), lived with their mother and stepfather. In 1877 Ashley, who was a farmer according to the 1880 census, bought the subject property in an auction of the estate of William Henry Nye. After the death of George Ashley the property was left to his widow, Hannah W. (Nye) Ashley, who in her will left it to her daughter Hannah B. Nye. Hannah B. Nye was recorded as a storekeeper and retail merchant in the 1920 and 1930 censuses. She sold the property in 1933 to Georgina Crapo.

Georgina (var. Georgianna) Heppingston Nye Crapo (1881-1973) was herself a member of the large Nye family. She was the daughter of Hiram Nye (1843-1920) and Lucy Maria Nye (1856-1932) of Marion. In 1906 she married William Hallam Crapo (1877-1959) of Middleborough. An uncited newspaper clipping from 1936 described how she astonished the guests at her wedding reception when at the moment the bride and groom were to leave for their honeymoon, she failed to appear but then popped out of a large truck into their waiting car. William Crapo was a letter carrier with the U.S. Post Office as reported in censuses from 1910 through 1940. The same censuses report the couple's residence as Middleborough, so it is not clear if they occupied this house during their ownership. In 1965 the house was purchased along with 15 acres of land by William H. and

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Dorothy Hastings of Stow. The Stows owned the property until 1979, when it was sold to Robert G. and Louise E. King of Alliance, Ohio.

Dr. Robert King (1912-2001), who grew up in Alliance, was a 1937 graduate of Harvard Medical School. After his post-graduate medical training in New York City, he returned to his hometown to join his father's medical practice and eventually became chief of surgery at Alliance City Hospital. Robert King was married to Louise Perkins, daughter of Maxwell Perkins, the editor-in-chief of Scribner's Publishing company. King retired and the couple moved to Marion in 1976 and bought the subject property three years later. The property remained in the King family until its purchase by the current owners in 2013.

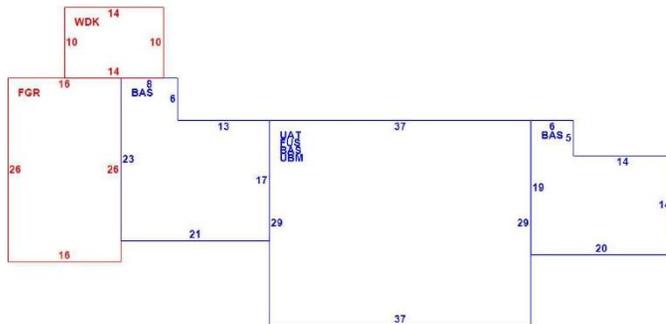
Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
09-25-2020	53534-244	Elizabeth C. Worcester	Elizabeth C. Worcester Revocable Trust
09-25-2020	53534-240	Seth A. Worcester	Elizabeth C. Worcester
07-25-2013	43493-173	Louise E. King Revocable Trust	Seth A. Worcester
01-26-2004	27460-170	Louise E. King	Louise E. King Revocable Trust
Probate		Estate of Robert G. King	Louise E. King
10-15-1979	4750-170	William H. & Dorothy S. Hastings	Robert G. & Louise E. King
05-10-1965	3202-484	Georgina H. Crapo	William H. & Dorothy S. Hastings
10-28-1933	1711-404	Hannah B. Nye	Georgia H. Crapo
		Estate of Hannah W. Ashley	Hannah B. Nye
11-26-1877	467-143	Estate of William H. Nye	George E. Ashley

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Assessor's card plan

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East elevation.



West (rear) elevation.

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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.