

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-38	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.88
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 297 Converse Road

Historic Name: John B. Blankinship House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1910

Source: Map & deed research, visual analysis

Style/Form: Colonial Revival, altered

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding & wood shingle / Vinyl & wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage apartment (1994)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

North addition (after 1941)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.33

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*): February 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

297 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

297 Converse Road occupies a trapezoidal parcel at the southeast corner of the intersection of Converse Road and Clark Street. The house faces west and is set back from the street on a gentle rise in the western half of the parcel. The property is maintained primarily in lawn around the house and otherwise densely populated with clusters of mature trees. Foundation plantings surround the house. A wooden post-and-rail fence borders the property along Clark Street and extends south for a short distance along Converse Road. An unpaved driveway enters the property from Converse Road along the southern lot line and turns north along the eastern lot line to join Clark Street. A grass driveway bordered with granite pavers approaches the north addition of the house off Converse Road.

The building comprises a two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block and a large, side-gabled north addition. The main block has a steep gabled roof and a prominent gambrel-roofed cross gable. Built ca. 1910 in the Colonial Revival style, the main block retains many of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a concrete block foundation and is clad in a combination of vinyl clapboards, weathered wood shingles, and weathered wood clapboards. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A tall brick gable-wall chimney rises along the south wall of the main block; a tall gable-wall chimney with an ashlar-stone veneer rises from the north wall of the north addition.

The main block is clad in weathered wood shingles except for the cross gable and first story at the facade, which are vinyl-sided, and the first story at the rear elevation, which is sided with wood clapboards. Openings at the façade of the main block include a modern picture window and entry at the first story and asymmetrically-placed windows at the second story. The majority of windows at both the main block and addition are double-hung, one-over-one replacement sash with vinyl casings and blinds. A hip-roofed porch with rectangular posts spans the façade of the main block and shelters the main entry at the southernmost bay, which comprises a glass-and-panel door with a diamond-shaped glass inset and full-height sidelights with diamond-shaped lights. The door fronts a four-step wooden stair across the porch deck, which is enclosed by a slat work railing. An entry at the south wall of the north addition opens to the porch. There is a large, gambrel-roofed cross gable at the west (rear) elevation of the main block with a decorative row of flared wood shingles near the gable peak.

The two-story, two-by-two-bay, side-gabled north addition has a shallow gabled roof. It projects one bay beyond the façade of the main block and aligns with its rear wall. The addition is entirely clad in vinyl. Fenestration consists mostly of double-hung, one-over-one windows with vinyl casings and blinds. A six-light curved oriel with a hipped roof is centered at the first story at the facade. An entry at the basement level opens to the grass driveway that enters the property from Converse Road.

A secondary residence constructed in 1994 is sited at the western property line. Side-gabled with a gambrel roof and two gabled dormers at each roof slope, it is clad in a combination of weathered wood clapboards and wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. There is a garage entry at the east elevation and a wooden staircase to a second story entry at the south elevation.

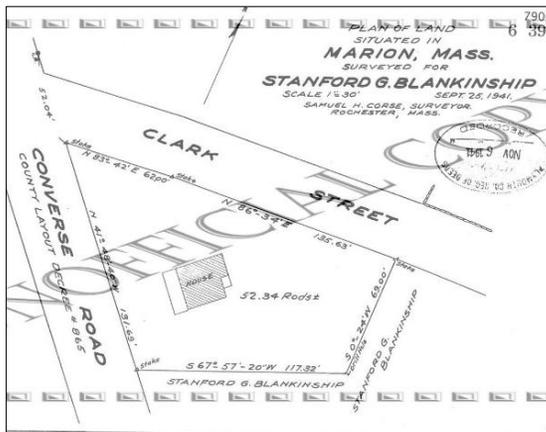
The main block of the house at **297 Converse Road** reflects the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival period in America (1880–1955) saw a resurgence of patriotism and a return to the architectural styles of the early years of the republic. Combining the classical architectural elements of the 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-roofed cross gables, the full-width porch, and the main entry with sidelights. The house bears a striking resemblance to a house pictured in *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia McAlester, which was built to a pattern book design that was popular between 1905 and 1915. The decorative wood shingle pattern seen at the rear elevation suggests the influence of the Shingle Style; it is possible that similar details may have been obscured by the vinyl siding.

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.



1941 Land Plan, Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 6 /Page 398.

This property is set in the northwest corner of a triangle of land created by the intersections of Converse Road, Clark Street and Pleasant Street. The property appears on the 1879 map with A. Conro shown as owner. It is shown on the 1903 map with Mrs. J. L. Blankinship as owner. The 1903 map shows two outbuildings and only one house on this triangular plot of land, the structure in the northeast corner of the parcel corresponding to 10 Pleasant Street (ca.1850, Robert Bennett House, MRN.98). This parcel was purchased in 1895 by Jennie L. Blankinship from Andrew J. Hadley through an intermediary conveyance from Bertrand Conro. Those deeds specified that buildings were included.

It seems likely that Jennie Blankinship and her husband John built the subject house sometime around 1910. Jennie Louise (nee Savory) Blankinship (b.1872) was the wife of John Bates Blankinship (b.1860), a great-great grandson of Captain George Bonum Nye and part of the large Blankinship family. Censuses from 1900 to 1930 report his occupation as teamster or chauffeur at a private estate. In January 1941 Jennie and John Blankinship conveyed this property, which at that point was divided into two parcels, to their son, Stanford Gilmore Blankinship (1893-1982). In October of that same year, Stanford Blankinship sold the subject house to Elizabeth S. Terpeny (var. Terpeny). The house is seen on the 1941 plan commissioned by Stanford Blankinship and shown above; the approximately 1¼ acre parcel was subdivided, creating the 0.33-acre lot which is the site of the subject building.

Elizabeth Baily Smith Terpeny (1910-1951), who purchased the property in 1941, was married to Harold Raymond Terpeny (1907-1956) of New Bedford. The 1930 and 1940 censuses report his occupation as house painter. An uncited newspaper article from 1942 concerning the repair of the town clock by Terpeny noted that he was a “local artist, repairer, and contractor.” The house was sold by Elizabeth Terpeny in 1943 and had several short-term owners until 1967, when it was purchased by the current owners.

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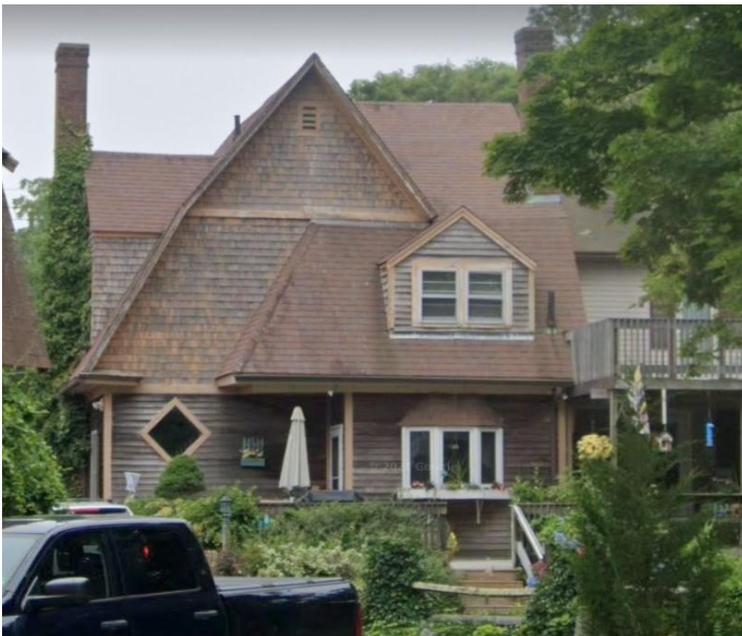
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Deed Research

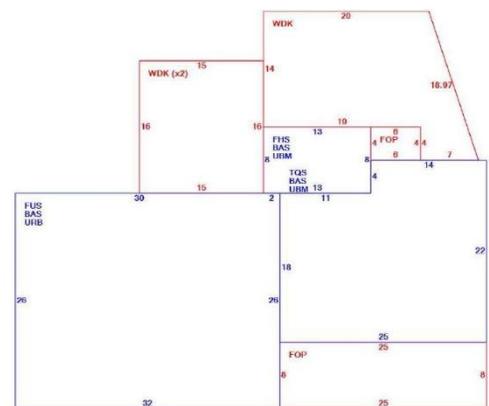
Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
05-03-2004	28158-0149	Peter E. & Lorraine R. Snowden	P & L Realty Trust
03-12-1986	6638-30	Peter E. & Lorraine R. Snowden	Peter E. & Lorraine R. Snowden
11-09-1967	3407-136	Robert & Katharina Burrell	Peter E. & Lorraine R. Snowden
07-30-1962	2952-485	John & Hilda E. Graham	Robert & Katharina Burrell
10-25-1955	2458-394	Marion Whipple	John & Hilda E. Graham
08-10-1951	2166-377	Hartley Fell	Marion Whipple
0830-1951	2152-254	Robert M. Hastings	Hartley Fell
04-14-1946	1918-133	Virginia R. Hull	Robert M. Hastings
03-16-1943	1905-314	Elizabeth S. Terpeny	Virginia R. Hull
10-20-1941	1819-158	Stanford G. Blankinship, Sr.	Elizabeth S. Terpeny
01-18-1941	1801-479	Jennie L. & John B. Blankinship	Stanford G. Blankinship, Sr.
04-17-1895	736-57	Bertrand & Martha Conro	Jennie L. Blankinship
04-17-1895	1173-341	Andrew Hadley	Bertrand Conro

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- 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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- Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
- Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
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- Sippican Historical Society: online database



East (rear) elevation of main block. Photograph at google.com/maps taken July 2021.



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 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.