

# Ca.1800FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-80	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.90
-------	--------	-------	--------

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 303 Converse Road

**Historic Name:** Susan R. Washburn House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1925

**Source:** Deed research, visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Craftsman / Bungalow

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood & vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

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

Replacement windows (21<sup>st</sup> century)

Replacement cladding and trim (21<sup>st</sup> century)

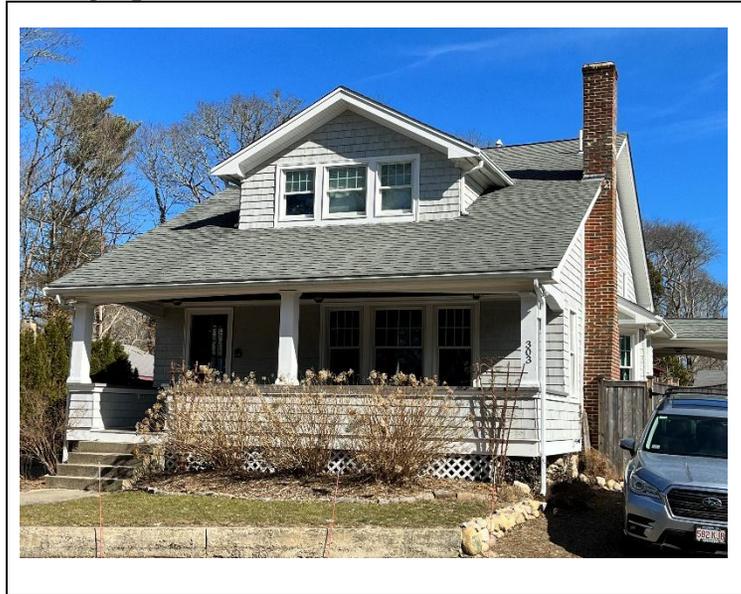
**Condition:** Excellent

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

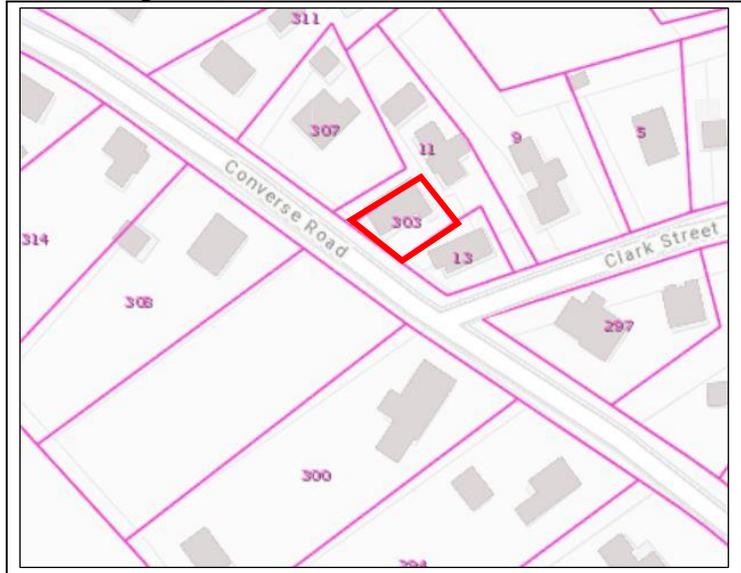
**Acreage:** 0.08

**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.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): February 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

303 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.90
-------	--------

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.*

**303 Converse Road** occupies a small trapezoidal parcel on the east side of Converse Road. The house is positioned close to the street at the northern property boundary and faces west. The parcel is maintained in grass. The front yard is retained by low concrete curbing and low foundation plantings line the porch at the façade (west elevation). A picket fence borders the parcel along Allen Street. A short gravel driveway enters the property from Converse Road along the south elevation of the house. It terminates at the façade, where a vertical plank fence runs south from the corner of the house and then east along the property line. A dirt driveway runs along the northern lot line linking Converse Road with the property to the rear at 11 Clark Street.

The building is a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, two-bay-by-five-bay wood-frame house with a rectangular plan. It has a shallow gable roof with deep eaves and an integrated porch at the facade. Constructed ca. 1925 in the Craftsman style, it retains some of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a concrete block foundation. It is sided with painted wood shingles which replaced the original parged stucco cladding. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A corbelled brick gable-wall chimney rises from grade at the south elevation and pierces the west roof slope just below the ridge.

Openings at the façade comprise a tripartite window with eight-over-one double-hung sash with false muntins and a glass-and-panel door at the northern bay. The porch has a shingled knee wall and tapered rectangular posts that support a gently arched spandrel that spans the façade; there are similar spandrels at the side bays of the porch. The wide gabled dormer contains a tripartite window that mirrors the configuration of the one at the first story below. The simple, molded window surrounds and the majority of other trim elements at the house are vinyl. The triangular cornice brackets seen in the photograph of the house in the 1998 MHC Area Form F are no longer extant. The main entry fronts a four-step stair and a concrete walkway leading to Converse Road.

Fenestration at the side elevations of the house comprises symmetrically-placed windows of various sizes. They include single and paired eight-over-one and fixed four-light sash with false muntins. A semihexagonal bay window centered at the south elevation is sheltered by a deep shed-roofed hood. A gabled open portico projects south at the southeast corner of the house in alignment with the east (rear) wall. It has narrow rectangular posts with arched spandrels and shelters a second entry to the house.

**303 Converse Road** is a bungalow, a small, one or one-and-a-half story subtype of the Craftsman style. The word derives from the small "Bengal" houses built in 19<sup>th</sup>-century India by the British. Low to the ground with low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves and large porches, bungalows were first seen in America at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Often constructed using mail order kits, they became one of the most popular and fashionable small house designs in the country and were commonly seen between 1900 and 1930. Bungalows typically feature exposed roof rafters, wide porch piers, one-over-one windows, and the artistic use of indigenous materials such as river rocks. The characteristic bungalow features of this house include the one-and-one-half-story form, shallow gable roof, front porch, and the porch columns and spandrels.

## 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

*Continuation sheet 1*

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

303 Converse Road

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.90
-------	--------

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).

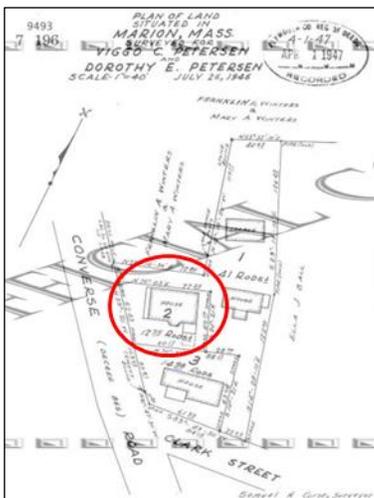
This part of Marion was sparsely settled with a few scattered farms until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the advent of regular rail service helped shift the town's economy from traditional maritime businesses to tourism. Wealthy individuals were attracted to Marion and began to build large summer 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.

This house does not appear on the 1903 map. It is sited on a portion of the original large parcel that comprised the early-19<sup>th</sup> century homestead of William and Phebe Baker, later owned by their daughter Sally and referred to in early deeds as the "Sally Baker House." Ownership from 1862 to 1915 for the original parcel, which until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century contained only the adjacent house at 13 Clark Street (ca.1800, Baker-Bowditch House, MRN.84), passed through the Baker, Holmes, Blankinship and Bowditch families and is traced in detail in the MHC Building Form B for that property.

In 1915 the widow of Benjamin Bowditch sold the property to John Taber and his wife Elizabeth. John W. Taber (var. Tabor), born in Mattapoisett in 1885, was the son of John H. and Betsey (nee Hiller) Taber. In 1906 he married Elizabeth Harjula, a Finnish emigree. His draft registration card of 1917 noted his employment as chauffeur to Sidney Hosmer of Front Street in Marion. The 1920 census reported John W. Taber living on Clark Street and working as a gardener at a private estate. In 1925 the Tabers' mortgage was foreclosed and the property was sold at a sheriff's sale to Susie Washburn. Susie Washburn also purchased another parcel of land from next-door neighbor Charles Ball in September of that year.

Susie R. Oglesby Washburn (1873-1949) was the wife of Edward Payson Washburn (1868-1938). According to the 1920 and 1930 censuses, Washburn operated a cranberry farm. Susie Oglesby was the sister of Thomas Allen Oglesby (1869-1931), a carpenter and boat builder who operated with his partner George Crapo under the name of Oglesby & Crapo. Although the

Marion assessor's card states that the house was built in 1918, the 1925 deed references land only, while the 1927 mortgage refers to land and buildings. It therefore seems likely that Susie Oglesby had the house built around 1925. The mortgage taken out by Susie Washburn in 1927 was foreclosed in 1935. In 1936, the bank sold the property, now consisting of two parcels, to Viggo C. Petersen.



Peterson's father Viggo V. Peterson, a Danish emigree, had worked as a chef at the Moorings, the estate of Harry E. Converse. In 1921 he opened an ice cream parlor on Cottage Street. After the death of his father in 1941, Viggo C. Peterson continued to operate the business, which was a Marion institution until the 1970s. In 1946 Viggo C. Peterson had the land plan at left drawn up, documenting the subdivision of the property from two into three parcels. The subject house, located in parcel number 2, was sold in 1947 to John and Jeannie R. Baskin. John Baskin's World War I draft registration card and the 1930 census noted that he was a gardener working for Mrs. W.S. Whiting on Point Road in East Marion. Baskin was born in Ireland; his wife, Jeannie Reid Baskin, was born in Scotland in 1880. The couple owned this house until 1965, after which time the house was purchased by the first of a series of relatively short-term owners. The house was acquired by the current owners in 2008.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MARION

303 Converse Road

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F | MRN.90

**Deed Research**

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
03-01-2016	46656-50	Davis S. Sanford	Davis S. Sanford & Margaret E. McSweeney
11-07-2008	36516-139	Deutsche Bank Nation Trust Company	Davis S. Sanford
09-17-1999	17875-166	Laura G. Anderson	Thomas H. & Rosemarie P. Lynch
03-16-1987	7551-129	Mark G. & Marion W. Boli	Laura G. Anderson
09-24-1984	5800-84	Anna Wallace Rockwell	Mark G. & Marion W. Boli
07-28-1978	4499-279	Pamela Taylor (McDonald) Norweb	Ann Wallace Taylor
10-09-1977	4354-169	Peter Converse McDonald	Pamela T. McDonald
04-15-1975	4059-739	Ethel L. Bristol	Peter Converse & Pamela T. McDonald
07-18-1967	3381-147	John A. Glennie	Ethel L. Bristol
03-18-1965	3189-366	Jeannie R. Baskin	John A. & Olive Glennie
10-30-1947	2000-103	Viggo C. & Dorothy E. Peterson	John & Jennie R. Baskin
06-01-1943	1846-156	Bartlett E. Cushing	Viggo C. & Dorothy E. Peterson
06-01-1943		Viggo C. Anderson	Bartlett E. Cushing
07-31-1936	1713-162	Palmer Savings Bank	Viggo C. Peterson
12-11-1935	1700-233	National Bank of Wareham	Palmer Savings Bank
06-02-1927	1531-405	Susie Washburn	National Bank of Wareham (Mortgage)
09-29-1925	1494-233	Charles Ball	Susie Washburn (Parcel #2)
06-27-1925	1489-4	Luke F. Kelley	Susie Washburn (Parcel #1)
04-25-1925	1481-520	John Taber	Luke Kelley (Foreclosure Deed)
09-13-1915	1227-198	Ruth F. Blankinship (Church) Bowditch	John Taber
05-20-1889	607-406	Catherine C. Blankinship et al.	Ruth F. (Blankinship) Church
Probate		Estate of Seth Blankinship	Catherine C. Blankinship et al.
10-07-1865	331-109	Barnabus Holmes	Seth Blankinship
Probate		Estate of Jane Holmes	Barnabus Holmes
01-10-1862	310-228	Sally (Sarah) Baker	Jane Holmes

**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.  
 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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

303 Converse Road

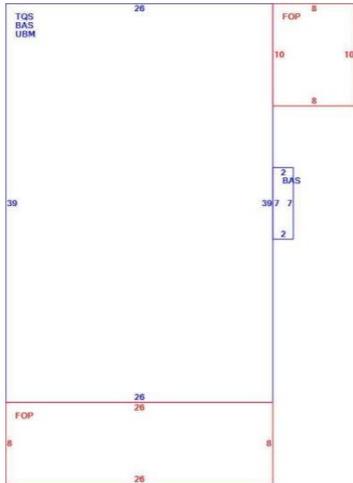
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F

MRN.90



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 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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

303 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MRN.F	MRN.90
-------	--------

---

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.