

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-24

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.93

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 314 Converse Road

Historic Name: Lewis E. Peckham Rental House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1900

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (1981)

Outbuilding (1990)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement windows and doors (20th century)

Replacement siding (20th century)

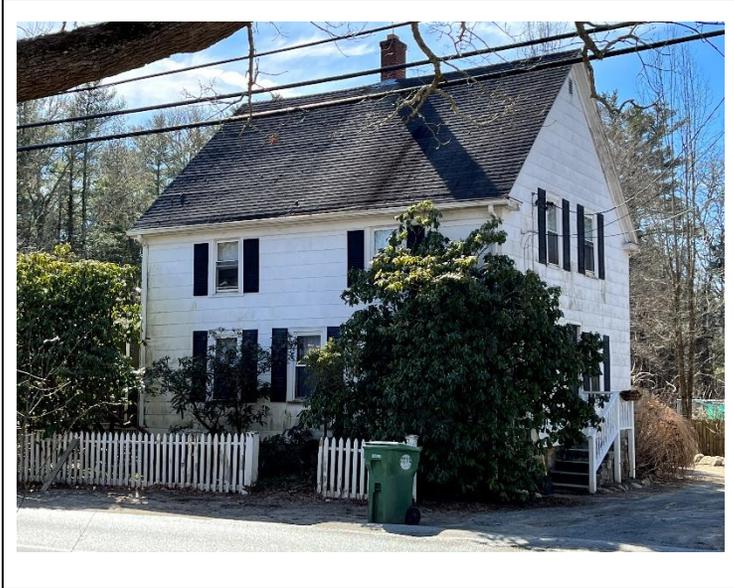
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

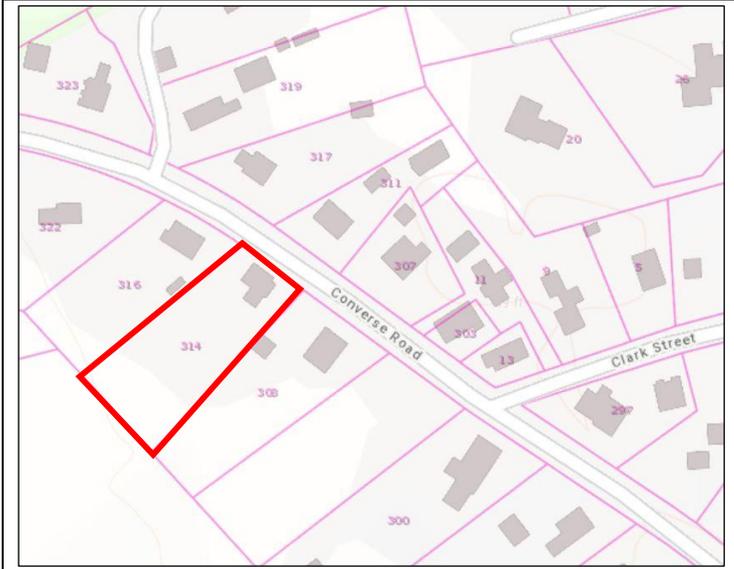
Acreage: 0.60

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

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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.

314 Converse Road occupies a long, narrow trapezoidal parcel on the west side of Converse Road. The house is positioned close to the street at the eastern property boundary and faces east. The property is heavily vegetated with tall shrubs and trees, which partially obscure the façade (east elevation). A picket fence borders the parcel along Converse Road. A gravel driveway enters the property from Converse Road along the north elevation of the house and terminates at a garage sited off the northwest corner of the house. A short gravel parking area off Converse Road occupies the southeast corner of the parcel.

The building is a two-story, side-gabled, three-bay-by-two-bay wood-frame house with a rectangular plan. A single rectangular dependency set off the southwest corner of the house is seen on the assessor's card plan but was hidden by vegetation at the time of the site visit. The house was constructed ca.1900 in no discernable style. The house rests on a fieldstone foundation. It is sided with oversized painted wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. A brick chimney is centered on the west roof slope just below the ridge.

The house is trimmed with narrow frieze boards and short eave returns. All of the windows at the house are one-over-one replacement sash with vinyl surrounds and blinds. The window openings are small relative to the wall surface area. The main entry at the northernmost bay at the façade comprises a wood paneled door that fronts a concrete stoop, two brick steps, and a short walkway to the street. A glass-and-panel door centered at the north elevation faces a concrete stoop and stair that runs parallel to the wall; it has a slat work railing.

A small, gabled, wood-shingled one-car garage built in 1981 is sited about 15 yards off the northwest corner of the house. A one-story outbuilding sited just west of the house was not visible on the day of the site visit; according to the town assessor's card it was built in 1990.

314 Converse Road is a simple side-gabled house that has had significant envelope alterations and reflects no discernable architectural 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-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

Continuation sheet 1

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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 property appears on the 1903 map with L.E. Peckham shown as owner. The first conveyance found for the house recorded its sale from Joseph A. Peckham to Captain William Briggs in 1913. The land on which this house sits was purchased in two transactions by Minnie T. Peckham — one parcel from Lizzie W.R. Allen in 1893 and a second parcel from the estate of Agnes Smith in 1896. Minnie T. Reynolds Peckham (1868-1928) and her husband Lewis E. Peckham (1859-1951) mortgaged the two parcels to Richard W. Clark in 1893 and 1898. It is probable that the house was built ca. 1900 by Minnie and Lewis Peckham and intended to be a rental property; census records from 1870 through 1930 consistently report Lewis Peckham living in Middletown, Rhode Island with his occupation listed as stone mason. In 1901 the mortgage was foreclosed and the property sold at public auction. It was purchased by Lewis Peckham's brother, Joseph A. Peckham of Middletown, Rhode Island. Two years later, Peckham sold the property to William Briggs of Philadelphia.

Captain William Edson Briggs of Philadelphia (1869-1949) purchased this house as a summer residence in his hometown. He was born in Marion in 1869, the son of John H. and Mary Ethelyn (Merrithew) Briggs. The property was directly across Converse Road from his uncle George A. Merrithew and just a short distance from his parents' house on Mill Street. William Briggs was married to Rose Bauman (1870-1939). Like his father, Briggs was a master mariner as noted in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses. In 1913 the house was purchased by Julia Dexter.



Julia Dunbar Baker Dexter (1888-1916) was the wife of Charles W. Dexter (1888-1978), who according to census reports had various occupations including teamster and chauffeur. His World War I draft registration noted his employer as the A.E. Winters Company, an ice mill. Julia Dexter died the year her daughter, Dorothy D. Dexter (1916-2008), was born. Charles Dexter married again to Mary Green (1882-1964). Dorothy Dexter sold her interest in this property to her father in 1938. Charles Dexter divided the property into two parcels, each with a dwelling. The subject property is outlined in red on the 1940 land plan at left. In 1947 the property was purchased by William F. and Reges M. Henry of Providence, Rhode Island. It remains in Henry family ownership.

1940 Plan for Charles W. & Mary Dexter Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 6 Page 220

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
08-30-2001	20467-0338	Jonathan F. Henry	Jonathan P. & Amy F. Henry
06-12-2000	18670-73	James W. Henry	Jonathan F. Henry
02-06-1947	1947-95	Alvin E. & Catherine T. Potter	William F. & Reges M. Henry
08-28-1940	1797-214	Charles W. & Mary G. Dexter	Alvin E. & Catherine T. Potter
03-25-1938	1743-291	Dorothy Dexter Smith	Charles W. Dexter
		Estate of Julia D. Dexter	Dorothy Dexter Smith
10-14-1913	1178-250	William E. Briggs	Julia D. Dexter
10-08-1903	879-121	Joseph A. Peckham (2 Parcels)	William E. Briggs
05-16-1896	738-467	Estate of Agnes Smith	Minnie F. Peckham
04-28-1893	648-393	Lizzie W.R. & John M. Allen	Minnie F. Peckham

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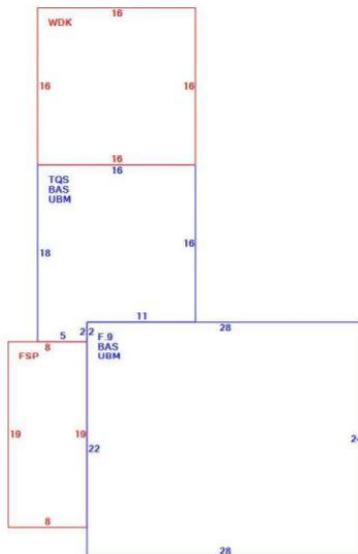
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Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, 1855, H.F. Walling
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Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008



Assessor's card plan

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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.