

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-23	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.94
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 316 Converse Road

Historic Name: Frederick D. Ryder 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: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Dormers (20th century)

Replacement windows (20th century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

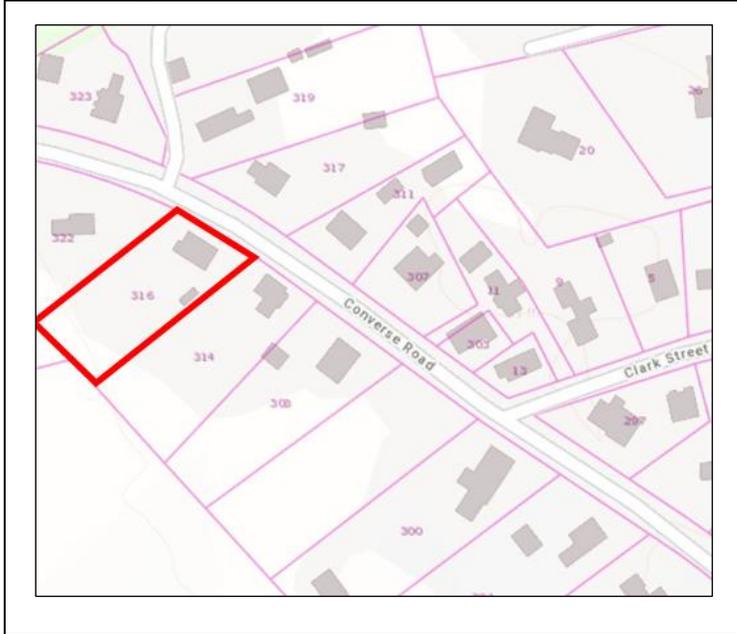
Acreage: 0.51

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

316 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.94
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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.

316 Converse Road occupies a trapezoidal parcel on the west side of Converse Road. The house is positioned close to the road at the eastern property boundary and faces geographic northeast, called east for the purposes of this description. The property is maintained in grass around the house and is otherwise heavily vegetated with shrubs and mature trees. The lawn is bordered with granite pavers along the street. A very large boulder occupies the northeast corner of the parcel. A vertical slat fence runs along the southern property line, adjacent to a paved driveway that enters the property from Converse Road. A gravel parking area extends off the driveway at the southeast corner of the house.

The building comprises a two-story, four-bay-by-four-bay, front-gabled, wood-frame house with an L-shaped plan as seen in the footprint on the 1903 map. The north block is front-gabled with a steep roof and the south block is side-gabled. There are two rear dependencies, including a one-story saltbox extension to the side-gabled block and a one-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear wall of the front-gabled block. Constructed around 1895 in a simple iteration of the Queen Anne style, the house appears to retain most of its original character-defining features. The original house rests on a concrete-parged stone foundation and the dependencies on concrete block foundations. It is clad in weathered wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. Brick chimneys rise from the side-gabled block at the east roof slope and the west slope at the saltbox extension.

The house is trimmed with a boxed cornice, frieze boards, short eave returns, and narrow corner boards. Continuous shed dormers occupy the east and west roof slopes at the side-gabled block. The windows at all elevations are single, double-hung, six-over-six sash with false muntins. The second story windows have both flat and molded wood surrounds; those at the first story at the side-gabled block have vinyl casings. The entry at the second-most northerly bay at the gable-front block comprises a six-panel wood door with a wide molded surround. It fronts a three-step stone stair and concrete walkway leading to Converse Road. The door is flanked by a semi-hexagonal oriel window with double-hung, six-over-six windows. The door centered at the south elevation of the side-gabled block serves as the main entry to the house. It comprises a glass-and-panel door with a narrow, molded surround and canted entablature; it fronts a three-step brick and concrete stair that joins the paved driveway.

316 Converse Road is a simple 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 identifying features of the Queen Anne style seen in this house include the steeply-gabled north block and the oriel window. The dormers and replacement six-over-six window sash are not consistent with the Queen Anne 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 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 pioneered the salt

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

316 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F | MRN.94

making industry in Marion and who owned a house and surrounding land at 266 Converse Road (ca.1800, George B. Nye House, MRN.82).

Prior to 1852, when the town of Marion broke off from the town of Rochester, this area was sparsely settled and most of its inhabitants were engaged in farming. As the town grew and several of the farms were subdivided, the area became a more 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 buildings are one-and-one-half to two-and-one-half 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 first appears on the 1903 map with the estate of F.D. Ryder shown as owner. The earliest conveyances found for the property were two deeds from Lizzie W.R. Allen to Frederick D. Ryder in 1894 and 1895. This house is one of several in this area built on land which was originally part of the Blankinship farm, sold by Nathan H. Allen in 1878 to his brother and sister-in-law, John M. Allen (1842-1912) and Lizzie Wood Ricketson Allen (1851-1934). Nathan Allen's deed describes the property as bounded by Blankinship's house to the west, the land of Ebenezer Holmes to the north, Sippican Harbor to the east, and the land of Barbabas Nye to the south. This is roughly equivalent today to the contiguous parcels on both sides of Allen Street between Converse Road and Water Streets. Lizzie Allen was the daughter of Charles and Polly H. Ricketson of Dartmouth. She was first married in 1871 to John Chaddock Allen (1846-1876) of New Bedford. Two years after his untimely death in 1876 she married John M. Allen, no relation to John C. Allen. Census records variously note John M. Allen's occupation as surveyor, architect, and buyer and seller of real estate. Lizzie and John M. Allen subsequently subdivided the property and sold building lots such as the one purchased by Frederick Ryder for this subject house. It is notable that this conveyance, as with many of the properties sold by Lizzie W.R. Allen, included a deed covenant that "there shall be no sales of intoxicating liquors" on the property. It is probable that this house was built shortly after the purchase of the land.

Frederick Delano Ryder (1859-1898) was the son of Sumner Ryder (1818-1889) and Susanna R. Briggs (1829-1860). The senior Ryder was a storekeeper in Marion who had been elected town clerk in the 1850s and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. The 1880 census listed Frederick D. Ryder living with his parents in Clinton and working as a jeweler's apprentice. He was married in Marion in 1889 to Sarah Healy, with whom he had a son, Everett Franklin Ryder (1894-1967). An 1897 town directory reported Frederick in New Bedford, where he worked as a jeweler. Frederick Ryder died two years later at the age of 39. His widow Sarah first married a watchmaker, Oliver Perry Burris in 1903, and after his death in 1914, Frank M. Gammons (1849-1919). Sarah Gammons sold the house to Ida E. Chase in 1926. It is unclear why there were two conveyances of the property to Ida E. Chase—one from Sarah Gammons and the other from Lily Nairn Ryder, wife of Everett Ryder. Lily's was perhaps meant to confirm a clear title to the property.

Ida Almena (nee Eldredge) Chase was born in Chatham in 1888, the daughter of John Crowell and Ida E. Eldredge. She was married to Arthur Friend Chase (1883-1967), who was also a native of Cape Cod. In 1910 the couple was living in Dennis and in 1920 in Harwich, where they resided with the parents of Arthur Chase. Sometime between 1920 and 1926 Ida Chase moved to Marion, where the 1930 census reported her divorced and living on Converse Road with her three children. Ida's occupation was listed as ladies clothing sales in the 1930 and 1940 censuses. The house was purchased in 1951 by Irving F. Mathews and Dorothy Marsland of New Bedford, who owned the property for 30 years. It was sold to the current owners in 2009.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
07-15-2009	37521-0183	James E. & Susan H. Lunn	Richard E. & Danielle D. Horsey
08-09-1996	14572-298	Howard C. Davis, III & Susan Wood-Davis	James E. & Susan H. Lunn
12-27-1991	10678-48	Howard C. Davis, III & Susan Wood-Davis	Howard C. Davis, III & Susan Wood-Davis
08-02-1985	6233-57	Richard V. Wakeman, Jr.	Howard C. Davis, III & Susan Wood-Davis
08-24-1983	5482-385	Richard V., Jr. & Marcia M. Wakeman	Richard V. Wakeman, Jr.
12-28-1981	5096-42	Dorothy A. Mathews	Richard V., Jr. & Marcia M. Wakeman
09-26-1951	2169-12	Everett T. & Helen F. Fryer	Irving F. Mathews & Dorothy Marsland
03-22-1950	2077-518	E. Dwight & Ardelle Mosely Fullerton	Everett T. & Helen F. Fryer
06-05-1946	1916-531	Ida E. Chase	E. Dwight & Ardelle Mosely Fullerton
12-04-1926	1522-382	Lily N. Ryder	Ida E. Chase
09-18-1925	1494-398	Sarah M. Gammons	Ida E. Chase

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

316 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

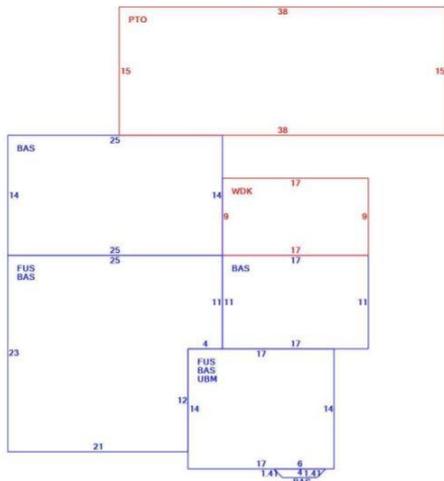
Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.94
-------	--------

05-15-1895	689-516	Lizzie W.R. Allen	Frederick D. Ryder
04-07-1894	673-338	Lizzie W.R. Allen	Frederick D. Ryder

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org: census records, vital records, city directories
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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.
- 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



Assessor's card plan



Boulder off north elevation of the house.

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

316 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F	MRN.94
-------	--------

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.