

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-44 A

Marion

MRN.F

MRN.92

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 317 (formerly 311) Converse Road

Historic Name: John B. Blankinship II House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1780

Source: Visual analysis

Style/Form: Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard & shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Cottage (2003)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Alterations to entry

Second story addition to ell

Gable-wall chimney added (20th century)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1890-1903

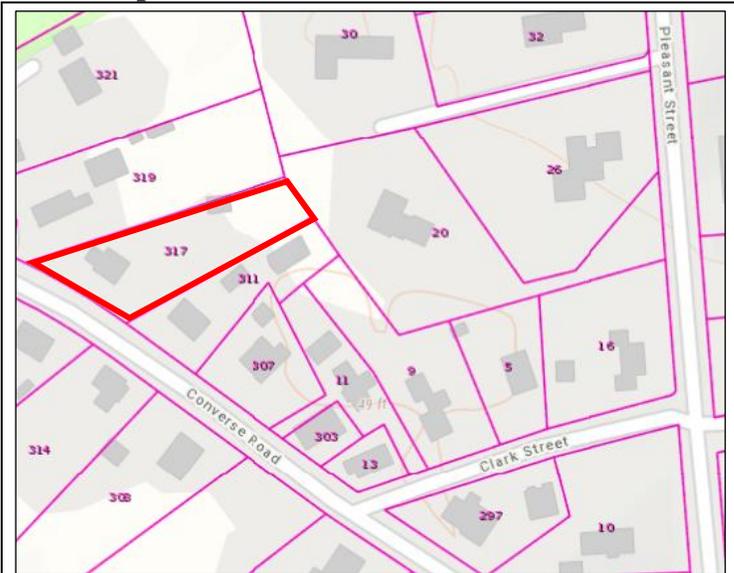
Acreage: 0.31

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*): March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

317 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F

MRN.92

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.

317 Converse Road occupies a trapezoidal lot on the east side of Converse Road and faces west. The house is positioned near the northwest corner of the parcel. The front yard is maintained chiefly in grass and the balance of the parcel is heavily vegetated. A row of tall trees lines the drystone wall that borders the northern property line. A gravel driveway enters the property from Converse Road near the southwest corner of the parcel and terminates at a cottage sited at the northern property line in the eastern half of the lot.

Along with 319 Converse Road (mid-18th c., Zoath Dexter House, MRN.95), 266 Converse Road (ca. 1780, George Bonum Nye House, MRN.85) 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. It comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame main block with a saltbox extension along the rear elevation and a single dependency. The house appears to have been constructed ca. 1780 in the full Cape style and retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The sole dependency, seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map, comprises a one-story, shed-roofed element and a two-story, steeply side-gabled element with a wall dormer. The house rests on a stone foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards at the façade (west elevation) and weathered wood shingles at all other elevations. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A short brick chimney is centered just below the roof ridge on the west roof slope at the main block. A gable-wall chimney which has been encased in clapboard siding rises from the shed-roofed element of the dependency along the north wall of the main block.

Trim elements at the house include narrow corner boards and frieze boards. The windows at the primary elevations are double-hung twelve-over-twelve sash with flat surrounds; the windows at the façade of the main block touch the cornice and have eared lintels. The centered entry at the main block contains a modern glass-and-panel door framed by a narrow flat surround that abuts the cornice. The door fronts a brick stoop and two-step stair with a slat work wood railing. There are solar panels on the west roof slope and a shed dormer on the east roof slope.

The dependency extends from the main block at the north elevation and is three bays wide. It is set back from the façade of the main block and aligns along its rear (east) elevation. The windows at the façade are double-hung, twelve-over-twelve sash that touch the frieze board. The appearance of the dependency suggests that it may have been a one-story, early ell with the later addition of a gabled second story. The double-hung window in the wall dormer contains five-over-five sash.

A gabled cottage constructed in 2003 and clad in wood clapboard and shingle siding is sited behind the house. It faces west and has modern fenestration.

The Cape Cod house form, a one-story side-gabled house with a central chimney and steeply-pitched roof, emerged in southeastern New England ca. 1700 and saw continued use through the mid-19th century. The full Cape design was one of the later iterations of this house type. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration (five bays with centered entry), side-gabled roof, center chimney, and narrow corner boards. The twelve-over-twelve windows that touch the cornice are characteristic of the Georgian (1700–1780) period, lending support to an 18th century construction date. The eared window lintels at the façade are identified with the later Federal (1780–1820) and Greek Revival (1825–1860) periods.

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.



1903 map

This house does not appear on the 1855 or the 1879 maps. It is seen on the 1903 map at left with J.B. Blankinship shown as owner. The parcel at that time extended from Nye Street (later Converse Road) on the west to Pleasant Street on the east and contained three houses and three outbuildings. The first recorded conveyance found for the subject property was its sale from Joseph H. Clark, Jr. to John B. Blankinship in 1890. The deed given by Clark makes no mention of buildings. Given the apparent age of this full Cape, it probable that the house was moved to this location sometime between 1890 and 1903.

Joseph H. Clark, Jr. (1861-1933), a carpenter and developer, was the son of Joseph H. Clark, Sr. (1835-1894) and Mary Sophia Graham (1833-1888). His parents lived a short distance away from the subject property at 9 Clark Street (1870, Joseph H. Clark, Sr. House, MRN.83). Joseph was married to Lizzie Nye Bassett, the daughter of Charles and Hattie Nye Bassett and a descendant of George Bonum Nye, one of Marion's leading salt makers. Joseph and his wife Lizzie were active players in the Marion real estate market

in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

John Bates Blankinship II (1860-1953), who purchased the property in 1890 from Joseph H. Clark, was the son of Ichabod (1817-1910) and Abby Church Taber Blankinship (1832-1924). He was a great-great grandson of Captain George Bonum Nye and part of the very large Blankinship clan. Censuses from 1900 to 1930 reported his occupation as teamster or chauffeur at a private estate. He was married to Jennie Savory (1872-1947) in 1892. In 1903 John Blankinship sold the subject house and land; it is likely that the subject parcel was subdivided from the larger parcel at this time. In 1905 John and Jennie Blankinship purchased the former home of Robert Bennett just a short distance away at 10 Pleasant Street (ca.1850, Bennett-Blankinship House, MRN. 98).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

317 Converse Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

MRN.F | MRN.92

Horace Allen Hammond (1866-1941), the son of Charles Allen and Ellen Amelia Chadwick Hammond, purchased the property from John Blankinship in 1903. Hammond was married to Mary Lizzie Stowell (1866-1925) and was employed as a gardener at a private estate according to census records. The house was purchased by Amos S. Chase in 1922.

Amos Snow Chase (1872-1942) was the stepson of Charles and Ida Eldredge. He grew up on Cape Cod and was married to Isabelle Sylvia (1880-1956) in 1898. Census records reported that he was a boatman for most of his life. Amos was awarded a Silver Medal from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury for his heroics when in July 1917 he rescued three people from their capsized sailboat in Buzzard's Bay; this was accomplished using a 15-foot catboat that was already carrying three adults and five children. Chase's 1942 obituary stated that he had been living on Clark Street for the 11 years prior to his death. The couple's son, Reuben Chase, inherited this house from his parents and lived here with his wife Sarah until his death in 1977. The house was sold to the current owners in 2016.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
09-09-2016	47442-231	Annie Hayes a/k/a Anne Hayes	Miller & Merritt Family Trust
05-23-2004	28411-280	Anne K. Hayes a/k/a	Annie Hayes
07-02-2001	20141-201	Janice M. Cellana	Anne K. Hayes
10-18-1993	12302-219	Dean F. & Doreen F. Nelsen	Janice M. Cellana
08-22-1988	8663-93	Michael T. & Gwendolen Breault	Dean F. & Doreen F. Nelson
10-27-1977	4353-295	Estate of Reuben E. Chase	Michael T. & Gwendolen Breault
06-25-1948	2004-353	Isabelle Chase	Reuben E. & Sarah L. Chase
07-22-1931	1615-300	Reuben E. Chase	Isabelle Chase
07-22-1931	1615-300	Amos S. Chase	Reuben E. Chase
04-25-1922	1408-585	Horace A. Hammond	Amos S. Chase
11-13-1903	878-443	John B. Blankinship	Horace A. Hammond
05-14-1890	682-293	Joseph H. Clark, Jr.	John B. Blankinship

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 McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
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Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances, Washington, DC.: Government Printing Offices, 1919.
 Amos S. Snow obituary in *Standard-Times*, 1942.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

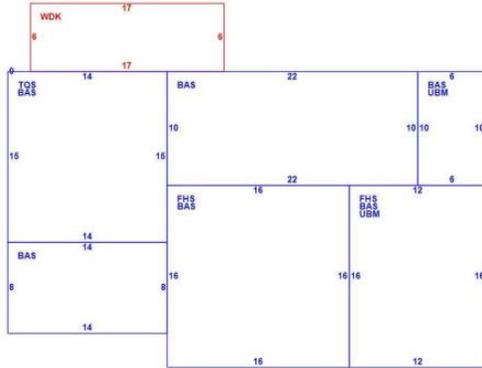
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Assessor's card plan



North and west 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

317 Converse Road

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Area(s) Form No.

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MRN.F	MRN.92
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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.