

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-34 Marion MRN.F MRN.497

Photograph



Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 3 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Lester C. and Ivah C. Stowell House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1926

Source: Deed & map research, visual analysis

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

South addition (mid-20th century)

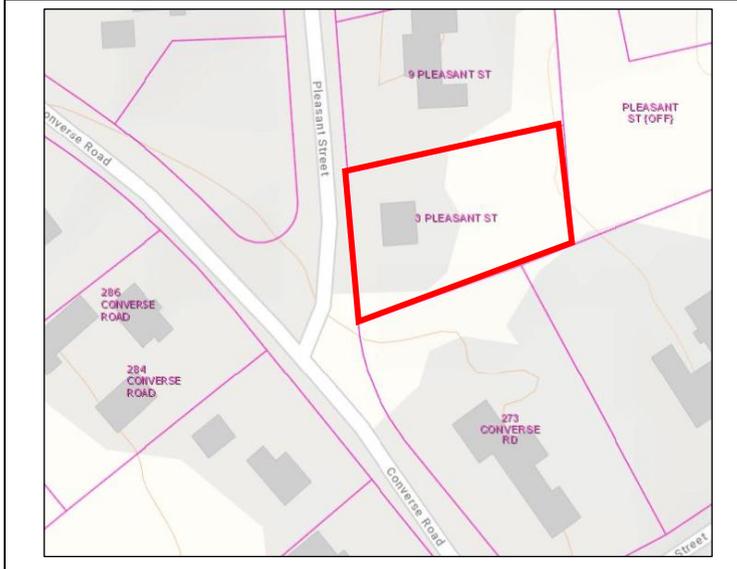
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.52

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.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

3 Pleasant Street

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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.

3 Pleasant Street occupies a rectangular parcel on the east side of Pleasant Street at its with intersection Converse Road. The house is set in the western half of the parcel and faces west. The property is densely covered with tall shrubs and trees. A low stockade fence begins at the southwest corner of the house and borders the property along Pleasant Street. A crescent driveway of crushed seashells enters and exits Pleasant Street at the façade (west elevation). A paved driveway enters the property from Pleasant Street along the northern property line and curves to terminate at the garage addition behind the house.

The building is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled, wood-frame house with a rectangular plan and two dependencies. It has a steep gabled roof with prominent dormers and a generous porch at the main entry. Constructed ca.1925 in the Colonial Revival style, it appears to retain most if not all of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a stone foundation and is clad in weathered wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A tall brick gable-wall chimney rises from grade along the north wall and a second brick chimney occupies the west roof slope.

The house is articulated with narrow contrasting trim, short eave returns, and a frieze board at the façade. Openings at the first story at the facade include a centered entry flanked by double-hung, six-over-one windows with flat surrounds that touch the frieze board. The glass-and-panel door is sheltered by a flat-roofed open portico with substantial rectangular posts, a slat work railing, and a wood lattice skirt. The door fronts a three-step wooden stair that meets the crescent driveway. A large gabled dormer containing mulled, six-over-one double-hung windows surmounts the portico; it is flanked by gabled single dormers with matching windows. A continuous shed wall dormer with four window openings occupies the east roof slope. Openings at the side elevations and rear dormer of the main block comprise double-hung, six-over-six windows with flat surrounds. A sliding glass door at the east (rear) elevation opens to a wooden deck

A one-story addition with a shallow hipped roof extends from the south elevation. It is set back one bay from the façade and has sliding glass windows. A one-story, flat-roofed two-car garage constructed of vertical wood planks extends east from the addition.

3 Pleasant Street is an excellent example of an early 20th century Colonial Revival-style house. 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 its symmetrical openings, the prominent dormers and entrance portico, and the six-over-one window sash.

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

Continuation sheet 1

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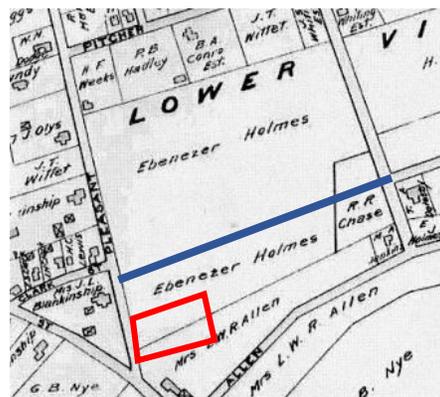
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industry in Marion and who owned a house and surrounding land at 266 Converse Road (ca.1780, George B. Nye House, MRN.82).

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

Dunn working as a gardener at a private estate.

The approximate location of the subject property is shown in red on the 1903 map to the left. The first recorded conveyance found for the property registered its sale by Susan Holmes Dunn to Ivah and Lester Stowell in 1926. This was one of a number of parcels sold by the Holmes descendants to create building lots along what is now Holmes Street, seen in blue in its approximate location on the 1903 map.

Susan Delano Hadley (Holmes) Dunn (1873-1941) was first married to Ebenezer Holmes III. She was the daughter of Peleg Blankinship Hadley (1848-1931) and his second wife, Pricilla H. Handy (1849-1934). Ebenezer Holmes III was the grandson of Ebenezer Holmes (1783-1869), one of the leaders in the salt making industry in Marion and the owner of a large tract of land in the southern part of the town. This land was inherited by his son, Ebenezer Holmes Jr. (1816-1876), and then by his grandson, Ebenezer Holmes III (1859-1914). In 1916, two years after the death of her husband Ebenezer, Susan Holmes married George Peleg Dunn (1878-1955). The couple lived at 36 Pleasant Street (ca. 1890, Paul C. Blankinship House, MRN.499), where the 1920 census listed George

Lester C. and Ivah Cornell Stowell, who purchased the property in 1926 and likely built the house around that time, were both born in New Bedford in 1890. Lester was the son of Benjamin I. Stowell and Mercy Mosher, and Ivah was the daughter of Charles C. Cornell and Harriet Maria Tripp. The couple's marriage was registered in Marion in 1916. Lester Stowell was the proprietor of a plumbing business. He was also very active in the Marion community, serving in the fire department (including a short stint as chief), the town finance committee, and the board of public welfare. He also held the position of assessor and was twice elected to the board of selectmen.

Ivah and Lester Stowell had one daughter, Rosamond (1917-2006), who was married in 1942 to Charles P. Hadley (2018-2005) of Marion. The 1930 census shows Charles living with his family on Pleasant Street, where he may have been a neighbor of the Stowells. Lester Stowell died in 1965, the year ownership of the property was transferred to his wife and daughter, Rosamond. In 1971 Iva Stowell died and the property left the family.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
01-31-2013	42646-166	Nancy G. Sayre Family Nominee Trust	Nancy G. Sayre Irrevocable Trust
09-30-2004	29297-349	Nancy G. Sayre	Nancy G. Sayre Family Nominee Trust
09-30-2004	6036-293	G. Ronald & M. Julianne Winters	Nancy G. Sayre
07-27-1971	3700-144*	Ivah C. Stowell & Rosamond S. Hadley	G. Ronald & M. Julianne Winters
12-08-1965	3260-41	Ivah C. Stowell	Ivah C. Stowell & Rosamond S. Hadley
05-08-1926	1504-372	Susan Delano (Holmes) & George Dunn	Ivah C. & Lester E. Stowell

*Parcel #1 of deed 3260-41

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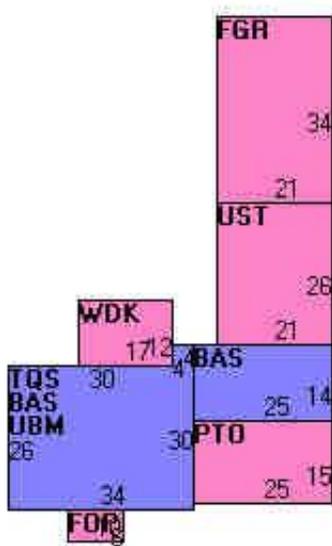
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Assessor's card plan



East and north elevations.

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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.