

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-43	Marion	MRN.F	MRN.99
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 16 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: John E. Randall House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1850

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: Greek Revival Cottage

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage / workshop (after 1980)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

North addition (after 1998)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

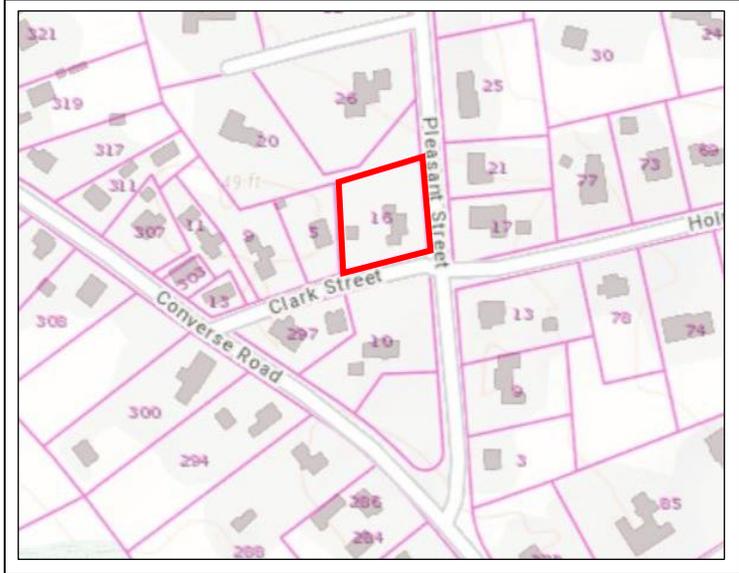
Acreage: 0.49

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

16 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.

16 Pleasant Street occupies a trapezoidal lot on the north side of Clark Street at its intersection with Pleasant Street. The house is sited in the eastern half of the parcel and faces east. The property is maintained chiefly in lawn with a cluster of mature trees along the northern boundary. The main block is bordered by low foundation plantings at the east (façade) and south elevations. The property is bounded at its southeast corner along Clark and Pleasant Streets by a vinyl picket fence. Just north of the main block the fence transitions to a drystone wall capped by granite blocks that runs along Pleasant Street and turns along the northern property line. A second drystone wall borders the property along Clark Street.

This wood-frame house comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block with two dependencies. The house was constructed ca. 1850 in the Greek Revival Cottage style, a mid-19th century form that combines the façade of a knee-wall full Cape with a shallow plan and Greek Revival detailing. The house retains the majority of its original character-defining features. A one-story, two-by-one-bay, gabled addition is set back one bay from the façade (east elevation) at the north elevation and a one-and-one-half-story, gabled ell is set back at the south elevation. At some point the ell, which is seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map, had its west roof slope raised to accommodate a second story at its rear wall. The house rests on a high stone foundation. The walls are clad in weathered wood shingles and the roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge of the main block and a gable-wall chimney rises from grade at the east elevation.

Trim elements at the main block include wide corner boards, narrow frieze boards, and eave returns. The windows at the main block and dependencies are double-hung six-over-six sash with molded surrounds; the windows at the façade have wood blinds. The centered entry at the façade contains a four-panel wood door with full-height sidelights framed by pilasters and a deep entablature. The door fronts a small porch, three-step wooden stair and a brick walkway leading south across the façade to join the porch at the ell. A two-story shed-roofed addition spans the rear elevation of the main block.

The two dependencies are trimmed with wide corner boards and narrow frieze boards. An open porch with a shallow hipped roof and slat work railing spans the ell; it contains a wood-paneled door with a flat surround that opens to the porch at the facade. A single gabled dormer with a double-hung, six-over-six window occupies the east roof slope. The north addition, constructed sometime after 1998, has a shallow gabled roof and double-hung six-over-six windows.

A U-shaped, front-gabled, wood-shingled structure is sited behind the house at the western property line and faces south. It comprises a two-car garage and attached workshop. It is accessed by a paved driveway which enters the property from Clark Street at the southwest corner of the parcel.

16 Pleasant Street is an example of the Greek Revival Cottage style, a mid-19th century form that combines the façade of a one-and-one-half-story, knee-wall full Cape with a shallow, one-or-two-bay-deep plan and Greek Revival detailing. A "high post" or "knee wall" Cape is a common 19th-century form in which the stud wall extends past the first floor to create additional space on the second floor. The full Cape (five bays with center entry) was one of the later iterations of the architectural style, which originated on Cape Cod around 1690 and saw continued use through the mid-19th century. Defining characteristics of the Cape style illustrated in this house include the full Cape configuration, side-gabled roof, and center chimney. The wide corner boards, six-over-six window configuration, and the entry surround with its full-height sidelights and entablature are character-defining features of the Greek Revival style (1825-1860).

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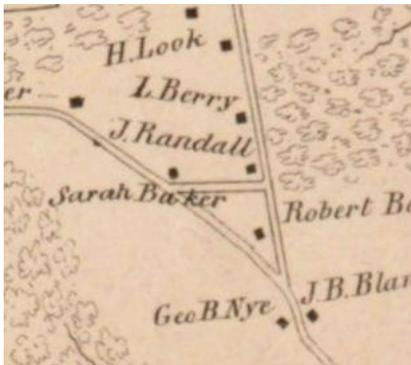
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.



1855 map

J. Randall is noted as the owner of this house on the 1855 map. It appears on the 1879 map with no owner's name shown and on the 1903 map with H.C. Lewis as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property registered its transfer from Ebenezer Holmes to John E. Randall in 1848. Holmes was one of the leaders in Marion's salt making industry and owned a large tract of land in the southern part of the town.

John E. Randall (1802-1860) was born in Fairhaven. In 1844 he married Mary Wing Blankinship (1825-1908), the daughter of Walter F. and Ruth Weeks Blankinship of Rochester. The 1855 Massachusetts census records his occupation as mariner and his headstone at the Woodbrook Cemetery in Woburn reads Captain John E. Randall. After his death in 1860, Mary Randall married Tristram Dalton of Woburn, a house painter. In 1874 the couple sold this house to Mathew Hiller.

Captain Mathew Hiller (1840-1930) was also a seaman and the son of Seth and Betsey Hiller of Rochester. He was first married to Beuretta (Etta) Webster Hammond (1830-1880), daughter of Stephen and Lydia Hammond, also of Rochester. Mathew Hiller's second wife was Mary Ida Rockefeller (1853-1927), daughter of James H. and Mary L. Rockefeller of Germantown, New York. Hiller sold this house following the death of his first wife and subsequent censuses reported his residence in Mattapoisett.

The house was purchased in 1884 by Sarah L. Kendrick (1830-1909) of Boston, the widow of Henry P. Kendrick (1834-1872). Sarah Kendrick was the daughter of Uriel and Hannah Ward Miner of Brewster. She was first married in Salem in 1855 to Charles Plummer. In 1862, after Plummer's death, Sarah married Henry P. Kendrick. The 1870 census recorded the couple living in Boston (Brighton) with Henry's occupation listed as nursery man. Sarah Kendrick's connection with Marion is unclear. After owning the house for ten years, Sarah sold it to Anna S. Lewis, the wife of Henry C. Lewis.

Captain Henry C. Lewis (1848-1932) was born in New Bedford. He began his 50-year career at sea at age 13 with his first voyage on a whaling ship. According to his obituary, Lewis started as an ordinary seaman and worked his way up to ships master, commanding some of the finest vessels of the time. He was married in 1870 to Anna S. Handy. Captain Lewis died in

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1932 and a newspaper article at the time noted that "Marion [lost the] last of its deep-sea skippers." The house was purchased in 1918 by Hannah and Sydney Taylor. Sydney H. Taylor (1873-1956) was born in New Bedford, the son of Nathaniel and Harriet Taylor. He operated a fish market in Marion and served in a number of positions in town government including town clerk, treasurer, and tax collector. The Taylor family owned this property for 48 years until it was purchased in 1966 by the great-grandson of the original owner, Ebenezer Holmes.

Ebenezer Holmes (1902-1966) was the son of Susan Delano Hadley (1873-1941) and Ebenezer Holmes (1859-1914). Susan Holmes married George E. Dunn after the death of her first husband and lived just a few doors away from this property on Pleasant Street. The younger Ebenezer Holmes was married to Evelyn E. Holmes and the 1930 census records his occupation as plumber. The property was sold to its current owners in 1980.

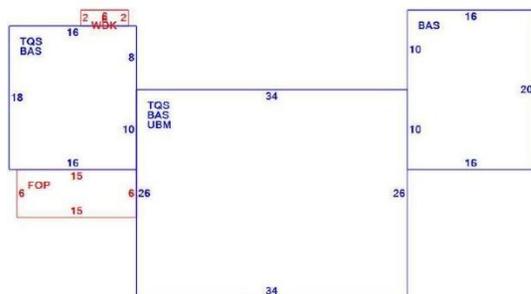
Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
05-15-1980	4828-0176	James M. & Rita G. Cain	Louis D. & Danielle D. Coffin
07-12-1974	4003-608	George H. Phillips	James M. & Rita G. Cain
08-05-1969	3539-160	Evelyn E. Holmes	George H. Phillips
06-17-1966	3306-700	Annette T. Carpenter (nee Taylor)	Ebenezer & Evelyn E. Holmes
09-25-1952	2234-233	Hannah W. (& Sydney H.) Taylor	Annette T. Carpenter (nee Taylor)
03-25-1918	1300-312	Henry C. & Clara C. Lewis & Anna S. Perry	Hannah W. Taylor
09-18-1894	682-278	Sara L. Kendrick	Anna S. Lewis
08-16-1884	504-197	Mathew Hiller	Sara L. Kendrick
09-06-1874	412-261	Tristram & Mary (Randall) Dalton	Mathew Hiller
12-13-1848	236-14	Ebenezer & Catherine Holmes	John E. Randall

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- Atlas of Plymouth County*, Boston, MA: George H. Walker & Co., 1879
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- 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
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- 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.

- "Sydney H. Taylor," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, February 1, 1956.
- "Marion Sea Captain Dies," February 6, 1932, Sippican Historical Society Object #2016.048.051.
- "Marion Loses Last of Deep-Sea Skippers," Ibid.



Assessor's card plan

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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

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dwellings on small to moderate-sized lots in the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles. Along 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.