

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-40A Marion MRN.F MRN.498

Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 17 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Austin L. Pierce House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1925

Source: Deed and map research

Style/Form: Craftsman / Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Austin L. Pierce

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Southeast addition (early 20th century)
Garage (early 20th century)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

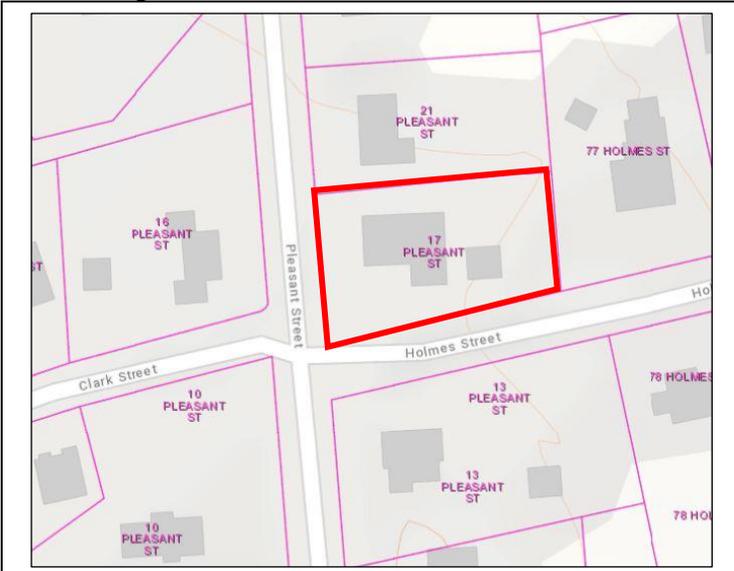
Acreage: 0.39

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

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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.

17 Pleasant Street occupies a trapezoidal parcel on the east side of Pleasant Street. The house is positioned in the western half of the parcel and faces west. The western portion of the property is maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and small trees; the eastern portion is more densely vegetated. Low foundation plantings and planting beds surround the house. The property is bounded by a low granite block retaining wall along Holmes Street. A short paved driveway enters the property from Holmes Street and terminates at the garage sited east of the house.

The building comprises a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, five-bay-by-three-bay wood-frame main block with a rectangular plan and a single dependency. It has a shallow gable roof with deep eaves and an integrated, shed-roofed, enclosed porch at the facade. Constructed ca.1925 in the Bungalow style, it retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The house rests on a high stone foundation and is clad with painted wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. Tall brick gable-wall chimneys rise from grade at the south elevation to pierce the east and west roof slopes at their low points.

With the exception of the enclosed porch, the windows at the main block are single and mulled double-hung, six-over-one sash with flat surrounds. Openings at the porch, which was likely open originally, comprise single and paired double-hung, eight-over-one sash. Mulled windows at the porch façade flank a centered entry with fixed, eight-light sidelights; the entry unit has a continuous surround. The glass-and-panel door fronts a brick stoop, three-step stair, and concrete walkway leading to Pleasant Street. There are wide shed dormers containing paired double-hung, six-over-one sash at the east and west roof slopes. Decorative wooden trusses ornament the gable peaks at the side elevations.

A one-story, two-by-two-bay, side-gabled addition is set off the southeast corner of the main block. Openings include a bay window and entry at the west elevation, a sliding window at the south elevation, and a screened porch wrapping the southeast corner. The porch opens to a wooden deck atop a tall brick base that connects to the garage. The one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled, wood-shingled, two-car garage faces south to Holmes Street. It has shed dormers at both roof slopes and triple sliding windows.

17 Pleasant Street is a substantial and well-maintained house in the bungalow form of the Craftsman style. It is one of the very few examples of this style in Marion, with most of them clustered in the southwestern portion of the town. The bungalow is a small, one or one-and-a-half story house whose name derives from the small "Bengal" houses built in 19th-century India by the British. Low to the ground with low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves and large porches, bungalows were first seen in America at the turn of the 19th century. Often constructed using mail order kits, they became one of the most popular and fashionable small house designs in the country and were commonly seen between 1900 and 1930. Bungalows typically feature exposed roof rafters, wide porch piers, one-over-one windows, and the artistic use of indigenous materials such as river rocks. The characteristic Bungalow features of this house include the one-and-one-half-story form, shallow side-gabled roof, deep eaves, full-width front porch, and gable trusses.

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

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

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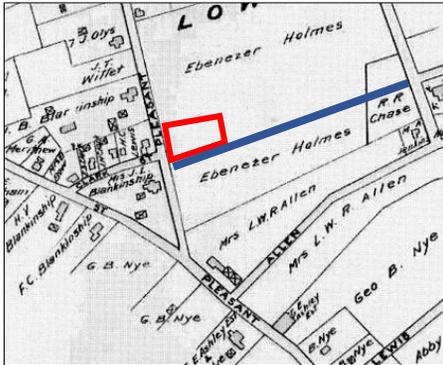
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on Converse Road (originally called Nye Street and later known as Pleasant Street or Charles Neck Road) which runs southward toward Charles Neck Point, the southernmost point of the peninsula defining the western side of Sippican Harbor. The area is 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.



The approximate location of this parcel is shown in red on the 1903 map to the left. The first conveyance found for the property registered the sale of this parcel of land by Susan Dunn to Mildred M. Cook in 1925. 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). After the death of Ebenezer Holmes III Susan Holmes married George Dunn (1878-1995). This was one of a number of parcels sold by the Holmes descendants to create the building lots along what is now Holmes Street.

1903 map. Blue line shows future location of Holmes Street.

Mildred May Cook was born in New Bedford in 1893, the daughter of Philip Henry Cook (1868-1963) and Nancy Edna Haskell (1870-1896). After graduating from New Bedford

High School she first worked as a stenographer at a New Bedford textile company and later for the towns of Mattapoisett and Marion. She was married to Austin Leslie Pierce (1894-1940) who was born in Lakeville, the son of Austin H. and Elizabeth Alley Pierce. After moving to Marion with his family, he was educated in Marion schools and worked as a contractor and plumber. Austin Pierce was very active in town government and served on the sewer commission and the board of health. At various times he was plumbing inspector, commissioner of public works, town moderator, and town selectman. Deed research suggests that this house was built by Austin Pierce ca. 1926. This is supported by a 1992 newspaper article about Mildred Pierce on the occasion of her 98th birthday, which reported that this house on the corner of Pleasant and Holmes Streets was built for her by her husband.

Mildred Pierce sold the property to Robley and Ada M. Buckman in 1949. With his wife, Robley owned an electric company that was listed with a Pleasant Street address in a 1955 business directory. The property was acquired by LaVerne F. and Janet M. Wallace in 1963 and remains in Wallace family ownership.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
09-19-1996	14676-141	LaVerne F. & Janet Marion Wallace	Janet M. Wallace
12-07-1963	3083-64	Paul C. & Ruth E. Eberhardt	LaVerne F. & Janet Marion Wallace
09-29-1960	2806-61	Jens P. & Ingrid Ulrichsen	Paul C. & Ruth E. Eberhardt
06-25-1958	2642-160	Robley & Ada M. Buckman	Jens P. & Ingrid Ulrichsen
02-11-1949	2041-243	Mildred M. Cook Pierce	Robley & Ada M. Buckman
07-02-1925	1495-409	Susan D. Dunn	Mildred M. Cook

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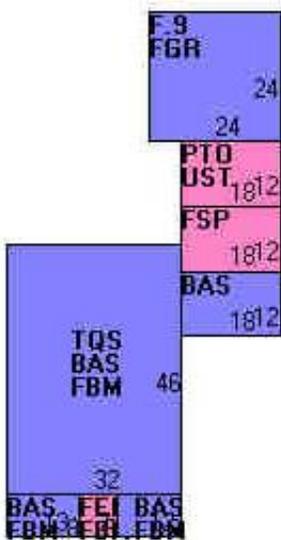
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"Town Official Dies," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, July 20, 1940.
"Mildred Pierce honored as Marion's oldest resident," *The Sippican Sentinel*, June 12, 1992.



Assessor's card plan



South elevation.

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.