

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-50 Marion MRN.F MRN.499

**Town/City:** Marion

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

**Address:** 36 Pleasant Street

**Historic Name:** Paul C. Blankinship House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1890

**Source:** Deed and map research

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Fiber cement clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Porch addition (after 1903)

Rear wing (2002)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

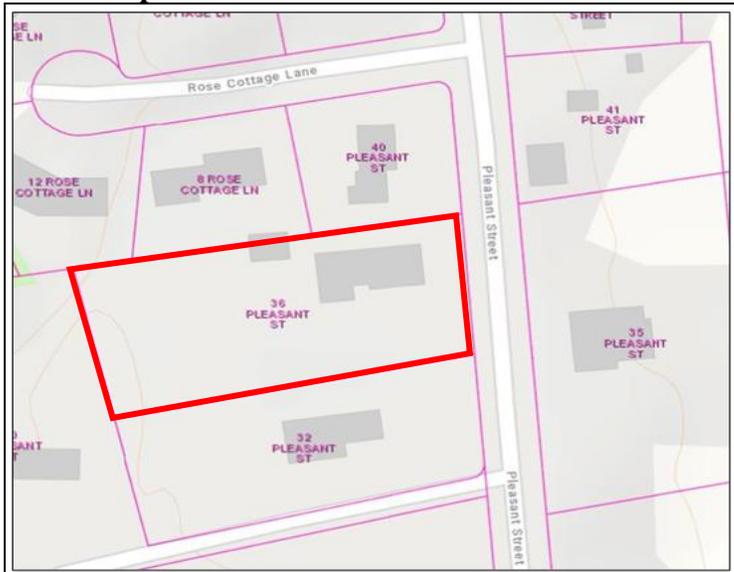
**Acreage:** 0.74

**Setting:** Diverse residential neighborhood developed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> 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

36 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.*

**36 Pleasant Street** occupies a trapezoidal lot on the west side of Pleasant Street and faces west on a slight rise. The house is positioned in the northeast corner of the parcel, which is maintained in manicured lawn surrounding the house and heavy vegetation in the western half. There are low foundation plantings at the facade. Mature trees line the northern property line and mixed vegetation borders the southern property line. A slat work fence with an arched gate extends perpendicularly from the south elevation of the house at the junction of the enclosed porch and cross gable. A paved driveway with an apron of granite pavers enters the property from Pleasant Street at the northeast corner of the property and terminates at a garage sited off the northwest corner of the house.

The building comprises a one-and-one-half-story, two-bay-by-four-bay, front-gabled main block with an L-shaped plan and a single dependency. A hip-roofed porch spans the main block and wraps the south elevation to end at the cross gable; it is not seen in the footprint of the house on the 1903 map. A modern, two-story cross-gabled rear wing aligns along the north elevation of the main block and projects south beyond the south elevation. Constructed around 1890, the main block retains the majority of its original character-defining features. The structure rests on a brick foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. The roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge of the rear wing.

The main block is trimmed with a water table, boxed cornice, corner pilasters, a frieze board at the façade, two-part frieze boards at the side elevations, and eave returns. The windows at the side elevations are double-hung, two-over-two sash with molded surrounds; the upper story windows at the façade are double-hung, four-over-four sash with flat surrounds and architraves. The main entry at the southern bay contains a wood paneled door framed by a flat surround and architrave. A box bay window containing narrow one-over-one windows occupies the northern bay. The bay window rests on a vertical board wainscot that spans the façade. The porch has a shallow hipped roof supported by rectangular posts. It is open at the façade, where it has a clapboard-sided knee wall and a slat work railing. The porch is fully enclosed and partially screened above the knee wall along the south elevation. The entry fronts a granite step across the porch deck and a walkway of slate pavers leading to Pleasant Street.

The trim at the two-story rear wing matches the trim at the main block. The fenestration consists of double-hung, two-over-two windows and a door at the south elevation. Several of the openings have transoms. The one-car garage set off the northwest corner of the house is front-gabled and faces east. It sided with clapboard and has a six-panel wood door beside the garage door opening.

**36 Pleasant Street** is a modestly-designed house that reflects a number of stylistic influences. It has the gable-front form seen in both the Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles. The box cornice, corner pilasters, frieze boards, and eave returns are characteristic Greek Revival features. The L-shaped plan, bay windows, and two-over-two window sash are commonly seen in Queen Anne-style houses, and the front porch shows the influence of the Craftsman 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 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*

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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-19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and representing a range of styles including Cape, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival.

This house appears on the 1903 map with T.J. Olys shown as owner. The first recorded conveyance found for this property was from James J. Wittet to Paul C. Blankinship, both of Marion, in 1887. It was the sale of a parcel of land for \$300 with no mention of buildings; no ownership history for this land could be found before this transaction. James T. Wittet was born in Rochester in 1833, son of James Wittet and his wife Elizabeth. He was married to Mariam M. Albee (1846-1915) in 1869. The censuses of 1860 and 1880 record that his occupation, like his father's, was a sailmaker. He died in 1908 and his will noted that in addition to a house on Front Street in Marion he owned two lots on Pleasant Street.

Paul Clifton Blankinship (1859-1937) was the son of Warren M. Blankinship (1816-1898) and Mercy Pratt Wing (1822-1862). Warren Blankinship was a carpenter as recorded in the censuses of 1860-80. Except for 1880 when his occupation was listed as sailor, Paul Blankinship was noted as a grocery storekeeper. The 1910 city directory listed his store as P.C. Blankinship & Co. located on Front Street. Paul Blankinship married Susanna Mendall Bates in 1879. The couple owned this property for ten years, from 1887 until 1897, when it was sold to Thomas J. Olys of Boston for \$3,000. The price suggests that a dwelling house was included with the property and it therefore seems probable that this Queen Anne-style house was built by Paul Blankinship ca.1890.

The 15-year ownership of the property by Olys is curious. According to census and other records Olys was born in Bath, Maine of Irish immigrant parents and was a tailor/clothing dealer living in Boston during the time he held the property. No apparent connection to Marion could be established. Olys was not listed in the 1910 city directory. In 1912 the house was sold to Susan D. Dunn.

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. Susan and her second husband, George Dunn (1879-1955), lived in this house until her death in 1941. The property was sold by George Dunn and his daughter Margaret (Dunn) Foster in 1945 to Rudolph Nils Theodore Lindstrom and his wife Alida. Lindstrom was born in 1879 in Sweden and became a naturalized United State citizen in 1901. By the time of the 1920 census he was living in Marion in a rented house on Point Road with his occupation noted as gardener at a private estate. Lindstrom's 1942 draft registration card indicated that his employer was Francis Countay and that he worked at the the Countway estate in Marion. Rudolph and Alida's son Edgar Theodore Lindstrom (1905-1995) was a telephone lineman according to the census records of 1920. By 1942 he was a trooper with the Massachusetts State Police and living in New Bedford. After Rudolph Lindstrom's death the property was conveyed by his widow to Edgar Lindstrom, who sold the property to Shirlee and William Thomas in 1966.

Deed Research

Date	Book-Page	Grantor	Grantee
08-06-2018	50206-80	Louis & Rebecca Gehring	John P. & Jonna A. Coughlin

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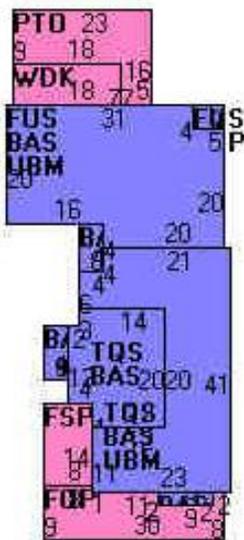
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04-05-2011	39881-154	Theresa A. & Samuel C. Barrington	Louis & Rebecca Gehring
09-30-1990	13174-337	Shirlee L. Thomas (Parcel 4)	Theresa A. & Samuel C. Barrington
03-19-1986	6662-39	William J. Thomas	Shirlee L. Thomas
03-03-1966	3277-566	Edgar T. Lindstrom	William K. & Shirlee L. Thomas
08-09-1965	3230-624	Alida C. Lindstrom	Edgar T. Lindstrom
06-23-1945	1891-55	George Dunn & Margaret Foster	Rudolph. N.T. & Alida C. Lindstrom
		Estate of Susan D. Holmes	George Dunn & Margaret (Ware) Foster nee Dunn
11-08-1912	1134-371	Thomas J. Olys	Susan D. Holmes
03-06-1897	736-490	Paul C. & Susanna B. Blankinship	Thomas J. Olys
09-02-1887	555-43	James T. & Miriam H. Wittet	Paul C. Blankinship

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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- McMaster, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
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- 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.
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Assessor's card plan



South and east 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.