

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-36B

Marion

MRN.646

**Town/City:** Marion

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck

**Address:** 560B Point Road

**Historic Name:** Philip Cutler, Sr. House

**Uses:** Present: Residential

Original: Residential

**Date of Construction:** Possibly ca. 1955

**Source:** Owner statement, title research

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage (ca. 1955)

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lynn Smiledge

**Organization:** Marion Historical Commission

**Date** (*month/year*): June 2024

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

None apparent

**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** 0.34

**Setting:** Moderately settled area developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with summer residences. Housing stock comprises moderate- to large-sized houses on large lots. Terrain characterized by dense woods at the central portion of the peninsula bordered by marshland and beach along the shoreline perimeter.

# 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.*

**560C Point Road** occupies a small trapezoidal lot on the west side of Point Road. The parcel is set back from the road behind two adjacent parcels to the east and connects to the road via a paved driveway bordered by low drystone walls. The driveway serves the properties at 560A, 560B, 560C, and 560D Point Road. The house faces south and is positioned at the northern property line, which is marked by a drystone wall. It fronts a shallow terraced lawn enclosed by stone curbing, and beyond that a large expanse of grass dotted with mature trees that extends west to the shoreline. Low foundation plantings span the façade. A four-car garage sited east of the dwelling extends into the adjoining parcel at 560A Point Road.

This wood-frame building was built in the Colonial Revival style in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity. It comprises a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay-by-two-bay, side-gabled main block in the full Cape form with three dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story ell at the east elevation, a one-story cross-gabled block off the west elevation, and a small hyphen connecting the west block to the main block. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation. It is clad in wood shingles and has a wood shingle roof. A substantial brick chimney is centered on the north roof slope just below the roof ridge. A gable-wall chimney rises from grade at the south wall of the west block.

Trim elements include narrow corner and frieze boards. Openings at the façade at the main block include six-over-six windows with flat surrounds and a centered entry with a six-panel door framed by narrow pilasters and a six-light transom that touches the cornice. The door fronts two rough-hewn granite steps and a short stone walkway that ends at the stone curbing. There is a second entry containing a glass-and-panel door at the east elevation. Small shed dormers with molded pediments occupy the south roof slope.

The one-story east ell is three bays by two bays and contains six-over-six windows. The west block has small six-over-sash with flat surrounds. The side-gabled hyphen connecting the west block to the west elevation of the main block contains a single, large basket-handle arched opening.

The one-story garage sited east of the house has a saltbox form and vertical plank siding. The four garage door openings have clipped corners suggestive of a horse shed or carriage house.

560B Point Road is an example of the Colonial Revival style. 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 side-gabled, full-Cape form; center chimney; door surround; six-over-six window sash, and the arched opening at the hyphen.

## 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 peninsulas, called necks, surrounding Sippican Harbor remained largely undeveloped until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The land was used for common pasturage, and salt marsh hay was a principal crop. Sippican Neck, which bounds the harbor on the east, is shown to be sparsely settled on the 1855 map. Early Marion families including the Blankinships, Briggses, and Ellises were among the few property owners in the area. The 1879 map shows the neck still largely undeveloped, but by 1903 growth of the area is seen along the northwestern shoreline with numerous residences on large parcels facing the harbor.

*Continuation sheet 1*

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Over the ensuing decades Sippican Neck became almost completely developed, with numerous seasonal properties on the waterfront. Point Road, where the subject house is located, runs north from Butler's Point (also called Ruggles Point) at the south end of the neck to County Road, where it terminates.



1855 map.

The subject house was built on a 75-acre farm property once owned by F.B. [Capt. Frederick Bartlett] Bolles (1807-1860). Capt. Bolles, who is shown as the owner on the 1855 map, was married in 1835 to Drucilla Leonard (1812-1879). The couple had one son, Obed Frederick Bolles (1840-1912). In 1885 Obed Bolles, who lived in California, sold the large parcel and its buildings to David Sisson. David Sisson (1812-1886), a farmer, was married in 1835 to Almira Smith (1811-1899). In 1891, in a series of transactions, the widowed Almira Sisson and her children sold their large property holdings to Charles Allerton Coolidge.

American architect Charles Allerton Coolidge (1858-1936) was born in Boston. He graduated from Harvard College in 1877 and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology followed by work with Boston architects Ware & Van Brunt. He joined the firm of renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson in 1883, and after the death of Richardson in 1886 formed a partnership with George Shepley and Charles Rutan, two other Richardson architects. Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge went on to become one of the most prominent architecture firms of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, performing

major residential and institutional work in Boston and across the United States. In Marion, Charles A. Coolidge designed the Sippican Tennis Club at 20 Holmes Street (1908, MRN.157), several buildings at Tabor Academy, the summer residences at 598 Point Road (1891, MRN.56) and 604 Point Road (ca.1895, MRN.55), and others on West Drive.

In 1892 Charles Coolidge sold a portion of his estate, including the subject property, to Isaac Henry Lionberger (1854-1948) of St. Louis, Missouri. Lionberger was a leading lawyer in that city and in 1895 was appointed by President Grover Cleveland to serve as assistant attorney general of the United States.<sup>1</sup> Henry Lionberger built a large Shingle Style/Colonial Revival summer residence for his family near the shoreline at the west end of the property. The property was nearly destroyed in a fire in 1938, was rebuilt, and at some point moved south to what is now 546 Point Road (ca.1892, Isaac H. Lionberger House, MRN.643).



1903 map.

A 1908 land plan for the property (see Plan A below) shows several buildings on the parcel, including the large summer residence in its original location. It is not known which if any of the other structures are still extant or are in the same positions on the property today.

Isaac Lionberger owned this large property until his death in 1948. It was then devised to his six children, who in 1950 developed a plan to subdivide it (see Plan B below). The resulting parcels now comprise 560A, 560B (the subject parcel #2), 560C, and 560D Point Road.

In 1954 the heirs of Isaac Lionberger conveyed the subject property (Parcel #2) to his grandson Philip Cutler, Sr. (1917-2001) and his wife Rose Phinney Gardner Cutler (1887-1963). Philip Cutler, Sr. was the son of Lionberger's daughter Margaret Lionberger Cutler (1887-1963) and her husband Donald Frederick Cutler (1887-1962). Donald's father, Frederick B. Cutler, owned a mansion on Water Street in Marion (ca. 1904, Frederick B. Cutler House, MRN.163). An educator, Philip Cutler, Sr.

<sup>1</sup> "Isaac H. Lionberger," *St. Louis Globe-Dispatch*, St. Louis, MO, September 14, 1948.

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was the founding headmaster of the Brookwood School in Manchester. According to the current property owner, the subject house was built in the 1950s by his father Philip Cutler, Sr. The property remains in Cutler family ownership.

## Title Research

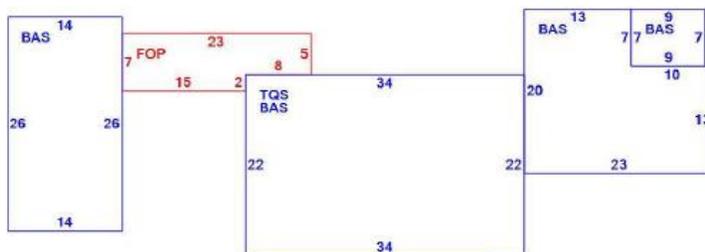
Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
04-27-1999	(95476)	Philip Cutler	Philip C. Cutler & Frederick W. Shaw, Jr.
05-03-1954	(20377)	Kathryn C. Field	Philip & Rose Gardner Cutler (Parcel #2)**
05-03-1954	(20374)	Heirs of Isaac H. Lionberger	Katherine C. Field *
05-01-1954	(4410)	Estate of Isaac H. Lionberger	Heirs of Isaac H. Lionberger
12-27-1892	683-50	Charles Coolidge	Isaac H. Lionberger
01-19-1891	614-193 to 614-199	Sisson Family	Charles Allerton Coolidge
02-17-1885	514-273	Obed F. & Abbie E. Bolles	David Sisson

\*\* Land court case plan 14633 (1950) see below.

\* Land court case plan 14633 (1908) see below.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Assessor's card plan

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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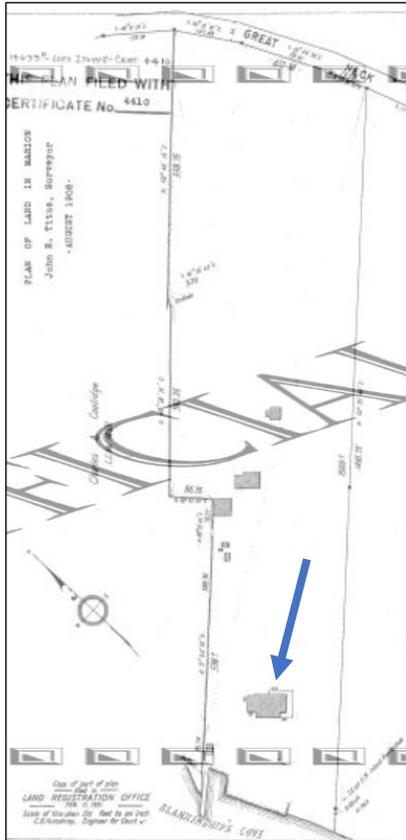
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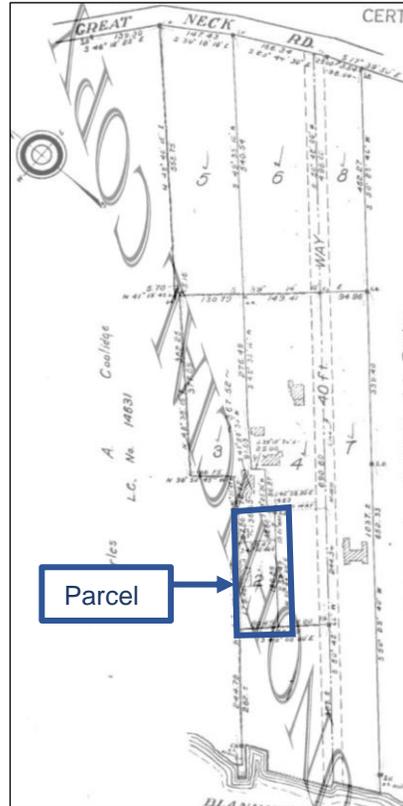
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LCC 14633 Plan A (1908). Arrow at main house, later moved to 546 Point Road.



LCC 14633 Plan B (1950).