

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-37B	Marion		MRN.643
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Town/City: Marion
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck

Address: 546 Point Road

Historic Name: Isaac H. Lionberger House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1892

Source: Map & title research

Style/Form: Shingle Style / Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Possibly Charles A. Coolidge

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Rebuilt after fire (1938)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1908 - 1950

Acreage: 2.50

Setting: Moderately settled area developed in the late 19th and early 20th 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.

Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): June 2024

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

546 Point Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

548 Point Road occupies a polygonal 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 shared paved driveway. The house is positioned in the southeast corner of the property and faces west with a view of Blankenship Cove. Low foundation plantings line the façade. The area surrounding the house is maintained in lawn dotted sparsely with shrubs and trees. Dense vegetation borders the eastern and southern property lines and tall trees line segments of the driveway. A gravel driveway spur ends in a parking area east of the house, from which a stone pathway leads to and entry at the rear (east) elevation of the house. A tennis court occupies the northwest corner of the property.

This wood-frame house was built in the Colonial Revival/Shingle Style ca. 1892 and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The two-story building comprises double gambrel gables with a cross gambrel-roofed gable at the façade (west elevation). The cross gable, which is wrapped by an open porch, is set back from the north elevation and projects beyond the south elevation. The house rises from a tall concrete foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The steep roof is surfaced with asphalt shingles at the upper slopes and wood shingles at the lower slopes. A brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge of the cross gable.

Trim is limited to a narrow band course at the cross gable, although multiple, symmetrically-placed, contrasting gutter pipes lend the appearance of trim. The hip-roofed porch is five bays wide at the façade; the openings include paired six-over-six windows at the outside bays, tall paired casements, and an entry at the second-most easterly bay. The porch has a shingled knee wall, shingled posts that flare at the frieze board, and a vertical slat skirt. A centered four-step stair descends to the lawn. Three shallow dormers occupy the lower roof slope at the second story of the façade. The openings include mulled six-over-six windows with molded surrounds in both the pedimented center dormer and the flanking flat-roofed dormers. Single eight-over-eight windows at the side elevations of the cross gable are surmounted by oval vents.

The north elevation is four bays wide with paired six-over-six windows set in rectangular recesses with arched corners. The back walls of the recesses are clad in vertical planks. An entry unit at the second-most westerly bay comprises a six-panel door flanked by four-over-four windows. The door fronts a small porch with a slat-work railing and a four-step stair leading to the lawn.

The double gambrel gables dominate the rear (east) elevation. Single six-over-six windows at the second story are surmounted by oval vents at the gable peaks. An entry centered at the south gable is sheltered by a shed-roofed open porch with a slat-work railing and vertical slat skirt. A five-step stair descends to meet the stone pathway that leads to the parking area.

546 Point Road was built in a blend of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. The Shingle Style is a uniquely American form which was introduced in the northeastern United States in the last quarter of the 19th century and reached its zenith of expression in New England seaside resorts and country estates. A high-fashion style favored by architects, it was primarily employed from 1880 to 1900. The focus of the style was on complex shapes and forms encased within a surface of continuous, naturally weathered shingles on the roof and walls. The Shingle Style features of the house include the wood shingles, shed dormers, recessed windows, and the shingled knee wall and flared posts at the porch. 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. Characteristic Colonial Revival features of the house include the gambrel roof, pedimented dormer, and multi-light window glazing.

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 19th 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. 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 1855 map shows a building in the general vicinity of the subject house owned by F.B. [Capt. Frederick Bartlett] Bolles. On the 1903 map the owner of the subject property is shown as I.H.[Isaac Henry] Lionberger. Capt. Frederick Bartlett Bolles (1807-1860), the son of Capt. Obed Bolles and Anna Sophia Briggs, was married in 1835 to Drucilla Leonard (1812-1879). The couple had one son, Obed Frederick Bolles (1840-1912). Capt. Frederick Bolles died in China in 1860 and his wife died in 1879. In 1885, Obed Bolles, who lived in California, sold the 75-acre 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 and graduated from Harvard College in 1877. He studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and first worked with Boston architects Ware & Van Brunt. He joined the firm of Henry Hobson Richardson in 1883 and after Richardson's death 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 19th and early 20th 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, and the summer residences at 598 Point Road (1891, MRN.56) and 604 Point Road (ca.1895, MRN.55).

Coolidge owned the large property for under two years before he subdivided it in 1892, selling the subject parcel to Henry Isaac Lionberger. It is not known whether Coolidge had a hand in the design of this Shingle Style/Colonial Revival style house, but the two men had close ties. Isaac Henry Lionberger (1854-1948) of St. Louis, Missouri 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.¹ Both Coolidge and Lionberger had close connections with the Shepley family. Coolidge was married to Julia Shepley (1856-1935), the older sister of his partner, George Shepley. Lionberger was married to Mary Louise Shepley (1863-1910), another sister of George Shepley. Lionberger's law partner, John Foster Shepley (1858-1930), was George Shepley's brother. In 1886 Lionberger commissioned a house to be designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in St. Louis which was completed a short time before the architect's death. The construction of that house (1886-1888) was likely supervised by George Shepley.²

The subject house was originally located further north and closer to the shoreline on a parcel adjacent to 560B and 560C Point Road. Its footprint is seen in this original location on the 1903 map and on a 1908 land plan. An article in the *New Bedford Standard-Times* in 1938 reported on the near-destruction by fire of the Henry Lionberger house on Blankenship Cove in Marion.³

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

² Oschner, Jeffrey Karl. *H.H. Richardson, Complete Architectural Works*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA (1982) pp. 425-6.

³ "Fire Destroys \$30,000 Home," *Special to Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, June 2, 1938.

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This event was confirmed by the owner of 560A Point Road during a June 20, 2024 site visit. The house appears to have been rebuilt in conformance with its original plan and was relocated to the subject parcel sometime between 1938 and 1950. (See the map below.) The assessor's card for the property notes that the "dwelling was split and moved here," but provides no further details.

In 1942 the property was devised to Isaac Lionberger's daughter Louise Lionberger Amory and her husband Roger. Louise Amory (1892-1979) was first married in 1914 to St. Louis stockbroker, John Austin Amory (1885-1938). One year after John Amory's death his widow married his brother Roger Amory (1887-1960). A Boston banker, Roger Amory served as a trust officer for the National Shawmut Bank of Boston.⁴ In 1946 Louise Amory conveyed the property to her daughter Leita Amory Hagemann (1917-1997) and her husband H. Frederick Hagemann. H. Frederick Hagemann, Jr. was the former president of State Street Bank and Trust Company in Boston.

The property was devised to the couple's daughter Leita Hagemann Luchetti, who owned it until 2000 when it was purchased by the current owner.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
05-24-2000	(97439)	Leita H. Luchetti	Alexander Biner
09-28-1998	(94268)	Hagemann Realty Trust	Leita H. Luchetti
06-02-1993	(84688)	Leita H. Hagemann	Hagemann Realty Trust
07-09-1947	(10806)	Louise L. & Roger Amory	Leita A. & H. Frederick, Jr. Hagemann
10-06-1942	(8181)	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr. & John Lionberger, Trustees	Louise L. & Roger Amory
08-21-1931	(4411)	Land Court Decree	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr. & John Lionberger, Trustees
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

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Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
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⁴ "Roger Amory, Boston Banker and Trustee," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, November 24, 1960.

