

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-39A	Marion		MRN.642
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 534D Point Road

Historic Name: Eduard H. & Julianna S. Bullerjahn House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 1956

Source: Town assessor's records

Style/Form: Contemporary

Architect/Builder: Eduard H. Bullerjahn

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Vertical wood clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

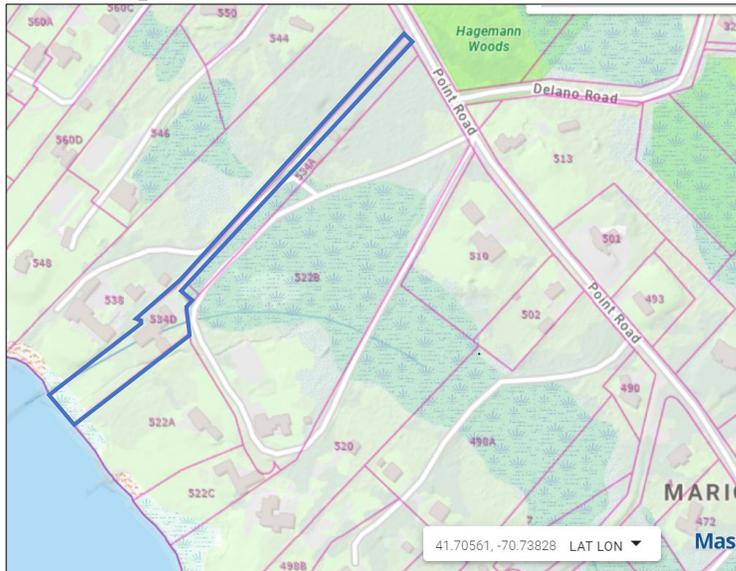
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Garage addition (under construction 2024)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.40

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

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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.

534D Point Road occupies a polygonal waterfront lot on the west side of Point Road. The parcel is deeply set back behind the adjacent parcel to the east and joins the road via a long, narrow right-of-way. The house is positioned near the eastern property line and faces west. The property is maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and trees along the northern and southern boundary lines. A planting bed occupies the area at the north elevation of the dwelling enclosed by the main, east, and northeast blocks. A gravel driveway enters the property from Point Road via the right-of-way and ends in a parking area at the façade (north elevation).

This two-story front-gabled house in the Contemporary style was built in 1956 and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The dwelling is comprised of an assemblage of rectangular forms with shallow gable and shed roofs. These forms include an imposing main block at the northwest corner of the house, a south block, an east block, and a northeast block. The architectural interest is focused on the west elevation facing the shoreline. The plan and massing are distinctly asymmetrical but the fenestration pattern is relatively uniform and features clerestory windows at all gable ends. The house rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in vertical wood clapboards. The asphalt-shingled roof carries a substantial chimney at the roof ridge at the main block.

Trim elements consist of narrow rake boards at the overhanging open cornice and exposed roof beams at the gable ends. The main block is seven bays in length and terminates at the west (water-facing) elevation in a dramatic two-story open porch supported by a framework of square posts. The west elevation is occupied by a wide projecting "window wall" of floor-to-ceiling lights framing a sliding glass door. A second entry fronts the porch from the southwest corner of the main block. The windows at the side elevations at the main block comprise vertical ribbons of stacked triple casements that reach from the foundation to the cornice.

The main entry is discreetly located at the westernmost bay of the north elevation of the main block and comprises a simple flat door with a single-light transom fronting a concrete stoop. A wall capped by a sweeping extension of the roof creates an entrance enclosure just west of the door. The one-and-one-half-story south block sits parallel to the main block and is set back from its west elevation. An integrated screened porch containing half-story-height screened panels over a knee wall spans the west elevation. A shed-roofed hyphen connects the main and south blocks. It contains a sliding glass door with an eave-height transom at the west elevation that opens to a paved terrace occupying the space between the main and south blocks.

The one-story east block is six bays long and centered on the east elevation of the main block. A continuous band of fixed six-light sash runs along the north elevation. The northeast block comprises a one-story perpendicular addition at the east elevation of the east block that appears to be of relatively recent construction. Construction of an attached garaged at the east elevation of the house was underway on the day of the site visit.

This house is an example of the Contemporary style, a movement rooted in Modernism that gained traction in America in the mid-20th century. Architectural historian Virginia McAlester notes in her book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, that it was the style most favored by architects from 1945 to 1965. Contemporary house designs were strongly influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, and popularized by developer-turned-architect Joseph Eicher. These dwellings typically appear to be assembled from two or more gabled or shed-roofed forms joined together. Defining features of the style include irregular, asymmetrical forms; low-pitched roofs with overhanging eaves; window walls; clerestory windows; and exposed roof beams. Main entrances are generally obscure and recessed, as seen at the Bullerjahn House.

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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 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.

This mid-century modern house was built in 1956 by Eduard Henri Bullerjahn and his wife Julianna S. Bullerjahn. The house faces Blankinship Cove and stands on land which was once part of a large farm owned in the 18th and much of the 19th centuries by the Ellis family. The land was acquired in several transactions between 1883 and 1895 by Anita Damon (nee Lyon) Forster (1851-1944) of Boston. She was the wife of Dr. Edward Jacob Forster (1846-1896), a physician with a practice in Charlestown who also served as surgeon general of Massachusetts. She sold the land in 1900 to Frank E. Sweetser.

Frank Elliot Sweetser (1850-1904) was a Boston insurance executive who succeeded his father as president of the Washington Fire Insurance Company.¹ He was married in 1880 to Susan Jameson Anderson with whom he had six children who survived to adulthood. After the death of Susan Sweetser in 1921, the ownership of the property was consolidated by her son John Anderson Sweetser (1889-1944). John Sweetser was the president of the Boston rug firm, Bigelow & Sanford.² Sweetser was married to Violet Shepley (1890-1973), the daughter of George Foster Shepley (1860-1903) and Julia Hayden Richardson (1867-1965) and the granddaughter of the renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). The property was devised to John and Susan Sweetser's daughter, Julianna Sweetser Grant. She was first married to William D. Grant, the stepson of Boston financier Prescott Bigelow, a partner of the Hayen Stone & Company securities firm.³ Grant was killed during World War II while serving with the British Royal Air Force.

Julianna Grant was remarried in 1951 to architect Eduard Henri Bullerjahn (1920-1999). He received a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1943, was a 1948 diplomate of the Swedish Royal Academy of Fine Arts, and in 1949 received the prestigious Rotch Traveling Scholarship in Architecture. Bullerjahn served in the United States Navy during World War II. He worked for several architecture firms in Boston and New York, including Perry, Shaw & Hepburn (Boston) and Edward Durrell Stone (New York), before establishing an independent practice as Bullerjahn Associates in Boston. In 1963 the architect was involved in a controversial building project in Beacon Hill that called for the demolition of an 1848, Richard Upjohn-designed building and its replacement by a modern apartment building designed by Bullerjahn. This project, which garnered considerable media attention, did not materialize.⁴

The Sweetser property was subdivided in 1956, creating the subject parcel (see the land plan below), and the house was designed and built by Eduard Bullerjahn shortly thereafter. He was primarily a residential architect, but also designed yacht interiors. Bullerjahn served on the Marion Planning Board in 1960-61 and around that time delivered a series of lectures on art at the Marion Art Center.^{5,6} He and his wife retired to Little Compton, Rhode Island, where an acquaintance later blogged about the house he built there. Constructed of white stucco, it was "part old coastal New England and part Mediterranean modern" with "rooms set around an inner courtyard under a glass conservatory roof."⁷ The Bullerjahns owned the subject property until 1964.

¹ "Frank E. Sweetser," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA.

² "John A. Sweetser, 54, Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Head Dies in Vermont," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA August 19, 1944.

³ "Prescott Bigelow, Boston Financier Partner in Hayden Stone & Co.," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA October 28, 1937.

⁴ "Beacon Hill Building Blasted and Blessed," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, May 9, 1963.

⁵ "Art Lecture to Begin at Marion Art Center," *New Bedford Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, January 23, 1959.

⁶ "Eduard Henri Bullerjahn," *World Biographical Encyclopedia, Inc.* @https://prabook.com/web/eduard_henri.bullerjahn/605520.

⁷ "Art By-Products by Pyracanthus" Blog, entry March 7, 2015. <https://pyracanthsketch.blogspot.com>.

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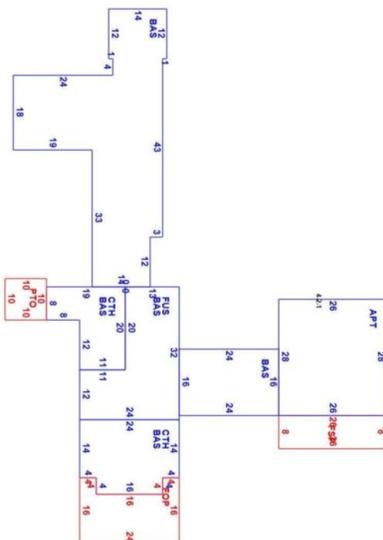
The house was purchased in 1975 by Dr. Donald A. Tucker (1923-1983) and his wife Harriet Hall Tucker of Cambridge. Tucker was a physician in the Harvard University Health Service. The property remained in Tucker family ownership until 2008. It was purchased by the current owners in 2021.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
01-12-2021	(131400)	JVC Investments	Carlos, Jr. & Jennifer Varum
02-13-2018	(126426)	534 Point Road LLC	JVC Investments
09-30-2008	(112193)	Mark K. Tucker	534 Point Road LLC
		Land Court Decree	Mark K. Tucker
		Estate of Harriet H. Provost	Mark . Tucker
08-23-1999	(96197)	Harriet H. Provost	Harriet H. Provost
		Estate of Doanld A. Tucker	Harriet A. Tucker
	(55353)	Phyllis Anne Zens	Donald A. & Harriet Tucker
03-23-1972	(48875)	Richard G. Zens	Phyllis Anne Zens
05-28-1964	(35462)	Eduard Henri & Julianna S. Bullerjahn	Richard G. & Phyllis Anne Zens
05-19-1956	(23638)	Julianna S. Bullerjahn f/n/a Julianna S. Grant	Eduard Henri & Julianna S. Bullerjahn
12-26-1944	(9448)	Estate of John A. Sweetser	Julianna S. Grant

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- Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling
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Assessor's card plan



West (façade) and south elevations.

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North and east elevations.



East and south elevations.



Land Court Case Plan 14635 D, 1956.