

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-32	Marion		MRN.55
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Town/City: Marion
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck
Address: 604 (formerly 604A) Point Road
Historic Name: Charles Allerton Coolidge House
Uses: Present: Residential
Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1891
Source: Map and title research
Style/Form: Colonial Revival
Architect/Builder: Charles Allerton Coolidge

Exterior Material:
Foundation: Rubble stone & concrete
Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood
Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
North wing, south ell & sun room (20th c.)

Condition: Fair - Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

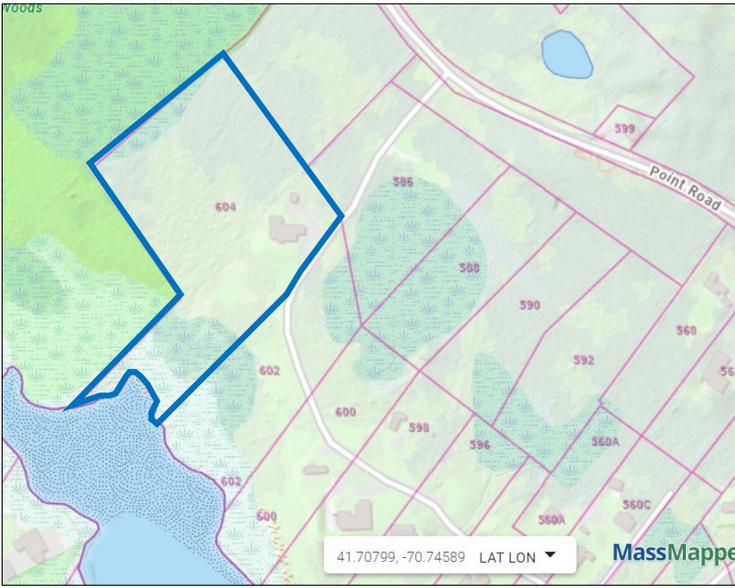
Acreage: 6.40

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.

Photograph



Locus Map



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.

604 Point Road occupies a 6.4-acre polygonal lot on the west side of Point Road that stretches to the shoreline of Blankenship Cove. The parcel is deeply set back from the road and connects to it via a shared paved driveway that serves the properties at 594, 596, 598, 600, and 604 Point Road. A driveway spur creates a circle off the southwest corner of the house and continues west to access a garage sited behind the house. The dwelling is positioned near the southeast corner of the parcel and faces west. The property is densely wooded apart from expanses of lawn at the west (façade) and north elevations of the house. The house fronts a tall hedge enclosing a yard that spans the façade. The parcel includes areas of marsh land along the northern property line and near the shoreline.

The subject house was built around 1892 in the Colonial Revival style and retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity. The building comprises a two-story, five-bay-by-four-bay, gambrel-roofed main block with three dependencies. The dependencies include a one-story, gabled ell at the south elevation, a perpendicular east wing at the east elevation, and a flat-roofed sunroom at the junction of the main block and south ell. The house rests on a foundation that includes segments of rubble stone and concrete block. It is clad in wood clapboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. A large, corbelled brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge of the main block. A similar chimney rises from the roof ridge of the south ell.

The house is trimmed with a boxed cornice, corner boards, short eave returns, and two-part rake boards. Openings at the façade of the main block are symmetrically placed and comprise double-hung, twelve-over-twelve sash with molded surrounds and blinds flanking a projecting, deeply-pedimented entrance bay. The six-panel wood door is flanked by paired Doric pilasters and has a five-light transom. The door fronts a flagstone stoop and stair and a paved walkway leading to the driveway. Three undersized gable dormers at the lower roof slope contain twelve-over-eight windows. The windows at the side elevations include twelve-over-twelve and twelve-over-eight sash. Rectangular vents occupy the gable peaks. There is a semi-hexagonal oriel at the easternmost bay at the north elevation.

The south ell and east wing have twelve-over-twelve windows. The east wing has paired gable dormers at the north roof slope and a shed-roofed screened porch at the first story. The flat-roofed sunroom at the junction of the main block and south ell is square in plan. It has wide openings with vertically-divided lights, rectangular Doric columns, and arched keystone spandrels. The screened porch at the east wing has matching features.

604 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 the gambrel roof, gable dormers, large center chimney, multi-light window sash, pedimented entry, main door surround, and keystone spandrels at the porches.

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, Brigges,

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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 known as 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. Coolidge is shown as owner of this large property on the 1903 map.

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 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, the summer residences at 598 Point Road (1891, MRN.56) and 604 Point Road (ca.1895, MRN.55), and others on West Drive.

The Colonial Revival subject house is shown on the 1903 map with C.A. Coolidge as the labeled owner. It can be assumed that it was designed and built by Charles A. Coolidge soon after the land purchase in 1891. He was married to Julia Shepley (1856-1935), the older sister of his partner, George Shepley. The couple had four children: Mary Shepley (1892-1988), married to Gordon Rentschler; Isabel (1892-1989), married to Thomas Cunningham; Charles Allerton Coolidge, Jr. (1894-1987), married to Alison Jones; and Julia Shepley (1896-1982), married to Frederick Deane.

In 1929, Coolidge conveyed a portion of his family complex in Marion, which included the subject house, to his daughter Julia Coolidge Deane. (See the land plan below.) The remainder of the estate was devised to his heirs, each with a fraction of ownership. Julia Deane was born in Chicago and attended the Windsor School in Boston. An overseas volunteer during World War II, she was attached to the United States and British minesweeping fleet at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. She and her husband, investment banker Frederick Deane, lived in Boston. Julia Deane was an active volunteer in that city and was a member of the Beverly Yacht Club in Marion.



1903 map. Coolidge property.

The property was conveyed to the couple's daughter, Julia "Jay" Deane Crowley (1922-2022), who was born in Beijing, China. She also attended the Windsor School and graduated from Radcliffe College in 1943. She was married to Thomas T. Crowley of Cambridge. An avid sailor, Julia Crowley was a supporter of the Beverly Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program. She served for

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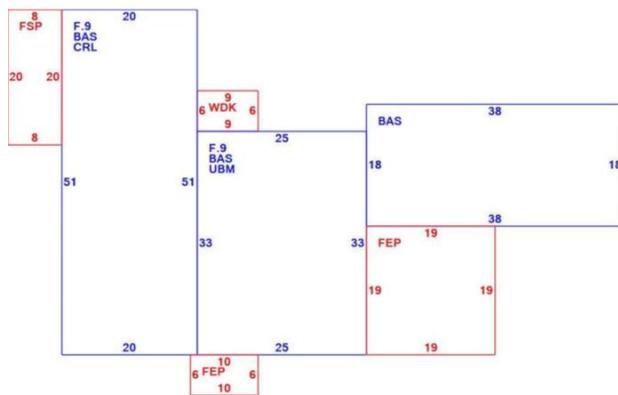
many years on the Marion planning board and in 2000 received the Sippican Historical Society Award for Dedicated Service to Marion.¹

Title Research

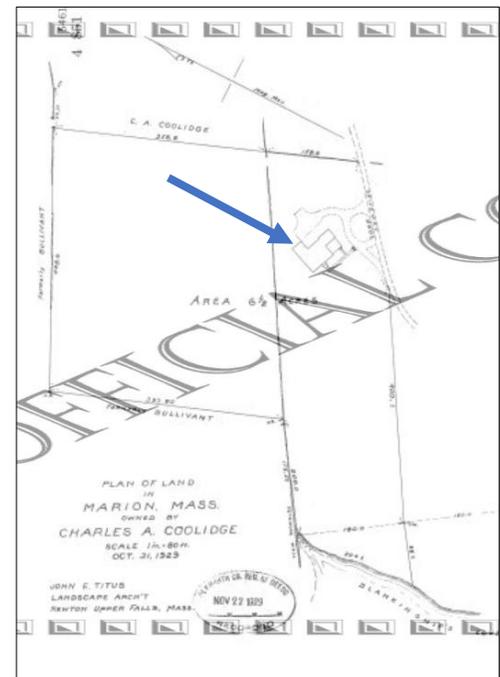
Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
12-26-1997	(92617)	Julia Deane Crowley	Blankinship Cove Limited Partnership
11-19-1929	1584-594	Charles Allerton Coolidge, Sr.	Julia C. Deane
08-21-1931	4408	Land Court Decree	Charles Allerton Coolidge
01-19-1891	614-193 to 614-199	Sisson Family	Charles Allerton Coolidge
02-17-1885	514-273	Obed F. & Abbie E. Bolles	David Sisson

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- Map of the Town of Marion, Plymouth County, Massachusetts* 1855 H.F. Walling
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019.
- Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
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- Smith, Pete. (ed.) *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, 2008.
- Somers, Olive Hill. *Three Centuries of Marion Houses*. Marion, 1972.



Assessor's card plan



Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 4, Page 851. November 22, 1929.

¹ "Julia Dean, 86: Was active in volunteer groups." Uncited, undated clipping in collection of the Sippican Historical Society.

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West (façade) and south elevations.