

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-31H	Marion		MRN.650
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Town/City: Marion
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck
Address: 596 (formerly 604D) Point Road
Historic Name: Charles Allerton Coolidge Barn/House
Uses: Present: Residential
Original: Agricultural
Date of Construction: Ca. 1903-1910
Source: Map research, visual analysis
Style/Form: No style
Architect/Builder: Attr. Charles Allerton Coolidge
Exterior Material:
Foundation: Concrete
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle & barn board / Wood
Roof: Standing seam metal
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Renovated for residential use (2010)

Condition: Excellent
Moved: no yes **Date:** After 1989
Acreage: 2.79

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.

596 Point Road occupies a 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 gravel driveway that serves the properties at 594, 596, 598, 600, and 604 Point Road. The dwelling is roughly centered on the parcel and faces east. Its west elevation is oriented towards the shoreline, where a dock shared by residents of the Coolidge compound extends into Blankenship Cove. . The property west of the house is maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and clusters of trees.

This wood-frame former barn built in the first decade of the 20th century was renovated for residential use in 2010. Sometime after 1989 the structure was moved from further east on the same parcel to its current location west of the driveway. The dwelling reflects no particular style but has significant architectural integrity. This U-shaped building comprises a front-gabled, one-and-one-half-story main block with two one-story wings. The wings include shed-roofed components that span the side elevations of the main block, and contiguous gabled components that extend from their west ends. The house rests on a concrete foundation and is clad in wood shingles at all locations except the west elevation of the main block, which is sided with barn boards. The standing-seam metal roof is capped by an octagonal cupola. A double-flue eave-wall chimney with a river-rock veneer rises at the south wall of the main block.

Trim is limited to narrow rake and frieze boards. The main entry occupies the south wall at the southeast corner of the main block; it is sheltered by a partially enclosed, shed-roofed porch that occupies the junction of the main block and south wing. The porch has a single post support and a two-sided stair that lands at the lawn. Three openings are centered at the façade (west elevation) – a three-part unit at the first story with full-height multi-light doors flanking a multi-light window; a French door at the second story blocked by a slat-work railing; and a fixed six-light window at the gable peak surmounting a hay hook. The west elevation of the main block, which is clad in barn board, has a three-part multi-light door surmounted by a tripartite multi-light window, which is in turn surmounted by a window at the gable peak. The octagonal cupola at the roof ridge has a collar of four-light sash at the cornice below the octagonal metal roof.

The west elevation of the north wing is spanned by a wide, two-leaf, vertical-plank barn door suspended from a track. The doors are pierced with fixed multi-light sash. Fenestration at the north and south wings comprises single and paired, fixed multi-light sash with flat surrounds. A single entry fronts a small stoop at the south wall of the south wing.

596 Point Road is an early 20th-century barn extensively renovated for use as a residence. The sensitive renovation retained and/or recreated many barn-like elements, including the simple trim, barn siding at the west elevation, barn doors, hay hook, and cupola.

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

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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.



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.

1855 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 subject house is not shown on the 1903 map. It can be assumed that this former barn was designed and built by Coolidge in the first decade of the 20th century. Coolidge 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.



1903 map. Coolidge property.

In 1929, Coolidge conveyed a portion of his family complex in Marion, which included the first house built on the property at 604 Point Road (c.1895, Charles Allerton Coolidge House, MRN.55), to his daughter Julia Coolidge Deane. The remainder of the estate, which included the parcel on which the subject house is located, was devised to his heirs, each with a fraction of ownership. In 1989, the ownership of these collective properties was consolidated under Coolidge's grandson, Charles A. Coolidge, Jr., who subsequently placed ownership in a limited partnership. The property was subdivided into the parcels shown on Land Court Case Plan #14631 D below, where the subject property is seen as Parcel #11. The property remains in extended Coolidge family ownership.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
05-01-2024	(117534)	Charles A., III & Lindsay Leard Coolidge, Trustees	Lot 11 Nominee Trust
06-04-2012	(117534)	Coolmar Limited Partnership	Charles A., III & Lindsay Leard Coolidge, Trustees
01-05-1998	(92775)	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr.	Coolmar Ltd. Partnership

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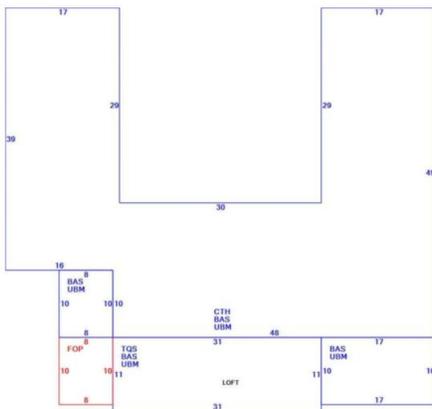
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11-15-1991	(82260)	Julia Crowley	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr
10-29-1989	(66995)	Mary B. Lowrey f/n/a Rentschler (1/4)	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr.
10-11-1989	(66995)	Frederick Deane (3/16)	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr.
10-04-1989	(66995)	Phillip Deane (1/4)	Charles A. Coolidge, Jr.
		Estate of Charles Allerton Coolidge, Sr.	Heirs of Charles Allerton Coolidge, Sr.
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

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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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



East and north elevations.

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Land Court Plan 14631 D. Subject house is shown prior to being moved closer to the shoreline.