

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-31B	Marion		MRN.649
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Town/City: Marion
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Sippican Neck
Address: 594 (formerly 604E) Point Road
Historic Name: Charles Allerton Coolidge House
Uses: Present: Residential
Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca. 1903-1910
Source: Map research, visual analysis
Style/Form: Shingle Style
Architect/Builder: Probably Charles A. Coolidge

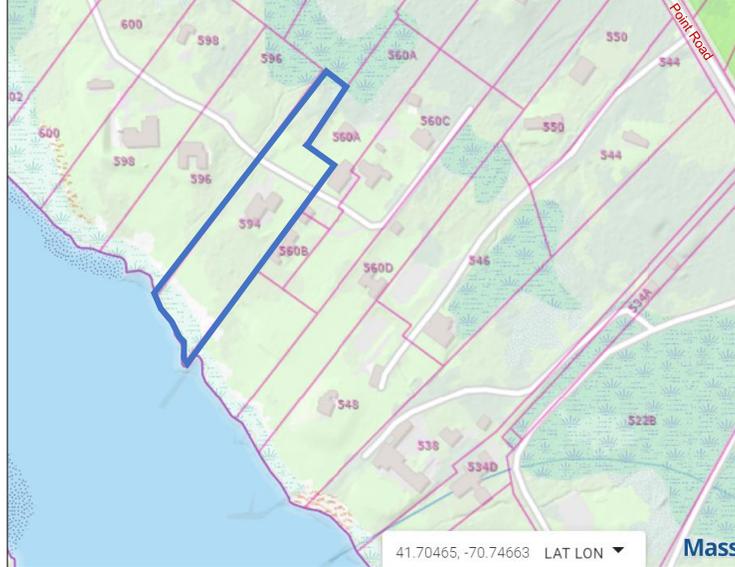
Exterior Material:
Foundation: Rubble stone
Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood
Roof: Wood shingle & metal

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Photograph



Locus Map



Major Alterations (*with dates*):
West block (late 20th-early 21st c.)
Attached garage (early 21st c.)

Condition: Excellent
Moved: no yes **Date:** 1981
Acreage: 2.23

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

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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.

594 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 driveway ends in a circle enclosing a planting bed at the subject house. The dwelling is roughly centered on the parcel and faces north with its west elevation towards the shoreline. The property west of the house is maintained in lawn dotted with shrubs and clusters of trees. A spacious lawn east of the house is enclosed by a drystone wall.

This wood-frame house was built in the Shingle Style in the first decade of the 20th century and retains a moderate degree of architectural integrity. The one-and-one-half-story building comprises a side-gabled main block spanned by an open porch at the façade (north elevation); a two-story block at the west elevation; a one-story hip-roofed attached garage at the east elevation; and multiple dormer additions. The house rests on a rubblestone foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The roof is surfaced with wood shingles except at the dormers, which are clad in standing seam metal. A triple-flue brick chimney rises from the south roof slope of the west block. The house was extensively renovated in the early 2000s but it is not clear which alterations date to that time.

Trim comprises narrow corner and frieze boards. The main block is four-bays-by-three bays with a gullwing extension at the rear (south) elevation. The hip-roofed open porch spanning the main block has heavy tapered posts and shelters a single entry at the easternmost bay. The porch is surmounted by four hip-roofed wall dormers – these include large two-bay dormers alternating with small dormers that contain three-over-three sash. The small sash rest on wood-shingled awning canopies. Two large shed-roofed dormers and a hip-roofed dormer occupy the rear roof slope. The windows at the main block comprise single, paired, and tripartite four-over-one sash with flat surrounds. Sliding glass doors at the east and west ends of the main block open to a deck and a terrace, respectively.

The two-bay-by-two-bay west block is set back from the main block and has a full-width, shed-roofed screened porch that aligns with the open porch at the main block. The porch has continuous, narrow screened panels separated by heavy porch posts. A balcony at the west elevation projects over paired sliding glass doors that open to a stone wall-enclosed terrace that wraps the west end of the house. Stone steps from the northwest corner of the terrace lead to the west lawn.

The hip-roofed garage is set off the southeast corner of the house. It is side gabled with a square cupola vent at the roof ridge. The overhead garage doors have diagonal-slat panels and integrated transoms.

594 Point Road is an example of a simple Shingle Style house which has been significantly altered. 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. In addition to the use of wood shingles, the subject house exhibits other features of the style including the multiple dormers and tapered porch posts.

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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' 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. 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, and the summer residences at 598 Point Road (1891, MRN.56) and 604 Point Road (ca.1895, MRN.55).



1903 map. Coolidge property.

The subject house is not shown on the 1903 map. It was likely 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.

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. The property was subdivided into the parcels shown on Land Court Case Plan #14631 D below, where the subject

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West and south elevations.