

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-23	Marion	M	MRN.177
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Town/City: Marion

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

Address: 24 West Drive

Historic Name: Charles B. Butterfield House / "Cedarholm"

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: Ca.1902

Source: Map & title research

Style/Form: Shingle Style

Architect/Builder: Coolidge & Carlson

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Guest house (1950)

Garage (1995)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Garage entry projection (1963)

Enclosed porch at west elevation (late 20th c./early 21st c.)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.60

Setting: Moderately settled area developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the eastern shore of Sippican Harbor. Small enclave of large summer residences on generous lots in the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. Terrain distinguished by rolling lawns, elaborate gardens, and wooded areas.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lynn Smiledge

Organization: Marion Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): June 2024

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MARION

24 West Drive

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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.

24 West Drive occupies a polygonal lot that meets the eastern shore of Sippican Harbor. The dwelling is roughly centered on the parcel and faces east. Low foundation plantings and several mature trees line the façade. A large planting bed wraps the northwest corner of the house. The property west of the house drops gently in grade to the waterfront and is maintained in an expansive lawn. A dock extends into the harbor from the southwest corner of the parcel. The eastern portion of the property is wooded. A gravel driveway enters the property from West Drive, passes a guest house sited near the southeast corner of the parcel, and ends in a circle at the façade of subject house. A garage is located off the northeast corner of the dwelling.

This noteworthy Shingle Style house was built around 1902 and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It is a two-story, side-gabled building with a rectangular plan and a gambrel roof with deep, angled, overhanging eaves. The roof ends in hay beaks at the gable ends. The façade is dominated by a wide gambrel-roofed cross gable at the south end; a jerkinhead dormer with a convex profile spans both slopes of the gambrel roof at the north end. A fully enclosed porch wraps the west and north elevations. Both the east (façade) and west elevations of the house have high visual interest. The walls and lower roof slope are clad in wood shingles and the upper roof slope is surfaced with asphalt shingles. Asymmetrically-placed brick chimneys rise from just below the roof ridge at the east roof slope. The dwelling has a rubble stone foundation.

Trim is limited to narrow rake boards. The main entry at the north end of the facade is surmounted by the jerkinhead dormer and sheltered by the deep overhang of the lower roof slope. The entry contains a glass-and-panel door. The door fronts a gravel walkway with rubble stone flank walls that joins the driveway. The dormer contains a triangular multi-light window at the gable peak and paired six-over-one sash at the second story. The dormer's convex roof overhang is supported by curved, wood-shingled brackets. The wide gambrel-roofed cross gable at the south end of the façade contains a fully trimmed window unit at the second story comprising a centered tripartite window flanked by single sash with pedimented crowns. This window complex is surmounted by paired casements nestled under a polygonal projection at the gable peak. At the base of the cross gable is a one-story, hip-roofed projection with flared walls that contains a garage door entry; this addition was made to the house in 1963 according to the assessor's card for the property. The narrowly-enframed windows at the facade include double-hung, eight-over-one and six-over-one sash. Multi-light windows with semi-circular fanlights occupy the gable peaks at the north and south gable ends of the house.

A jerkinhead dormer matching the one at the façade is set at the north end of the west, harbor-facing elevation. A similar dormer at the south end contains a semi-hexagonal oriel at the lower roof slope; the dormer has been modified at the upper roof slope to incorporate a balcony. A flat-roofed, fully glazed sunroom projects from the center of the enclosed porch. It is flanked to the south by modern, full-height picture windows and sliding glass doors extending across the elevation. An open deck with a cable railing extends along the west elevation and wraps the northwest corner of the house. A two-sided, seven-step staircase at the southeast corner of the deck descends to the lawn.

24 West Drive is a handsome Shingle Style house. 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 elements of the style including the gambrel roof, gambrel-roofed cross dormer, deep overhanging eaves, and jerkinhead dormers. The pedimented windows at the façade at the fanlight-headed windows at the side elevations are Colonial Revival features.

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. West Drive is linked to Point Road, which runs north from Butler's Point (also called Ruggles Point) at the south end of the neck to County Road, where it terminates.



1903 map.

This house appears on the 1903 map with C. [Charles] Butterfield shown as the owner. It was built on land purchased in 1902 by Helen L. and Charles B. Butterfield from William and Libbie Bullivant. It seems likely that the house was built for the Butterfields shortly after the land purchase.

The lot purchased by the Butterfields was a portion of a parcel of land on Sippican Neck acquired by Libbie Bullivant in 1895 from Ella Kellen, the wife of Boston lawyer William Vail Kellen. Kellen had acquired this land through several purchases from local land owners including Edwy Hammond, Howard Briggs and Abby Delano. William Vail Kellen (1852-1942), who was born in Truro, graduated from Brown University in 1872 and later served on the board of trustees of that school. He received a law degree from Boston University in 1875 and practiced law in Boston until his death. He was married to Ella Sturtevant (1853-1946).

William Maurice Bullivant (1858-1939) was born in New Jersey and moved with his family to Boston as a boy. He entered the leather business and eventually became the founder and president of the Northwestern Leather Company.¹ Bullivant began summering in Marion in the early 1890s, and

soon became active in the Marion real estate market.² According to the 1998 MHC Area Form MRN.M for the West Drive area, over time he acquired more than 450 acres of property in Great Neck. Bullivant was the owner of several other East Marion properties including 683 Point Road (early 19th c., Union Chapel – John M. & Ruth C. Berto House, MRN.653), 669 Point Road (ca. 1797, Ephraim Allen – Capt. Edwy E. Hammond/Clement M. Hammond House, MRN.57) and the nearby house at 2 West Drive (ca. 1900, William M. Bullivant House, MRN. 174). William Bullivant was first married to Libbie Priscilla Lodge (1859-1911) of Boston and later to Susan Ross (1857-1937) of Portland, Maine.

Along with the other houses in the West Drive enclave, which share similar design attributes, the design of this house has been attributed to architects Coolidge & Carlson. The 1998 MHC Area Form (MRN.M) for the West Drive area, which includes the subject property, cites a 1919 article in *The American Architect* which credited the design of the houses at 14 West Drive (MRN.176) and 24 West Drive (MRN.177) to the firm of Coolidge & Carlson and extrapolates that attribution to all of the houses on West Drive. (See image below. Note that the subject property is incorrectly identified in the article photographs as the neighboring A.W. Bliss House at 14 West Drive.) That firm was led by J. [Joseph] Randolph Coolidge, Jr. (1864-1928). A graduate of Harvard College, Coolidge studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and the University of Berlin. Coolidge & Carlson has been credited with the design of ten residences in Marion, most of them in the Shingle Style, at the turn of the 20th century. These dwellings are all located on Allen's Point Road, West Drive, and Point Road. In addition to residential work, Coolidge & Carlson was responsible for a number of commercial, municipal, and academic buildings including Claflin Hall at Wellesley College (1917, WEL.436), and the West Hill Apartment House (1916, BOS.15879) and Brimmer Street Garage (1909, BOS.15711) in Boston. There appears to be no professional or family connection to Charles Allerton Coolidge of the

¹ "William M. Bullivant," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA, May 29, 1939.

² "Marion Man Dies Suddenly," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA, May 28, 1939.

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Boston architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, who also designed homes in Marion and was himself a summer resident.

Boston stockbroker Charles Buckingham Butterfield (1864-1958) was married in Boston in 1894 to Helen Louise Thayer (1869-1952), the daughter of financier Charles Edward Thayer and Mary Hersey. Helen was the younger sister of Jennie Winship Thayer, the wife of Albert Whiting Bliss who owned the house next door at 14 West Drive (MRN. 176). Butterfield was a member of the Boston Stock Exchange for 47 years.³ The Butterfields lived in Chestnut Hill and summered at this house in Marion until 1924, when the property was purchased by Edgar and Rosamond Rust.

Edgar Carter Rust (1882-1963) was first married to Rosamond Pierce Weeks (1887-1931). She was the daughter of naturalist Andrew Gray Weeks, Jr. (1861-1931) and Alice Standish Taber Weeks, who owned a summer residence in East Marion at 502 Point Road (MRN. 79). After Rosamond's death Rust was married to Elizabeth Adsit (1897-1983). A 1904 Harvard graduate, Edgar Rust was a Boston investment banker. He served as a director of the Boston Storage Warehouse Company, the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway, and the National Shawmut Bank.⁴ The Rusts sold the house in 1944 to S. Willard Bridges, Jr.

Samuel Willard Bridges, Jr. (1904-1983) and his wife Dorothy lived in Wellesley and used the subject property as a summer residence. The 1940 census listed Samuel Bridges as part-owner of a woolen mill. The property was conveyed to the couple's son, Samuel Willard ("Bill") Bridges (III) (b.1930), and his wife Jane Seymour Mortenson Bridges (1932-2018) in 1982. Bill and Jane Bridges lived in Carlisle and used the subject property as a summer home until the 1980s, when they moved permanently to Marion. A teacher, Jane was a graduate of Smith College and received a master's degree in education from Antioch College.⁵ While in Marion she served as president of the Buzzards Bay Garden Club.

Title Research

Date	Book-Page (Certificate)	Grantor	Grantee
04-03-2018	49659-113	Paul E. Grover	24 West Drive LLC
11-25-2013	43860-76	Lisa P. Grover	Paul E. Grover
12-15-2007	35410-322	Paul E. & Lisa P. Grover	Lisa P. Grover
05-02-2005	30460-149	Roberta David	Paul E. & Lisa P. Grover
06-30-1993	12000-172	S. Willard, Jr. & Jane M. Bridges	Roberta David
03-30-1982	5298-6	S. Willard Bridges, Jr.	S. Willard, Jr. & Jane M. Bridges
11-06-1944	1873-588	Edgar C. & Elizabeth A. Rust	S. Willard Bridges, Jr.
11-14-1924	1474-206	Helen L. (& Charles B.) Butterfield	Edgar C. & Rosamond Rust
09-22-1902	855-139	William M. & Libbie P. Bullivant	Helen L. (& Charles B.) Butterfield
11-27-1900	815-466	William V. & Ella S. Kellen	William M. & Libbie P. Bullivant

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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.
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 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
 Rosbe, Judith. *Marion in the Golden Age*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
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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.

Withey, Henry F. & Elsie Rathburn. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing, 1956.

³ "Charles Butterfield," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA September 27, 1958.

⁴ "Edgar Rust," *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA July 7, 1963.

⁵ Jane Bridges Obituary, *The Manchester Journal*, Manchester, VT, December 21, 2018.

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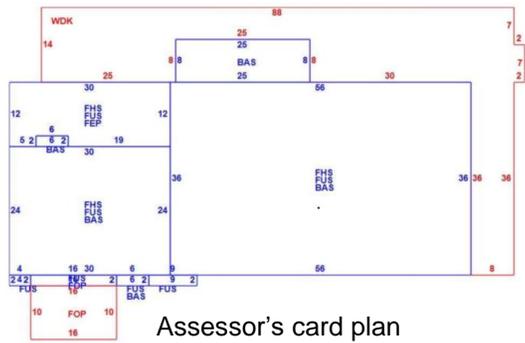
MARION

24 West Drive

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Am Architect
1919.webp

American Architect, Oct. 29, 1919. House incorrectly identified as the A.W. Bliss House.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Edward Gordon / Lynn Smiledge

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This house and the other dwellings in the West Drive Area (MRN.M) are recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing to the prospective Allen’s Point District (MRN.C). This small waterfront development on the eastern shore of Sippican Harbor includes five architecturally significant residences in the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. Built between 1900 and 1905 for Boston-area businessmen, these seasonal dwellings represent the work of the firm Coolidge & Carlson. The nearby Allen’s Point area, home to a collection of early 20th-century high-style seasonal residences in the Shingle, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival styles, also includes the work of Coolidge & Carlson.

Under Criterion C, the West Drive Area is recommended as eligible at the local level in the area of Architecture for its intact collection of distinguished, high-style dwellings built during the peak of Marion’s development as a desirable summer destination. The Boston firm of Coolidge & Carlson has been credited with the design of ten residences in Marion, most of them in the Shingle Style, at the turn of the 20th century.

The resources here retain substantial integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The district would likely meet criteria C at the local level with significance in architecture.