

FORM B – BUILDING

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

17/28	Reading		350
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Downtown

Photograph



Address: 159 Ash Street

Historic Name: Wells Shop

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: horseshoeing shop

Date of Construction: by 1875

Source: *At Wood End*, p. 233

Style/Form: ---

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
late 20th c. – siding, new windows

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.07 acre

Setting: mixed downtown area

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2010

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

159 Ash Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The building at 159 Ash Street is a utilitarian 1½-story structure capped by a gable roof with medium pitch and eaves that overhang slightly without returns. A deteriorated brick chimney rises from the ridge toward the rear of the property. The building is now sheathed in vinyl siding extending to the ground, obscuring the foundation. There is a noticeably large kneewall area above the first floor windows which for the most part contain modern 6/6 sash. The central bay on the gable front has casement units on the first floor and attic. The main entry is now located on the north elevation and contains a modern door sheltered by a gable porch with curved underside, supported by Doric columns. There are no other window openings on this wall.

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.

According to *At Wood End*, this building was originally a horseshoeing shop operated by Charles D. Wells. Historic maps indicate that it was built prior to 1875. Wells continued to operate the business through 1910. As automobiles replaced horses, there was less and less call for the service and in the 1920s the shop was converted to an antique shop. In the late 1940s Maurice Reebenacher operated an antiques and auction business here known as the Village Green, utilizing Elm Park across the street as the venue for his auctions. After Reebenacher's death in 1954, the building was renovated for use by the Coach & Four Travel Agency. It has had a number of occupants since that time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Reading Historical Commission, photographic collection.

Reading 350th Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994, p. 233.

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Undated view of 159 Ash St. (2nd from left) and Nokes Stable and Blacksmith Shop (at center)

Source: Reading Historical Commission

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

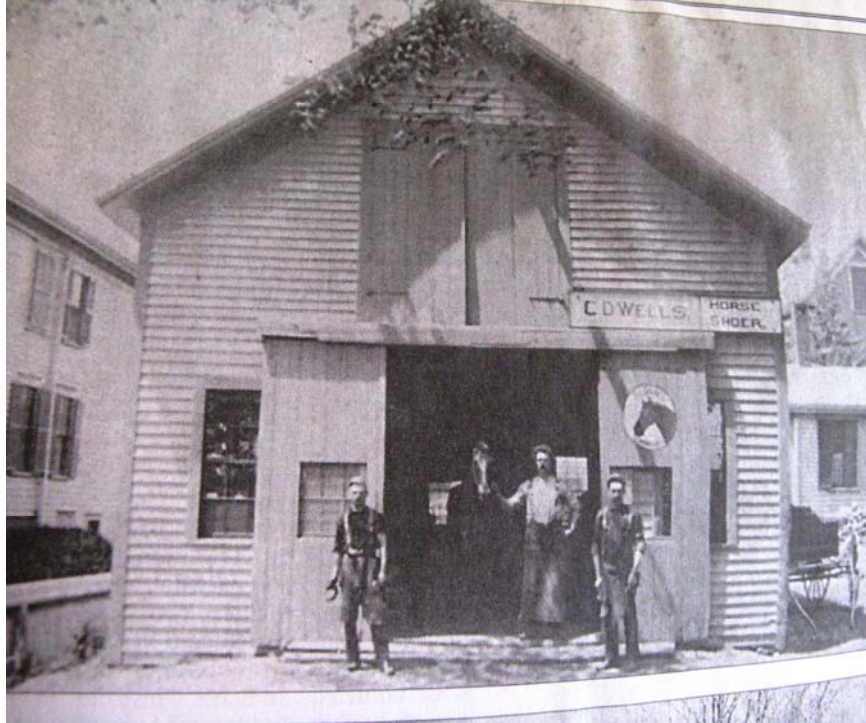
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Undated view of C.D. Wells' horse shoer shop

Source: Reading Historical Commission