

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

12/63 Reading 351

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

**Town:** Reading

**Place:** (neighborhood or village)

## Photograph



**Address:** 287 Ash Street

**Historic Name:** Mabel H. Lewis House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1914

**Source:** water department records

**Style/Form:** Craftsman Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage

**Major Alterations** (with dates):

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no | x | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.43 acre

**Setting:** mixed residences on heavily traveled street

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Reading Historical Commission

**Date** (month / year): December 2009

**RECEIVED**  
**AUG 20 2010**  
**MASS. HIST. COMM.**

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

287 Ash Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 house at 287 Ash Street is a good example of a Craftsman Colonial residence, with an exaggerated horizontality and overhanging hip roof with exposed rafter tails which are characteristic of the style. The house is clad in wide wooden clapboards and is three bays wide. The central enclosed entrance porch is defined by two squat Doric columns supporting a gable roof with brackets and rafter tails. On either side of the entrance is a set of three double-hung, multi-pane windows. The upper story of the façade is punctuated by two pairs of windows on either end with a smaller set of three over the porch. To the north of the main house block is a single-story sun porch with corner Doric columns and roof balustrade. Behind the porch is a pergola.

To the south of the main house is a detached garage.

## 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 Reading water department records, the original owner of this house (originally numbered 121 Ash Street) was Mabel H. Lewis and the water was turned on June 1, 1914.

Born in 1879 in Weymouth, Mabel H. Lewis began working at the Adams Company dry goods store on Haven Street in 1906 and was manager of the store at the time of her death in 1933. Census records indicate that she was divorced. Mrs. Lewis came to Reading in 1911 and built this house several years later. She lived in the house until about 1930 at which time she moved to another house on Ash Street (then #22). Mrs. Lewis died at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital on November 17, 1933. She is buried at Forest Glen Cemetery.

By 1930 the house at 287 Ash Street was owned and occupied by Jessie and Lewis Hudson. Mr. Hudson was a building contractor. Later owners included Helen Adams who owned the house in 1956.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

*Reading Chronicle*, November 17, 1933 [obituary of Mabel H. Lewis].

Reading 350<sup>th</sup> Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994.

Town of Reading. List of Persons Twenty Years of Age and Over. Compiled by the Board of Registrars, Reading, Massachusetts, 1907-1979. (No women listed until 1924).

Town of Reading. Valuation of Real and Personal Estates, various dates.

Town of Reading, Water Department Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930.

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Community      Property Address  
READING        287 ASH STREET

Area(s)      Form No.

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## 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           Lisa Mausolf          

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

Constructed in 1914, the Mabel H. Lewis House at 287 Ash Street is a good example of a Craftsman Colonial residence displaying an exaggerated horizontality and overhanging hip roof with exposed rafter tails which are characteristic of the style. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register as an amendment to the 1984 Reading Multiple Resource Area under Criteria A and C, for its associations with the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Reading and as a good example of the Craftsman style.