

FORM B – BUILDING

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

12/25	Reading		360
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 75 Cross Street

Historic Name: Walter A. Ainsworth Rental Property

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1920

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.35 acre

Setting: mixed 20th century residential neighborhood

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

75 Cross 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.

An interesting variation on the Four Square house form, 75 Cross Street is a two-story dwelling with a boxy plan, capped by a low pitch hip roof with exposed rafter tails and a matching hip dormer centered on the roof slope. Among the unusual features is the wood shingle pattern which in which a double course of shingles is used with an overhang of just an inch or two at the bottom. The offcenter front porch also deviates from the typical porch which extends across the entire façade. In this case the porch shelters the offcenter entrance and one window. The hip roof of the porch is supported by squat posts resting on a shingled wall. The second floor of the façade is punctuated by two 6/1 windows at the outside edges of the elevation and aligned with those on the first floor; there is no window over the entrance. A small secondary entrance porch is located on the east elevation.

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 water department records, this house (originally 51 Cross Street) was constructed for Walter C. Ainsworth; the water was turned on May 27, 1920. The building was apparently constructed as an income property as Walter and his wife Harriet lived next door at what is now 71 Cross Street. He was employed as a heating contractor.

The house has had many occupants over the years including Willis and Elizabeth Randall in the 1930s and 1940s, William and Irene Cook (1950), William and Patricia Wells (1960), Milton and Christine Rich (1970) and Joan Elias in the 1980s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

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

Town of Reading Water Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1920-1930.

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

Community Property Address
READING 75 CROSS 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 1920, the house at 75 Cross Street is a modest but well-preserved variation on the Four Square house form, displaying the boxy shape and low hip roof with exposed rafter tails that are common but an unusual exterior shingle pattern. 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 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of the Four Square/Craftsman style.