

FORM B – BUILDING

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

22/130	Reading		364
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 21-23 Gardner Road

Historic Name: Elizabeth A. Power Duplex

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1925

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
1981 - addition

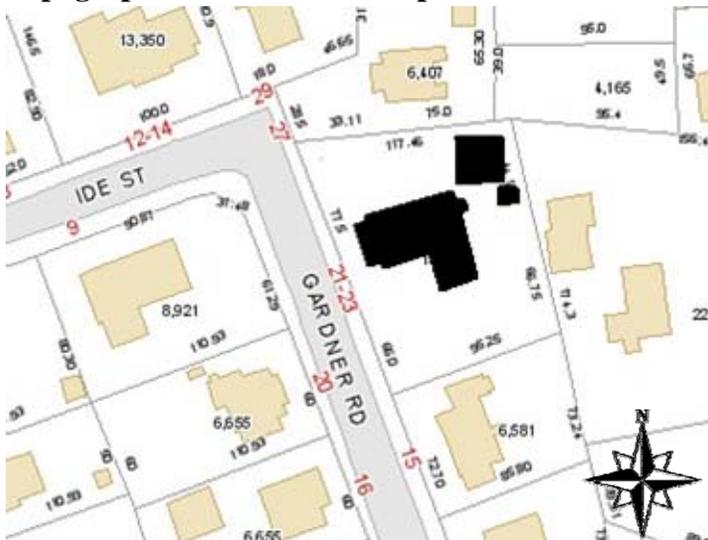
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.31 acre

Setting: mixed 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

21-23 Gardner Road

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 21-23 Gardner Road is a well-preserved two-family house dating to the early 20th century. The house was designed with two flats, each comprising an entire floor, front to back. Set on a rusticated concrete block foundation, the 2½-story dwelling is oriented with its gablefront to the street. The first floor is clapboarded and the upper level is sheathed in wood shingles with a lower course which is flared above a wooden beltcourse. The façade is fronted by a two-story, three-bay front porch with squat porch posts resting on shingled walls. The side-by-side entries on the façade contain original glass doors with wooden grids. The original double-hung windows retain multi-glass upper sash over single-paned lower sash and are used individually, in pairs and in sets of three. A hip-roofed addition (1981) extends to the south.

To the northeast of the house is a garage of recent construction, sheathed in vinyl siding with a double-wide, overhead door on its gablefront.

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 town water records, this duplex (originally 20 Gardner Road) was constructed for Elizabeth A. Power and the water was turned on October 1, 1925.

The 1930 Census indicates that the property was then owned by 43 year old Elizabeth, who had recently married Dr. Gilbert Cummings, a dentist. They occupied one of the units with her young son, John. The other apartment was rented to Harry Wiley and his wife Ida, who paid \$50/month. He worked as a mixer at the die house. Although the Cummings moved out soon thereafter, Harry Wiley was still living here in 1941. The other unit was rented to Oscar and Elizabeth Penney.

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, directories, various dates.

Town of Reading Water Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1930.