

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/294	Reading	D	366
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Reading

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 61 Grand Street

**Historic Name:** James & Nettie Ellison House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** c.1890

**Source:** 1889, 1906 maps

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.29 acre

**Setting:** mixed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhood

## 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

61 Grand Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

366

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 61 Grand Street is a 2½-story, gablefront dwelling designed in the Queen Anne style in the 1890s. Set on a stone foundation, the house is sheathed primarily in wood clapboards. Areas of wood shingles with a sawtooth lower course fill the various gables. The house is outlined by simple cornerboards and a wooden beltcourse wraps around the building between the first and second stories and under the projecting eaves. The façade is fronted by a single-story porch which is three bays wide and supported by plain posts topped by decorative arched members to each side. Adding interest to the simple plan is a three-sided bay projection adjacent to the porch and a two-story, gabled bay projection with clipped corners on the south elevation. The predominant window form is a simple 2/1 double-hung sash which is used individually, in pairs and in sets of three.

## 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.*

It appears that this house (originally 41 Grand Street) was built in the 1890s. There is no house on this site at the time of the 1889 map. Water department records indicate that the water was turned on in 1903 and lists the owner as James Ellison. The 1906 map labels the house as belonging to the J.A. Ellison Estate.

At the time of the 1900 Census James Ellison, a 48 year old machinist for the railroad, was living here with his wife Nettie and five children. By 1910 Nettie is listed as a widow and was living here with four of her children. In 1930 the house appears to have contained two units – one was occupied by Nettie and her daughter Edna while the other contained son Elmer and his three children, Chester, Harriet and Stanley. The house finally left the Ellison family when James and Nettie's grandson, Chester and his wife Ann sold the property to Richard Iannetti, a Reading police officer, in 1974.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Directories, various years.

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, 1910, 1920, 1930

1889, 1906 Maps

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

Community      Property Address  
READING        61 GRAND STREET

Area(s)      Form No.

	366
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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 c.1890, the house at 61 Grand Street is a good but modest example of the Queen Anne gablefront house type. Its plan is regular and its decoration minimal, but it displays a mix of clapboards and wood shingles, front porch and bay projections which are commonly seen with 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 late 19<sup>th</sup> century development of Reading and as a good example of the Queen Anne style.