

FORM B – BUILDING

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

27/112	Reading		371
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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 Hanscom Avenue

Historic Name: W. Corydon Kohl House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1930

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder: Royal C. Jaques, carpenter

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle, wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
date? – rear addition

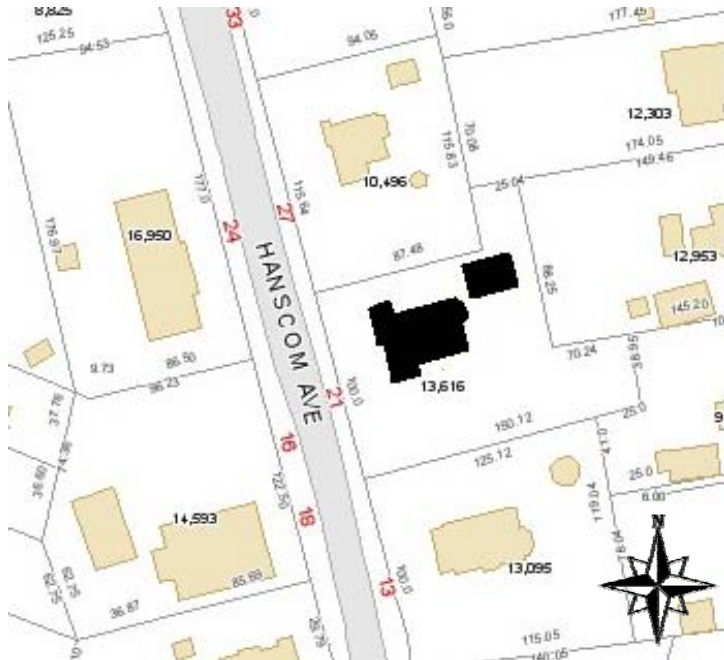
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.31 acre

Setting: mixed 20th century 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 Hanscom Avenue

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 wood-shingled house at 21 Hanscom Avenue bears a striking resemblance to a design known as "The Cedars" which appeared in the *Sears, Roebuck and Company Modern Homes Catalog* in 1928, 1929 and 1931. The price of the ready-to-assemble house in the catalog was \$2,334 and would have been ordered by mail and shipped by rail. Another, more altered, example of the same design is visible nearby at 48 Hanscom Avenue.

The 1½-story dwelling displays an asymmetrical gablefront with an extension of the roof sheltering a porch (now enclosed) to the south. The main, offcenter, entrance is located in a smaller gable which overlaps the north side of the façade. It is also asymmetrical and the longer north slope is punctuated by a semicircular archway. The main entrance is topped by a simple pediment rather than the more ornate broken pediment depicted in the *Sears* catalog. The predominant window is a double-hung 6/1 sash which is used individually and in a set of three adjacent to the front door. Long shed dormers rise from both the north and south roof slopes and there is a semi-circular window at the top of the front gable.

A modern gablefront garage sheathed in wood shingles is located northeast of the house.

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.

This house (originally 7 Hanscom Avenue) is located on part of lot 8 of the Edwin C. Hanscom subdivision which was laid out by the local developer/teamster in July 1915 (Plan Book 232, Plan 15). The lot remained unbuilt upon until 1930 when the present house was constructed by Royal C. Jaques, a local carpenter. It is not known whether the house was ordered from the *Sears, Roebuck and Company Modern Homes Catalog* or whether Jaques used an illustration in the catalog as an inspiration for his design. According to water department records, Jaques also built the gambrel-fronted house at 12 Hanscom Avenue (originally #6). Directories indicate that Jaques was living on Eaton Street in 1934 but had moved to Grand Street by 1936.

The first occupants of the house appear to have been William Corydon Kohl, an electrical engineer, and his wife Elizabeth who previously lived on Mineral Street but had moved here by 1931. The couple was still living here in 1941. Later occupants of the house included Timothy and Clara Sullivan in the late 1940s, Rufus and Helen Clark in the early 1960s and Jerome and Cecilia Cagnina in the 1970s. The Cagninas sold the property to the present owner in 1976.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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21 Hanscom Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass. (Plan Book 232, Page 15).

Reading Directories, various years.

Reading 350th Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994: 46.

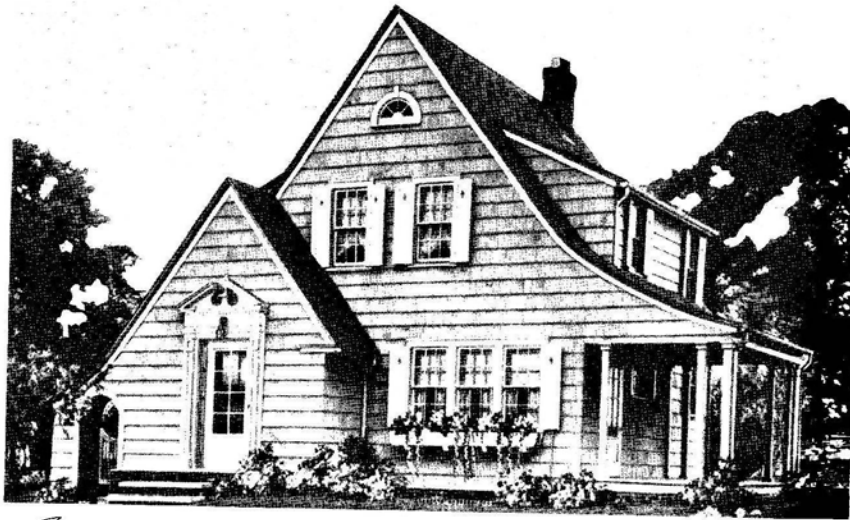
Stephenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986: 80.

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, Water Department Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1930

THE CEDARS

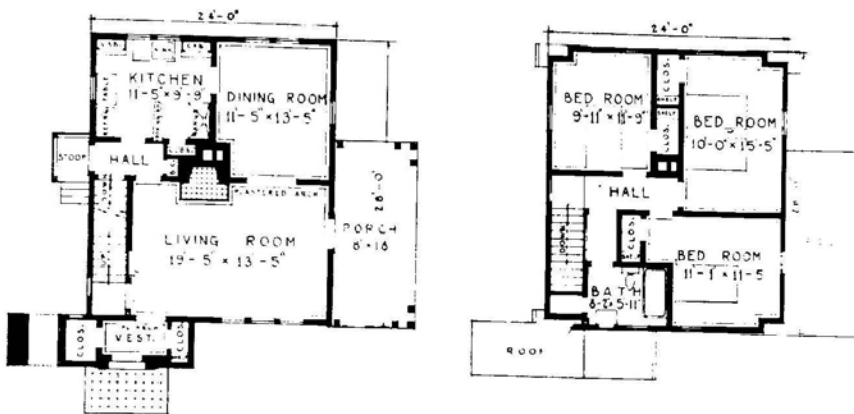


It is impossible to add a single feature that will improve the exterior appearance of this beautiful home. While the sloping roof over the porch at the right and over the colonial gate at the left has a tendency to give this house the appearance of being very large, by studying the floor plan you will note it is very compact and will give you a very practical and conveniently arranged home at low cost.

Details and features: Six rooms and one bath. Side porch with paired columns; entrance with broken pediment. Arched opening between living and dining rooms.

Years and catalog numbers: 1928 (3278); 1929 (P3278); 1931 (3278B)

Price: \$2,334



Source: Stephenson, *Houses by Mail*, p. 80.

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

Community Property Address
READING 21 HANSCOM AVENUE

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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 1930, the house at 21 Hanscom Avenue is a good, well-preserved example of the Tudor Revival style and is also of interest as a probable example of the widespread dissemination of designs through the catalogs of Sears, Roebuck and Company and other publications during the early 20th century. It was constructed by Royal C. Jaques, a local carpenter who was responsible for the construction of modest dwellings throughout town during the period. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register for its associations with the early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of a variation on the Tudor Revival style.