

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

33 Hanscom Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

372

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 33 Hanscom Avenue is a well-preserved gambrel type cottage of the early 20th century. The simplicity of the design offered a good deal of volume at a relatively low cost, making it a popular choice during this period. In this case, the dwelling is set on a rusticated concrete block foundation. It is noteworthy for retaining its weatherboard (novelty siding) exterior which contrast with the wood shingles sheathing the second story gambrel. The façade is spanned by a simple, two-bay porch supported by plain square posts with a stick balustrade. The offcenter entrance contains a glass-and-panel door, beside which is a pair of double-hung 6/1 windows. Additional paired windows punctuate the side elevations. There is a shed dormer on each of the side elevations and a back porch at the rear of the south elevation. A hip-roofed, wood-shingled garage is located to the southeast 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 21 Hanscom Avenue) is located on lot 10 of the Edwin C. Hanscom subdivision which was laid out in July 1915 (Plan Book 232, Plan 15). This was apparently one of the first houses built on the street and the first owner was Clarence E. Carter, a civil engineer. According to water department records, the water was turned on in 1916.

Clarence Elmore Carter was the son of Adelbert Carter of Grand Street and attended Reading High School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On April 6, 1907 he married Alice Sanders Kidder, daughter of William Kidder of 26 Lowell Street. Right after their wedding, the newlyweds moved to Schurtz, Nevada where he was employed as a civil engineer for the Oregon Short Line Railroad. By 1915 they had returned to Reading and soon after, built this house.

The Carters continued to live at 33 Hanscom the rest of their lives. Clarence Carter died on March 26, 1960 at the age of 77. The house was later inherited by Alice's nephew, Carl Wiechmann, and sold by his estate to Robert and Ellen Cagnina in 1968.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Alumni Association, *Technology Review*, vol. 9, 1907.

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

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930

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

Community Property Address
READING 33 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 1916, the house at 33 Hanscom Avenue is a good example of the modest Craftsman/Colonial Revival-inspired gambrel cottages which found widespread popularity in the early 20th century. 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 a variation on the Craftsman Colonial mode.