

FORM B – BUILDING

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

27/138	Reading		380
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 97 Highland Street
Historic Name: Samuel H. Davis House

Uses: Present: residential
 Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1926

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block
 Wall/Trim: wood shingle
 Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
date unknown? – addition to north

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.27 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

97 Highland Street

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.

Located at the corner of Auburn Street, 97 Highland Street is a well-preserved, two-story, hip-roofed dwelling which displays the influence of the Craftsman style. The house is set on a rusticated concrete block foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The hip roof displays typical overhanging eaves which are detailed with exposed rafter tails. The same detailing is also seen on the sunroom which extends to the south of the main house block and on the detached garage behind. The sidehall entrance is marked by an elaborate pedimented entrance porch, supported by Doric columns with geometric side screens. Adjacent to the entrance is a shed-roofed bay window containing three windows. The predominant window form is a 6/1 double-hung sash. A hip-roofed dormer is centered on the front roof slope. To the north of the house is a single-story addition.

Behind the house is a two-car, hip-roofed garage, sheathed in wood shingles with its garage doors facing Auburn Street.

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 local water records, this house (originally 67 Highland Street) was constructed in 1926. The original owner was Samuel H. Davis (d.1969), a lawyer, who lived here with his wife Helen (d.1968) and daughter Barbara. Born in Malden, Samuel Davis graduated from Northeastern Law School in 1914 and served in the U.S. Navy in World War I. He was active in the American Legion, Masonic Circles and other organizations as well as in town affairs. He was on the Board of Public Works, served as town moderator from 1944 to 1946, and was Town Counsel for 22 years. He is first listed here in the 1927 directory and continued to reside in the house until his death in 1969. That same year the property was conveyed to Ralph and Alice Meuse. It was sold to the present owners in 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, June 26, 1969 [obituary of Samuel H. Davis].

Reading Directories, various years.

Reading 350th 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, 1930.

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

Community Property Address
READING 97 HIGHLAND 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 1926, the house at 97 Highland Street is a good and well-preserved example of a modest Craftsman dwelling. The house displays details which are typical of the style including a wood shingled exterior, hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails and an elegant pedimented porch with Doric columns and geometric side screens. 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 Craftsman style.