

FORM B – BUILDING

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

10/346	Reading		381
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 20 Hillcrest Road

Historic Name: Muzzy-Clifford House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1912

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman Colonial

Architect/Builder: Horace Muzzy, architect? (see text)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

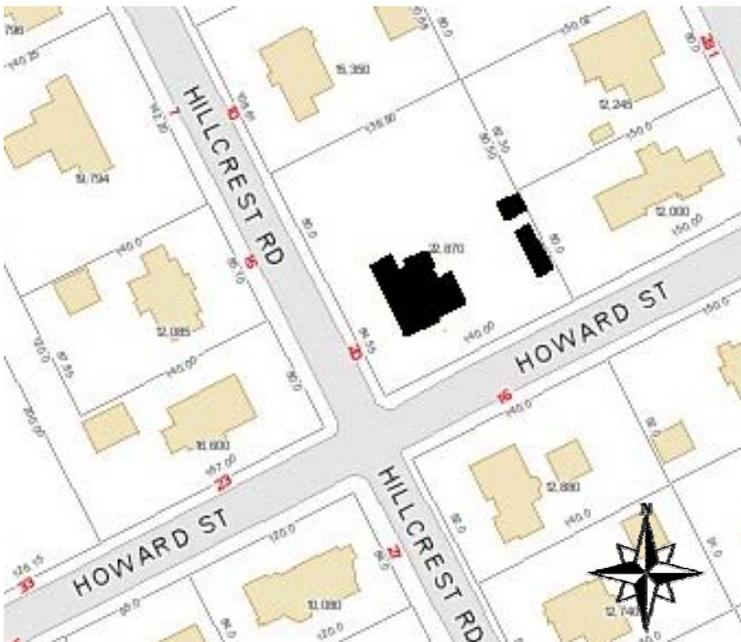
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.53 acre

Setting: 20th century 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

20 Hillcrest Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

381

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.

An interesting example of the Craftsman Colonial mode, 20 Hillcrest Road is a two-story dwelling with a boxy, rectangular plan and 3 x 2-bay massing. The house rests on a rubble foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The hip roof has wide, overhanging eaves decorated by exposed rafter tails. A large shed dormer is centered on the front slope of the roof and is also finished with exposed rafter tails. There are two interior brick chimneys. Centered on the façade, the entrance is recessed slightly and wide, multi-light sidelights above lower panels are located on either side of the two-panel door with upper lights. The entrance is framed by a *distyle in antis* arrangement consisting of outer pilasters which are paired with Doric columns. Above the entrance a rectangular bay containing a tripartite window projects slightly, supported by seven large console brackets and sheltered by an extension of the hip roof. Windows display molded surrounds and wooden shutters. Those on the first floor of the façade contain 8/8 sash while those on the second floor are slightly smaller and of a 6/6 configuration. A single-story, gabled sunroom is located to the north of the main house block. It is also set on a rubble foundation with exposed rafter tails at the eaves.

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 water records, the first owner of this house (originally 42 Hillcrest) was Horace T. Muzzy and the water was turned on July 25, 1912. Muzzy was an architect, born about 1875 and trained at MIT. He worked in the office of Boston architect Walter Appleton at 15 Exchange Street. It is likely that Muzzy designed the house himself although he only lived here a short time. By 1917 he had moved to Waterville, Maine. The 1930 Census indicates that he was still residing in Waterville and working as an architect at that time. No other information concerning Muzzy has been found.

By 1921 the house was occupied by George B. Nauss, a cotton broker, and his wife Ina. The family continued to live here until about 1929. The 1930 Census indicates that the Hillcrest Road house was then being rented to James and Lorraine Clifford. He worked as the general manager of the rubber mill. The couple lived here with their three children, Lucille, Nanette and James. The Cliffords apparently purchased the house soon thereafter as Lorraine is shown as the owner in 1936. The family continued to own it until 1971 when it was sold by Lorraine's estate to Daniel and Alice Hall. The Halls retained ownership until 1996.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

MIT Alumni Association. *Technology Review*, 1907.

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, Water Department Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 20 HILLCREST ROAD

Area(s) Form No.

	381
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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 1912, the house at 20 Hillcrest Road is of interest as a unique variation on the Craftsman Colonial residence which incorporates such high style details as a *distyle in antis* entrance contrasting pilasters and Doric columns. More purely Craftsman style details include the combination of rubble and wood shingles and the hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. 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 the Craftsman Colonial style.