

FORM B – BUILDING

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

27/279	Reading		384
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (neighborhood or village)

Photograph



Address: 66 John Carver Road

Historic Name: Diment-Bjorkman House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1948

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Contemporary

Architect/Builder: Gordon Diment, builder? (see text)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: stucco/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.36 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

66 John Carver Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

384

___ 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 unusual example of mid 20th century residential architecture, 66 John Carver Road is a 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling which is rectangular in plan and set on a slab. It displays an exterior which is primarily stuccoed with areas of vertical boards. The long elevation facing the road features a central entrance flanked by two hip-roofed projections with cutaway corners and large multi-light metal windows. Extending to the south of the main house is a single-story garage.

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 department records, the original owner of this house was Gordon J. Diment and the water was turned on August 26, 1948. The land was Lot 49 on the "Lots in Reading Belonging to Mildred H. Burgess and Stephen F. Wadsworth", laid out in 1927. John Carver Road was originally known as Yale Avenue.

Diment reportedly built the house himself over a number of years although he apparently lived here only briefly. The 1950 Town List indicates that he was employed as a toolmaker. He and his wife had moved the previous year from Jamaica Plain. By 1951 the house was owned and occupied by Edwin and Marjorie Evelyn Bjorkman although the 1952 tax assessment states that the house was still unfinished at that time. Edwin Bjorkman was a planner/realtor. In 1978 the Bjorkmans sold the property to the present owners.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

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.

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

Community Property Address
READING 66 JOHN CARVER ROAD

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 1948, the house at 66 John Carver Road is a unique Contemporary style dwelling which apparently reflects the individuality of its original owner who was also the builder. The single-story dwelling mixes gable and hip roof slopes, a stuccoed exterior, cutaway corners and metal windows. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register for its associations with the post World War II development of Reading and as a modest but unique example of Contemporary domestic architecture.