

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

20/263	Reading		388
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Photograph



Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Address: 22 Lee Street

Historic Name: Kenneth C. Wright House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1931

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/stucco/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

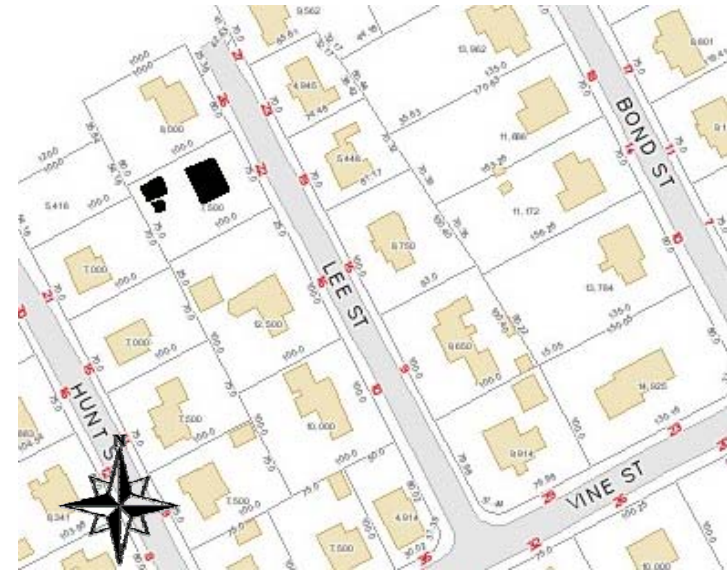
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.17 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

22 Lee Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 house at 22 Lee Street is an early 20th century cottage which draws its inspiration from a generalized notion of the English Tudor. As is typical of Tudor Revival interpretations of the period, the house displays a steeply pitched gable front, contrasting roof lines and multiple cladding materials – in this case a brick veneer with stucco and half timbered upper story. A single-story wing extends to the south and extends the gable, giving the profile an asymmetrical effect and a tall, tapered brick chimney is dramatically centered on the gablefront. The entrance is located in a smaller steeply-pitched gable adjacent to the chimney and is outlined by stone quoining. The windows consist primarily of double-hung 6/6 and 4/4 windows with a smaller, multi-light casement adjacent to the front door.

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 town water records this house (originally 6 Lee Street) was constructed for Kenneth C. Wright, a Boston salesman, who lived here with his wife Sylvia. The water was turned on October 14, 1931. The land on which the house sits was originally part of a 1893 subdivision of the land of George Hunt but apparently remained unbuilt upon until 1931.

Kenneth Wright was born in Minnesota, worked for Swift & Co. and lived here until his death Feb. 2, 1970. The house remained in the Wright family until 1979.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, February 5, 1970 [obituary of Kenneth Wright].

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.

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Community Property Address
READING 22 LEE 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 1931, the house at 22 Lee Street is a good, well-preserved example of the Tudor Revival style which was one of many eclectic modes which found popularity in the early 20th century. The house displays various hallmarks of the style including a steeply-pitched gable front, contrasting roof lines and multiple cladding materials including brick, stucco and half timbering. 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.