

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

| | | | |
|-------|---------|--|-----|
| 17/36 | Reading | | 401 |
|-------|---------|--|-----|

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*) Downtown

Photograph



Address: 494 Main Street

Historic Name: Lewis-Parker House

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: residential

Date of Construction: c.1890

Source: maps, water records

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1981 – enclosure of front porch
date unknown – new windows

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.13 acre

Setting: mixed downtown area

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2010

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2010
MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

494 Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|--|-----|
| | 401 |
|--|-----|

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 southwest corner of Main and Green Streets, 494 Main Street is a 2½-story, gable-fronted structure which is set on an ashlar stone foundation and is sheathed in a combination of wood clapboards and wood shingles. Adding complexity to the basic gablefront form are a series of projections including a cross gable on the north side, a more narrow, angled, two-story gable at the southeast corner and a similar two-story gable projection on the south elevation. The façade is fronted by a single-story porch with an angled gable at the northeast corner. Decorative bands of scalloped wood shingles fill the tops of the front and north gables, the porch gable and the aprons between stories on the two south gable projections. Alterations to the structure include the enclosure of the front porch and the insertion of a concrete foundation underneath. All of the windows have been replaced by modern 1/1 units. A diamond-shaped, fixed Queen Anne-style window is located on the north wall and the main entrance retains a heavily-paneled wood door which appears to be original. There is a back porch near the rear of the north elevation; the porch at the base of the north cross gable is a later addition.

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 former residence was originally 164 Main Street. Historic maps indicate that it was constructed between 1889 and 1906. Town water records indicate that the water was turned on May 15, 1891 and that the owners were then H.T. Lewis and S.R. Parker. The 1910 Census indicates that the ownership had not changed: half of the house was owned and occupied by the English-born Lewis, then 48, who worked as foreman of the chair factory. He lived with his wife Nellie, two daughters and father-in-law. The other half of the house was owned and occupied by Stillman R. Parker, who worked as a freight clerk for the Boston & Maine Railroad, and lived here with his wife Ann. Parker was an active member of the Old South Methodist Church and as a young man was catcher for one of the first Reading town teams.

For some time prior to 1936 the property was owned by Stephen D. Adams. Adams had a dry goods store in the Masonic Block and lived on Ash Street. This was clearly an income-producing property for him.

By 1936 the house was occupied by Frederick and Jane Youd and Harry and Violet Youd. Frederick worked as a patternmaker and Harry was an expressman. Frederick and Jane Youd later purchased the house. Jane Youd died in 1979 and the house was sold by Helen Mackie in 1981.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

494 Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|--|-----|
| | 401 |
|--|-----|

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, June 12, 1942 [obituary of Stillman R. Parker].

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 Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1900-1930.

1889 & 1906 maps of Reading.