

FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/342	Reading		414
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 65 Middlesex Avenue

Historic Name: Walter J. Carrier House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1910

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

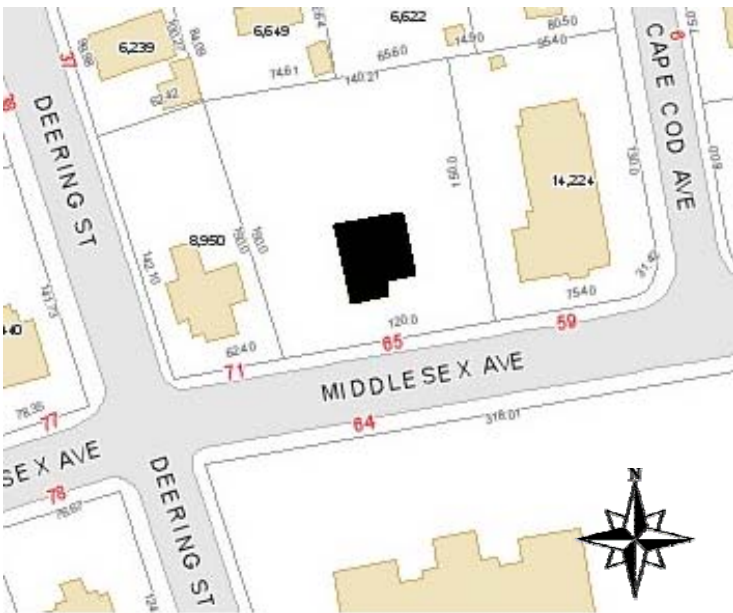
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.45 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

65 Middlesex Avenue

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.

The house at 65 Middlesex Avenue is a 2½-story, side-gabled structure designed in the Craftsman style that was popular in the early 20th century. Set on a rubble foundation, it is sheathed in wood shingles with a roof which displays overhanging eaves complete with jigsaw braces and exposed rafter tails. A single-story sunporch fronts the west part of the façade; the eastern section is dominated by a two-story, three-sided projection sheltered by an extension of the main roof slope. An exterior brick chimney rises along the east wall. Shed dormers rise from the front and rear roof slopes. The predominant window is a 6/1 sash set into a molded surround. There are also several decorative, stained glass windows.

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 49 Middlesex) was constructed in 1910 for Walter J. Currier. On April 8, 1910, the *Reading Chronicle* reported that “work on the new house for Dr. Currier of Boston on Middlesex Avenue nearly opposite Highland School was making progress.” The water was turned on the following day.

By 1920 the house was occupied by Frances Emery, a travelling salesman, who lived here with his wife Rebecca, four children, a lodger and a servant. The 1930 Census describes Frances as a real estate agent.

The house remained in the Emery family until 1986 when it was sold by Elizabeth Emery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, April 8, 1910.

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, 1910-1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 65 MIDDLESEX AVENUE

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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 1910, the house at 65 Middlesex Avenue is of interest as an unusual variation on the Craftsman house, displaying a 2½-story, side-gabled form with the contrasting wood shingles and rubble, jigsawn braces and exposed rafter tails that are common to the style. 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 style.