

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

21/163	Reading	D	412
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**Town:** Reading

**Place:** (neighborhood or village)

## Photograph



**Address:** 28 Middlesex Avenue

**Historic Name:** Arthur & Frances Partelow House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1910

**Source:** Town water records

**Style/Form:** Four Square

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: stucco, wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage

### Major Alterations (with dates):

date unknown – new windows

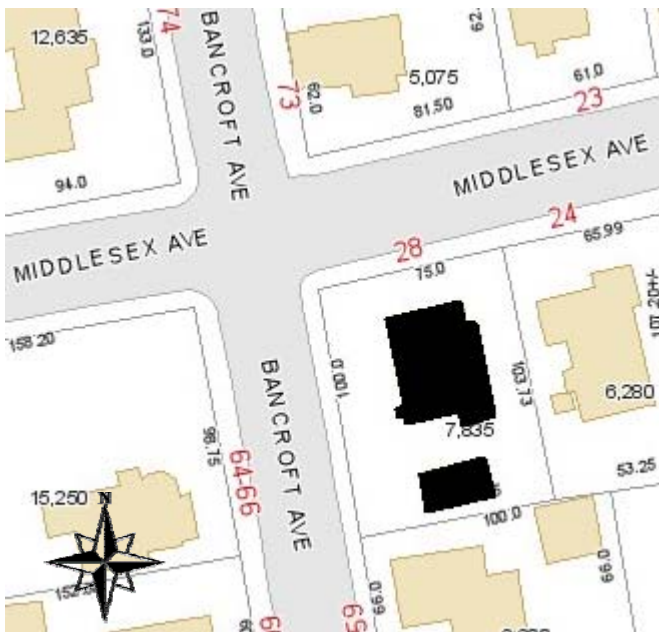
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no | x | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.18 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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AUG 20 2010

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# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

28 Middlesex Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

412

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 southeast corner of Middlesex Avenue and Bancroft Avenue, 28 Middlesex is a stuccoed example of the Four Square style, constructed in 1910. Typical of the style, the boxy structure is two stories in height, capped by a hip roof with wide overhang and a prominent wood-shingled hip dormer centered on the front roof slope. The façade is spanned by a single-story porch with three broad stuccoed arches. The sidehall entry contains a period wooden door with upper lights. The wide window openings have molded surrounds and now contain 1/1 modern sash. Adding some variety to the box-like form are a three-sided projection in the bay above the main entrance and a single-story, rectangular bay window on the west elevation.

Behind the house is a single car, stuccoed garage capped by a hip roof.

## 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 house (originally 22 Middlesex) was built for real estate developer Frank K. Black who developed a large part of the old Bancroft farm in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to water records, the water was turned on May 11, 1910. On August 19, 1910 the *Reading Chronicle* reported that the house was under construction.

By 1915 the house was occupied by Arthur and Frances Partelow. He worked for the Standard Dyewood & Extract Co. in Medford. The house remained in the Partelow family until 1964.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bishop, Eleanor. Letter to Charles Longley (describing early history of house), June 2, 1986. [Reading Historical Commission files].

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

*Reading Chronicle*, August 19, 1910.

Reading Directories, various years.

Reading 350<sup>th</sup> 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, 1920-1930.

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Community      Property Address  
READING        28 MIDDLESEX AVENUE

Area(s)      Form No.

	412
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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 28 Middlesex Avenue is a stuccoed example of the Four Square house form displaying characteristic features including a square, boxy shape, hip roof with wide overhang, front dormer 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 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Reading and as a good example of the Four Square style.