

FORM B – BUILDING

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

11/96	Reading		421
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 41 Oak Street

Historic Name: Mrs. Thirza Lane House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1911

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

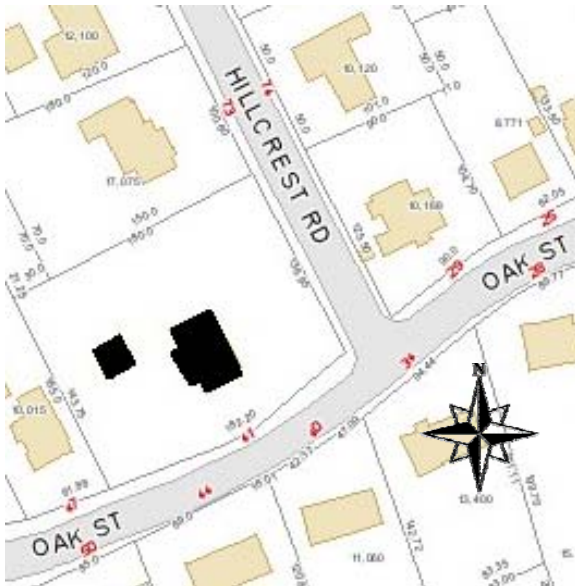
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.61 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

41 Oak Street

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.

Dating to the early 20th century, the house at 41 Oak Street is a two-story, wood-shingled dwelling which displays the influence of the Craftsman style. The house is rectangular in plan compared to the typical Four Square dwelling of the period and the widely overhanging eaves of the hip roof have an almost Prairie Style quality with an exterior brick chimney breaking through the eaves on the east elevation. The house is fronted by a single-story sun porch supported by plain posts with curved tops. Multi-light panels fill the area above the stick balustrade. Windows include two 6/1 double-hung sash on the upper story of the façade, a diamond-paned window lighting the front stair hall and hip and shed dormers. A secondary porch on the west elevation has the same porch posts as seen in front and is surmounted by a glassed-in sleeping porch. On the east elevation there is a two-story, three-sided bay window as well as a single-story bay window. A porch/deck on this side has been removed.

To the west of the house is a detached, single car garage capped by a hip roof with exposed rafter tails. The building retains its original double doors – each leaf has 3 x 2-lights over four horizontal panels.

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 local water records this house (originally 15 Oak Street) was constructed for Mrs. Thirza Lane; the water was turned on May 5, 1911. The house was built on lots 68-70 of the Scotland Park subdivision, belonging to the Estate of George E. Heath which was laid out in 1907. Town valuation records for 1911 list Aroline F. Lane's house as unfinished (the relationship between the two women is not known). It is not clear if Mrs. Lane ever lived in the house. In 1910 John and Thirza Lane were living in Everett. By the time of the 1920 Census Thirza Lane is listed as a widow and was renting a house at 5 Sanborn Street in Reading.

In 1920 the house was rented to Alvah Burrage, a civil engineer. By 1921 the house had been purchased by John B. and Mary Howard. They continued to own the house until about 1950. Leo and Joan Gallagher were in residence by 1955 and continued to own the house until 1975.

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.

U.S. Census, 1920-1930.

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

Community Property Address
READING 41 OAK 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 1911, the house at 41 Oak Street is a unique example of a Craftsman-inspired Four Square. The house features including the square, boxy shape, hip roof typical of the Four Square with widely overhanging eaves that are almost Prairie Style in their inspiration. 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.