

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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|------|---------|--|-----|
| 28/2 | Reading | | 423 |
|------|---------|--|-----|

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

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 48 Pearl Street

Historic Name: Milton S. Smith House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1890

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

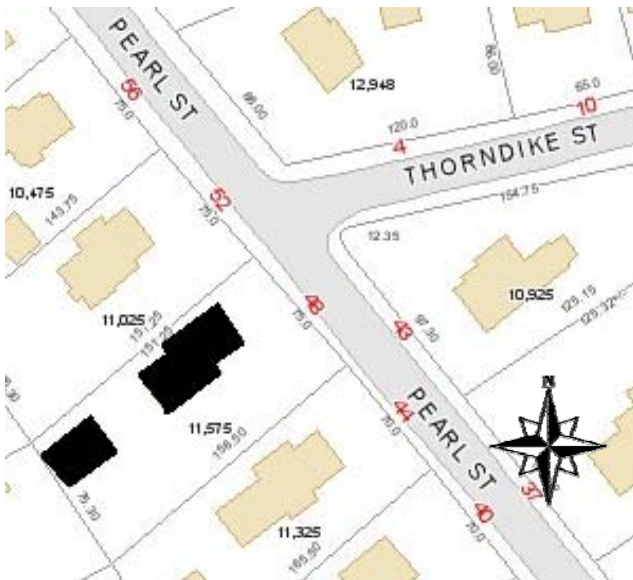
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.27 acre

Setting: mixed residential area

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

48 Pearl 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 48 Pearl Street is a 1½-story, gable front cottage dating to the late 19th century and displaying elements of the Queen Anne style. Set on a brick foundation, it is sheathed primarily in wood clapboards with patterned wood shingles (diamond and staggered butt) filling the areas at the top of the front and side gables. The gable rakings have decorative bulls eyes at the ends and are supported by brackets. The façade is spanned by a shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts with jigsawn balusters. The sidehall entrance contains a modern six-panel door and is flanked by glass block sidelights added in the 20th century. The adjacent double-hung window is oversized with a Queen Anne-style upper sash with an outer border of small colored panes of glass. Behind the house is an historic clapboarded barn oriented with its gable front to the street and doors on the side elevation.

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.

It appears that this house was constructed shortly after the 1889 map was printed as it is not depicted on the map. The first owner of this house appears to have been Milton S. Smith, who was living here in 1890. Milton Smith was a travelling shoe salesman and lived here with his wife Hattie and son Guy. Hattie Smith is shown as the owner on the 1906 map. The house stayed in the Smith family until mid 1940s when it was apparently sold by Hattie's estate.

Later owners included Axel Nilson who sold it to Bertil and Elsie Gustafson in 1965. The Gustafsons owned the house until 1991.

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, 1900-1930.

1889, 1906 maps of Reading.

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

**Community Property Address
READING 48 PEARL 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 1890, the Milton Smith House at 48 Pearl Street is a good example of a late 19th century Queen Anne cottage which retains considerable stylistic detailing including a mix of wood clapboards, patterned wood shingles and decorative gable rakings. Complementing the house is an equally well-preserved detached barn. 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 late 19th century development of Reading and as a good example of the Queen Anne.