

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16/39	Reading		431
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Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 92 Prescott Street (corner Pratt St.)

Historic Name: "Reading Electrical Home"/Carey House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1924

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman Colonial

Architect/Builder: Granger H. Carroll, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date unknown – new windows, new balustrade on front porch, removal of balustrade on sunporch roof

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.25 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

92 Prescott Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	431
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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 92 Prescott Street is a simple two-story, Craftsman style dwelling constructed in 1924. Set on a concrete foundation, the house is sheathed in wood shingles and capped by a hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails with a shed dormer centered on the front roof slope. Centered on the three-bay façade is a flat-roofed entrance porch supported by Doric columns with a roof balustrade that has been simplified slightly from its original starred design. The front door is flanked by partial sidelights. On either side of the entrance is a set of three windows containing a 6/1 sash flanked by a pair of 4/1. When originally constructed, the windows were without shutters. The second floor of the façade has a pair of small 4/1 over the entrance and 6/1 in the outer bays. A single-story sunroom is located to the west of the main house block. Like the entrance porch, it was originally crowned by a wooden balustrade. Behind the house is a detached garage facing Pratt Street.

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 54 Prescott Street) was constructed by local builder Granger Carroll in 1924. The water was turned on November 15, 1925. The following spring the so-called "Reading Electrical Home" was open to the public May 15th to May 29th from 2 to 9 pm each day to showcase the emergence of electrical appliances.

By 1926 the house was owned and occupied by Leslie Carey, a school teacher in Medford. In 1930 the household included Leslie Carey, his wife Dorothy, his mother-in-law, and a servant. Over the years, Mr. Carey's occupation is reported to be a senior sub master, teacher, and headmaster. The couple still lived here in 1960. Later owners included Dr. Raymond Mullaney, a dentist, and his wife Louise who moved to Reading from Wollaston about 1961.

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*, 199, p. 81.

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, 1930.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

92 Prescott Street

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92 Prescott Street in 1924.

Source: *At Wood End*, p. 81.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 92 PRESCOTT 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 1924, the house at 92 Prescott Street is a modest example of the Craftsman style displaying a boxy, wood-shingled form, hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails, front entrance porch and side sunporch which were common to the style. The house is of interest for its associations with the development of the modern house in the early 20th century and in this case was constructed to showcase the emergence of electrical appliances. 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.