

FORM B – BUILDING

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

16/207	Reading		447
--------	---------	--	-----

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

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 155 Woburn Street

Historic Name: Elmer Robinson House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1922

Source: Eleanor Bishop notes

Style/Form: Craftsman Colonial/Prairie

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
modern garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.17 acre

Setting: mixed residential on busy road

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2010
MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

155 Woburn Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	447
--	-----

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 155 Woburn Street is an interesting example of early 20th century domestic architecture which combines a Craftsman Colonial with a Prairie style influence. The two-story brick structure has a rectangular plan with the longer elevation facing the street and a low-pitched hip roof with broad, overhanging eaves decorated by a simple dentil molding. The center entrance contains a wide wooden door with 4 x 2-panes over two panels. A paneled wooden wall forms a backdrop for the entrance which is sheltered by a heavy shelf supported on two decorative brackets. Resting on the entrance canopy is a second story, rectangular, brick bay punctuated by three 6/6 windows. The remaining façade windows include individual 6/6 on the first floor and two pairs of 6/6 upstairs. A low brick wall encloses the brick front stoop. A brick watertable surrounds the building and the windows are capped by brick lintels.

An exterior brick chimney rises along the west wall, breaking through the eaves. A single-story brick sunroom spans the west end of the house with a bowed picture window facing the street. The same dentil molding that embellishes the front entrance and eaves, is used here.

Behind the house is a modern garage inspired by the garage at 192 Woburn 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.

This house (formerly 85 Woburn Street) is located on the site of a house owned for many years by Nathan Crafts. That house burned on January 27, 1922 and the present house was constructed on the site by then owner, Elmer H. Robinson, soon thereafter. Robinson was a plant supervisor for the Telephone Company and lived here with his wife Helen and two children. The Robinsons appear to have occupied the house only briefly but retained ownership until the 1930s when it was sold to Wendell and Blanche Davis.

Ernest and Joan Nigro purchased the house in 1949 and moved here from 295 Summer Street. It is still owned by family members today.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

155 Woburn Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	447
--	-----

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bishop, Eleanor. Notes on history of 155 Woburn Street. [Reading Historical Commission archives].

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 Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1930.