

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

15/195	Reading		448
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Reading

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)

## Photograph



**Address:** 283 Woburn Street

**Historic Name:** Noyes & Ella French House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1924

**Source:** water department records

**Style/Form:** Dutch Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** G.E. Whittaker, builder? (see text)

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.17 acre

**Setting:** mixed residential along well-traveled 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

283 Woburn Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 283 Woburn Street is a good example of the Dutch Colonial style, a Colonial Revival variation which found widespread popularity in the 1920s and 1930s. The style is easily identified by its gambrel roof which is oriented with the roof ridge set parallel to the street with long shed dormers on the front and rear slopes. In this case, the exterior is sheathed in wood shingles and the house is set on a foundation of rusticated concrete blocks. Centered on the façade is a pedimented entrance porch supported by Doric columns. The paneled door is flanked by sidelights. On either side of the porch is a set of three windows (6/1 in the center flanked by 4/1) with molded surrounds. Punctuating the front shed dormer are three pairs of windows, that in the center being slightly smaller. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east elevation which cuts through the roof of the single-story sunroom. A pedimented back porch is located toward the rear of the west elevation.

A detached garage is located to the northwest of the house.

## 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 building is located on part of the land occupied by the E.B. Richardson shoe factory in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The factory was built at the corner of Berkeley and Woburn Streets in 1886 and was torn down around 1917.

Water department records indicate that the house (originally 161 Woburn Street) was constructed in 1924. The records indicate that the water was turned on Nov. 28, 1924 and that first owner was G.E. Whittaker. There is no record of any one by that name living here so he was likely the builder. There is no 161 Woburn Street listed in the 1925 directory but by 1926 the house was occupied by Noyes French and his wife Ella. The couple had moved from Somerville. His occupation is listed as confectionary dealer. In the 1930s Mrs. French was the proprietor of the New England Exchange Bake Shop on Haven Street. The couple lived here with their two children until about 1940.

In 1941 Claude and Marie Higgins were in residence, having moved from Melrose. Later occupants included Joseph and Rose Martin and Robert and Rosemary Melley.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

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, 1930.