

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

020.0-0000-0156.0	Reading	REA.D	REA.474
-------------------	---------	-------	---------

Town/City: Reading

Place: Reading Highlands

Photograph



Address: 132 Summer Ave. (prev. 86)

Historic Name: Ernest & Maude Hill House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1914¹

Source: The Reading Chronicle

Style/Form: Four Square

Architect/Builder: Daniel T. Canty

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

1 car stucco detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.161

Setting: Residential neighborhood

Locus Map



Recorded by: Sarah Brukilacchio & Virginia Adams

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date: August 2024

RECEIVED

NOV 04 2024

MASS. HIST. COMM.

¹ Reading Chronicle 9/4/1914, p. 8, "Local News", p. 15

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

132 SUMMER AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

REA.D

REA.474

 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must append a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.**Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.***ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:***Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Built in the manner of an American Four-Square, this house is a high style rendition of the more typical image. The characteristic hip roof is intercepted by a low dormer with small windows. The main block is clapboarded on the first floor and shingled on the second with a slight projection between the floors. Windows are large with six over one glass and three bays across. A porch spans the front façade and has square posts and balusters. The front door is the original wood with glass top and brass mail slot. A windowed bump-out on the first floor (north side) is a notable architectural feature however, the main feature is a decorative window above the front porch which is ornamented with diamond shaped small cut glass panes.

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 four-bedroom home was built on land purchased by cabinet craftsman Daniel T. Canty (1848-1917), whose parents were said to be the first Catholics to settle in Reading². Daniel built several homes in the Reading Highlands in Summer Ave. and Mineral St. area. The first owners were Ernest and Maude Hill of Malden. Ernest, known as Ernest A.L. Hill (1869-1942), was a popular editor and reporter at the Boston Globe. His many visits to Reading for his work convinced him it was a most favorable place to move his family to. As a child he sold peanuts and newspapers on the train, and even took a trip out west to Los Angeles where he got his start on reporting. He eventually returned to Malden and worked for several local papers until landing a job with The Boston Globe where he focused on covering crime reporting for over 30 years. He earned the nickname, "Windy" due to his penchant for long winded storytelling, both written and spoken on the radio. He sometimes wrote under the nom de plume, Lovejoy. In 1907 he made the acquaintance of Prince Luigi Amedeo of Savoy, Italy and accompanied him to a private gathering at John and Isabella Stewart Gardner's home³. When someone pointed Ernest out as a Globe reporter, he was asked to leave. Prince Luigi left as well and proceeded to take in some of the nightlife in Boston with Ernest. The Hill's son Stanwood served the country in the Army stationed in France. He too had his father's gift of writing and sent letters to his hometown c/o the Reading Chronicle that shared the experience of war time. The Hills became a Gold Star Family when Stanwood died overseas at the age of 23. Their son Lester also joined the Army and on return settled in Woburn.

After the passing of Maude Hill (1877-1943), the house was sold to John B. Dissel in 1944⁴. John and his brother Alex lived there with their mother Katherine Dissel (1887-1954) who was the widow of Herman Dissel. Once both sons married, the house was sold to William and Helen Koulouris⁵.

² Reading Chronicle, 10/12/17, p. 2, "Services for Danel T. Canty".³ Boston Globe, 8/31/1933, p. 14⁴ MSRD Book 6749/P 57, 3/9/1944⁵ MSRD Book 8758/ P 347, 6/29/1956

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

132 SUMMER AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

REA.D

REA.474

William was a Captain in the USAF for both WWII and Korea. For his career he worked for General Electric as a Technical Writer⁶. Many families knew this house as their coach's home for the Reading Pony League Baseball in the 1970's, where post and pre-game rallies were held in the finished basement. According to his son David, William also enjoyed working with cement. The driveway and walkway he poured is still in use. He also made a rounded, concrete curb across the street for his neighbor. He helped to remodel the kitchen for the Church of the Annunciation in Woburn, MA, and updated his home kitchen as well. GE offered employees a discount on GE appliances back then. Two of these original appliances are still in use – a testament to the quality of appliances in the last century! When the kitchen cabinets were replaced, the original sink base was reinstalled in the laundry room. Much of the house's interior is in very good original condition – the flooring, woodwork, windows and walls. Today the Koulouris' son David is the owner of the house, continuing the Koulouris family residency for 68 years as of 2024. It is interesting to note that in over 100 years there have been only three owners of this lovely home.

BIBLIOGRAPHY*Insert individual references as footnotes to the text.*

Ancestry.com

FindAGrave.com

Newspapers.com

Interview and tour with David Koulouris

The Boston Globe, 2/3/1942, p.30

The Reading Chronicle, 9/4/14, p.8

Google Maps

US 1940 Census

US 1950 Census

Map of Reading, 1906, George H. Walker & Co., Boston

⁶ Boston Globe, Obituary of William Koulouris, 1/6/1995, p.36

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

132 SUMMER AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

REA.D

REA.474

Picture of Ernest A.L. Hill:



Picture of William & Helen Koulouris:



Pictures of the home, May 2024:



Original woodwork and rounded doorways.



Vintage GE wall oven.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

132 SUMMER AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

REA.D	REA.474
-------	---------



Original kitchen sink cabinet in laundry area.



Original push button light switches in front entry.