

FORM B – BUILDING

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

27/128	Reading		355
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 182 Bancroft Avenue

Historic Name: Clarence L. Thomas House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1927

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Dutch Colonial

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

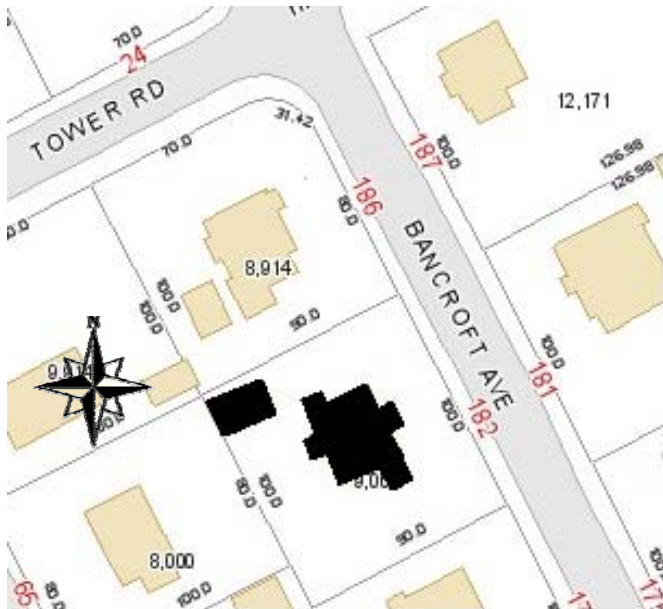
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.21 acre

Setting: mixed residential neighborhood

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

182 Bancroft Avenue

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 182 Bancroft Avenue is a good example of the Dutch Colonial style, a variation on the Colonial Revival which found great popularity nationwide in the 1920s and 1930s. As is seen in this wood-shingled version, the form typically consists of a two-story structure with gambrel ends and shed dormers spanning the long front and rear roof slopes. Centered on the three-bay façade is a pedimented entrance porch supported by plain posts with a stick balustrade. On either side of the porch is a pair of windows with molded surrounds and double-hung sash containing four vertical panes of glass in the upper sash and a single light sash below. Three pairs of windows also punctuate the long front dormer although that above the porch is slightly smaller. Projecting from the south end of the house is a single-story sunroom. On the north side is a small, secondary entrance porch.

To the north of the house is a detached, single-car, early 20th century garage which is sheathed in wood shingles with a pair of double doors on the gablefront. Each leaf has 4 x 2-lights over four recessed panels.

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 water department records, this house (originally 128 Bancroft Avenue) was constructed for Clarence L. Thomas in 1927. The property occupies lot 41 of the plan of lots belonging to Edwin C. Hanscom, first laid out in 1915 and subsequently revised in 1921 (Plan Book 310, Plan 11). Hanscom was a teamster who had a business at the end of Bancroft Avenue, near Linden. He was also extensively involved in local real estate.

Clarence Thomas was a World War I veteran who worked as an engineer for the Municipal Light Department. In 1930 he was 28 years old and living here with his wife Muriel, son Robert, mother-in-law, Ettie Litchfield, and brother-in-law. The family was still living here in 1941. Later owners included Walter Moore who sold the property in 1972.

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, 1930

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

Community Property Address
READING 182 BANCROFT AVENUE

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 1927, the house at 182 Bancroft Avenue is a good example of the Dutch Colonial style which found great popularity nationwide in the 1920s and 1930s. Characteristic of the style, it has a gambrel roof set parallel to the street with shed dormers, a pedimented central porch and a side sunporch. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register for its associations with the early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of a variation on the Dutch Colonial style.