

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/398	Reading		353
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Reading

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 112 Bancroft Avenue

**Historic Name:** Henry F. Middleton House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1917

**Source:** water department records

**Style/Form:** Four-Square

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage

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

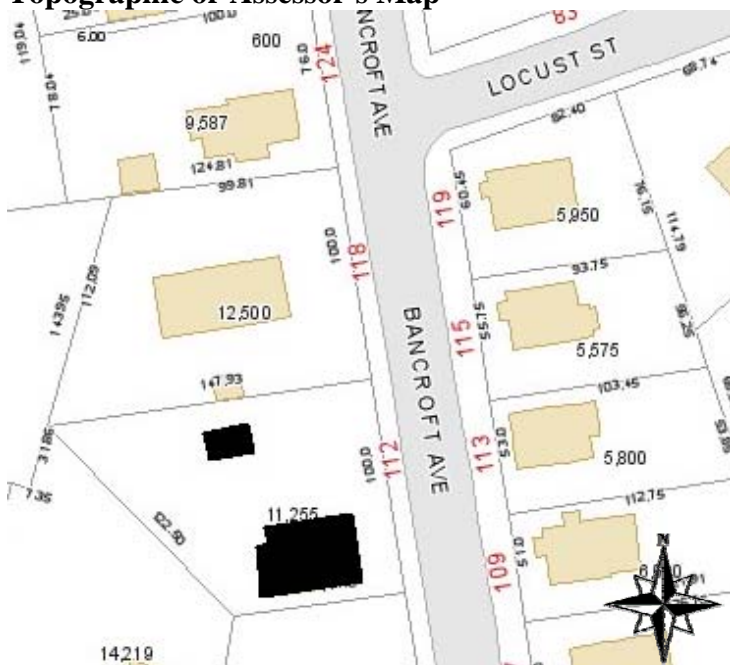
**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.26 acre

**Setting:** mixed residential neighborhood

## 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

112 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 112 Bancroft Avenue is a good example of the Four Square house form which found great popularity in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Typical of the form, 112 Bancroft is a basically square, boxy structure, 2½-stories high and capped by a hip roof with wide overhang. A prominent hip dormer is centered on the front roof slope with exposed rafter tails inspired by the Craftsman style. The entire façade is spanned by a single-story front porch supported by Doric columns with a stick balustrade. The center entrance contains a glass-and-panel door and is flanked on either side by a pair of 6/1 windows. Two additional pairs of 6/1 windows light the second story of the façade with a mix of individual and paired windows on the lesser elevations.

To the north of the house is a detached single car garage.

## 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 86 Bancroft Avenue) was constructed for Henry F. Middleton and the water was connected on August 23, 1917. The land was lot 2 of a subdivision laid out by Edwin C. Hanscom in 1915. Hanscom had a teaming business at the end of Mount Vernon Street, near Linden Street and also seems to have had extensive real estate dealings in the area. The January 12, 1917 deed from Edwin C. Hanscom to Charles H. Middleton carried with it specific restrictions (Book 4111, Page 63).

The 1920 U.S. Census indicates that the then 55 year old Henry F. Middleton was living at 86 Bancroft Avenue with his wife Elizabeth, and son Charles (33), and daughters Loretta (30) and Helen (28). Henry Middleton had come to this country from Canada in 1880 and was the owner of the Home Bakery which operated in Reading Square. Both Charles and Loretta worked in the bakery as well. By 1930 Henry's occupation was listed as that of a general laborer while Charles was selling radios and Helen was a dry goods saleslady. Charles Middleton was still living here in 1938.

By 1941 the house was occupied by Charles and Rose Grogan, who conveyed it to Rev. William Crawford in 1942 (Book 6598, Page 239). It remained in the Crawford family until 1994.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Directories, various dates.

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 Department Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930.

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

Community      Property Address  
READING      112 BANCROFT AVENUE

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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 1917, the Middleton House at 112 Bancroft Avenue is a good example of the Four Square house form displaying characteristic features including a square, boxy shape, hip roof with wide overhang, front dormer and exposed rafter tails. 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 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Reading and as a good example of the Four Square style.