

FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/255	Reading		367
--------	---------	--	-----

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

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 64 Grand Street

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1935

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Gambrel Cape

Architect/Builder: Wakefield Building & Construction Co.

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date unknown – rear addition, pergola and deck to south

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.20 acre

Setting: mixed 19th and 20th century 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

64 Grand Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

367

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 64 Grand Street is a gambrel-roofed cottage constructed in 1935. The 1½-story wood-shingled house displays a roof ridge which is parallel to the street and a three-bay façade. Unlike the Dutch Colonial form which found popularity in the 1920s and 1930s, this variation has a sidehall rather than a central entrance. Colonial Revival-style details include the dentil course under the eaves and the transomed entrance with simple surround and paneled cornerblocks. Three gable dormers rise from the front roof slope. Windows consist primarily of 8/8 and 6/6 double-hung windows set in molded surrounds. There is an exterior brick chimney and pergola/deck on the south end of the building and a smaller 1½-story, offset, gambrel wing on the north with a doorway that echoes the main entrance.

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 known as 48 Grand Street) was constructed in 1935 by the Wakefield Building and Construction Company. The 1934 and 1936 Wakefield directories include listings for the company which was located at 150-160 Lowell Street in Wakefield. Thomas J. Quinn was the president and Myron E. Wing was the treasurer. No other information has been found concerning the Wakefield Building and Construction Company.

By 1936 the house at 64 Grand Street had been purchased by Adolphus C. Sweezey, perhaps as an investment property. A.C. Sweezey was born in Canada about 1878 and was the owner of a lumber company in Malden. He resided in Malden. (See also 402 Lowell Street).

The next owners of the house were Harry and Edith Brown. Harry Brown was employed as a bond salesman. In 1941 the Browns sold the property to Lawrence and Amy Crosby. The Crosbys continued to own the property until 1974.

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.

Wakefield directories, various years.