

FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/286	Reading		368
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 79 Grand Street

Historic Name: W. S. Sanders House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1906

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date unknown? – new windows

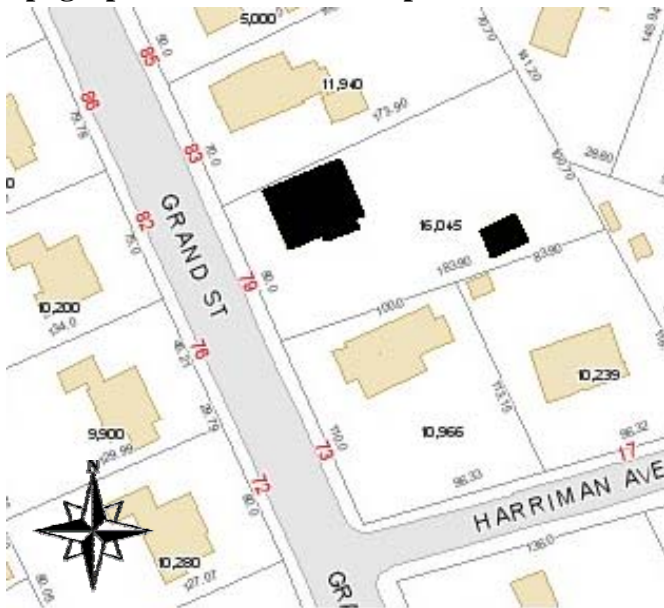
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.37 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

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

79 Grand Street

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 79 Grand Street is slightly unusual in that it combines the traditional 2½-story gablefront form popular in the late 19th century with Craftsman-influenced detailing of the early 20th century. Enlivening the simple form are a number of features including a gable pent and the use of exposed rafter cornice. The façade is fronted by a single-story porch supported by Doric columns. The offcenter entrance contains an original wooden door with upper glass and panels. To one side there is a three-sided bay window; the other contains an individual unit. Original windows have been replaced by modern 6/1 units. Projecting from the south elevation is a three-sided projection topped by gable pent/pediment.

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.

There remains some confusion regarding the first name of the original owner of this house. According to town water records, this house (originally 53 or 55 Grand Street) was constructed for *Wilbur S. Sanders*. The water was turned on in July 1906. The 1920 U.S. Census indicates that *Wilbur Sanders* was a banker who lived here with his wife Della and two children, Doris and Wilbur, Jr. as well as two lodgers. The family moved to Lowell in 1909 but had returned to the house by 1911 and continued to live here into the 1920s. (Obituary records indicate that William (not Wilbur) Sanders, husband of Della and father of Wilbur and a daughter, died in 1960 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery. The gravestone reads William Sanders, rather than Wilbur.)

In the 1930s the house was occupied by Harry N. (d. 11-26-30) and Edith Brown. In the years that followed the occupants changed frequently.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, Nov. 19?, 1960 [obituary of William Sanders].

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, 1910, 1920, 1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 79 GRAND STREET

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 1906, the house at 79 Grand Street is of interest as an unusual variation on the Craftsman house form, combining the traditional gablefront with Craftsman-inspired detailing. 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 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of the Craftsman style.