

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

27/113	Reading		370
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Reading

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 13 Hanscom Avenue

**Historic Name:** Otis & Esther Hodgkins House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1928

**Source:** water department records

**Style/Form:** Craftsman

**Architect/Builder:** D.G. Danahy, builder?

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

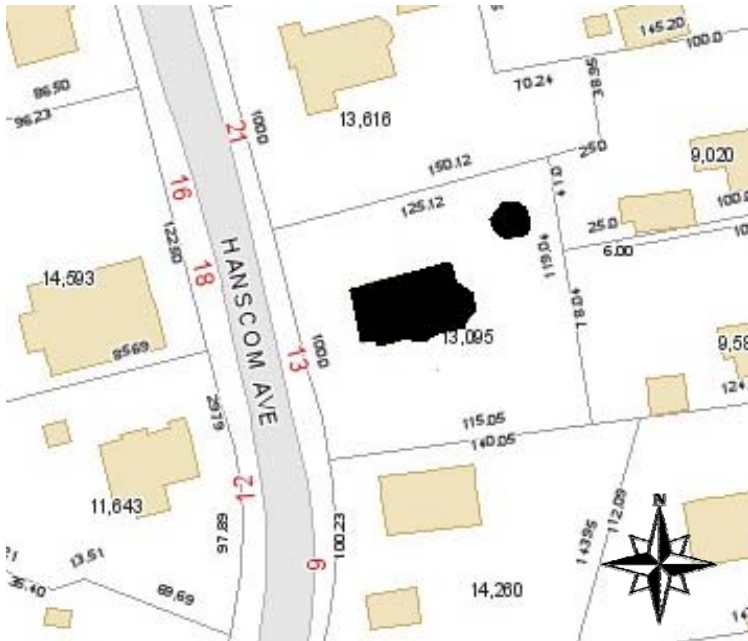
**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.30 acre

**Setting:** mixed early 20<sup>th</sup> century 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

13 Hanscom 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 13 Hanscom Avenue is a modest 1½-story, gablefront cottage constructed in 1928. Distinguishing the building from the many similar dwellings built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is the somewhat unusual pattern of the wood shingles. A double course of shingles is used with an overhang of just an inch or two at the bottom. The house rests on a concrete block foundation. Spanning the gablefront is a single-story, three-bay porch supported by square posts resting on a wood shingled wall. The center entrance is flanked on one side by a pair of windows with an individual window on the other side. The predominant window is a double-hung 6/1 sash with molded surround and outer storm window. A three-sided bay window is located on the south elevation and there is a shed dormer above.

## 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 house (originally 5 Hanscom Avenue) is located on part of lot 7 of the Edwin C. Hanscom subdivision which was laid out by the local teamster/real estate developer in July 1915 (Plan Book 232, Plan 15). The lot remained unbuilt upon until 1928 when the present house was constructed by or for D.G. Danahy. (No further information was found concerning this individual). According to water department records, the water was turned on April 26, 1928.

By the time of the 1929 street list and 1930 Census, the house was occupied by Otis and Esther Hodgkins. Otis Potter Hodgkins was born in Chelsea on June 17, 1894. The 1930 Census indicates that he was employed as a bookkeeper for a leather company. The house remained in the Hodgkins' ownership until 1977 when it was sold by Esther's estate to Stephen Kowalski.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass. (Plan Book 232, Page 15).

Reading Directories, various years.

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, 1930

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Community      Property Address  
READING        13 HANSCOM 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 1928, the house at 13 Hanscom Avenue is a good and well-preserved example of a modest Craftsman gablefront dwelling. The house displays details which are typical of the style including a distinctive wood shingled exterior, square porch posts and 6/1 windows. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register for its associations with the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Reading and as a good example of a variation on the Craftsman style.