

FORM B – BUILDING

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

33/9	Reading		385
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 99 John Carver Road

Historic Name: James & Dorothy Heelen House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1952

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: Richard E. Merrill, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1959, 1963 - additions

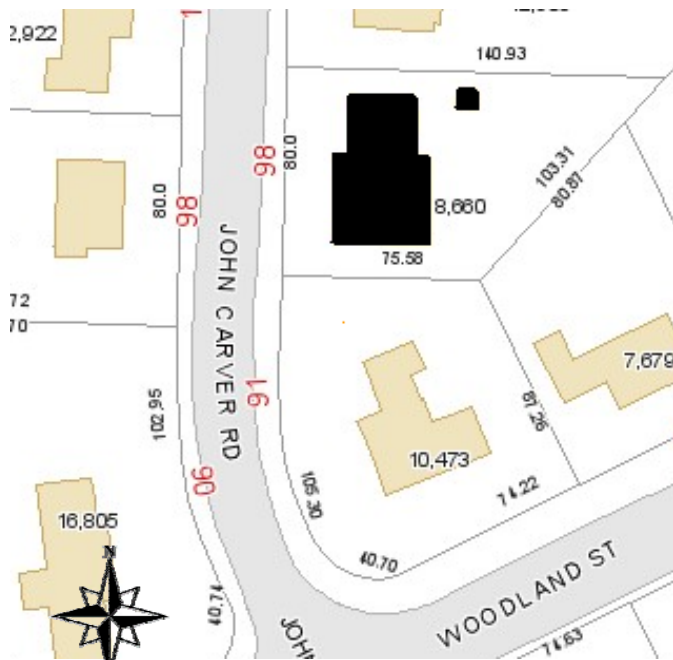
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.20 acre

Setting: 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

99 John Carver Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

This 1952 Cape Cod dwelling is one of many that were constructed in Reading in the post World War II construction boom. In this case, the dwelling has a five bay façade and is without dormers. The windows on the façade are all individual units and the center entrance contains a six-panel door set into a simple pilastered surround. A dentil-like frieze runs along the front eaves. There is an exterior brick chimney on the south elevation. The Cape Style dwellings were typically expanded in several ways – by raising the rear roof line or rear additions. In this case there is a rear addition and a mudroom connector links the original house to what appears to be a later garage. The dentil molding of the main house has carefully been continued along the façade of the garage as well.

Other less altered Cape examples in the neighborhood include the house at 107 John Carver Road which still retains its original footprint although the rear roof slope has been raised. Across the street, 98 John Carver Road also remains largely intact.

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 was one of about ten Cape Cod houses in the neighborhood (see also 50, 65, 75, 98, 102, 103, 107, 110 John Carver Road) constructed by builder Richard E. Merrill (1921-2007) in 1952. The houses were all built according to the same plan and contained about 1,344 square feet. Merrill also constructed a number of other houses in Reading (see also 155 Prospect Street).

The house occupies lot 31 in the plan of lots in Reading belonging to Mildred Burgess and Stephen Wadsworth, laid out in August 1927. John Carver Road was originally known as Yale Avenue.

According to town water records, the water was turned on May 16, 1952. The original owners were James and Dorothy Heelen who purchased the property from Merrill in June 1952. The couple moved here from Charlestown; he was employed as an engineer. The Heelen family retained ownership until 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Boston Globe, Oct. 11, 2007 [obituary of Richard E. Merrill].

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.