

FORM B – BUILDING

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

20/44	Reading		393
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 24 Longview Road

Historic Name: Dr. Ernest D. Richmond House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1929

Source: directories

Style/Form: Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/brick/wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

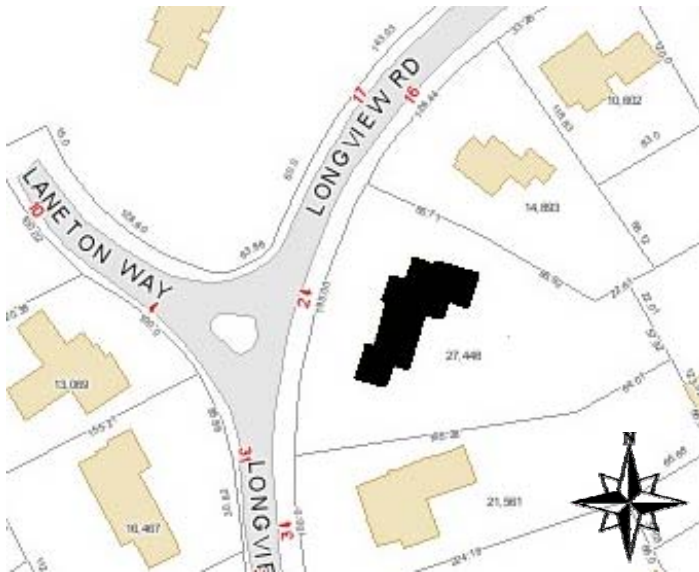
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.63 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

24 Longview Road

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.

Constructed in 1929, the house at 24 Longview Road is a two-story, rambling, brick and wood shingled dwelling with slate roof. The house is eclectic in character, combining elements of the Tudor and Colonial Revival. At the center of the house is a two-story brick core from which a two-story cross gable emerges at the north end. The cross gable has a brick veneer on the first floor of the façade; the second story overhangs and large wooden pendants decorate the ends of the overhang. Projecting to the south of the cross gable is a sweeping gable which shelters the entrance, supported by plain posts with lattice panels and an archway. Within the recess the entrance contains a six-panel door framed by transom and sidelights. To the south of the main block is a screened porch, capped by an offset, steeply-pitched gable roof which has the same posts and lattice panels seen on the main entrance. At the north end of the house is a two-story, recessed wood-shingled wing, behind which is an attached garage. Windows on the structure include a mix of double-hung 6/6 and 8/8, used individually and in pairs. Additional windows include lunettes in the attic.

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.

The original owner of this house was local physician Dr. Ernest D. Richmond (1869-1937) who was born in East Charlemont, Mass. and attended Williams College and the University of Vermont Medical School. He moved to Reading from Deerfield in 1898 and remained here the rest of his life. Previously Dr. Richmond and his wife lived at 46 Woburn Street. The 1930 Census indicates that Dr. Richmond was then living here with his wife Bessie and two servants. He died in 1937 although the house remained in the family until it was sold by Dr. Ernest D. Richmond, Jr. to Dr. John Meskunas, a physician, in 1966.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, Jan. 8, 1937 [obituary of Dr. Ernest Richmond].

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, 1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 24 LONGVIEW ROAD

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 1929, the house at 24 Longview Road is an unusual example of early 20th century eclectic architecture combining aspects of the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival. The house is set in a neighborhood of impressive homes of the same period representing various styles, erected by some of Reading's most prosperous early 20th century citizens. This house was constructed for prominent local physician, Dr. Ernest Richmond. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register for its associations with the early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of a variation on the Tudor/Colonial Revival mode.