

FORM B – BUILDING

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

26/186	Reading		397
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 327 Lowell Street

Historic Name: Lee-Carnes House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1899

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Shingle Style/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
sheds

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1980 – addition
date unknown – new windows

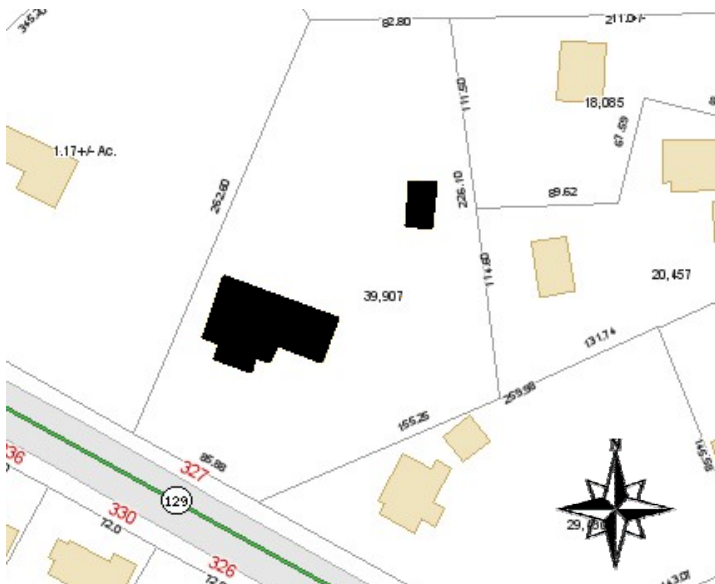
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.92 acre

Setting: setback from busy main road (Rt. 129) in mixed residential area

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

327 Lowell 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.

Set on a hillside above the road, 327 Lowell Street is an interesting example of the Shingle Style constructed at the turn of the 20th century. The two-story structure is sheathed in wood shingles and capped by a gambrel roof with a ridge which is parallel to the street with overhanging eaves that are decorated by simple modillions. Centered on the façade is a large cross gambrel which is set above the projecting entrance porch. Now enclosed, the porch is supported by clusters of three Doric columns at the corners, resting on a rubble wall base. On either side of the front gambrel is a smaller hip-roofed dormer. Original windows include the tripartite set in the front gambrel which have diamond-paned upper sashes and are capped by an entablature lintel with half octagon above. There is a similar set of four windows on the east end. Most of the other original windows have been replaced by modern 1/1 sash. A modern (1980), single-story, gable-roofed addition on a concrete foundation extends to the east of the original house block.

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 199 Lowell Street) was constructed for Wendell P. Lee in 1899. Born in Maine, Wendell Lee was a water inspector who lived here with his wife Josie, who was born in Germany. The couple appears to have lived here only briefly.

By 1909 the house was owned and occupied by Herbert W. Carnes and his wife Minerva. He was employed as a bookkeeper. Mr. Carnes and his daughter were still living here in 1945. Francis and Alice Emmons owned the property from 1946 to 1951, followed by Lawrence and Barbara Bales from 1951 to 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.

U.S. Census, 1900-1930.