

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

|        |         |  |     |
|--------|---------|--|-----|
| 26/179 | Reading |  | 399 |
|--------|---------|--|-----|

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Reading

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 402 Lowell Street (corner Pilgrim Rd.)

**Historic Name:** Forrest Benton House

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** 1939

**Source:** water department records

**Style/Form:** Cape Cod

**Architect/Builder:** A.C. Sweezey, builder

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

date unknown – rear addition

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.22 acre

**Setting:** mixed residential along busy road (Rt. 129)

## 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

402 Lowell Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

399

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.*

Located at the corner of Pilgrim Road and Lowell Street, 402 Lowell Street is a well-preserved Cape Cod-type dwelling constructed in 1939. The 1 ½-story, 3 x 2-bay structure rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The steeply-pitched gable roof has two gable dormers rising from the front slope and additional dormers on the rear. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the east gable end. The six-panel front door is framed by fluted pilasters and a dentil-like course runs along the facade. With the exception of the 6/6 dormer windows, the windows contain 8/8 sash with molded surrounds and louvered shutters. A garage addition is located to the rear (south) of the house.

## 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 town water records, this house was constructed in 1939. The land comprises lot 84 of the James F. Sanborn subdivision which was laid out in 1937.

The original owner was A.C. Sweezey who apparently built the house. Adolphus C. Sweezey was born in Canada about 1878 and was the owner of a lumber company in Malden, where he also lived. Sweezey appears to have constructed a number of houses in Reading (see also 64 Grand Street) but never lived here.

By 1941 the house was occupied by Forrest Benton, a chemical engineer, and his wife Elizabeth. The Bentons owned the house until 1951 when it was sold to George A. Haskins. It was finally sold by George Haskins' estate in 1998.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading 350<sup>th</sup> Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994: 235.

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.