

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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| 21/192 | Reading | D | 413 |
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 44 Middlesex Avenue

Historic Name: Black-Horton House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1896

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date unknown – some new windows

2005 – new exterior siding, columns repaired

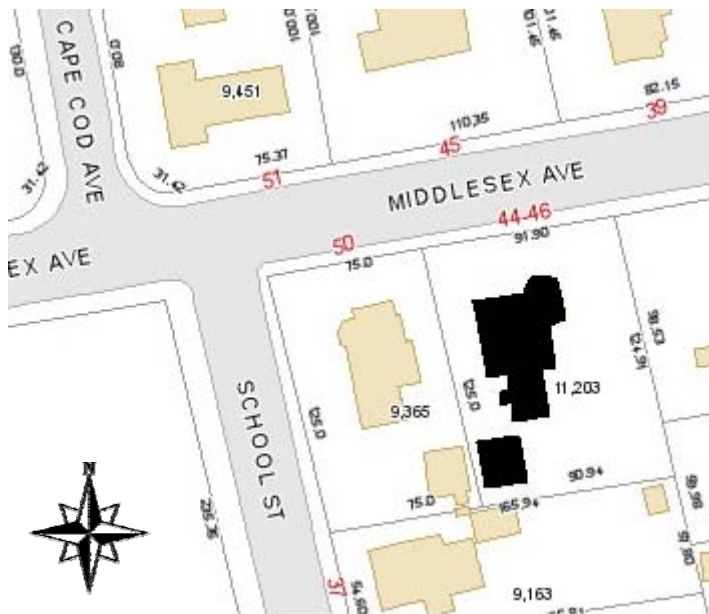
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.26 acre

Setting: mixed 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

44 Middlesex Avenue

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.

The house at 44-46 Middlesex Avenue is a hip-roofed, two-story dwelling constructed of a combination of rubble and wood clapboards. The first floor of the façade is faced with rubble with more dressed stone blocks used for quoining around the windows and along the west edge. In addition to the rubble foundation, stonework also serves as a base for the curved entrance porch at the northeast corner of the building. The remainder of the building is sheathed in wood clapboards with simple cornerboards and belt courses and brackets running underneath the projecting eaves and along the porch roof. A simple wooden pendant emphasizes the overhang of the second floor over the first at the northwest corner. A small area of wood shingles is located at the top of the front gable. Squat Doric columns support the roof and there is an oval window adjacent to the entrance. The variety of windows includes a band of three 1/1 windows with stained glass transoms on the façade, 1/1 windows used individually and in groupings and a number of diamond-paned units.

To the rear of the house is an early 20th century garage constructed of concrete blocks and capped by a hip roof.

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 26 Middlesex) was built by real estate developer Frank K. Black who developed a large part of the old Bancroft farm in the late 19th and early 20th century. On September 19, 1896, the *Reading Chronicle* reported that James Horton had bought the "stonefront house" of Frank Black on Middlesex.

Over the years, the occupants of the house changed frequently. Harry Cushman, a grocer, was living here in 1909. By 1918 the property was owned by Arthur and Mary Felton. He was a paint manufacturer. Adelbert Safford, Superintendent of Schools was living here in 1932. In 1936 the house was owned by Gardner & Ethel Gill but was occupied by Eugene Boardman. In 1946 the structure was owned by Carl & Alice Pinkham but occupied by Afra Godfrey. Later owners included Robert Channonhouse, who had a dry cleaning business at 506 Main Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, September 19, 1896.

Reading Directories, various years.

Reading Historical Commission, photographic archives.

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 Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1900-1930.

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c.1900 photo of property

Source: Reading Historical Commission

