

FORM B – BUILDING

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

21/49	Reading		419
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 14 Mt. Vernon Street

Historic Name: Turner-Bussell House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1912

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.12 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

14 Mt. Vernon Street

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 14 Mt. Vernon Street is a simple, single-story bungalow capped by a hip roof which extends over the full front porch without a break in the roof line. The overhanging eaves are decorated by exposed rafters and a small hip dormer rises from the front and side roof slopes. The three-bay front porch is supported by simple battered wooden posts which rest on a wood shingled wall which is continuous with the sidewalls of the house. The central entrance is flanked on one side by a pair of 9/6 windows and on the other by an individual window.

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 (originally 10 Mt. Vernon Street) was constructed in 1912; the water was turned on May 3, 1912. In 1911 Elizabeth Turner had purchased the lot of land from Maria J. Austin. On July 19, 1912, the *Chronicle* reported that Harry A. Turner's house on Mt. Vernon Street was nearly complete. The 1920 Census lists the occupants of the house as 39 year old Harry, a motorman on the street railway; his 31 year old wife Elsie who had immigrated from Sweden in 1906, daughter Helen and two boarders.

By 1921 the house was owned and occupied by Howard E. Bussell, a novelty salesman. The 1930 Census indicates that Bussell was living here with his wife Paulina and five-year old daughter, Shirley. At Paulina's death, ownership of the house passed to Marian Day who lived here until her death in 1987. Miss Day as a science teacher at the junior high school from 1925 into the 1950s. In 1987 the house was inherited by Miriam Tilden who sold it in 1996 to Robert Smith.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading Chronicle, July 19, 1912.

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, 1920-1930.

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

Community Property Address
READING 14 MT. VERNON STREET

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 1912, the house at 1149 Main Street is a modest but good example of a hip-roofed Bungalow with a front porch which is recessed under a projection of the hip roof. Other character-defining features include overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The property is potentially eligible for the National Register as an amendment to the 1984 Reading Multiple Resource Area under Criteria A and C, for its associations with the early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of the Bungalow style.