

FORM B – BUILDING

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

10/33	Reading		428
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 26 Pine Ridge Road

Historic Name: Benjamin C. Bowen House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1936

Source: water records

Style/Form: Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: Colonial Development Co.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles, stone

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1975 - addition

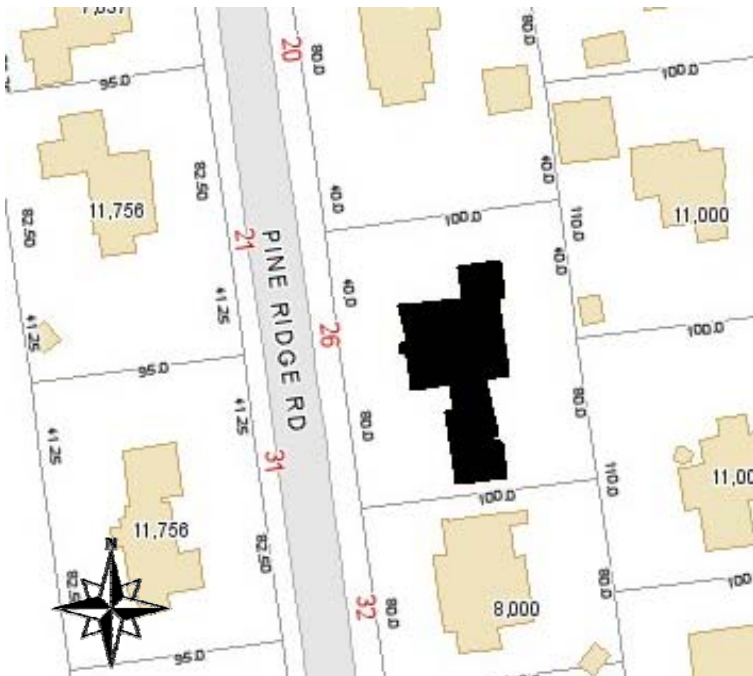
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.28 acre

Setting: mixed 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

26 Pine Ridge Road

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.

Constructed in 1936, the house at 26 Pine Ridge Road is a unique early 20th century Cape Cod structure constructed of stone. The 1½-story, side-gabled dwelling has an asphalt-shingled roof with a central stuccoed chimney. The body of the house is constructed of a purplish native stone. The end gables have been sheathed in vertical boards. Centered on the five bay façade is a paneled door flanked by fluted pilasters and sheltered by a curved door hood resting on elongated triangular braces with unusual pendants. The windows contain double-hung 6/6 sash with stone sills and wooden shutters with raised rectangular panels. A single-story, wood-frame wing addition extends to the south of the main house, linking it with a two-car garage with arched door openings and a cupola rising from the ridge. The garage building is sheathed in vertical boards.

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 1936 by the Colonial Development Company on land that was originally owned by Allan H. Sturges, a Walnut Street resident who was president of the Liberty Trust Company. No additional information was found concerning the Colonial Development Company. According to water records, the company erected most of the houses on Pine Ridge Road as well as adjacent houses including 9 Sylvan Road and 94 Oak Street in the 1930s.

The water was turned to 26 Pine Ridge Road on August 21, 1936. The first owner of the house was Benjamin C. Bowen who lived here with his wife Jean. He was employed as a clerk in Boston. By 1941 the house was occupied by Franklin and Marjorie Dunbar. Thomas Edwards lived here in the mid 1940s. Augustus and Helen Stanwood were here in 1960. Later owners included D. Grande.

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, 1930.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
READING 26 PINE RIDGE 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 1936, the house at 26 Pine Ridge Road is a unique example of the timeless Cape Cod-style dwelling with a stone exterior. The design is all the more remarkable in that it was constructed as part of a neighborhood development constructed by the Colonial Development Company. 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 Cape Cod/Colonial Revival mode.