

FORM B – BUILDING

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

16/140	Reading		429
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 12 Pratt Street

Historic Name: Adoniram Judson Leach House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1896

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Queen Anne/Shingle

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

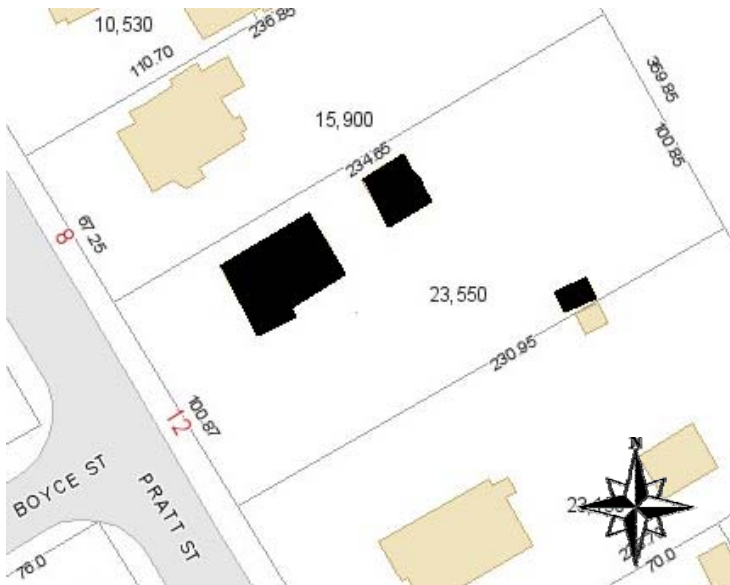
Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.54 acre

Setting: mixed 19th and 20th century residential neighborhood off Woburn Street

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

12 Pratt 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.

The house at 12 Pratt Street is an eclectic late 19th century structure displaying the influence of both the Queen Anne and the Shingle style with touches of the Colonial Revival. The 2½-story structure rests on a rubble foundation and is sheathed in a combination of wood clapboards on the first floor and wood shingles above. The side gables are asymmetrical and an off-center, steeply-pitched gambrel projection lends interest to the façade. In front of the gambrel is a single-story porch supported by Doric columns resting on paneled posts. The porch displays a spindle balustrade, knobbed newel posts and a matching roof balustrade. Most of the windows contain 8/1 double-hung sash. The window in the front gambrel is capped by a curved lintel with keystone. There is an oval window on the north wall lighting the stairhall. In addition there are several modern casement units.

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 for A.J. Leach in 1896; the water was turned on April 30, 1896. Directories indicate that A. Judson Leach was employed as the state agent of the MSPCA in Boston. Other years list Adoniram J. Leach as a clergyman. The 1906 map indicates that the house was then owned by Ida Leach (relation to Adoniram unknown). There is no evidence that Ida Leach lived here. By 1917 Whitman Morton, a real estate agent, was renting the house. [He was the father of Judge Jesse Morton who lived at 198 Woburn Street (originally 114 Woburn Street).] In the late 1920s and early 1930s merchant Alfred Felton lived at 12 Pratt Street.

The house was owned by local physician, Dr. Robert Shepardson, and his wife Martha by 1936; they remained here into the 1950s. Later owners included James and Dorothy Sherpey who were here by 1957.

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.

1906 map.

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

Community Property Address
READING 12 PRATT 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 1896, the house at 12 Pratt Street is an eclectic late 19th century structure displaying the influence of both the Queen Anne and Shingle Style with touches of the Colonial Revival. The asymmetrical design features a steeply-pitched gambrel on the façade and contrasting materials including rubble, wood clapboards and wood shingles. 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 late 19th and early 20th century development of Reading and as a good example of the cross currents shared by the Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival styles.