

FORM B – BUILDING

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

20/238	Reading		443
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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 Vine Street

Historic Name: Robert & Miriam Barclay House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1935

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: fair

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

Acreage: 0.23 acre

Setting: early 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 Vine Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

443

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 26 Vine Street is a well-preserved early 20th century Cape Cod-type dwelling which is notable for its lack of alteration or addition. The 1½-story, 5 x 3-bay structure rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The steeply-pitched gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and is punctuated by an offcenter, painted brick chimney with two gable dormers rising from the front slope and additional dormers on the rear (a definite departure from historic prototypes). The six-panel front door has two upper lights and is framed by fluted pilasters topped by diamond-shaped ornaments. The wooden 6/6 windows have molded surrounds and are fitted with exterior storm windows and board shingles with cut-out designs and original hardware. Along the front eaves there is a dentil-like molding and the eaves on the gable ends are close and end in shallow returns.

There is a low stone wall along the front property line and a slate sidewalk leads to the front door.

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 water department records, this house was constructed in 1935 and the first owners were Robert and Anne Barclay. It was later the home of Robert and his second wife Miriam. Miriam A. (Nichols) Barclay was a noted local historian who devoted years to the research and study of Reading history and genealogy. She graduated from Reading High School in 1922 and received a Master's degree from Harvard University after attending Radcliffe College. She taught history in public schools for 19 years including 17 in Brookline. Mrs. Barclay served as secretary of the Reading Antiquarian Society and chairman of the house committee for the Parker Tavern. In addition to hosting school children at the Tavern, she penned historical articles for the *Reading Chronicle*. After Robert Barclay's death, Mrs. Barclay continued to live at 26 Vine Street until her own death in 1990. That same year, the local history room at the Reading Public Library was named in honor of Miriam Barclay and her fellow historian, Eleanor Bishop.

In 1991 the house was sold by Mrs. Barclay's heirs to Susan Savage and Lauren Dunn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Reading 350th 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.

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

Community Property Address
READING 26 VINE 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 1935, the house at 26 Vine Street is a modest Cape Cod-style dwelling which is notable for its lack of addition or alteration. Characteristic of the style, the house has a 1 ½-story, 5 x 3-bay form with dormers. Colonial-inspired details include fluted pilasters, a dentil course and 6/6 windows. The house is also of interest for its associations with prominent Reading historian, Miriam Nichols Barclay. 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.