

FORM B – BUILDING

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

40/36	Reading		445
-------	---------	--	-----

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

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 8 Wells Road

Historic Name: Hershel B. Rich House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1913

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.45 acre

Setting: mixed residential neighborhood

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2010
 MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

8 Wells Road

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

445

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.

Located at the northwest corner of Wells Road and Forest Glen Road, 8 Wells Road is a well-preserved and highly-detailed example of the Bungalow style. The side-gabled, wood-shingled house is set on a rubble foundation. Stone posts also support the squat Doric columns of the front porch which is recessed under the front roof slope. The overhanging eaves have false beams and exposed rafter tails and a large shed dormer is entered on the front roof slope. The sidehall entry contains a wooden door with 3 x 2-lights over lower vertical panels. Adjacent to the entrance is a tripartite picture window with entablature lintel and footed sill as well as a three-sided projection with individual windows. The predominant window is a 6/1 sash. There is also a bay window on the south elevation.

Behind the house is a hip-roofed garage, sheathed in wood shingles and capped by a hip roof with exposed rafters. There are two sets of wooden double doors with 4 x 2-panes over vertical panels. Diamond paned windows light the lesser elevations.

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 2 Wells Road) was constructed for H.B. Rich and the water was turned on August 1, 1913. The house is located on lots 6 & 7 on a plan of house lots belonging to Charles Nesmith, laid out in 1912 (Plan Book 209, Plan 23). Hershel Rich worked as a clerk at G.H. Atkinson's grocery store in the Masonic Block. He only lived here about five years before moving elsewhere in Reading. He later moved to Ellsworth, Maine where he died in 1949.

In 1937 Ernest and Annie Allard moved to the house. He was employed as a clerk in Boston and they lived here with their five grown children. Members of the family continued to occupy the house into the mid 1960s. Joseph and Mary Komidar owned and occupied the house from about 1967 to 2002 when it was sold to the present owners.

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 Records, 1891-present.

U.S. Census, 1920-1930.

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

Community Property Address
READING 8 WELLS ROAD

Area(s) Form No.

	445
--	-----

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 1913, the house at 8 Wells Road is a well-preserved example of a side-gabled Bungalow with a mix of wood shingles and rubble and a front porch contained under an extension of the front roof slope. As is typical, the overhanging eaves display decorative beams under the gables with exposed rafter tails on the lateral eaves. 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.