

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

33/149	Reading		446
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Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 34 Whittier Road

Historic Name: Thomas McDonough House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1941

Source: water department records

Style/Form: Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: Community Development Trust, builder

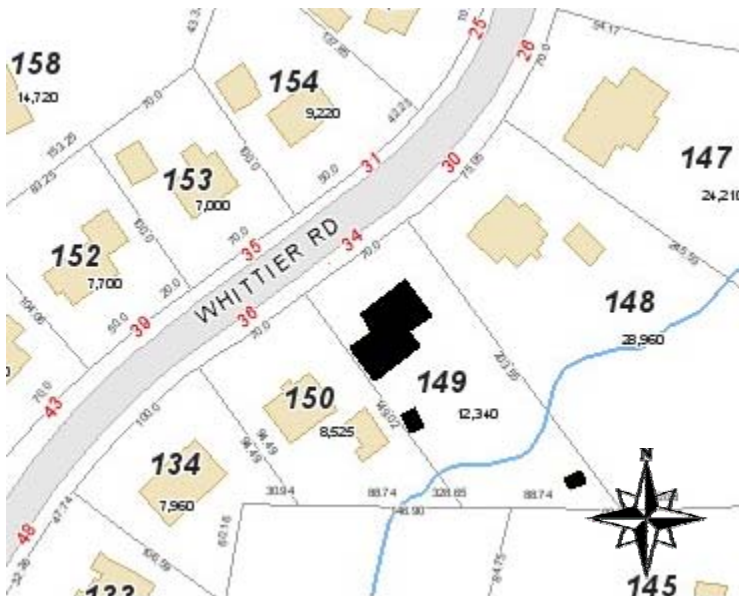
Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1949 – rear roof raised

1952 – addition

c.2005 – vinyl siding and new windows

Condition: fair (due to siding)

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

Acreage: 0.28 acre

Setting: mid 20th century residential neighborhood

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

READING

34 Whittier 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 1941, the house at 34 Whittier Road is a simple 32' x 23' Cape Cod dwelling with a three bay façade and center entrance. It is set on a concrete foundation and sheathed in vinyl siding with an exterior brick chimney rising along the west gable end. This house showcases many of the alterations commonly made to expand the Cape Cod for growing families. The rear roof was raised in 1949 and a garage addition was constructed in 1952. Later this was converted to living space. The windows now contain a mix of 6/6 and 8/8 vinyl replacement sash. Small decorative windows are located adjacent to the chimney.

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.

This is one of a neighborhood of Cape Cod dwellings constructed off Forest Street in the early 1940s. In January 1941 the Chronicle reported that many new homes were being built near the corner of Forest and Main Streets and that a total of eighty were planned. This house occupies lot 22 of a subdivision that was initially named Emerson Estates but is better known today as Poet's Corner. All of the streets were named for famous poets – Tennyson, Wadsworth, Whittier and Browning. The neighborhood was developed by the Community Development Trust. The trustee of the trust was C.P. Benoit. No other information about the builders has been found.

The house was sold by Clovis Benoit and Ethel Winsor to Thomas and Pauline McDonough in July 1941. The water was turned on July 29, 1941. The McDonoughs continued to own the house until 1983. It has had a number of owners since that time.

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: 277.

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.