

FORM G- STREETSCAPE

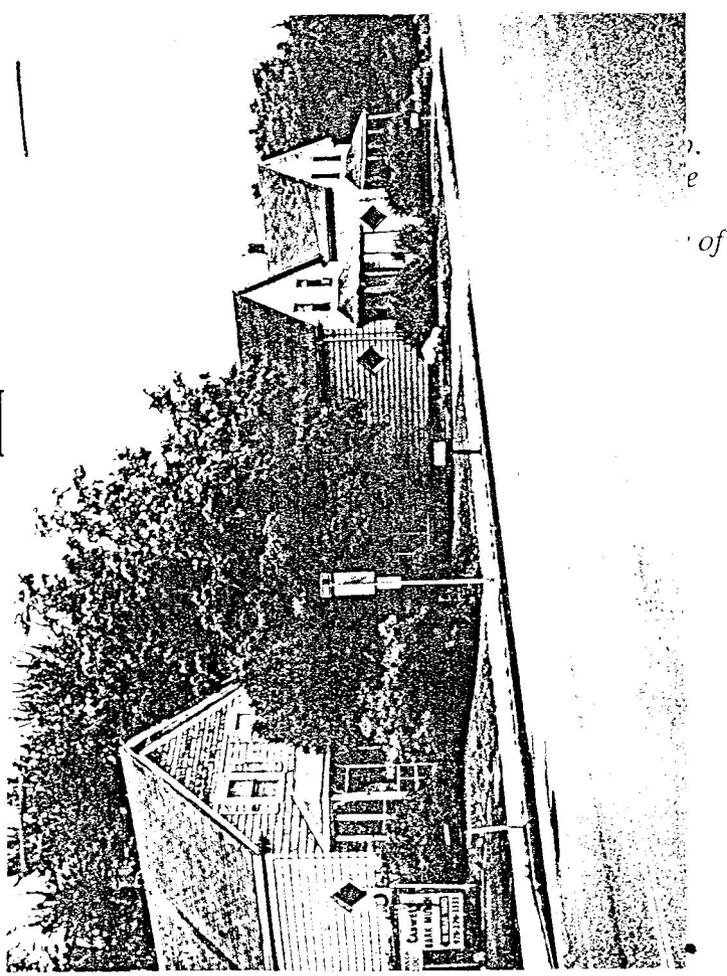
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's Sheets
22-089,090,091

USGS Quad
Reading

Area Letter
E

Form Numbers
142, 143, 144



Town North Reading, MA

Place(neighborhood or village) N/A
N/A

Address (inclusive) 25, 27, 29 Main Street

Range of Dates or Periods c.1900-1906

Predominant Architectural Styles/Forms Queen Anne

Alterations Original wood shingles replaced by asphalt shingles (#25).

Major Intrusions N/A

General Condition Fair-to-good

Acreage Aprox. one acre

Recorded By Edward W. Gordon

Organization North Reading Historical Comm.

Date (month/day/year) 10/29/2002

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

STREETSCAPE FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

Describe important architectural features. evaluate in terms of other examples of streetscapes and similar buildings in the community.

As North Reading's most heavily traveled thoroughfare, Main Street/Route 28 is bordered primarily by modern commercial concerns and apartments that constitute streetscapes not unlike those bordering Route 1 in Peabody and Saugus. 25, 27 and 29 Main Street rank among the very few buildings bordering Main Street that pre-date World War II. Architecturally these buildings represent a small development of modest cottage scale dwellings that is unique within the town. Measuring two-bays-by-two-bays, these modest Queen Anne dwellings rise a single story to gable roofs with shallow return eaves. Of the three, number 29 is the most intact with its wood shingle sheathing, front porch with square posts and spandrel brackets as well as the distinctive, diamond shaped windows that pierce the north walls of these houses.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of this streetscape, and how it relates to the overall development of the community.

Main Street/Route 28 was set out as part of the Andover and Medford Turnpike in 1806. Today, Main Street is North Reading's principle commercial thoroughfare. Modern stores and apartments have replaced the taverns, houses and a school house that were associated with the glory days of turnpike travel

(1806-1850). Among the earliest, relatively intact buildings of historic interest bordering Main Street are three Queen Anne cottages bordering the east side of this heavily trafficked thoroughfare. Numbered **25, 27 and 29 Main Street**, these modest dwellings stand nearly opposite Kingston Street. Extant by 1906, these houses were originally part of the extensive real estate holdings of local entrepreneurs Edward A. Carpenter and Jared Brown Mc Lane. McLane was born in Pugwash, Nova Scotia on May 8, 1853. The youngest of eight children born to Alexander and Harriet Brown Mc Lane, he apprenticed as a blacksmith while still in his teens. In 1869, he settled in Topsfield, MA and found employment with D.E. Hurd, a prominent carriage builder. McLane's skills as a craftsman soon earned him a partnership in Hurd's enterprise. About 1873, he settled in North Reading and purchased a blacksmith shop that stood behind the Flint Memorial Building. Establishing his business at a time of a national recession and faced with competition from the town's two other blacksmiths, McLane also graded highways, plowed snow, and installed drains. By the mid 1880s, this highly resourceful man contracted with the town to maintain the iron railings of bridges and painted and gilded commercial signs over the doors of local machine shops and building establishments. In the mean time, he expanded his blacksmithing business to include wagon and carriage building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

North Reading Maps/Atlases: 1795,1831,1857,1875,1889,1906; Town of North Reading Street List, 1966
North Reading Directories (Wakefield): 1896-97;1905;1907;1911-12; 1919-20;1931-1932;1941
North Reading Review, 1965

Form.

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement



Ipswich River

READING

NORTH READING, MA