

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area

C

Form no.

146

Reading

66 Prospect Street

Name Durkin House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner William F. Durkin

Description:

Date 1872Source Genealogical HistoryStyle ItalianateArchitect unknownExterior wall fabric Fabricated sidingOutbuildings NoneMajor alterations (with dates) NoneMoved no DateApprox. acreage 17,522 sq. ft.

Setting At corner of King St. facing east, on slight rise.

Recorded by Architectural
Preservation Associates
Organization Reading Historical
Commission

Date November 1980
REVISED

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/325870/4709720

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This is one of Reading's finest surviving Italianate houses. It was built on a slight rise to take advantage of the views down the hill. It displays a cross-gable form, with two side porches and two bay windows, one on each gable end. Large, paired brackets sit beneath the main eaves, while single brackets "support" the roofs of the bay windows. The porches rest upon chamfered posts on pedestals, and feature incised scrolls and a bracketed and denticulate cornice. Above the eastern bay window, at second-floor level, is an especially nice window arrangement: two tall, narrow, round-headed windows are framed by pilasters supporting a pediment open at the bottom and containing an applied decoration inside. Single round-headed windows light the attic.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

W. F. Durgin was educated at Atkinson and Middleboro Academies, taught school, and was employed as agent by a manufacturing company on Martha's Vineyard. He was editor of the "Advertiser," came to Reading in 1867, and built this house in 1873. He formed part of a wave of businessmen who settled in Reading, but worked in Boston, commuting on the railroad.

After Durgin's death in 1887, the house was sold to William B. Livermore, whose wife was daughter of Horace Cummings.

In 1910 the owners were assessed for an "auto house."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1875 map W. F. Durgin (William)
- 1889 map W. B. Livermore (William)
- Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 157 (photo)
- Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 557
- Reading Chronicle, August 1887

1910 Valuation list

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-146
Property Name: 66 Prospect St.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its role as the home of a rail-road commuter; (2) for its having an "auto house" in 1910; and (3) as an intact example of high-style Italianate architecture in Reading. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 6/18/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Damon, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

32. Damon, Washington, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

33. Dewey Place

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

34. Durgin House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

35. Eaton-Prescott House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

36. Elliott, Luther, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

37. Hall, Stephen, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

39. Hartwell House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

40. Highland School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/19/84

Attest

Ref. # 84002574

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Durgin House (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-19-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



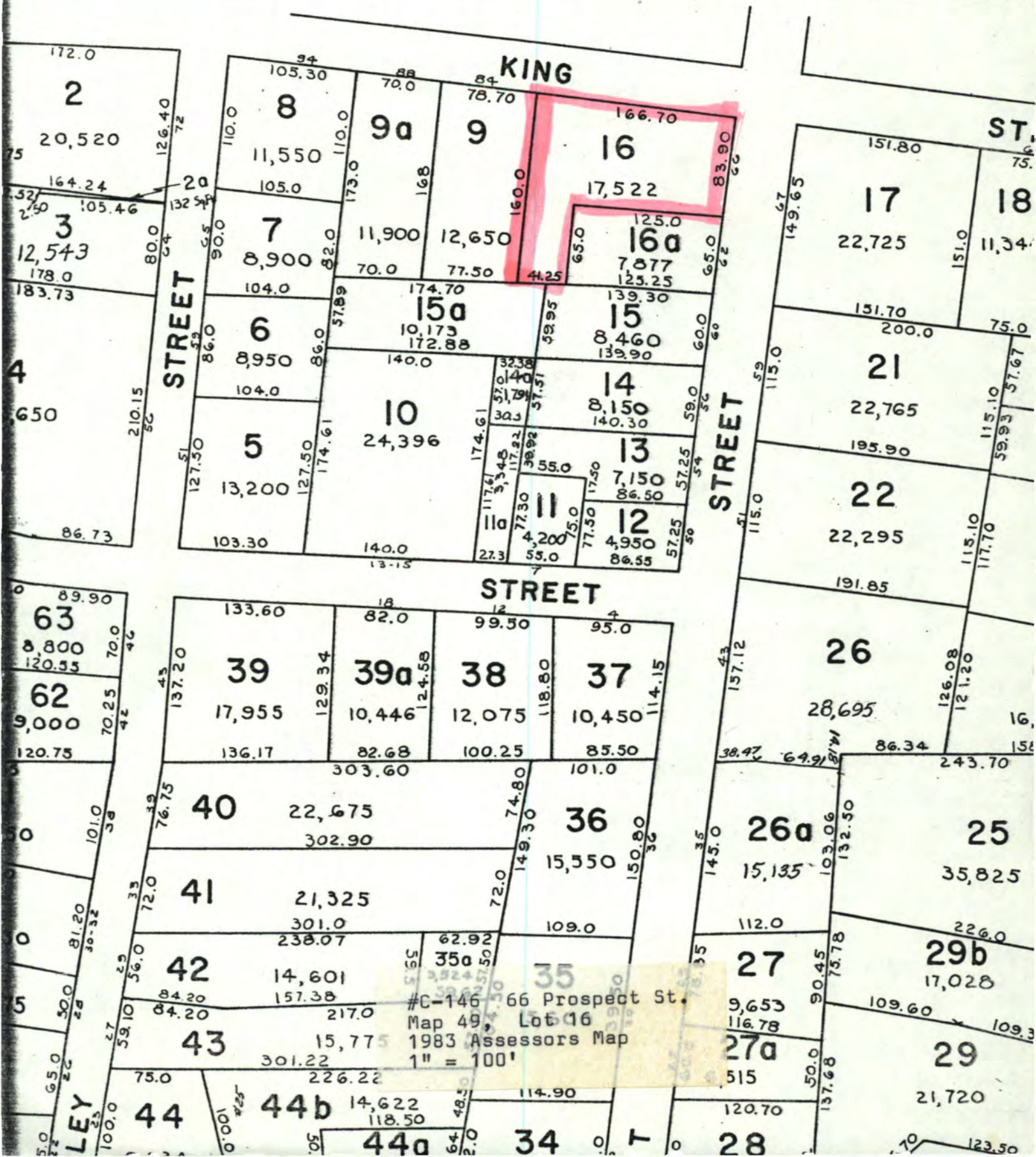
Virgin House

Reading MRA, Ma

66 Prospect St

IV 21

READING, MASSACHUSETTS



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290