

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area

C

Form no.

124



ading

115 Prescott Street

Name Edwin Bassett House

ginal dwelling

sent dwelling

p: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

ginal owner Edwin Bassett

TION:

cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Date 1850

Source Concerning the Past

Greek Revival

tect n/aior wall fabric clapboardsildings garagealterations (with dates) Queen Anne

porch on south facade and small

one on east facade, and
probably the bay window.

Moved NO DateApprox. acreage 10,805 sq. ft.Setting Faces south on Prescott on

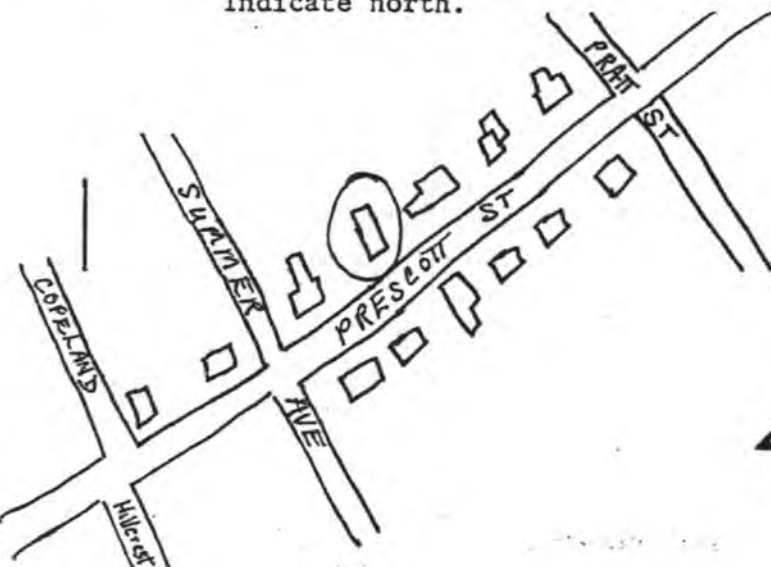
flat lot close to street.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation
Associates
Organization Reading Historical Comm.

Date November 1980Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326270/4709340

(Staple additional sheets here)



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

This 3-bay, Greek Revival house has a full pediment in its gable, a feature not frequently found in Reading. The door surround features flat pilasters; a wide cornice board, or frieze, wraps around the house. This house displays the tall, central chimney and 6/6 windows found in the Greek Revival period.

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

Prescott Street was laid out from Summer to Washington Streets in 1845, after the opening of rail commuter connections to Boston, by Edward Appleton over the northwest section of the Eaton-Prescott farm. This farm once covered 100 acres and boasted in the 19th century a cider mill.

Edwin Bassett bought this plot in May 1850, and built this house soon after. It was in a second-floor room in this house that the first MacKay sewing machine in Reading was installed. The machine mechanically attached shoe uppers to the soles, revolutionizing shoe production in Reading by turning it from hand-cottage to mechanical-factory manufacturing.

Bassett made infant and children's shoes, which were a specialty of Reading. He built his house next to that of Gilman C. Coggin, another shoe manufacturer, and across the street from that of his wife's sister, Mrs. Thomas Prescott.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map- E. Bassett (Edwin)
1875 map- E. Bassett
1889 map- E. Bassett

Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Chapter LXVIII
Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 534-535
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 24.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Reading	C-124
Property Name: 115 Prescott St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for the role it played in the Reading shoemaking industry; (2) for its connection with innovative shoemaker Edwin Bassett; and (3) as an example of a Greek Revival house updated with a Queen Anne porch. It retains integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and feeling 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 6/14/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Determined Eligible Date/Signature

11. Pratt, Joseph L., House
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

2/8/85

Attest

12. Bancroft, Joseph, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7-19-84

Attest

13. Bancroft, Samuel, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7-19-84

Attest

14. Bancroft, Wendell, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7-19-84

Attest

15. Bassett, Edwin, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7-19-84

Attest

16. Batchelder, Alden, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/19/84

Attest

17. Batchelder, George, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/19/84

Attest

18. Batchelder House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/19/84

Attest

19. Batchelder, Nathaniel, House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/19/84

Attest

20. Battell House
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

7/19/84

Attest

Ref. # 84002482

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bassett, Edwin, 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
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ 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

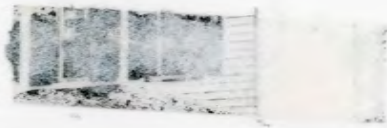
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

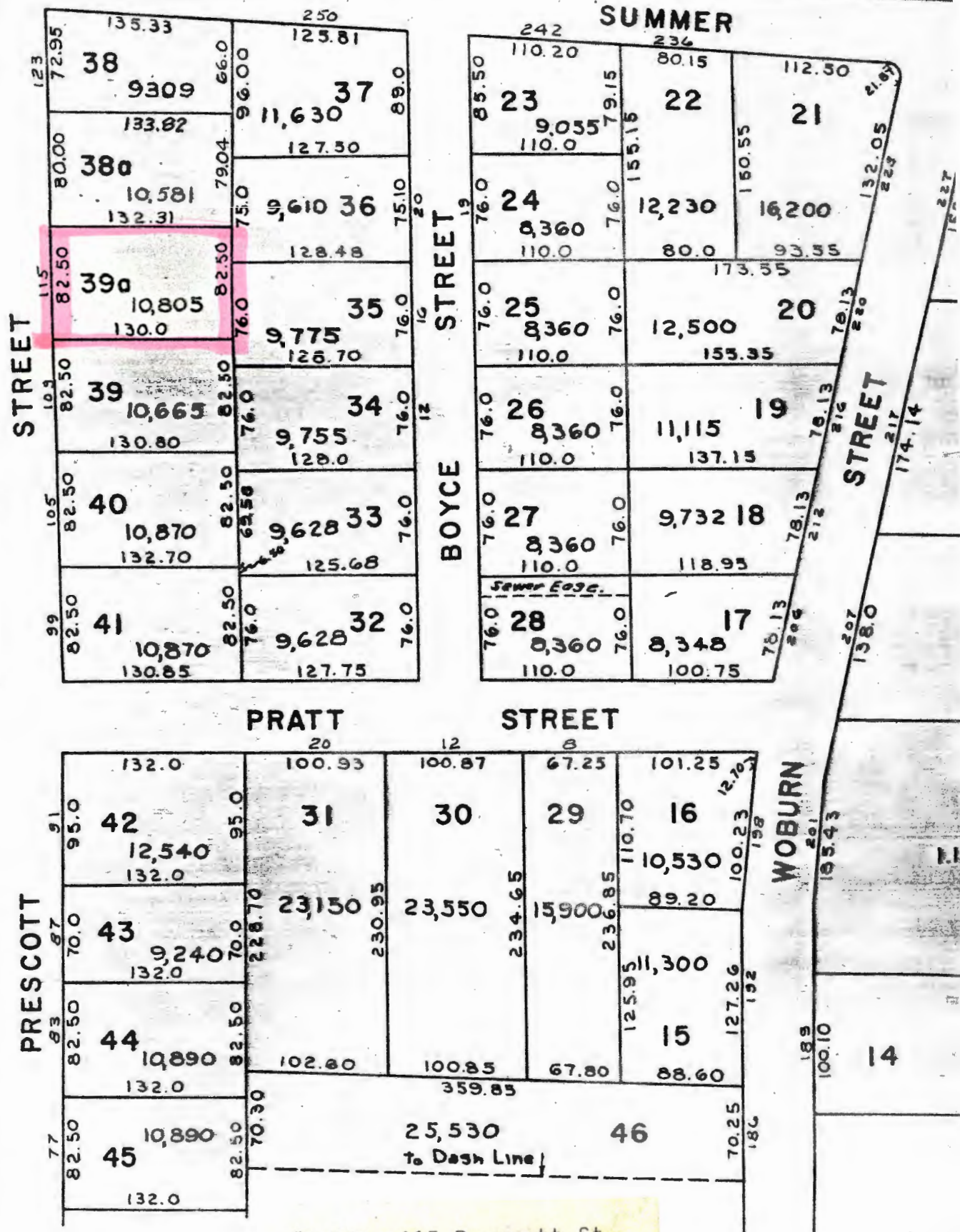


Bessie T. Edw. Hise
Reading R.R. Ma



~~#6 Walnut~~ ^{4.}

115 Prescott St. H-30A



#C-124 115 Prescott St.
 Map 50, Lot 39A
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290