

FORM B - BUILDING

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Area <u>D</u> | Form no. <u>209</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

H-1A



Reading

55 Lowell Street

Name Rev. Peter Sanborn House

Original Farm House

Present Single Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Rev. Peter Sanborn
(born 1766 d. 1857)

NOTATION:

Location in relation to nearest
other buildings



Date c. 1812 - not much earlier

Source Deed: reference to "Peter Sanborn's New House"

Style Central chimney, saltbox

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings None, a barn

demolished 1896-7 and shop moved

away 1895.
Major alterations (with dates) c. 1870 -
salt box roof raised, Victorian
windows and doors; porches added
1920; 1946-50 restored-porch removed,
return to small pane windows, porch
removed, Victorian doorway removed.

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 7125 sq. ft.

Setting Faces south on knoll, what was
back corner Parsonage Farm, 25A which
now is all west side Reading Square
from Lowell to Gould Streets and
westward.

Recorded by Eleanor C. Bishop and
Architectural Preservation Assoc.
Organization Reading Historical

Date November 8, 1980

Date 6-82

UTM: 19/327000/4710220

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This Federal house, though altered, retains the lines and proportions of the local vernacular form--five south facing bays, with the ridge parallel to the road. The windows are set high on the second floor. The house has a center chimney which originally served five fireplaces. The central door surround dates from the mid-20th century.

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

The original owner-builder, Rev. Peter Sanborn, was the third minister of Reading's Third Parish Church, 1790-1820, and a strong influence in the community for another thirty years. He donated land for the Academy, Third Congregational Society, and for the Bethesda Congregational Church somewhat later.

Benjamin Boyce bought the house for rental income from Rev. Sanborn's estate in 1860. He was in the clock business with his father-in-law, Daniel Pratt, and lived in a nearby house also built on Sanborn land.

It was the next owner, Howard P. Nichols, who did the "Victorian" remodeling, and later moved off the outbuildings.

Julius Gleason added the porches in 1920, and it was his granddaughter who sold the property in 1944 to the present owners. *The Bishops* returned it to a single residence, removed the porch, victorian windows and doors, and opened fireplaces downstairs.

Mr. Bishop was editor of the Reading Chronicle, and later on the Copy Desk of the Christian Science Monitor. Mrs. Bishop served as secretary to the Tercentenary Commission in 1944 and the Bicentennial Commission. Both were many years active in the Reading Antiquarian Society, and as local historians. They authored Reading's Colonial Rooftrees, Vignettes of Reading History and other publications.

(continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds and probate records, Middlesex Co. Cambridge, Reading town records: tax, town meeting, church and parish, valuations, etc., Reading Chronicle files 1870, Reading's Colonial Rooftrees, Chap. 6 and 22. Unpublished paper: Rev. Peter Sanborn. Personal manuscripts collection.

(continued)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Community: Reading | Form No: D-209 |
| Property Name: 55 Lowell Street | |

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

They also own
an extensive collection of local records, manuscripts, books,
pictures, and maps.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

There exists much
detail in the portfolio of records of this house, in the possession
of the current owner.

1830 map yes
1854 map Rev. P. Sanborn (Peter)
1875 map H.P. Nichols (Howard)
1889 map H. Nichols

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its prominent location at the intersection of two roads just off the Common; (2) for its connection with the Reverend Peter Sanborn, clockman Benjamin Boyce, and local historians C. Nelson and Eleanor C. Bishop; and (3) as an example of vernacular Federal architecture. It retains integrity of location, general design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria 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 9 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

| Nomination/Type of Review | Date/Signature |
|--|---|
| 81. Sanborn, Rev. Peter, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 82. Symonds, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 83. Temple, Joseph, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 84. Temple, Mark, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 85. Walnut Street School Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 86. Wells, Charles, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 87. Weston, Ephrain, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 88. Weston, Jabez, House Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ |
| 89. Wisteria Lodge Entered in the National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ Keeper _____ Attest _____ |

Ref # 64002819

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sanborn, Rev. Peter, 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
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 good fair deteriorated ruins 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

(A.R.M. Reading House, Peter, Rev. Harbor, Massachusetts County)

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: _____



Saint Peter, House
Reading, MA, Ma.

55 Lowell St.

A-1A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290