

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area

C

Form no.

160

Reading

146 Summer Avenue

Name Wisteria Lodge

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Oscar Foote

TION:

Date 1873

Source Rooftrees

Style 2nd Empire

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) n/a

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 42,541 sq. ft.

Setting Faces west on Summer Avenue,
shaded by old maples and evergreens,

lot slopes east.

UTM: 19/325980/4709860

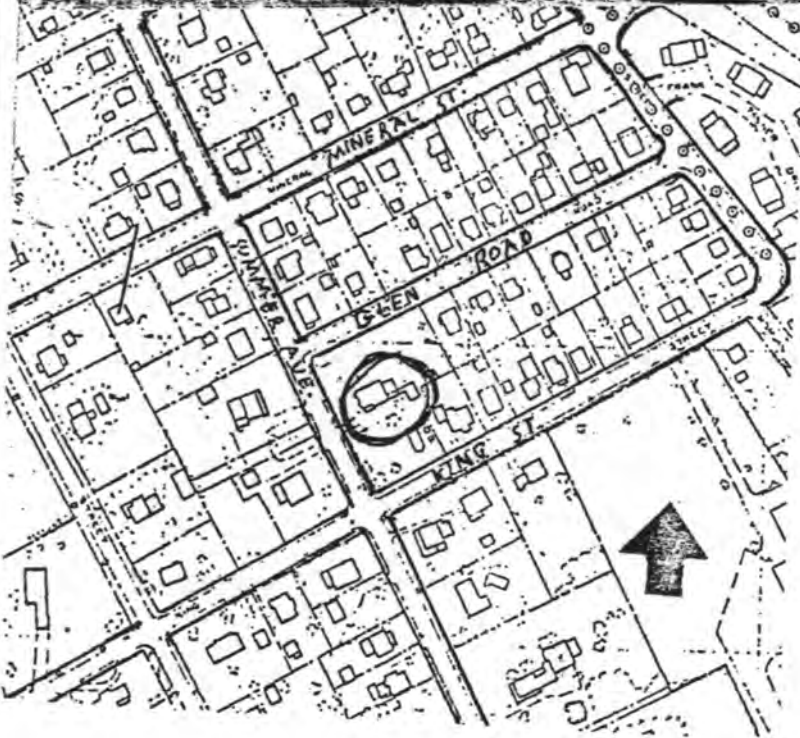
Recorded by Architectural
Preservation Associates
Organization Reading Historical
Commission

Date November 30 1980

REVISED

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)



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

This is a high-style dwelling, a house fit for an optimistic venture capitalist, with its mansard roof, Italianate oriels, elegant porte cochère, and incised and bossed brackets. Twisted rope moldings along the cornerboards and fish-scale slate roof are details of this robust, self-assured house. Eastlake designs top the windows in the 2-storied paired bays.

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

Oscar Foote, born in Vermont, came to Boston in 1850. "Employed in business connected with the market he did large business in Western pork." He was active in real estate, and developed large portions of the Highlands. He owned the Temple house across the street, but sold it and built this house for his second wife.

Foote attempted to bottle mineral water from springs on nearby land. The house became known as "Reading Highlands Mineral Spring House." The venture failed, but gave the name to Mineral Street.

After Foote sold it, the house was operated briefly as the Summer Avenue House Hotel. Since 1940, it has been known as "Wisteria Lodge."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1875 map Oscar Foote, residence
1889 map Jas. W. Roberts

Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 557
Bishop, Rooftrees, p. 130

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-160
Property Name: 146 Summer Ave.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Wisteria Lodge is significant (1) as a product of the 19th century real estate boom on the West Side; (2) for its connection with Oscar Foote, real estate developer and mineral-water entrepreneur; and (3) as an excellent example of High-style Second Empire architecture in Reading. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

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 Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

82. Symonds, Thomas, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

83. Temple, Joseph, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

84. Temple, Mark, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

85. Walnut Street School
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

86. Wells, Charles, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

87. Weston, Ephrain, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

88. Weston, Jabez, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

89. Wisteria Lodge
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 7-19-84
Attest

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Wisteria Lodge (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

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: _____

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

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: _____



Historical Society

Reading, MA 01860

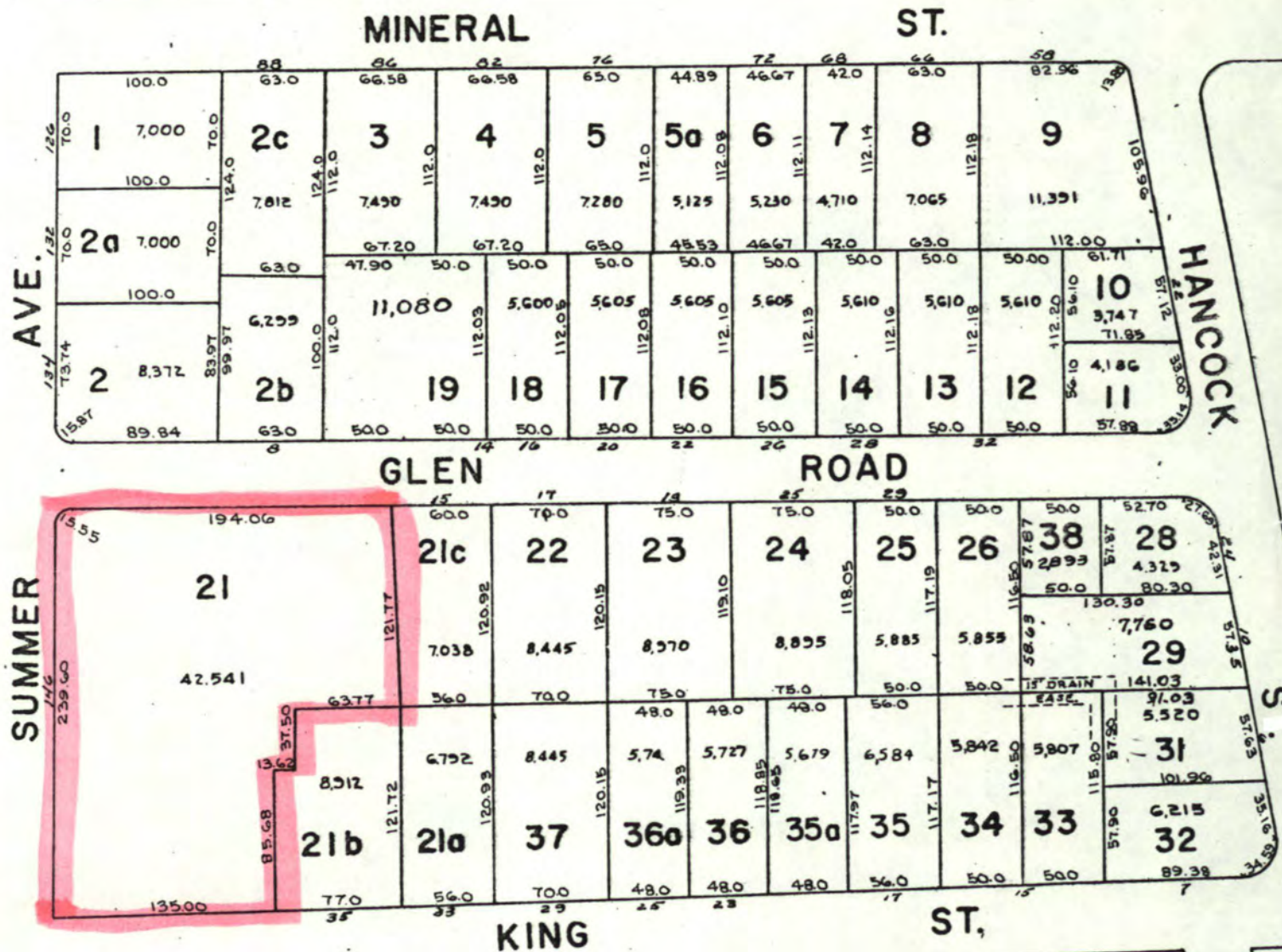
146 Summer Ave

47 Federal St.

H-21A

~~H~~-21A

PLAT 70



PLAT 61
 #C-160 146 Summer Ave.
 Map 71, Lot 21
 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