

FORM B - BUILDING

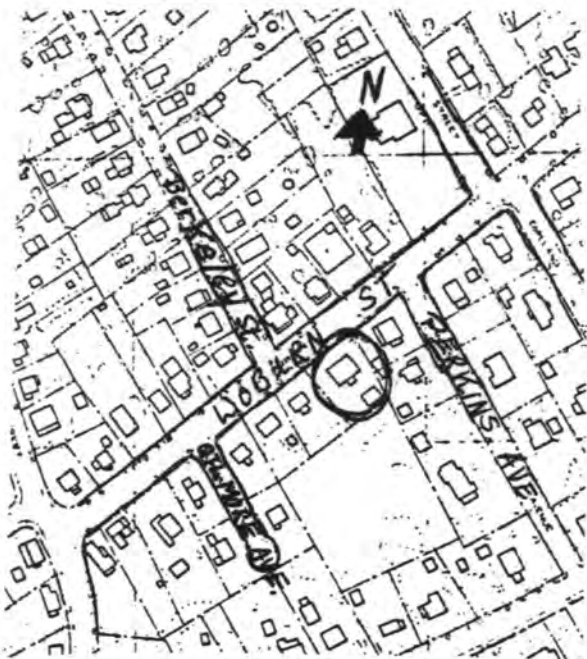
Area C	Form no. 237
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading  
276 Woburn Street  
Name Lewis House  
Original dwelling  
Present dwelling  
Ownership:  Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Public \_\_\_\_\_  
Original owner John B. Lewis, Jr.

location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DATE: Date 1875-1879  
Source maps and valuation lists  
Style Colonial Revival  
Architect ---  
Exterior wall fabric clapboards  
Outbuildings detached double garage, to the rear  
Major alterations (with dates) porch steps replaced, c. 1960  
Moved yes Date c. 1930  
Approx. acreage 11,648 sq. ft.  
Setting Faces north on well-landscaped lot bordering important residential thoroughfare  
UTM: 19/325980/4709320

Recorded by Reading Historical Commission  
Organization Reading Historical Commission  
Date February 1982

Date 6/82

REVISED

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This substantial and stylish house is mainly in the Colonial Revival style. It is two and one-half stories high, and three bays wide. The low hipped roof has eaves wide enough to be considered a derivation of the Craftsman style, and they feature what appear to be exposed rafter ends. A closer look shows that these are actually treated more like elongated modillion blocks. The roof is punctuated by pedimented dormers, the one on the front hip containing a pair of windows. A wide fascia board at cornice level simulates an entablature, and wood is also used for quoins and a water table. The first-floor north-elevation windows are paired, and topped by sections of an entablature with a denticulate cornice. A bay window on the (con't.)

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

In 1875, John B. Lewis, Jr., lived here in an old house built by Jedde Brown, which he purchased from Brown's widow, Sophia. It appears that he built the present house on the rear of the lot, then moved the old house to 38 Berkeley Street, after which it was assessed to Samuel Roby. John Lewis was the son of Frank E. Lewis, who owned several houses in town. John, like so many successful Reading businessmen, began his career early. He was in the meat business for himself at age 15, then made shoes, worked as a grocery store business manager, and enlisted in the Union army. After his term of military service expired, he made and lost a fortune bringing cotton through Confederate lines. He stayed in the South after the war, becoming a wealthy dealer in real estate and shoes in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1880, he established in Boston a firm that would become the city's largest supplier of shoes to the retail trade. Lewis was devoted to home missionary work, and he organized the Reading Temperance Brigade for Children.

Between 1929 and 1932, the house was moved closer to the street at the eastern edge of the property, to allow two more houses to be built on the same lot. Today, the house typifies the upper-middle-class house constructed "in the latest style" by Readingites in the latter part of the 19th century.

The house is presently owned by a doctor, as are many of the houses on this street.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

1875 map an earlier house  
Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 132  
1880 Valuation list

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-237
Property Name: 278 Woburn St.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

east elevation is rounded, in the Regency manner. The single, second-floor windows have plain caps. The centrally placed doorway features thin, half-length sidelights with lead tracery topped by an entablature with a denticulate cornice; there is a semicircular, leaded fanlight above the entablature, over the door opening only. This entrance is fronted by a small portico whose denticulate pediment is supported on paired, attenuated Doric columns; the tympanum of the pediment is cut out to form a semicircular opening, echoing the fanlight.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its role in the 19th-century residential development of Woburn Street; (2) for its association with successful shoe supplier John B. Lewis; and (3) as a good example of Colonial Revival architecture. It retains integrity of general location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, 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 6 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. House at 206 West Street Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

52. House at 242 Summer Avenue Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

53. House at 322 Haven Street Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

54. House at 483 Summer Avenue Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

55. House at 1177 Main Street Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

56. Lewis House Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

57. Manning, Charles, House Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

58. Manning, Jacob, House Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

59. Masonic Block Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

60. Nichols, Daniel, Homestead Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 7-19-84

Attest

Ref. # 84002741

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Lewis 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
- 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

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**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

Lewis House (Reading M.A.)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Lewis House

Reading MA, Ma

276 Woburn St.

~~XXXX~~-19



PLAT 37

#C-237 276 Woburn St.  
 Map 38, Lot 30B  
 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