

Area	Form no.
B	36

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION A-13
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading
 Address 79-81 Salem Street
 Historic Name -- House #
 Original two-family dwelling
 Present two-family dwelling
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Samuel R. Allen

Location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features.



DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1840-1850
 Source valuation book
 Style Federal-Greek Revival
 Architect --
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) south extension and fenestration, including dormers
 Moved no Date _____
 Approx. acreage 13,917 sq. ft.
 Setting faces north, toward an old street; sits close to that road

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
 Organization Reading Historical Commission
 Date November 30, 1980

Date 2/16/84

UTM: 19/327600/4710150

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

This house is essentially a Federal cottage that was given an unusually elaborate Greek Revival doorway treatment. The Federal details include the narrow cornerboards and cornice, and the short gable returns. The doorway is unusual, in that many of the five-bay, one and one-half story cottages in the area lacked a classical doorway surround altogether. This one is especially generous in proportion, with a tall entablature and pilasters enriched with a Greek key design. The windows project from the plane of the wall, which is another unusual feature.

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

Samuel Allen was a carpenter or house builder. He owned no property in 1840, but did own a house in 1850. Samuel died on November 13, 1853, and his widow, Lucy J., continued to live in one half of the two-family house for many years thereafter. Other occupants of the house included cabinet-trade workers and a German family. Cabinetmaking was a major industry in the neighborhood. A planing mill was located on Salem Street to the west of this house. It was established in the 1840's by William Badger, and served the cabinet and furniture industry for many years. The mill was closed in 1906 and subsequently demolished (see form no. B-32).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map - Mrs. Allen (Mrs. Samuel R. Allen, or Lucy J. Allen)
1875 map - Mrs. Allen (Mrs. Samuel R. Allen, or Lucy J. Allen)
1889 map - Mrs. Allen (Mrs. Samuel R. Allen, or Lucy J. Allen)
1850 valuation book (Samuel R. Allen)
1855 census
Reading vital records

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: B-36
Property Name: --	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This house is significant (1) for its role in the development of Salem Street as a 19th-century residential and commercial neighborhood; and (2) as a largely intact example of a typical Federal-Greek Revival cape-style cottage. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A 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 6/1/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5-49

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 41. House at 11 Beech Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 42. House at 16 Mineral Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 43. House at 26 Center Avenue | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 44. House at 42 Salem Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 45. House at 44 Temple Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 46. House at 57 Woburn Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 47. House at 77 Howard Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 48. House at 79-81 Salem Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 49. House at 129 High Street | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 50. House at 199 Summer Avenue | Entered in the
National Register | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> <u>7/19/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

House at 79—81 Salem Street (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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

House at 19--21 Salem Street (Reading M.A.)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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: _____



Reading MHA, Ma

Haise

at

B-36

79-81 Salem St.

A-13

HARRISON ST.

PEARL ST.

SALEM ST.

ST.



#B-36 79-81 Salem St.
 Map 77, Lot 41
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

PLEASANT STREET

STREET

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290