

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>B</u>	Form no. <u>84</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading (#9)

Address 251 Ash Street

Historic Name Benjamin Beard House

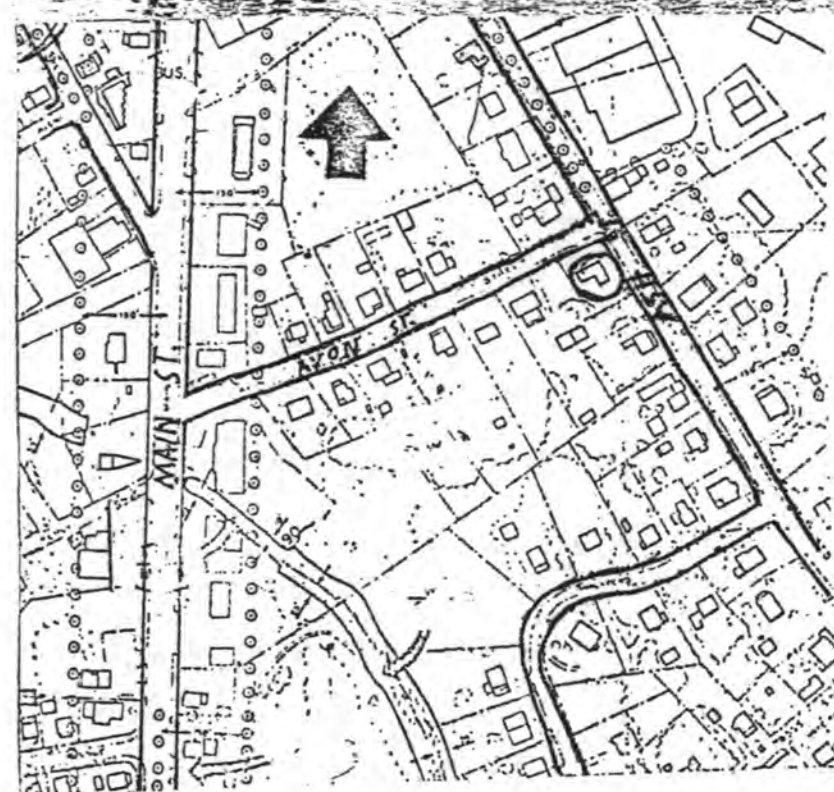
Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Benjamin E. Beard



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1851-1854

Source Assessors val. list, 1854 map

Style Greek Revival

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings 20th c. toolshed

Major alterations (with dates) Ell on south

Moved NO Date

Approx. acreage 9,199 s.f.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates Setting Faces east on raised
Organization Reading Historical Commission corner lot

Date November **REVISED**

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/327360/4709060

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This is a common Reading house form of the Greek Revival period: one and one-half stories, with the long side parallel to the street and wide corner pilasters supporting an entablature. Here the entablature is of the classical three parts, rather than the more usual two parts. The door surround is the major focus of architectural interest. It retains a Federal tallness and high entablature. Window surrounds have elaborate molded cornices. This cottage represents an elaborate example of the Greek Revival in Reading.

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

Benjamin E. Beard was said to have been the first person in town to make the watch and jewelry trade a distinct business. He opened a store in 1847 which he continued until his death in 1868. He was succeeded by his son,*who moved the business to the Lyceum Building (now demolished) in 1873. Previous to opening his own store, B. E. Beard worked for Daniel Pratt (clock manufacturer).

* William E. Beard,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1830 map- no
1854 map- Benjamin E. Beard
1875 map- yes but no name.
1850 & 1860 Valuation lists

Eaton, Genealogical History, p.525

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: E-84
Property Name: 251 Ash St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its connection with watchmaker-jeweler Benjamin Beard; and (2) as an example of the typical Greek Revival cottage built in Reading through the 1850's. It retains integrity of location, 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 3 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Beard, Benjamin, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

22. Boston and Maine Railroad Depot

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

23. Bowser Gazebo

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

24. Brackett House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

25. Brande House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

26. Brooks, Francis, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

27. Carroll-Hartshorn House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

28. Carter Mansion

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

29. Coggin, Gilman, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

30. Cook, Asa M., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 7/19/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Beard, Benjamin, 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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

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



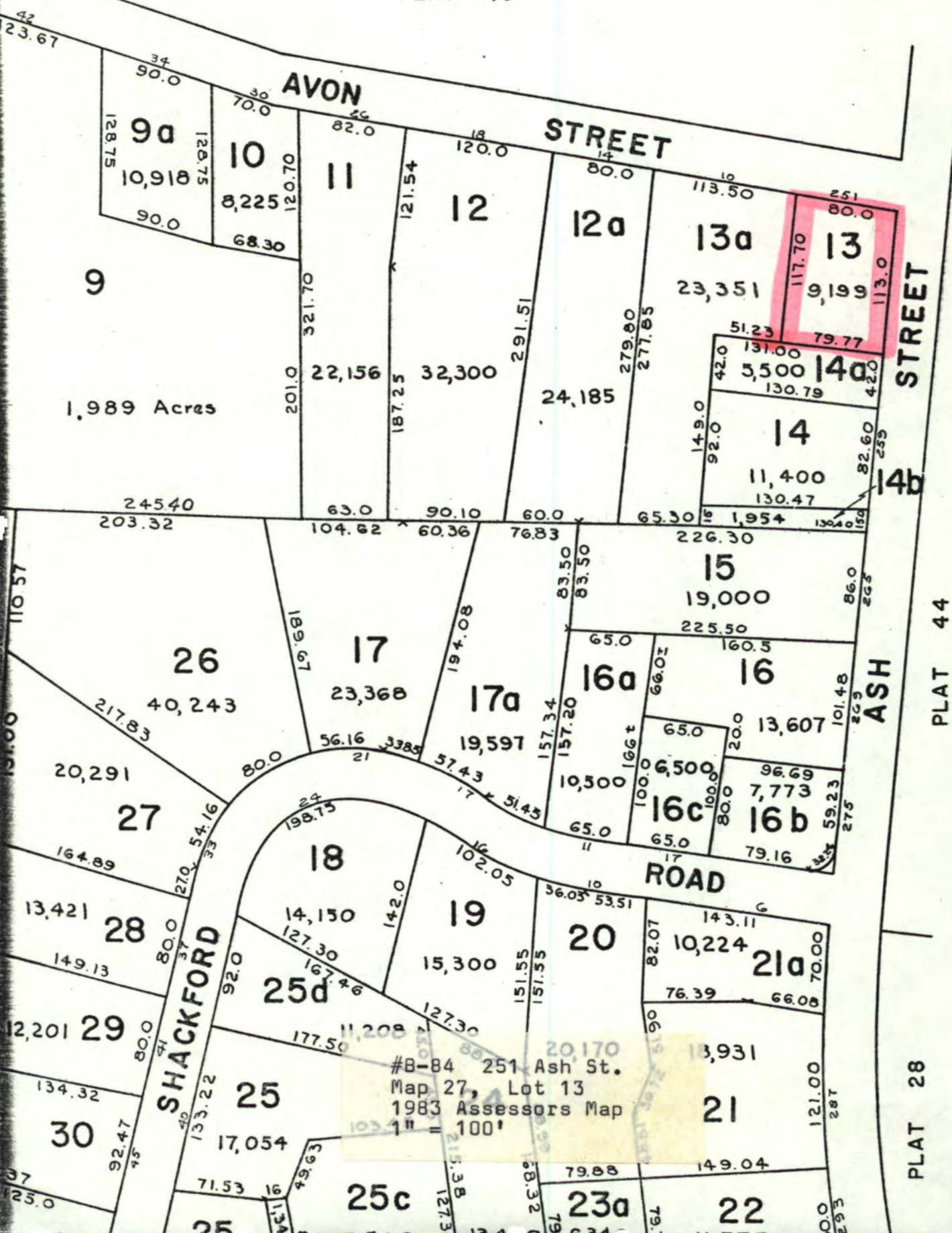
Beard, Benjamin, wife
Reading, MRA, Ma

B-84

251 Ash St.

F-10

PLAT 43



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290