

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>147</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
201 Washington Street Boston MA 02109



Reading  
 59 Prospect Street  
 Name Roberts House  
 Original Dwelling  
 Present Dwelling  
 Occupied:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner James W. and Martha Roberts, Jr.

DESCRIPTION:  
 Date 1911  
 Source street list  
 Style Colonial Revival/Craftsman  
 Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Stucco & shingle  
 Outbuildings Garage  
 Major alterations (with dates) none  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 22,765 sq. ft.

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

Setting Faces west; land falls away to east.

**REVISED**  
 Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326800/4709340

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two and one-half, three-bay house displays the boxy, hipped-roof house form commonly found among Colonial Revival structures, but it has been ornamented with details characteristic of the Craftsman style. These include the wide eaves with exposed rafter ends, the use of stucco as a wall covering, the chunky entrance portico, and the side sun porch. The latter attests to the concern with health and naturalness that was a recurring theme of American popular culture at the time this house was built. The center window at second-floor level is actually a horizontal band of three windows -- a Shingle-style element that ties in with the shingles used to cover the lower part of the front facade.

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

Prospect Street was laid out by members of the landed Temple family in 1848. It connected to West Street by way of Fremont Street and King Street.

In 1875, this property was owned by C. D. Thomas, whose house *at 43 Prospect* was at the intersection of Fremont Street. He was a partner of Daniel Creesy; their firm owned property in the area, and probably built houses on speculation for Reading's growing population of railroad commuters and other professionals.

James Roberts and his sister, Martha, owned several properties in the area. They were part of a prosperous family living in the area.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- 1875 map: Land owned by C. D. Thomas (*Charles*)
- 1889 map: Land owned by C.D. Thomas
- 1906 map: Land owned by Henry G. Kittridge
- 1911 Street List

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-147
Property Name: 59 Prospect St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) as a product of the 19th century real estate boom on the West Side; and (2) as an excellent example of the Craftsman style in Reading. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, 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 6/14/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |                                     |            |                      |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 71. Parker, Joseph, House                        | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 72. Parker, William, House                       | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 73. Pierce House                                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory                    | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 75. Pratt House                                  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 76. Pratt, Stillman, House                       | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 77. Reading Municipal Building                   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 78. Reading Municipal Light and<br>Power Station | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 79. Roberts House                                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |
| 80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | Melora Byers 7-19-84 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                |

Ref. # 84002815

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Roberts 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

Entered in the  
National Register

Action:  ACCEPT 7-19-84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

Roberts House (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: \_\_\_\_\_



Roberts House

Reading MPA. Me

6-3

1000000



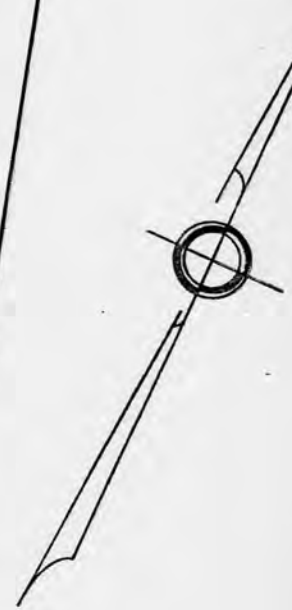
59 Prospect St.

IV 19



PLAT 6

#C-147 59 Prospect St.  
 Map 49, Lot 21  
 1983 Assessors Map  
 120.1' = 100'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290