

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area <u>B</u>	Form no. <u>34</u>
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Reading

60-62 Salem Street

Name Harnden-Browne House

Use Dwelling

Structure Dwelling

Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Sylvester Harnden

DN: \_\_\_\_\_

cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.

Date 1831

Source Barday

Style Queen Anne on Federal

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Residence converted  
from barn.

Major alterations (with dates) After  
move -- wings added on east and west  
for two families.

Moved Front portion Date 1890-1905  
from Haven Street.

Approx. acreage Under 1/2 acre

Setting Faces south on lot.



Organization Preservation Associates  
Reading Historical  
Commission  
Date November 30, 1980

UTM: 19/327700/4710220

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

Said by a neighbor to have been moved from Haven Street, this seems likely, as the house shows evidence of early construction techniques, and of having been altered, but no building appears on this site until late 1889. It probably began as a vernacular Georgian-Federal form, but now has been remodelled to house 2 families. The side wings and front bays were probably added at the time. The colored glass lights spandrels, pedimented gable supported by volutes are all Queen Anne features. This is an excellent

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

Thomas Browne, who owned the house by 1928, came to Reading from Ireland in 1905, and began his career here as an employee of the Eastern Massachusetts Railroad Co. which operated the trolley cars on Salem and the major streets of Reading from 1894 until 1932-33. The trolley barns were at the corner of Harrison Street nearby. Brown roomed in the house, but took his meals across the street at 55 Salem Street. In 1928, Thomas Browne was a letter carrier. In the house, besides Thomas and his wife, lived a mechanic, a carpenter, and a telephone operator. Evidently it was either a boarding house or divided into apartments.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Harnden-Browne House is significant as an example of a building which evolved stylistically over time and was altered in the late 19th century to meet the changing housing needs of the community. It retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship and meets Criterion C of the National Register.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1889 map. no  
Bishop, Vignettes of Reading History  
Barclay, Miriam, "It Happened on Haven Street" published in  
Reading Chronicle.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Reading	B 34
Property Name: 60-62 Salem St.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

example of Reading's early tendency to recycle its housing stock.

The original house was built in 1831 by Sylvester Harnden, the furniture manufacturer and mill yard owner. It stood at present 601 Main Street.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property includes the Harnden-Browne House and its barn, standing at 60-62 Salem Street and indicated by the circle on the attached map.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harnden-Browne House (Reading MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 7-19-84

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

*Handwritten text, possibly a stamp or reference: (A 7 M ... House ... County ... MASSA CHURCHES)*

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**X 10. Geographical Data**

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

**X** Verbal boundary description and justification *please provide VBD*

**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 *Ar Boyer* Date 7/19/84 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading

60-62 Salem Street

Name Harnden-Browne House

Use Dwelling

Category Dwelling

Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Sylvester Harnden

DN: \_\_\_\_\_

cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.

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Approx. acreage Under 1/2 acre

Setting Faces south on lot.



Organization Preservation Associates  
Reading Historical  
Commission  
Date November 30, 1980

UTM: 19/327700/4710220

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

Said by a neighbor to have been moved from Haven Street, this seems likely, as the house shows evidence of early construction techniques, and of having been altered, but no building appears on this site until late 1889. It probably began as a vernacular Georgian-Federal form, but now has been remodelled to house 2 families. The side wings and front bays were probably added at the time. The colored glass lights spandrels, pedimented gable supported by volutes are all Queen Anne features. This is an excellent

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CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Harnden-Browne House is significant as an example of a building which evolved stylistically over time and was altered in the late 19th century to meet the changing housing needs of the community. It retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship and meets Criterion C of the National Register.

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Reading Chronicle.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	B.	Form No: 34
Property Name: 60-62 Salem St.		

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

example of Reading's early tendency to recycle its housing stock.

The original house was built in 1831 by Sylvester Harnden, the furniture manufacturer and mill yard owner. It stood at present 601 Main Street.

B

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 1 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

*Conn* *Paul Douglas* *2/19/84*

Date/Signature

*Keener*

1. Ace Art Company

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

2. Common Historic District

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

3. Harnden-Browne House

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

4. Haverhill Street Milestone

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

5. Kemp Place

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Shelton Byers* *7/19/84*

6. Kemp Barn

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Shelton Byers* *7/19/84*

7. Nichols, Jerry, Tavern

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Shelton Byers* *7/19/84*

*Keener*

8. Reading Standpipe

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

*Keener*

9. Smith Shoe Shop

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

*Keener*

10. Woburn Street Historic  
District

Substantive Review

*for* Keeper

Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harnden-Browne House (Reading MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 6-4-84  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86  
Date Due: 2-2-85  
Action:  ACCEPT 2-1-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Substantive Review**

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept, C  
Reviewer Bar Brugo  
Discipline Arch. Cultural History  
Date 2-1-85  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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

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- altered

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- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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- completeness
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- alterations/integrity
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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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Harold Brown House

Reading NRA, Mass

60-62 Salem St

A-11

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290