

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
C	88

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
204 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



1 Reading
 Address 178 South Street
 Historic Name Joseph Damon House
 Original dwelling
 Present dwelling
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Joseph Damon

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1754
 Source Rooftrees
 Style Federal vernacular
 Architect n/a
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards
 Outbuildings 2-car garage
 Major alterations (with dates) Central chimney removed when house moved, addition of ell, c. 1800-13.
 Moved probably Date c. 1798-99
 Approx. acreage 35,508 sq. ft.
 Setting At foot of hill, faces south at junction of 2 roads.

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

REVISED

Date 6/82

WTM: 19/326100/4707820

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This is a good example of the Georgian-Federal vernacular tradition in Reading. Two stories high and 5 bays wide, the house is framed with no return; corner and sill boards are present, however. The 6/6 windows are set high.

It is believed that the house was moved c. 1798-99, at which time the central chimney was removed and two interior splayed chimneys built. The high, narrow, and quite plain door surround may have been installed at that time. The house is on high granite foundations, and an ell (mentioned in 1813) extends downhill (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)

This house in the extreme southwest part of town has indicated a node of settlement since about 1754, when Jabez Damon received a gift of half the house and one-third of the farm land his father Joseph owned. The house continued under divided ownership for over 100 years. This was a common practice in the 18th century. When housing was scarce and expensive to build, two families often divided a house built for one family. This practice was reinforced by inheritance customs. Jabez's father, a prosperous man, owned in 1764 a slave and a chaise.

It is thought that the house was moved across the road in 1798-99. One brother took the house; the other got the land and built a new house. South Street was then extended to this new house. In 1813, Joseph Damon (son of Jabez and grandson of the original owner, Joseph) sold to son Rufus one half of the house and the ell--part of which Rufus may have used as a shoe shop, as he, like so many of his peers, was a shoemaker.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1765 map yes, on other side of road. Joseph Damon
1795 map J. Damon (Joseph)
1830 map yes
1854 map Rufus Damon
1875 map J. W. Bruce (John)
1889 map P. G. Carlton (Pettingill)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-88
Property Name: 178 South St.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

on rubble stone foundations. The saltbox form was less frequently employed as a means of gaining extra space than the ell in Reading.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Joseph Damon house is significant (1) for its role in establishing a node of development in the southwest part of town; (2) for its connection with the locally important Damon family; and (3) as a virtually intact example of a Georgian house remodeled in the Federal period. It retains integrity of 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 4/18/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 31. Damon, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 32. Damon, Washington, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 33. Dewey Place | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 34. Durgin House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 35. Eaton-Prescott House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 36. Elliott, Luther, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 37. Hall, Stephen, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 39. Hartwell House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 40. Highland School | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Damon, Joseph, 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 Action: ACCEPT 7-19-84
National Register: 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

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	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

Damon Joseph House (Reading MRA)
 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: _____





Parker, Joseph, House
Reading Mass

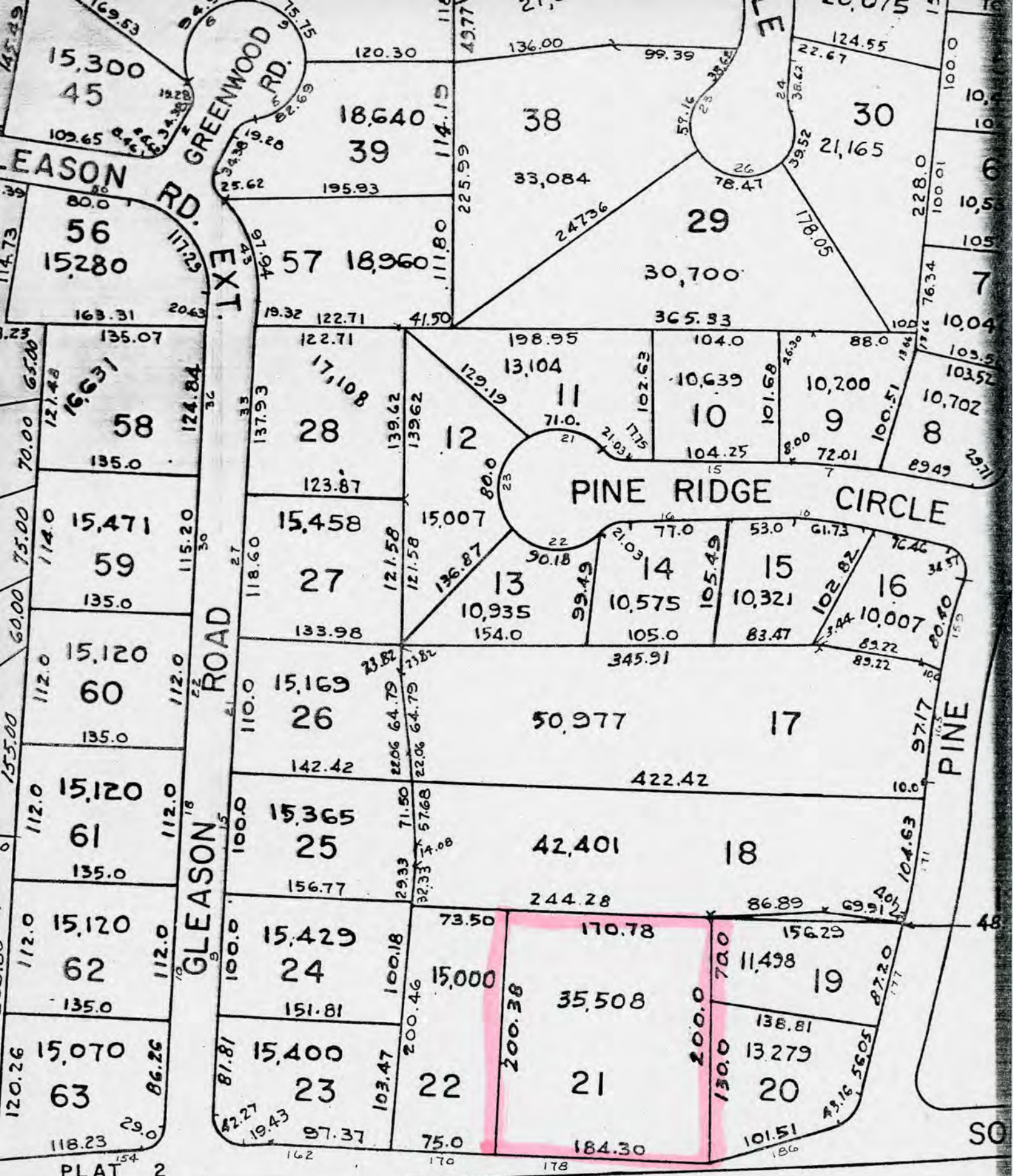


C-88

178 South St



0-1



PLAT INFORMATION COMPILED FROM RECORD DATA,
 #C-88, 178 South St.
 Map 08, Lot 21
 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