

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>113</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading _____
 Address 284 Summer Avenue
 Historic Name Eaton-Prescott House
 Original Dwelling
 Present Dwelling
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Thomas Eaton

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1757
 Source Rooftrees
 Style Georgian Vernacular, Greek Revival
 Architect n/a
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Other buildings _____
 Alterations (with dates) c. 1910 re-modeling by Willard P. Adden; extension, garage, dormers



Moved no Date _____
 Approx. acreage 29,421 sq. ft.
 Setting Faces south perpendicular to the road.

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

REVISED
 Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326310/4709180

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Architect Willard P. Adden reported in 1913 evidence of the earliest construction techniques, and suggested that the house had originally been 1 1/2 stories high with a gambrel roof. In 1757 the house had a leanto, now either removed or incorporated into this very wide house. Now of the traditional Georgian vernacular form, with 5 bays and 2 1/2 stories high, the house has no eaves return and a boxed cornice. Windows are set wide from the door, whose enframing has fluted pilasters and an entablature with pointed bossed corner blocks -- a Greek Revival device. The side door is similar and indicates that remodeling probably took place in the 1830's or '40s.

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

Homesteaded before 1700 by John Felch, this land was bought by Thomas Eaton in 1712/13. A tanner and farmer, he either built or added onto the earlier structure. A cider mill was described on the property at that time, and there was still a cider mill here in the early 1900's.

The house sheltered a long line of Eatons, many of whom served in various wars. A grandson, for whom the Joshua Eaton School was named, was the only Reading soldier to die in action during the Revolution; he fell during the battle of Saratoga.

Abigail Eaton married Joshua Prescott in 1813, who was a resident of Reading. He was a public-spirited lawyer who had graduated from Harvard. He helped in establishing the Andover and Medford turnpike (now Main Street). Another Prescott was a judge, but a shoemaking establishment stood on this property, as its like did on so many Reading farms.

The original farm encompassed approximately Woburn Street, West Street, Oak Street, and Washington Street. In 1845 Prescott Street was laid out by Woburn Street neighbor Edward Appleton. Howard Street (1893), Scotland Road, (1889), Pratt Street (1889 and 1915), Ellis, Fairview, Vista, Echo, Copeland, and Perkins Streets were laid out after 1912 over the original farmlands.

Following the death of the two Misses Prescott -- Elizabeth in 1901 and Abigail in 1902 -- architect Willard P. Adden purchased the property and remodeled the house c. 1910. Since then, owners have used a rear, north door as the main entrance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 1765 map | Eaton | Eaton, <u>Genealogical History</u> , pp. 65, 302 |
| 1795 map | Eaton's | Northend, <u>Remodeled Farmhouses</u> |
| 1830 map | yes | Wadlin, <u>Concerning the Past</u> , Ch. LXXI |
| 1854 map | Joshua Prescott | |
| 1875 map | E.G. & A.E. Prescott (Elizabeth & Abigail) | |
| 1889 map | Prescott Est. | |
- American Home and Gardens, Oct. 1911
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 24

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-113
Property Name: 284 Summer Avenue	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Eaton-Prescott House is significant (1) as part of a node of early settlement; (2) for its connection with the locally prominent Eaton and Prescott families; (3) for its association with local architect Willard P. Adden; and (4) as an intact example of vernacular Georgian architecture. It retains integrity of location, 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 6/18/84
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>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 32. Damon, Washington, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 33. Dewey Place | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 34. Durgin House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 35. Eaton-Prescott House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 36. Elliott, Luther, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 37. Hall, Stephen, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 39. Hartwell House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 40. Highland School | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

ref. # 84002597

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Eaton-Prescott House (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85

Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-14-84

Entered in the National Register: 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

*(A.M. Prescott House) Reading, N.H.
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: _____



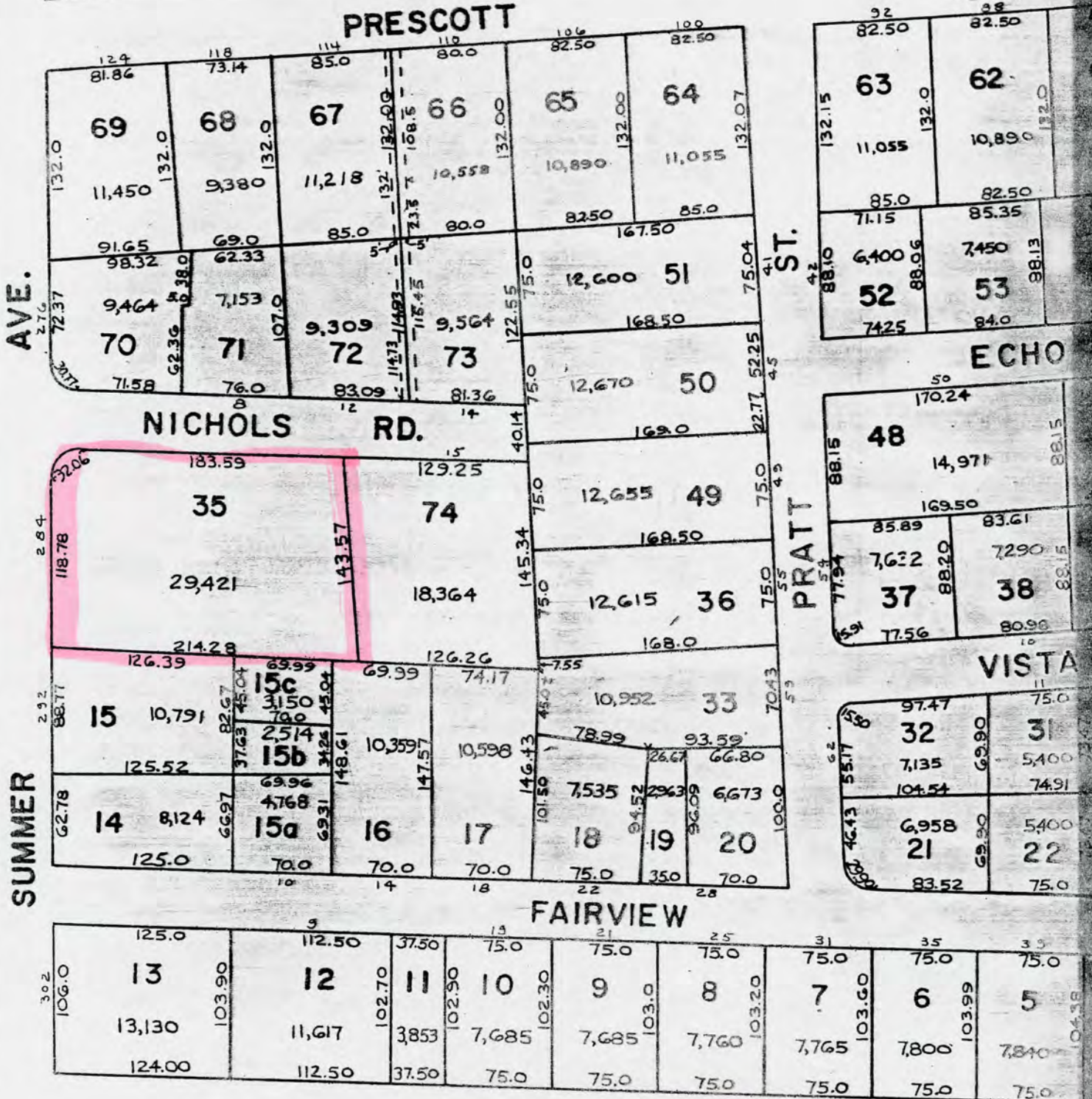
~~Factor~~ - Prescott House
Reading MRT, Ma

E-113

284 Summer Ave

N-23A

PLAT 50



#C-113 284 Summer Ave.
 Map 40, Lot 35
 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