

Area	Form no.
A	29



Reading _____
 797 Main Street _____
 Name Alden Batchelder House _____
 Original dwelling _____
 Present dwelling _____
 Property: Private individual _____
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Rev. John Cookson _____

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1849 _____
 Source deed _____
 Style Italianate _____
 Architect -- _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards _____
 Outbuildings Italianate barn _____
 Major alterations (with dates) side porch enclosed; converted to a two-family in 1962 _____
 Moved no Date _____
 Approx. acreage 27,700 sq. ft. _____
 Setting on a hill, facing south at intersection of two main roads; high granite retaining wall with _____

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

Date 2/16/84

step inscribed "Batchelder"
 UTM: 19/327280/4710380

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

The form of this house is the basic Georgian-Federal rectangle oriented southward, but it has been given an Italianate feeling by the use of details. These include a bracketed roof and arched gable windows. A two-story bay and a central gable add interest to the composition, and provide complex spaces within the house. A veranda with turned balusters wraps around the front and one side. First-floor windows are long and have deep moldings.

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

A. Pitman is listed for this house on the 1854 map, but apparently he was only a tenant. The account books of John Batchelder, a contemporary of Pitman, indicates that he received rent from Pitman for the Rev. John Cookson. Cookson was a Baptist minister. He was listed as the owner of this property in the 1850 and 1860 valuation books, and the 1860 census has him living here. Five years later, however, he was living elsewhere.

By 1875, Alden Batchelder owned the property. He had married in 1864 Loisa Carter, a granddaughter of the Rev. Peter Sanborn. Batchelder was a cabinetmaker, a trade for which Reading was famous in the mid-19th century. He succeeded to the business of Solon A. Parker, at Salem and Pearl Streets, in 1864. He employed 25 workmen in the production of parlor desks and bookcases, primarily for the South but later for the West. The factory was destroyed by fire in 1876. After that event, Batchelder moved his business to Charlestown, using prisoners as his workforce.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map - A. Pitman
1875 map - A. Batchelder (Alden)
1889 map - A. Batchelder (Alden)
1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 valuation books
Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 326
John Batchelder's account books, vol. 5; owned by Mrs. C. Nelson Bishop
Chronicle, Feb. 4, 1879

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: A-29
Property Name: --	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This house is significant (1) for its connection with Alden Batchelder, one of Reading's more prominent cabinetmakers; and (2) as an example of the way in which conservative Reading builders adapted the familiar Georgian-Federal house plan by the application of later stylistic details. 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 6/1/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Determined Eligible Date/Signature

Result

11. Pratt, Joseph L., House **Substantive Review**
DOE/OWNER **OBJECTION**

Keeper

Kevin M. Boyd 2/5/75

Attest

12. Bancroft, Joseph, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

13. Bancroft, Samuel, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

14. Bancroft, Wendell, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

15. Bassett, Edwin, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

16. Batchelder, Alden, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

17. Batchelder, George, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

18. Batchelder House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

19. Batchelder, Nathaniel, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

20. Battell House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Batchelder, Alden, 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: 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. 1912) House (Reading, MA)
 Middlesex County
 MASSACHUSETTS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege 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: _____



Batchelder, Alding House

Reading - MA, MA



A-29

C-21A

797 Main St.

PLAT 103 FEDERAL ST.

PLAT 209

Laurel Hill Cemetery

MAIN

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FEDERAL ST.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000290