

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>137</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION *0-26*
 294 Washington Street Boston, MA 02108



Reading (#8)
 Address 229 West Street
 Historic Name Ephraim Weston House
 Original Dwelling
 Present Dwelling
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Ephraim Weston

Draw map showing property location in relation to nearest buildings



DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1800
 Source Rooftrees, Concerning the Past
 Style Federal
 Architect n/a
 Exterior wall fabric Frame/granite foundation
 Outbuildings Garage
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
Bay window on west, and porch on south.
 Moved NO Date _____
 Approx. acreage 11,215 sq. ft.
 Reservation Setting Set on slight slope, the main door faces south
 Organization Reading Historical Commission Associates

Date November 30 1980

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326820/4709340

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This elegant house is one of the few hipped-roof houses left in Reading. The year of its construction is uncertain, but an early 1800's date seems likely. It faces south, as did most Federal houses in town. The two-story, five-bay facade is framed by corner pilasters with unusual capital at cornice level. The windows **are flush with** their frames to create a "flat" wall plane; the doorway surround has been altered. The bay window has to have been added later, although the granite of its foundation seems to be the **same** as the granite of the main house's foundation. This may argue for a later construction date, since bay windows were a post-Federal feature. The Italianate porch--also an addition--has posts with different capitals than seen on the original corner pilasters.

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

The house was built by Ephraim Weston, an early shoe manufacturer, and owner--with Jonathan Temple--of the Dragon Corner Store. He also dealt in real estate. He is credited as being among the first ~~manufacturers~~ in town who "employed any considerable number of hands." Giving work to many Reading families, who sewed the shoes by hand, he sold shoes to the West Indies and to Baltimore, after his son opened an outlet there. He also dealt in groceries. A grocery store still functions at Dragon Corner, though the shoemaking and shoemakers have disappeared.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1830 map yes
1854 map A. Weston (Aaron)
1875 map Mrs. M. P. Weston (Mary Parker, widow of Aaron)
Bishop, Rooftrees, p. 32
Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Chapter XXXIX
Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 532

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-137
Property Name: 229 West St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its role in Reading's shoe-making industry; (2) for its connection with early shoe manufacturer Ephraim Weston, and the Dragon Corner neighborhood; and (3) as an example of Federal architecture with Italianate alterations. 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 6/21/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 9 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
81. Sanborn, Rev. Peter, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
82. Symonds, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
83. Temple, Joseph, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
84. Temple, Mark, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
85. Walnut Street School Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
86. Wells, Charles, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
87. Weston, Ephrain, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
88. Weston, Jabez, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
89. Wisteria Lodge Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____ Keeper _____ Attest _____

Ref # 84002845

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Weston, Ephrain, House (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 6/4/84

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

Weston, Ephraim, House (Reading WPA)
 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: _____



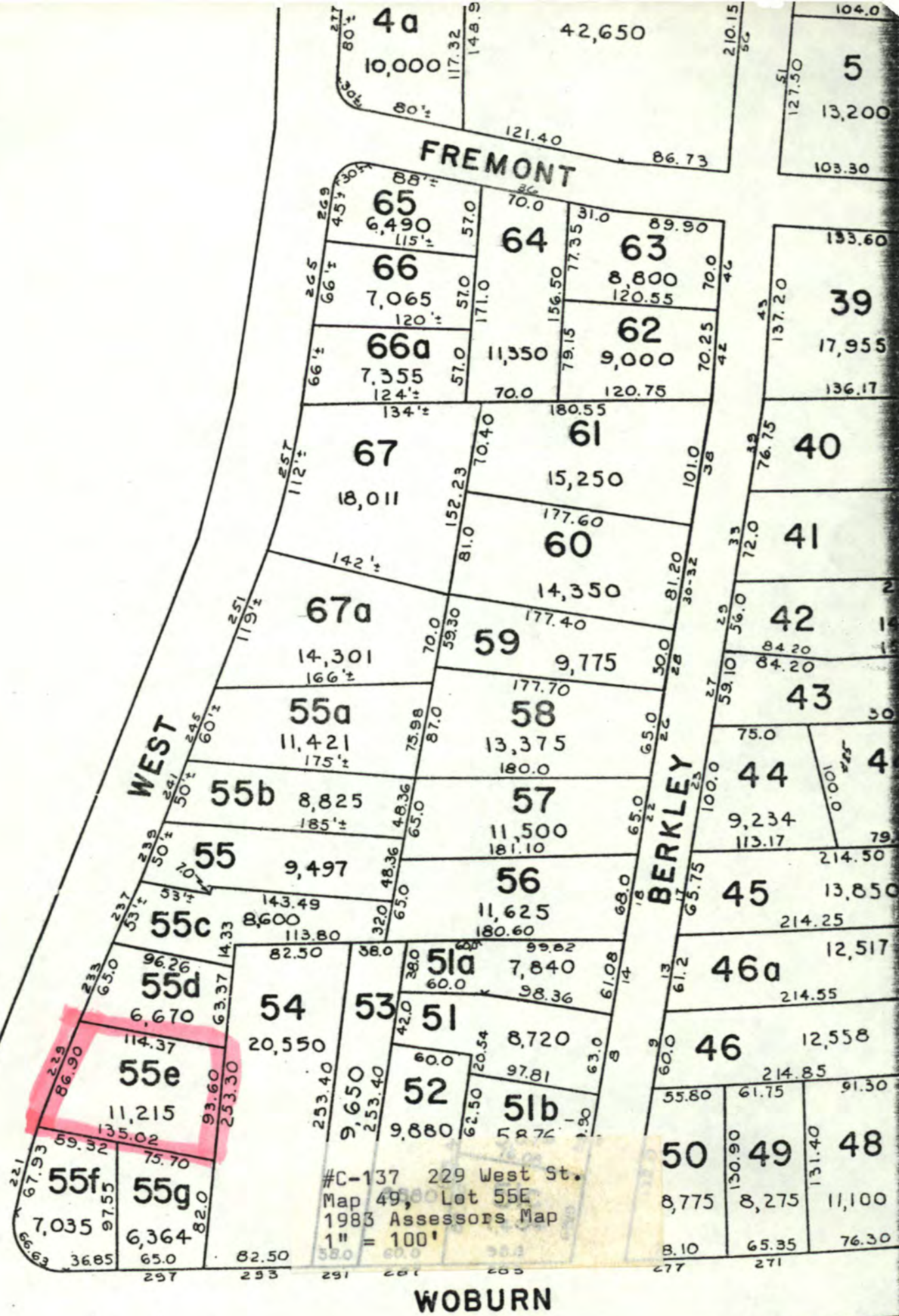
~~Wester, Ephraim~~

Reading, MA, Ma

229 West

0-26

PLAT 37



Rev. JAN. 1, 1971
Rev. JAN. 1, 1970

Rev. Jan. 1, 1983
Rev. Jan. 1, 1982

PLAT 38

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290