

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street Boston, MA 02108

Area

C

Form no.

102



Reading (#4)

Address 86 West Street

Historic Name Jabez Weston House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Jabez Weston

DESCRIPTION:

Date C. 1779

Source Rooftrees

Style Vernacular Georgian

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard, wood
shingle

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates)

Enlarged; ca. 1790

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 15,340 sq. ft.

Location Setting Faces south at the junction
of two roads
Commission

REVISED

UTM: 19/325600/4708600

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house appears to have been originally constructed in the Georgian-Federal vernacular tradition: five bays, two stories with a central door, symmetrically arranged fenestration, and the roof framed without returns. An eastern extension was added, possibly not long after the house was built. Its door enframingent may have been copied from the old, or the older door changed in response to newer styles. The addition is set on brick foundations and has the larger of the two lean-to extensions. Severe and conservative, its tall, narrow, Federal door surrounds have simple frames with 6/6 windows on the second floor.

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 marks a locus of very early town development, a Weston family homestead having stood across the road prior to 1765.

West Street marked the western boundry of town settlement, connecting Reading to Woburn and Winchester.

The Weston family owned a great deal of land in this area. In spite of this we find several instances of two inheritors sharing the same house. Rarely, however, was the house articulated as a two-family structure, as is this example, though instances of this house type are relatively common in New England. The Westons were probably farmers. Reuben, son of Jabez and Lucy Weston, was an ardent abolitionist. He was a member of the company that built Lyceum Hall (now demolished) on Ash Street in 1854, possibly to secure a meeting place for abolitionist activities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1795 map yes
1830 map yes
1854 map R. Weston (Reuben)
1875 map L. Weston
1889 map L. E. Weston

Bishop, Rooftrees Chapter 9.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: READING	Form No: C-102
Property Name: 84-86 West St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Jabez Weston house is significant (1) for its role in a node of early town development; (2) for its connection with the locally important Weston family and abolitionist Reuben Weston, in particular; and (3) as an intact example of vernacular Georgian architecture. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and 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 6/4/84

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

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

82. Symonds, Thomas, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

83. Temple, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

84. Temple, Mark, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

85. Walnut Street School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

86. Wells, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

87. Weston, Ephrain, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

88. Weston, Jabez, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

89. Wisteria Lodge

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Shelton Byers 7-19-84

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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

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

Entered in the
National Register

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: _____

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 | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ 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

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Weston, Taber, House

Reading, MRA, Ma

C-102

86 West

0-9



#C-102 84-86 West St.
Map 30, Lot 10
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