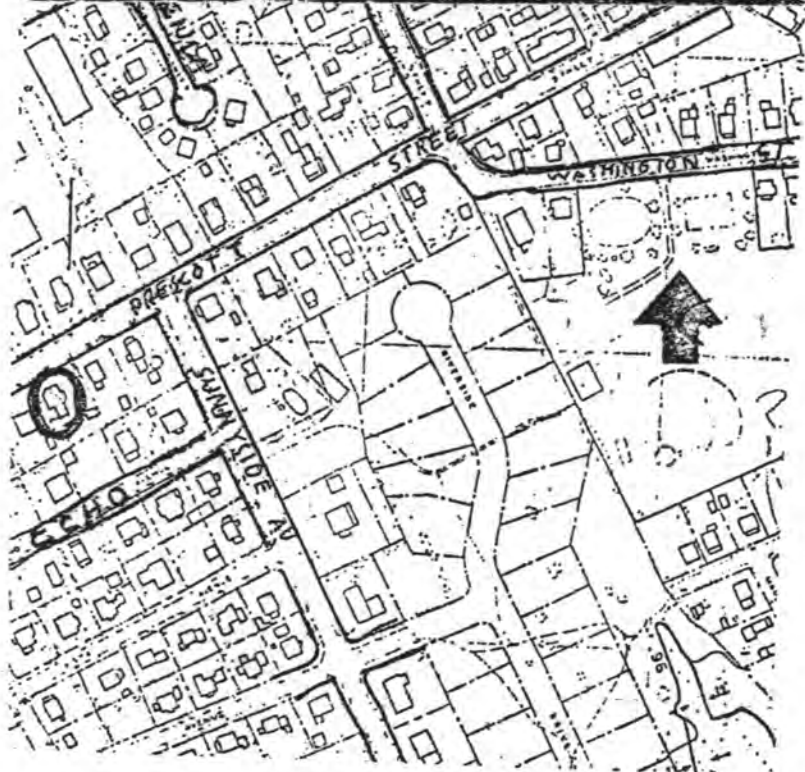


FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>120</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
704 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading

78-80 Prescott Street

ic Name Francis Brooks House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Ship: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Francis E. Brooks

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1887

Source Reading Chronicle

Style Queen Anne / stick style

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Wood Clapboards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved No Date _____

Approx. acreage 10,890 sq. ft.

Setting Faces north close to street,

occupies prominent open situation

on raised lot.

UTM: 19/326440/4709370

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Reading Historical Commission

Date November 1980

Date 6/82

REVISED

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Viewed together with its neighbors, this house evokes the atmosphere of a New England town in the 1880's and 1890's. This is one of the finer Stick-Style Queen Anne houses in Reading. It displays the characteristic sunbursts, jig saw ornament and decorative shingle patterns. Set on high brick foundations and well-maintained, it represents the lively, cheerful aspect of the periods' architecture in Reading.

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

Alfred A. Prescott, who owned this land, was the son of Joshua and Abigail Eaton Prescott, who owned the large farm and farmstead at 284 Summer Avenue. In 1875 all the land between Washington Street and Summer Avenue on the south side of Prescott Street was still under family control. By 1889, the land was beginning to be sold and developed. Pratt Street and then-unnamed Sunnyside Avenue were cut through.

Francis E. Brooks built this house in 1887-1888. He was involved in many enterprises, from wood engraving to bicycle sales and repairs; he was proprietor of Hill Brush Co., manufacturer of "magnetic" hair brushes and other magnetic appliances, located near 196 Salem Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1875 map Alfred A. Prescott land
1889 map F. E. Brooks (Francis)
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 24
Reading Chronicle, Aug. 20, 1887
1890 Valuation Book
1882, 1892, 1898, Business Directories

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-120
Property Name: 76-80 Prescott St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its connection with local entrepreneur Francis E. Brooks; and (2) as one of the town's finer examples of Queen Anne detailing. 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 6/18/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Beard, Benjamin, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

22. Boston and Maine Railroad Depot

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

23. Bowser Gazebo

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

24. Brackett House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

25. Brande House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

26. Brooks, Francis, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

27. Carroll-Hartshorn House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

28. Carter Mansion

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

29. Coggin, Gilman, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

30. Cook, Asa M., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byrum 7/19/84

Attest

Ref. # 84002524

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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

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

(mirrored text from reverse side)
Brooks, Francis, House (Reading, Mass.)
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: _____

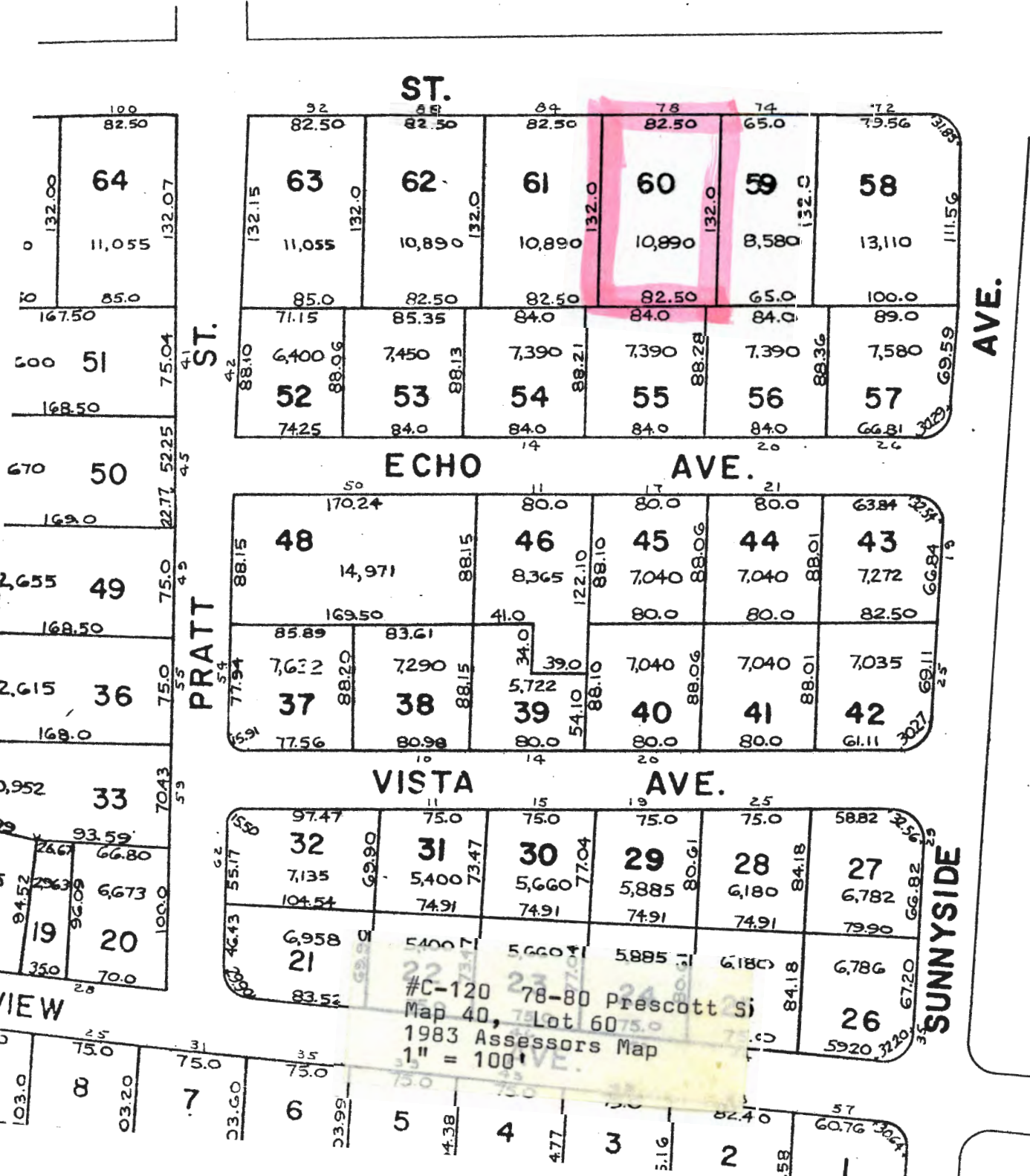


Brooks, Francis, House
Reading MA, Ma.

78-80 Prescott St.

XXI 11A

PLAT 51



#C-120 78-80 Prescott St
 Map 40, Lot 6075.0
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

PL

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290