

Area	Form no.
B	85A

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



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



Reading

11 Beech Street

Name -- House at

Original dwelling

Present dwelling

Property:  Private individual  
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Emily Ruggles

NOTATION:

Date c. 1880-1889

Source map 1889

Style Stick-Queen Anne

Architect --

Exterior wall fabric clapboards, shingles

Outbuildings --

Major alterations (with dates) rear extension; porch enclosed

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 13,250 sq. ft.

Setting On a slight, manmade rise

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Reading Historical Commission

Date November 30, 1980

Date 2/16/84

UTM: 19/327820/4709640

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

This house, and the identical one next to it, were built on speculation. It is a modest Queen Anne residence, whose design origins could be found in widely published builders' guides. It features the old gable-end, side-hall plan; it was added onto at the rear, because of the long, narrow lot. The house sits on a high brick foundation on a mounded site -- another practice carried over from Greek Revival building in Reading. Fish-scale patterned shingling and a Stick-style gable screen embellish the gable. The entrance porch is modest, supported by thick, mass-produced balusters and railings.

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

Emily Ruggles, the speculator who had this house built, was a noted townswoman. She kept a dry goods store in the Lyceum Building, on the corner of Ash and Haven Streets, called Ruggles' Bazaar. It carried, besides dry goods, small wares, ladies' finery, and toys. Ruggles later opened a real-estate business in the same shop, and advertised regularly in the Chronicle. She thought of herself as a businessperson so completely that she paid for a substitute for Civil-War service. She also served as librarian for the Agricultural Association, formed in 1860. Miss Ruggles attempted to take advantage of the rising land values that resulted from the shift of Reading from a predominately agricultural community to a suburban one. In 1875, she purchased all of the land off Green Street from the west side of Beech Street to the east side of Eaton Street, and from Lake Street beyond Elm. Her name appears on the 1889 map between two houses on plots no. 71 and 73. These were the first two houses of this later-extensive development, with the exception of Mrs. Elliot's house, which had been there before 1875. However, in general, Ruggles' real-estate ventures were unsuccessful, as population shifted in other directions.

Oscar Lowande, whose family has lived here since 1903, was a circus performer who gave local shows and toured Cuba in the first decades of this century. He owned a large circus barn, now demolished. Lowande provided a circus performance for the gala Memorial Park work day in 1919.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1889 map - Miss E. Ruggles (Emily)

1906 map - Oscar Lowande

1890 valuation book

Chronicle, May 29, 1880; Apr. 28, 1899; Dec. 2, 1899 (obituary); Nov. 24, 1916

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: B-85a
Property Name: --	

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

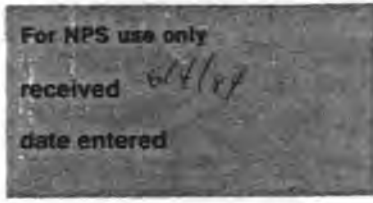
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This house is significant (1) for its role in one of the speculative real-estate ventures so prevalent in mid- to late 19th-century Reading; (2) for its connection with colorful businesswoman Emily Ruggles; and (3) as an example of a modest Queen Anne residence. 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



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |                                 |                                     |            |                             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 41. House at 11 Beech Street    | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 42. House at 16 Mineral Street  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 43. House at 26 Center Avenue   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 44. House at 42 Salem Street    | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 45. House at 44 Temple Street   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 46. House at 57 Woburn Street   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 47. House at 77 Howard Street   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 48. House at 79-81 Salem Street | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 49. House at 129 High Street    | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |
| 50. House at 199 Summer Avenue  | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
|                                 |                                     | Attest     | _____                       |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

House at 11 Beech Street (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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Entered in the  
National Register

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

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**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

House at 11 Beach Street (Reading, MA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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



Reading, MA

XX 29A



Houses 11 Beech St.

B-85a

PLAT 66



PLAT 57

#8-85a 11 Beech St  
 Map 67, Lot 29-30  
 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