

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading _____

309 Haven Street _____

Name Luther Elliott House

Original Dwelling _____

Present Dwelling _____

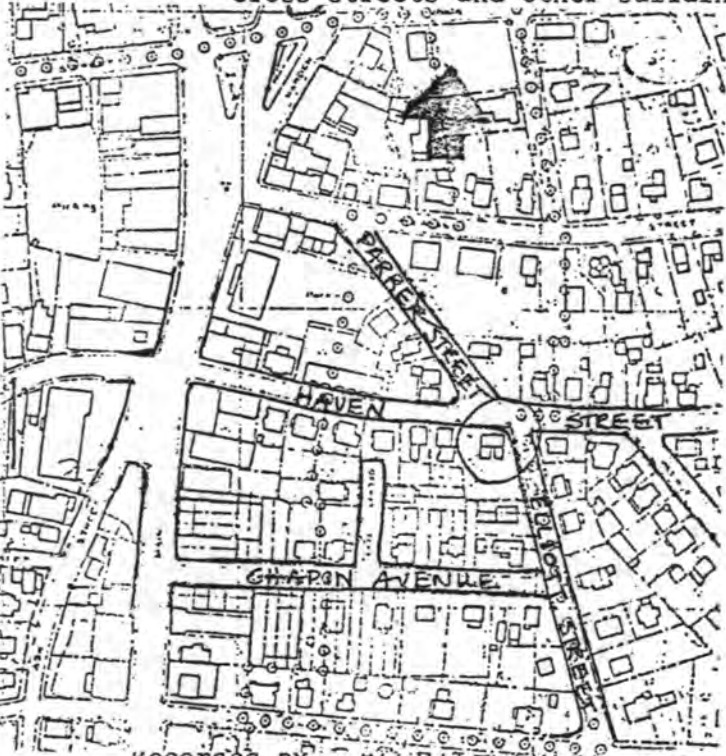
Property: Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Luther Elliott

Location:

Location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



Date 1850

Source Assessors valuation list

Style Greek Revival

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) 2 wings

show on 1854 map.

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 12,730s.f.

Setting On corner lot, stone

retaining wall at Elliott Street,

behind large pines.

Note: Photo shows west facade, not main door

Recorded by Architectural

Preservation Associates

Organization Reading Historical

Commission

Date November 30, 1980

REVISED

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)

WTM: 19/327440/4709760

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

The door surround on this 1 1/2 story, 5-bay house combines two locally found varieties of door treatment: the fluted architrave surround with corner blocks, and the more classical pilaster and entablature. The architrave surround has a central rounded molding which is repeated in the pilasters. Capitals are composed of four diminishing bands; the frieze is accented by dentils, repeated on the frieze of the facade. Corner blocks at the window lintels are ornamented with incised circles. The amount and variety of decorative details may be due to the fact that the owner worked in wood.

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

Luther Elliott was an important member of the cabinet-making trade which flourished in Reading in 1840's, 1850's and 1860's. In 1855 the cabinet business was at its height, with 13 establishments and nearly 200 workmen. The Civil War brought an end to the busy Southern trade, diminishing Reading's sales.

Elliott worked with Henry Kingman, a prominent cabinet manufacturer whose shop stood on nearby Haven and Gould Streets. Elliott invented a technique for sawing wood veneers. With Kingman's assistance, he secured mill rights in Woburn, and did considerable business there.

Elliott Street is named for the owner of this dwelling, as it was cut through his side yard.

It was Luther Elliott who taught the cabinetmaking trade to Sylvester Harnden, c. 1825. Harnden went on to build a mill yard that dominated the block between Main and Parker Streets, over what is now Haven Street, from the mid-19th century to the 1880's. The mill yard burned in 1884. In 1889, the future Haven Street was still a private way.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map, Luther Elliott
1875 map, Luther Elliott
1889 map, Luther Elliott
Assessors valuation lists, 1850, 1870, 1880
Eaton, Genealogical History, pp. 527, 564

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: B-66
Property Name: 309 Haven 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 cabinet-making trade; (2) for its connection with prominent cabinetmaker Luther Elliott; and (3) as an example of the modest Greek Revival house built by many Reading tradespeople. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, 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 6/18/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 31. Damon, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 32. Damon, Washington, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 33. Dewey Place | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 34. Durgin House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 35. Eaton-Prescott House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 36. Elliott, Luther, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 37. Hall, Stephen, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 39. Hartwell House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 40. Highland School | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Elliott, Luther, 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 _____
Federal Agency: _____

- 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 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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<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



Elliot, Lotter, Hesse

Reading MRA, Ma

G-30 A

B-66
309 Haven St.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000290