

C

138

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

0-27



Reading (18)

232 West Street

Name Samuel Bancroft House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Samuel Bancroft

Location:

Date c. 1748

Source Roof trees

Style Vernacular Georgian

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Wood shingles

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) Bay window on east, porch & portico on south, addition across north, chimney removed

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 20,990 sq. ft.

Setting Oriented south, screened

Organization Reading Historical Commission from road by hedges.

Date November 1980

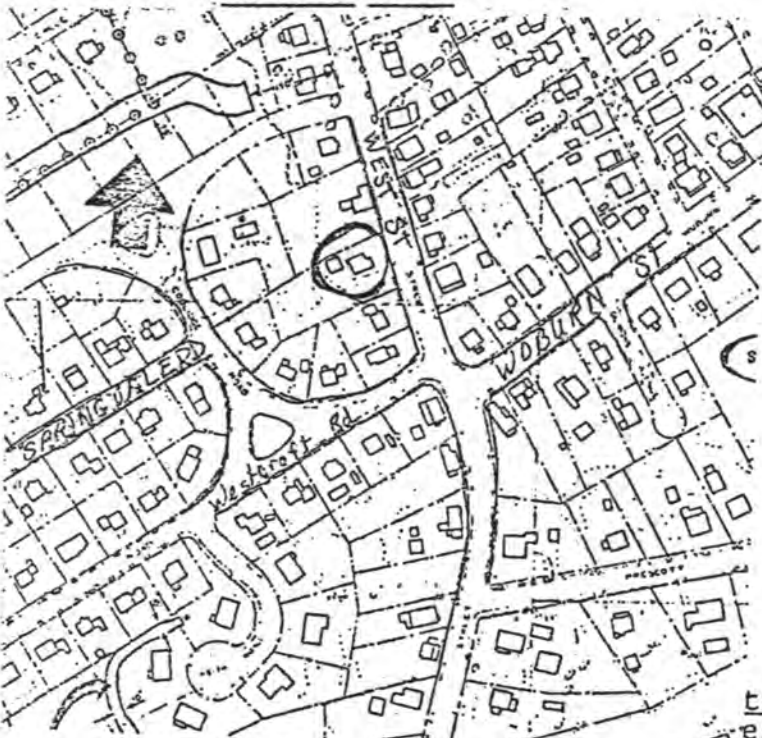
REVISED

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/325770/4709340

(Staple additional sheets here)

cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



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

Nelson and Eleanor Bishop conjecture that the remains of a pre-1748 dwelling are incorporated in this house. Interior analysis would be valuable in determining the development of this structure. At present, the house is a symmetrical, 18th-century traditional form, with small windows on the second floor touching the plate. The door enframingent has been altered, and a 19th- and 20th-century portico added. A bay window at the east and a lean-to addition on the north are both 20th-century in origin. The roof is framed with no eaves return.

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

This land, on the extreme west of town, was divided for the residents of Reading in 1652. Henry Merrow assembled a large farm by purchases over the next three decades. The farm lay between two "highways"--County Road and West Street. In 1748, when Samuel Bancroft bought Merrow's house and land, County Road had become the less traveled way (a bridle path), while West Street had become the major thoroughfare. (Bancroft probably built this house, nearer the highway and close to the Woburn Road to the village, as the meetinghouse focused attention there after 1769-70). Bancroft may have incorporated part of Merrow's dwelling in this house. Samuel came from a prominent family, many of whom settled in this area of Reading; he was a deacon, justice of the peace, captain of the Militia in 1757 for the relief of Fort William Henry on Lake George, and was selectman in 1757 - 1760, 1762-63, and 1766. He also served in the Legislature. In 1798 Ephraim Weston bought the place. He was a major shoe manufacturer, wholesaling shoes his Reading neighbors made at home. With his partner on West Street, Jonathan Temple, he owned a general store at Weston Square, now called Dragon Corner after a painted weathervane he installed at the head of Woburn Street. In 1800 he built 229 West Street, and his son took over this house. Clifford Weston, also a shoe manufacturer, had this place at the end of the century. A store still serves this neighborhood nexus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1830 map yes
1854 map H. Pendexter (Henry)
1875 map C. E. Weston (Clifford)
1889 map C. E. Weston

Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 11

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-138
Property Name: 232 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 the development of the Dragon Corner node of development on West Street; (2) for its connection with early shoe manufacturer Ephraim Weston; and (3) because it may contain the remnant of a mid-17th century house within it. It retains integrity of location, general design, and setting, 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 6/14/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Determined Eligible Date/Signature

Review

11. Pratt, Joseph L., House
DOE/OWNER

Substantive Review
OBJECTION

Keeper

Kevin M. Brugel 2/5/85

Attest

12. Bancroft, Joseph, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

13. Bancroft, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

14. Bancroft, Wendell, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

15. Bassett, Edwin, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

16. Batchelder, Alden, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

17. Batchelder, George, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

18. Batchelder House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

19. Batchelder, Nathaniel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

20. Battell House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/19/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bancroft, Samuel, 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

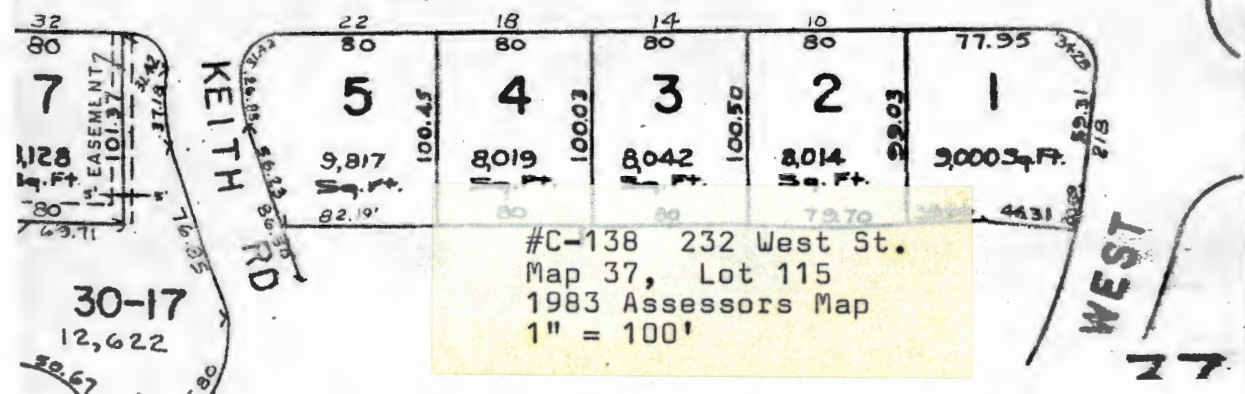
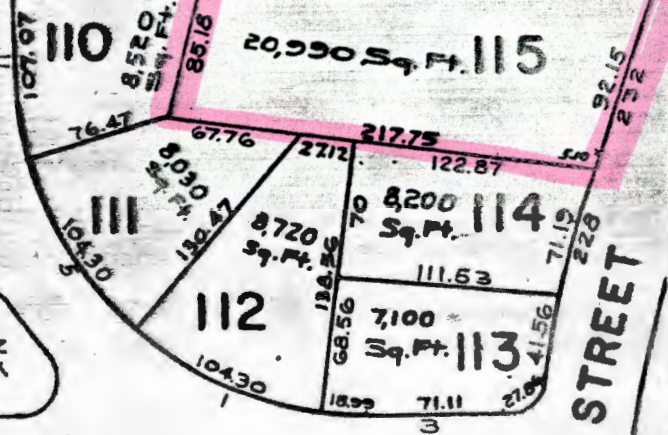
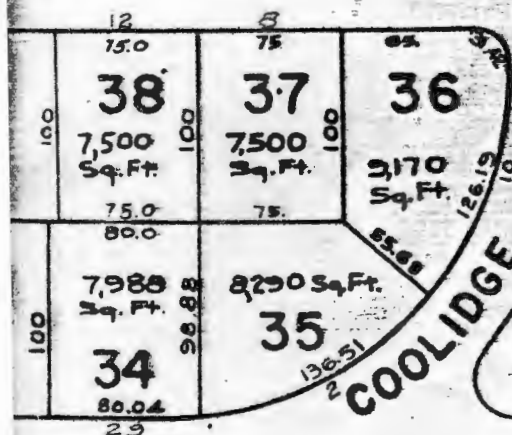
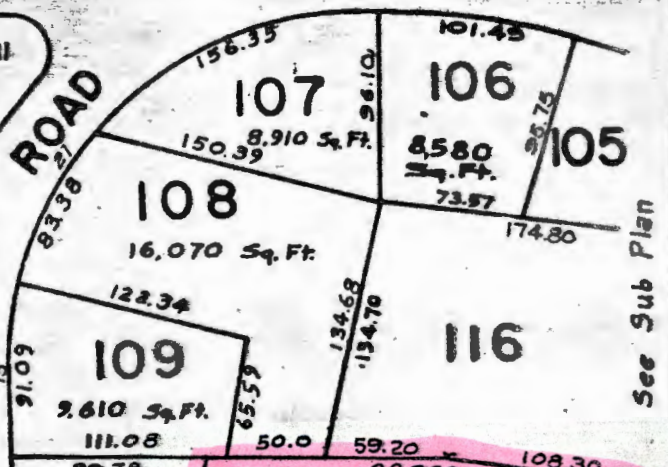
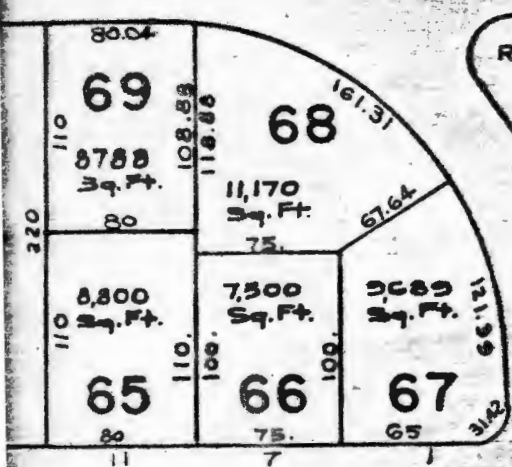
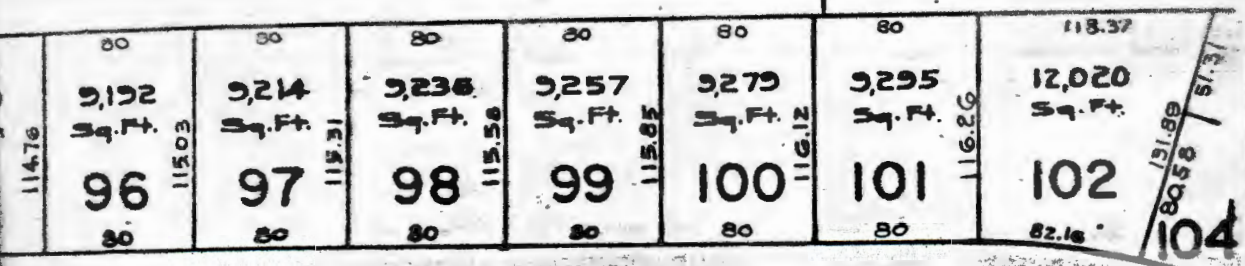
- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



Bancroft, Samuel, Heise
Reading, Mass., Ma

232 West

0-27A



#C-138 232 West St.
Map 37, Lot 115
1983 Assessors Map
1" = 100'

See Sub Plan

WEST

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290