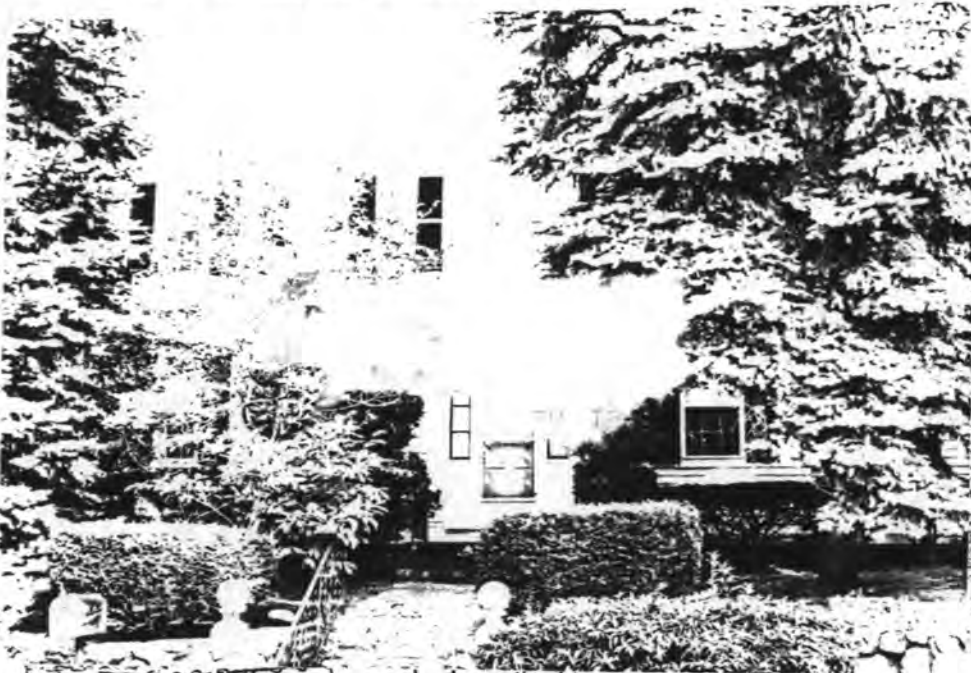


FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 10
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading (#33)

127-129 Franklin Street

Name George Batchelder House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner George Batchelder

Information:

Date 1825

Source Tax records

Style Federal

Architect

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) Western

two story ell, fenestration west

fenestration 2nd floor front

Moved yes Date 1947

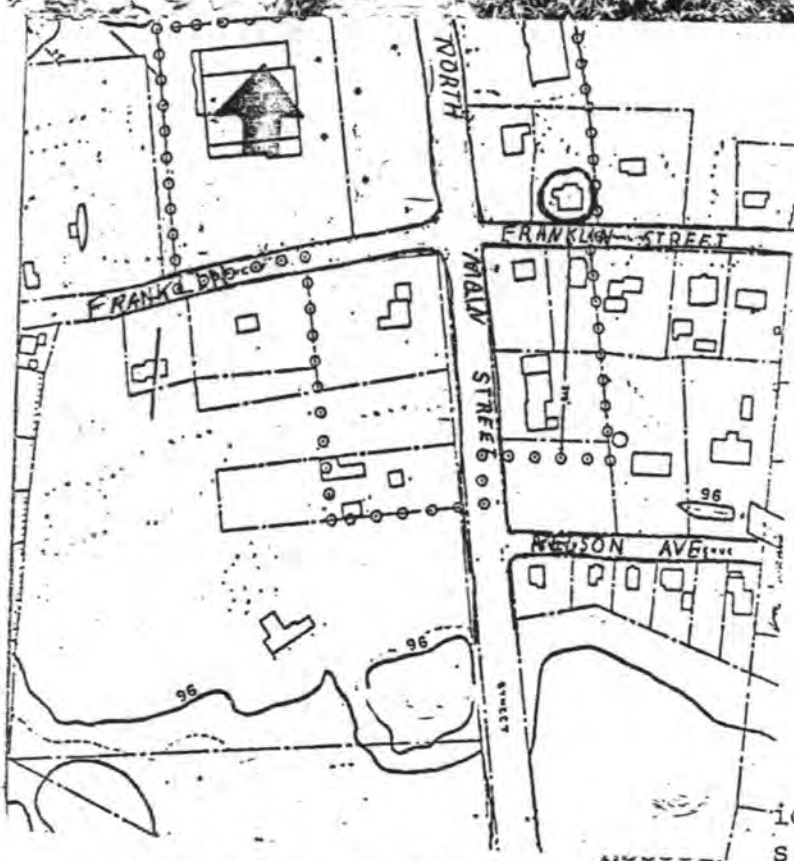
Approx. acreage 18,543 sq. ft.

Setting Faces south on slope of

hill; originally on Main Street,

facing west.

UTM: 19/327190/4713250



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)

Although it has been moved, this Federal, five-bay, two and one-half story house now faces south in the traditional manner. The fine door enframingent has more Federal high-style elements than most surviving examples; tapered pilasters support a wide entablature. An elliptical louvered fanlight in starburst pattern surmounts the six-panel door. The sidelights are half-length. The low slope of the roof is an interesting Federal feature.

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

The building of this house illustrates the traditional form of Reading town development. The stretch of Franklin Street between Main and Haverhill Streets was since c.1765 the site of two Batchelder homesteads. As younger sons needed houses of their own, they built on family land in the "modern" style, but with conservative detailing. This house was built by George Batchelder, who grew up at 71 Franklin Street which his brother inherited.

The house stood until 1947, facing Main Street on the east side. It was moved to accommodate a gas station. Its barn and shop stood across the Main Street. The relocation of this property did not affect its integrity.

On George's property on west side of Main Street used to stand a sassafras tree. Thought to be the biggest east of the Mississippi, it stood fifty-eight feet high and was protected by Mr. Batchelder against the school boys of the Main Street School, who found the bark easy to remove. The tree was taken down in 1961 after being struck by lightning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1830 map yes
1854 map Geo. Batchelder (George)
1875 map G.O. Batchelder (George)
1889 map Mrs. Batchelder
(Note: all map references pertain to original site)
Tax Records
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 34
SPNEA, file of news clippings (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities)
Gilson, Trees of Reading, Mass, No. 2

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: A-10
Property Name: 127-129 Franklin St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its connection with the locally important Batchelder family; and (2) as an example of high-style Federal architecture in Reading. It retains integrity of 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

For NPS use only
received 6/14/84
data 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

Resub

- 11. Pratt, Joseph L., House **Substantive Review** Keeper Kevin M. Buzel 2/8/85
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest _____
- 12. Bancroft, Joseph, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7-19-84
National Register Attest _____
- 13. Bancroft, Samuel, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7-19-84
National Register Attest _____
- 14. Bancroft, Wendell, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7-19-84
National Register Attest _____
- 15. Bassett, Edwin, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7-19-84
National Register Attest _____
- 16. Batchelder, Alden, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7/19/84
National Register Attest _____
- 17. Batchelder, George, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7/19/84
National Register Attest _____
- 18. Batchelder House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7/19/84
National Register Attest _____
- 19. Batchelder, Nathaniel, House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7/19/84
National Register Attest _____
- 20. Battell House **Entered in the** Keeper Alden Byers 7/19/84
National Register Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Batchelder, George, 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

Entered in the
National Register

Action: ACCEPT 7-19-84

RETURN

REJECT

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	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
- 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

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

Batchelder, George, House (Reading M.A.)
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: _____



Bot Cheldo, George, House
Reading MA, Ma



D-6A

A-10
127 Franklin St.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000290