

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>158</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108 XXXV-12



Reading _____
 186 Summer Avenue _____
 Name Kemp Place _____
 Original dwelling _____
 Present dwelling _____
 Type: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Robert Kemp _____



cross streets and other buildings

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: _____
 Date 1853 _____
 Source Concerning the Past _____
 Style Italianate _____
 Architect unknown _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards _____
 Outbuildings barn _____

Major alterations (with dates) South _____
veranda looks extended in 1920's. _____
Queen Anne chimney (c.1880) _____
 Moved no Date _____
 Approx. acreage 1.568 acres _____

Recorded by Architectural Preservation _____
Associates _____
 Organization Reading Historical Comm. _____

Setting Side entrance on south, set back _____
from street on raised plot. _____

Date November **REVISED** _____
 Date 6/82 _____

UTM: 19/326080/4709640

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

Built in 1853, this is one of the more high-styled of Reading's Italianate houses, and somewhat resembles John Hart Bancroft's house, built at about the same time on Prospect Street.

A 2-1/2-story house with transverse gables, it has shouldered or "eared" architraves, a veranda with pierced Gothic columns, a Gothic cupola, and a roof supported on paired brackets. An exterior chimney has terra-cotta rosettes. The windows are long on the first floor. This is one of the few houses with cupolas which survive in Reading.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history)

Robert Kemp, after being a cabin boy at sea, formed the firm of Mansfield and Kemp, a boot and shoe business in Boston. Mansfield bought ten acres of land on Summer Avenue in 1853 and sold part to Kemp, who built a house and commuted to Boston. He bought an additional 12 acres on which he tried "gentleman farming." He formed "Father Kemp's Old Folks," a local amateur singing group touring first nearby, then later in 1858 the south and west. The troupe went to England in 1861. Kemp sold this house in 1868 after financial reverses, and later built, at 199 Summer Avenue, a copy of a house he admired in Swampscott, Massachusetts. Kemp was the author of two books, and served on the School Committee where he tried to promote musical education.

A subsequent owner was William Hawes, who started a dollar store in Boston, which was only the second such store in the nation.

Charles Howard came to Reading in 1908, son of Dr. Herbert B. and Dr. Emily P. After the death of Dr. Herbert (who had been director and supervisor of Massachusetts General Hospital), Mother Howard turned the property over to Charles, living with his family for the remainder of her life. Most of Charles Howard's life was spent in public service. He was a lawyer, State Senator, Treasurer of Middlesex County and Bank Commission, and Commissioner of Administration and Finance. Among his local civic activities were Board of Selectman, Town Moderator, and Town Counsel.

*the Massachusetts

Charles' wife, Katherine Graham Howard, wrote With My Shoes Off, recounting her experiences both in Reading and national affairs. She was secretary of the 1952 Republican National Convention and Deputy Commissioner General to the Brussels International Exposition, 1955.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map- R. Kemp (Robert)
1875 map- Mrs. T. Hawes (Temperance, wife of William)
1889 map- Jacob W. Roberts

Reading Chronicle, June 18, 1980. July 13, 1928

Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Chapters LXXXIX and XCIII

Howard, With My Shoes Off, Vantage Press, 1977

20M-2/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-158
Property Name: 186 Summer Ave.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Kemp Place is significant (1) as a product of the 19th century real estate boom on the West Side, and as the house of a railroad commuter; (2) for its connection with Robert ("Father") Kemp, shoe manufacturer and choral leader; and with public servants Charles and Katherine Howard; and (3) as part of a high-style Italianate architectural ensemble. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, 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 6/4/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Conn Paul Douglas 8/19/84

Date/Signature

Review

1. Ace Art Company

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

2. Common Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

3. Harnden-Browne House

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

4. Haverhill Street Milestone

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

5. Kemp Place

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 7/19/84

Attest

6. Kemp Barn

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 7/19/84

Attest

7. Nichols, Jerry, Tavern

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 7/19/84

Attest

Review

8. Reading Standpipe

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

Review

9. Smith Shoe Shop

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

Review

10. Woburn Street Historic
District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Paul Douglas 2-1-85

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Kemp Place (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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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

(A.P. Number) _____
 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: _____



Reading MPA, Ma

~~House at~~ Kemp Place
186 Summer Ave.

XXXIV -12a

157

KING STREET

AVENUE

SUMMER

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

185.0

115.0

300.07

140.0

25,881

29,275

1.879 Acres

108.90

20,557

185.0

114.9

329.79

211.20

1.479 Acres

329.79

299.99

3,000 Sq Ft.

400.0

155.15

1.568 Acres

85.0

25,400

91.0

11,098

71.50

10,055

82.01

11,045

71%

10,593

82.60

10,975

133.33

16,275

132.00

17,448

132.45

13

133.05

12

132.70

11

132.30

10

132.36

9

132.47

8

132.30

7

132.36

17,448

#C-158 186 Summer Ave.

House

Map 61, Lot 15-16

1983 Assessors Map

1" = 100'

TEMPLE

Walter S. P. Junior H. School

49

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290