

FORM B - BUILDING

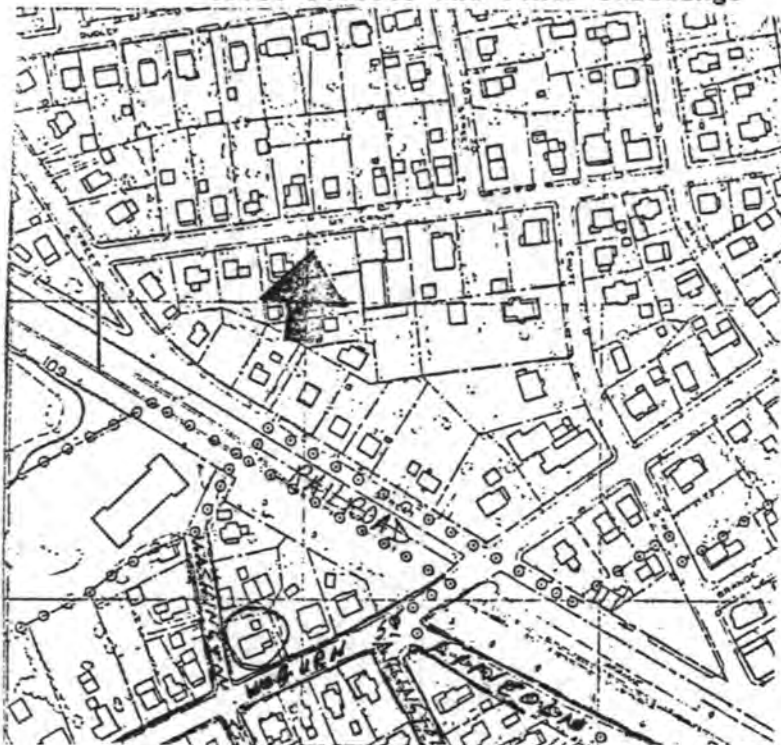
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>118</u>
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Reading
Address 20 Washington Street
Original Name Wendell Bancroft House
Original Dwelling
Present Dwelling
Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization
Public
Original owner Wendell Bancroft

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1867-1870
Source Valuation books
Style Gothic Revival
Architect unknown
Exterior wall fabric Wood clapboard
Outbuildings Two carpenter shops and one barn, on adjacent lot
Major alterations (with dates) Roof cresting removed
Moved no Date
Approx. acreage 8,450 sq. ft.
Setting Faces west on corner of Washington and Woburn Streets

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Reading Historical Commission
Date November 1980

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326620/4709700

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is one of the few high-style Gothic Revival houses in Reading, which did not seem to embrace this style for its residences, though it was more acceptable for churches. The house inventoried here is a two and one-half story, three-bay rectangular house with a hip-ped roof. The west facade roofline is broken by steeply pitched transverse gables carrying bargeboards with trefoil motif. The south facade dormers have lancet windows. This is the basic house form which grew out of the Greek Revival vernacular practice and was developed in the Italianate period. It continued to be used 'til the 20th century.

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

Wendell Bancroft owned a small house on Washington Street (which is still standing at the rear of the present property), and the old Jacquith house facing Woburn Street (now demolished), in 1860. By 1870, he seems to have built the present house on the same property as the old Jaquith house, but facing Washington Street.

Bancroft was one of Reading's leading businessmen. He helped to found the First National Bank of Reading, which opened in 1891 in the old Bank Building at Main and Pleasant Streets. It moved to the Masonic Block (corner of Main and Haven Streets) when the building opened in 1893. He was also an officer of the Mechanics Savings Bank in the same rooms. He was a builder and contractor, and formed a partnership with Temple, with whom he developed much real property. His warehouse was on Washington Street, and he had a coal and lumber yard on High Street. In 1894 he was a director of the Reading Cooperative Bank and the Savings Bank.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

	(not this house)	
1765 map	Captain Parker (Jaquith house)	1860 Valuation book
1854 map	S. Carter (Jaquith house) (Samuel)	1865 Census
1875 map	W. Bancroft & Shop	1870 Valuation book
Eaton,	<u>Memorial Volume</u> , pp. 155 & 237	
Wadlin,	<u>Concerning the Past</u> , Chapter XXIX	1889 map Wendell Bancroft

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-119
Property Name: 20 Washington St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its connection with prominent local businessman Wendell Bancroft; and (2) as one of Reading's few Gothic Revival residences. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria 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

11. Pratt, Joseph L., House *Substantive Review*
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 2/5/85

Attest

12. Bancroft, Joseph, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

13. Bancroft, Samuel, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

14. Bancroft, Wendell, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

15. Bassett, Edwin, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

16. Batchelder, Alden, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

17. Batchelder, George, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

18. Batchelder House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

19. Batchelder, Nathaniel, House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

20. Battell House *Entered in the*
National Register

for Keeper

Kevin M. Bynum 7-19-84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bancroft, Wendell, 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: _____

- ☐ 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 | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ 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

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



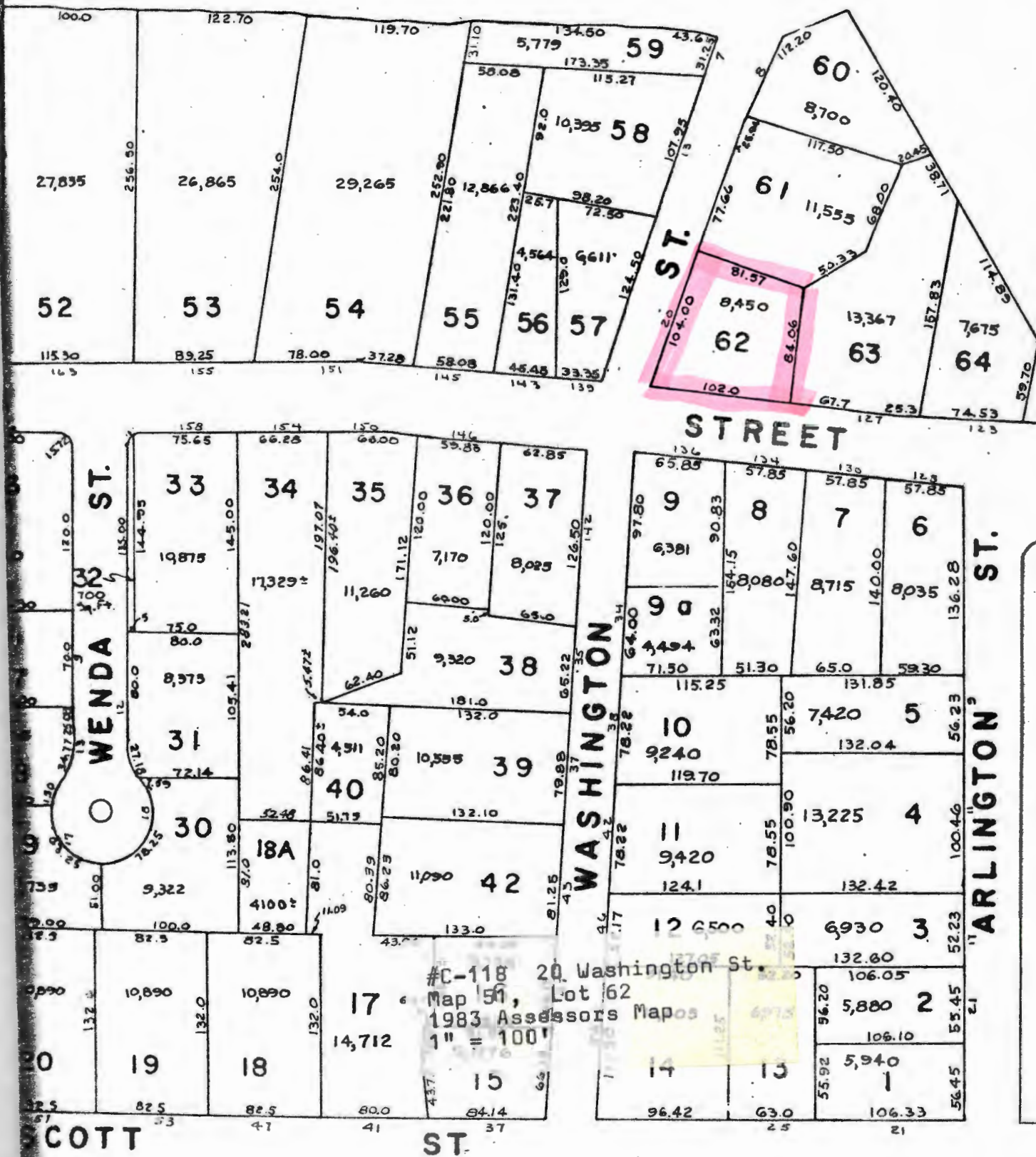
Barnett, Wendell, House

Reading, MA, Mar

C-118

20 Washington

K-11



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290