

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUN 4 1984

date entered JUL 19 1984

## 1. Name

historic Town of Reading (partial inventory: historic &amp; architectural ca. 1700-1925)

and/or common Reading Multiple Resource Area (preferred)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Multiple - See individual forms

N/A not for publication

city, town Reading

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code

025

county

Middlesex

code

017

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See attached list and individual forms)

street &amp; number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

street &amp; number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge

state MA

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealthhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980-82

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

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FORM	ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME	DATE	CRITERIA		
<u>Residential</u>						
<u>First Period</u>						
A-1	572 Haverhill Street	Carroll-Hartshorn House	ca.1700	A,B,&C		
C-117	103 Washington Street	Parker Tavern	ca.1693	NR1975		
D-223	483 Franklin Street	Richard Nichols House	ca.1733	A,B,&C		
<u>Georgian</u>						
D-226	420 Franklin Street	Joseph Parker House	ca.1711	A,B,&C		
A-5	434 Haverhill Street	Daniel Nichols Homestead	ca.1741-2	A,B,&C		
A-9	71 Franklin Street	Nathaniel Batchelder House	c.1756-65	A,B,&C		
A-16	273 Pearl Street	James Nichols House	ca.1795			
B-33	52 Salem Street	Parker House	ca.1792	A,B,&C		
B-80	77-83 Ash Street	Capt. Parker's Red House	pre1765	A,B,&C		
C-88	178 South Street	Joseph Damon House	ca.1754	A,B,&C		
C-102	86 West Street	Jabez Weston House	ca.1779	A,B,&C		
C-106	132 West Street	Samuel Parker House	ca.1795-96	A,B,&C		
C-113	284 Summer Avenue	Eaton-Prescott House	ca.1757	A,B,&C		
C-138	232 West Street	Samuel Bancroft House	ca.1748	A,B,&C		
C-161	141 Summer Avenue	Uncle Mark Temple House	ca.1753	A,B,&C		
D-208	51 Mill Street	Jerry Nichols Tavern	ca.1785	A,B,&C		
<u>Federal</u>						
A-3	456 Haverhill Street	Pratt House	ca.1809	A,B,&C		
A-6	379 Haverhill Street	Timothy Hartshorn House	ca.1787	A,B,&C		
A-7	320 Haverhill Street	Thomas Symonds House	ca.1785	A,B,&C		
A-8	293 Haverhill Street	Battell House	ca.1806	A,B,&C		
A-10	127-129 Franklin Street	George Batchelder House	ca.1825	A,B,&C		
A-14	607 Pearl Street	Batchelder House	ca.1783	A,B,&C		
A-16	273 Pearl Street	James Nichols House	ca.1795	A,B,&C		
C-92	55 Walnut Street	William Parker House	ca.1796	A,B,&C		
C-96	483 Summer Avenue	Jonathan Heselton House	ca.1850	A,B,&C		
C-137	229 West Street	Ephraim Weston House	ca.1800	A,B,&C		
C-180	89 Woburn Street	Carter Mansion	ca.1802	B & C		

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D-209	55 Lowell Street	Rev. Peter Sanborn House	ca.1812 B & C
D-211	101 Lowell Street	Joseph Bancroft House	ca.1831-35 A,B,&C
D-221	107 Grove Street		pre1795 A,B,&C
<u>Greek Revival</u>			
A-4	453 Haverhill Street	Joseph L. Pratt House	ca.1834 A,B,&C
A-24	1177 Main Street	Nichols House	ca.1830-54 C
B-30	35 Salem Street		ca.1830 A,B,&C
B-31	38 Salem Street	Damon Temple House	1839 A,B,&C
B-36	79-81 Salem Street		ca.1831-54 C
B-49	145 Salem Street	Charles Manning House	ca.1850 A,B,&C
B-66	309 Haven Street	Luther Elliot House	1850 A,B,&C
B-84	251 Ash Street	Benjamin Beard House	ca.1851-54 B & C
C-95	484 Summer Avenue	Stillman Pratt House	ca.1851-54 B & C
C-97	472 Summer Avenue	Stillman Pratt House	ca.1845-50 B & C
C-110	206 West Street	J.B. Leathe House	ca.1831-57 B & C
C-124	115 Prescott Street	Edwin Bassett House	1850 A,B,&C
C-125	123 Prescott Street	Gilman Coggin House	1847 B & C
C-159	176 Summer Avenue	Dewey Place	ca.1853 B & C
C-173	19 Woburn Street	Benjamin Boyce House	1840 B & C
<u>Gothic Revival</u>			
B-61	97 Pleasant Street	Dr. Wakefield Octagon	1860 A,B,&C
C-115	64 Minot Street	Stephen Hall House	1850s A & C
C-116	26 Center Street		ca.1854-70 A & C
C-118	20 Washington Street	Wendell Bancroff House	ca.1867-70 B & C
<u>Italianate</u>			
A-29	797 Main Street	A. Batchelder House	ca.1850-54 B & C
B-32	42 Salem Street	S.H. Dinsmore	ca.1850-54 C
B-65	256-274 Haven Street	Edward Manning Rowhouses	1886 C
B-68	322 Haven Street		ca.1876-89 C
C-146	66 Prospect Street	William F. Durgin House	1872 A,B,&C
<u>Second Empire</u>			
C-157-8	186 Summer Avenue	Kemp Place	1853 B & C

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C-145	81 Prospect Street	Maj. A.M.Cook	1872	C	
C-160	146 Summer Avenue	Wisteria Lodge	1873	B & C	
C-184	42 Chute Street	Joseph Temple House	1872	A,B,&C	
C-193	16 Mineral Street		ca.1875-85	C	
<u>Stick Style</u>					
B-44	128 Salem Street	Pierce House	1875-80	B & C	
C-195	140 High Street	Jacob W. Manning House	1877	B & C	
<u>Shingle Style</u>					
C-114	242 Summer Street		ca.1890- 1900	C	
<u>Queen Anne/Colonial Revival</u>					
B-34	60-62 Salem Street			A & C	
B-67	316 Haven Street		1881	C	
B-85a	11 Beech Street		ca.1875-89	B & C	
C-107	77 Howard Street		ca.1890-99	B & C	
C-190	25 Linden Street	Gazebo	pre1894	C	
C-120	78-80 Prescott Street	Francis Brooks House	1887	B & C	
C-122	99 Prescott Street	Charles D. Wells House	1894	B & C	
C-176	54 Woburn Street	Dr. Mahlon Grande House	1895	C	
C-177	57 Woburn Street	Danforth House	ca.1889	C	
C-154	199 Summer Avenue	Father Kemp's Place	1878- 1891	B & C	
C-194	129 High Street		1890-1905	C	
C-237	276 Woburn Street	Lewis House	1875-79		
<u>Craftsman/Bungalow</u>					
C-147	59 Prospect Street		1911	C	
C-162	121 Willow Street		1918	C	
C-166	44 Temple Street		1910-11	C	
C-238	276 Summer Avenue		1920	C	
<u>Institutional/Public</u>					
A-22	1249 Main Street	Old Hose House	1902	A & C	

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B-59	49 Pleasant Street	Reading Municipal Building	1883	A & C	
B-82	226 Ash Street	Reading Municipal Light & Power	1894	A & C	
C-94	53 Hopkins Street	Walnut Street School	1853	A & C	
C-192	64 Middlesex Avenue	Highland School	1896-7	A,B,&C	
<u>Commercial/Industrial</u>					
A-227	273 Haverhill Street	"10 footer" Shoe Shop		A & C	
B-38	10-12 Pierce Street	Pierce Organ Pipe Factory	1852	A,B,&C	
C-168	Lincoln Street	B & M Railroad Depot	1870	A & C	
C-170	24 Gould Street	Ace Art Company	1924	A & C	
C-172	600-622 Main Street	Masonic Block	1894	A,B,&C	
<u>Structures</u>					
D-206	Auburn & Beacon Streets	Reading Standpipe	1890-91	A & C	
900-4	Haverhill Street	Haverhill Street Milestone	ca.1815	A & C	
<u>Districts</u>					
<u>Woburn Street Historic District</u>					A,B,&C
129	228 Woburn Street		1895-96		
130	227 Woburn Street		1888		
131	217 Woburn Street		pre1816;1918		
132	206 Woburn Street		1892		
133	201 Woburn Street	Appleton House	pre1795		
134	192 Woburn Street		1850		
135	183 Woburn Street		1899		
231	207 Woburn Street		1910-11		
232	316 Woburn Street		ca.1890		
233	189-191 Woburn Street		ca.1875-80		
234	212 Woburn Street		1891		
235	220 Woburn Street		1915		
236	198 Woburn Street	Morton House	1912-13		
244	177 Woburn Street		ca.1848		
245	186 Woburn Street	St. Agnes Catholic Church	1908-09		
246	186 Woburn Street	Holden Homestead	1865-68		
B-30	33 Salem Street				A,B,&C

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	Reading Common Historic District					
B-31	38 Salem Street					
B-51	65 Harnden Street				1807-1828	
D-200	37 Lowell Street	Parsonage			1823	
D-240	32 Lowell Street	First Church of Christ Scientist			1913-1914	
B-229	83 Harnden Street				1881	
B-230	93-95 Harnden Street				1874	
B-242	28 Salem Street				1817-18	
B-248	743-745 Main Street				1916	
C-174	25 Woburn Street	First Congregational Church			1911	
C-186	52 Sanborn Street	Reading High School			1906	
D-197	6 Lowell Street	Reading Public Library			1918	
D-198	16 Lowell Street	Reading Town Hall			1918	
D-199	6 Salem Street	Old South Church			1913	
800-1		Laurel Hill Cemetery				
		Site of First Meetinghouse				
C-173	19 Woburn Street	Benjamin Boyce House			1840	

## 7. Description

Reading Multiple Resource Area, Reading, Massachusetts

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☒ moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated twelve miles north of Boston, the Reading Multiple Resource Area occupies the 9.8 square miles defined by the political boundaries of the Town of Reading since the mid-19th century. Surrounding Reading are the towns of North Reading (north), Lynnfield and Wakefield (east), Stoneham (south), and Woburn and Wilmington (west).

Topographically, Reading is characterized by its location within the Boston Basin and the upland water sheds of the Mystic, Saugus, and Ipswich Rivers. The latter forms the town's northern boundary; both it and the Aberjona, a Mystic River tributary, historically provided limited water power. Extensive cedar swamps (Birch, Bare, or Bear and Hundred Acres), interrupted occasionally by patches of higher terrain, cover much of the northern half of the town. To the south lies the village of Reading on the higher ground approaching the foothills of the Middlesex Fells plateau. Drumlins in this area, notably Bear Hill (229 feet), Robbins Hill, and Scotland Hill, are the town's most prominent peaks while low ground in the southeast corner drains into Wakefield's Lake Quannapowit and eventually the Saugus River.

Reading's topography remains relatively unchanged from the initial period of settlement. Although some filling and draining has occurred, in general, the texture of the landscape remains a primary link connecting Reading to its past.

### HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Reading is a suburban industrial town located on the northern axis of metropolitan Boston at the headwaters of three major rivers. An early area of English settlement in the mid-17th century, the transformation of Reading's natural and cultural landscapes throughout its history has been largely influenced by changes in transportation networks and by the expansion of the City of Boston. A position as a peripheral or local core has characterized the town's historical development. Formation of a town center (Reading Common) occurred at the junction of regional roads, by the late 18th century, serving a dispersed agricultural based community. Construction of the Boston-Andover turnpike (1806) and the Boston and Maine railroad by the mid-19th century subsequently propelled the town into craft industrial production of goods such as footwear and cabinetry which had declined by the 1870s, & the establishment of an organ factory (extant). Concurrently, affluent suburban residential development, commenced, and continued through the early 20th century, particularly in the neighborhoods west and south of Reading Common. The town center was rebuilt with Neo-Colonial civic edifices at the turn of the century; the commercial area directly east of the common extending south along Route 128 has had increasing new construction up to the present. While some small scale new industries have been introduced in the 20th century, Reading continues to function essentially as a suburban community at the edge of the Boston metropolitan area; despite persistent infill new residential construction, it retains a wide variety of physical manifestations from all periods of its history.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS (Contact Period 1500-1638)

No contact period and very few native archaeological sites are presently known from Reading, although they may exist particularly on the well drained terraces of Ipswich and Aberjona Rivers. The area is thought to have served as an upland hunting and gathering resource area for various coastal groups rather than as the territory of any particular tribe. Conjectured native trails may have traced the highground around wetland, later becoming incorporated into the European transportation network.

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Wood-End (1630-1769) (Please refer to 1765 map)

The town of Reading was established from part of Lynn in May 1644, continuing the Lynn division of 1639 by order of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony. It included most of the present day towns of Reading and Wakefield. Additional early Acts established the Woburn/Reading line (1644) and picked up approximately two square miles north of the Ipswich River in present day North Reading (1651). Boundaries with the adjacent towns of Wilmington and Lynnfield were subsequently established by the mid-18th century.

During the initial years of this period, settlement concentrated on the south shore of Reading Pond (now Lake Quannapowitt) in present day Wakefield. The land to the west in present day Reading was used chiefly by the villagers as woodlots and was known as Wood-End. Typical of outlying districts, gradually increasing numbers of the permanent European (English) settlers in Reading (hereinafter referring to the present town) apparently focused at the junction of regional highways around Ash and Salem Streets (Reading Common), with scattered farmsteads located along primary improved native trails such as Ash-Peark, Haverhill Grove and West Streets (north/south); and Woburn, Washington and Salem Streets (east/west).

Although few population statistics are available for the initial century of settlement, it is estimated that no more than a dozen families existed by 1675, increasing to approximately 50 in 1771 with a comparable number of houses. Houses were constructed of locally sawn timber and appeared both in modest cottage and more substantial forms which toward the end of the period began to exhibit Georgian style, symmetry and detailing. The maps of 1765, drawn before construction of the first meetinghouse, shows dwellings scattered along a weblike network roads rather than clustered at a central node.

Reading Third Parish, later South Reading Parish (1770-1844) (Please refer to 1795 map and 1830 map)

The opening of this era in Reading's development is marked by the General Court's authorization that the residents of Wood-End become a separate parish - the Third Parish - in the summer of 1769. Subsequently with the incorporation of the old First Parish of Reading - now Wakefield - as a separate town called South Reading (1812) the remaining two parishes - the northern Second Parish and central Third Parish - thus became known, respectively, as the North and South Parishes.

Construction of a first meetinghouse (ca. 1770) at what is now the center of Reading Common (no longer extant) focused public activity at the Common. In addition, location of the north/south Boston to Andover Turnpike (1806-7; present day Main Street) through the Common further reinforced existing civic and commercial centrality around the meetinghouse as well as linking Reading to the expanding regional road system of the day. Secondary roads also saw great improvement (Summer Avenue and High Street) while



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additional farmsteads appeared to the northwest and northeast of the Common along Grove Street and Haverhill Street and a lesser node of relatively concentrated settlement began to emerge around the intersection of West Street and Woburn Street and Scotland Hill to the southwest.

No population figures are available for the clearly expanding residence base during this period. Combined figures for the three parishes (Reading, Wakefield, and North Reading), however, reached 1,802 by 1790, and in 1830 Reading and North Reading are jointly recorded at a similar quantity, 1,806.

Reflecting the community's continued reliance on subsistence agriculture complemented by cottage and small scale support industries, housing for the growing population tended to appear in outlying areas as large holdings were divided among heirs. Although this process formed small nodes of settlement, the overall pattern of dispersed development persisted. An important harbinger of future trends, however, was the subdivision in 1840 of the John Damon Farm east of Main Street into a series of houses along newly laid out streets. Residential wood frame houses and cottages representing the more vernacular and conservative aspects of the Federal and Greek Revival styles formed the bulk of new building construction.

Town of Reading (1845-1888) (Please refer to 1854 and 1875 maps)

This period is defined by the advent of the railroad in Reading (1845) which profoundly affected the subsequent physical and economic development of the community, and by the establishment of the separate town of Reading and North Reading (1853) while maintaining existing parish boundaries, which finalized Reading's independent status.

The opening of the Boston and Maine Railroad which runs on a northeast/southeast diagonal with a depot (no. C-168; 1870 replacement of original) west of Reading Common, initiated a major shift in the focus and volume of town activities. Improved transportation allowed both the ability to commute to Boston for work, thus initiating an era of continuing suburban development, and the opportunity for new and expanded industrial and commercial ventures within Reading. While the Common area remained the primary commercial and civic nucleus, new connector streets were laid out in all directions, particularly with orientation to the railroad. Bethesda (now Sanborn), Linden, Gould, Green, Parker, and an extension of Washington all appeared between 1830 and 1854 as part of this pattern. These streets were built up with new houses in a myriad of popular styles by the expanding and increasingly prosperous population. The most affluent residential development occurred along Woburn and Summer Street and the area known as the Highlands west of the Common. More modest neighborhoods grew up to the north, east, and south with small clusters of workers' housing such as along John and Salem Streets (east). In general, wood frame construction remained the rule for both houses and cottages. This pattern of residential development produced pockets of densely built up areas (see 1854 and 1875 maps). Open land was maintained by limited agriculture, abandoned fields, and commercial nurseries; at least one of the latter was located near the town center between High Street and the railroad (see no. C-195).

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Pressure for this increase in housing stock is attributable to an expanding economic base and to a relative rise in population figures. Reading's population rose by 1,000 residents between 1840 and 1850, then grew at a slower pace, reaching 2,644 by 1870.

The craft cottage industry basis of Reading's manufacturing restricted the amount of industrial construction during this period of the town's maximum industrial growth. Related new construction was comprised of wood frame, small scale, utilitarian structures. Alternatively many industries operated in existing multi-use buildings adjacent to the Common; few survive today, the most important being Samuel Pierce's organ pipe factory (1852; B-38).

Suburban Reading (1889-1924) (Please refer to 1889 map)

During the last decade of the 19th century and first several of the 20th century, development trends begun at mid century continued to form the shape of the town. The commercial core composed primarily of two-three story wood frame buildings extended south along Main Street from the Common with industrial activity focused along the railroad. Suburban street railway lines extended to Reading center by the 1890s with trolley routes along John Street (from Wakefield), Salem Street (from Saugus), West Woburn and Prescott Streets (from Woburn), Main Street (from Stoneham), and Grove, Middlesex, and High Streets (from Wilmington). The Main Street line was extended north to North Reading in Andover in 1905, thus connecting Reading to all surrounding communities although the trend towards automobile transportation soon reached ascendancy.

Population growth was relatively slow and marked by fluctuations, reaching 6,805 by 1915, and including growing proportions of foreign born individuals. The stability and economic confidence of Reading's citizens is evinced, however, in the erection of a number of new civic and institutional buildings often of masonry construction and designed in historical styles. Alternatives to woodframe building materials also began to appear in residential architecture. Modest-scaled suburban expansion referencing typical period styles occurred primarily on existing roads in outlying areas of the town.

Archaeological Component

Two sites of possible historical archaeological importance have been identified in the Historical and Architectural Inventory of Reading, Massachusetts.

✓ The Lobs Pound mill area was the site of a 17th century sawmill that later was expanded to include grist milling capabilities. The operation ceased in 1892, but the site gained new importance shortly thereafter, when the town's first piped-water supply system was built in this area. While structural remains are clearly visible at the site, sufficient data has not yet been collected to permit its nomination at this time.

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The first meetinghouse site at the center of Reading Common (N.B., C., D.) was the location of Reading's first religious edifice, built in 1769-70. Its construction established the Third Parish, setting the area of present day Reading apart from the areas that would become Wakefield and North Reading. The building was relocated to the corner of Union and Middle Streets in 1818 shortly after the new Federal-style church was built just north of it at the head of the Common. It was moved again, and finally destroyed by fire. On its original site, the meetinghouse had no cellar or stove and it is doubtful that much in the way of artifacts would be found in the unlikely event that the Common were to be excavated. However, soil stains might be present that could help clarify the site of the building.

In general, Reading has a high probability of possessing a wide range of historic archaeological resources associated with its continuous history from the mid-17th through late 20th centuries. While disturbance may have occurred from subsequent activities in many areas, individual properties and isolated locations may contain subsurface features, structural remains, and artifacts deposits related to past uses of the area. The possibility for the presence of prehistoric remains is less clear at the present, although they may exist in low densities, particularly along conjectured native trail routes.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPONENT

Within Reading's boundaries can be found examples of most of the architectural styles of the 18th through the 20th centuries; they exist primarily in residential building forms. No native American structures remain, but there are several surviving First period or early colonial structures. The Georgian period is represented by only a few remaining vernacular examples. However, the Federal stylistic period is evident, in a conservative way, in a number of surviving houses. The Federal style's feeling of prosperity and restrained ornament suited the tastes of the predominantly agricultural community, and Federal style houses were to persist in Reading from the 1790s to the 1830s with its traditional five-bay, center-entry house form. The Greek Revival style did appear in the 1840s as interpreted by local builders. It was achieved either by adapting Greek Revival ornament to the basic Federal house form, or especially, for two and one-half story structures by turning the gable end to the street. The fully developed Greek Revival portico used elsewhere did not appear in Reading.

The Gothic Revival style was largely ignored by Reading, although a few fine exceptions are included in this multiple resource nomination. It would appear that the fancifully romantic style was not acceptable for residential use in the conservative New England town of Reading. Two churches were built, and another was remodeled in this style, but homeowners preferred the classical motifs of the Greek Revival style, applied to the orderly Federal house form.

Builder/architects introduced the innovative Italianate style to Reading at mid-century. The town welcomed the style with its customary restraint. Vertical proportions were lengthened, cross gables were added and wooden brackets were applied at the eaves of the

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basic vernacular Greek Revival house. It is interesting to note that the greater flexibility of plan begun in the Gothic Revival and Italianate periods elsewhere ~~was~~ not adopted in Reading until later.

The French Second-Empire style appeared in Reading in 1860, an early date for the use in this area of the characteristic mansard roof on an Italianate base. Several high-style examples remain as well as a cluster of mansard-roofed cottages from the 1870s.

The late Victorian era, and the various styles it encompassed, coincided with widespread development throughout the town beginning in 1870. Surface ornament was liberally applied and interior volumes increased in complexity. The town, which had generally eschewed such displays of ornament, now embraced it both for local high style examples and the simplest of vernacular structures. The Stick style and its modifications persisted through the 1890s, especially in smaller dwellings. The Queen Anne style proved popular as did the Colonial Revival style, especially for larger, more costly houses. Several of the latter were designed by a local architect, Horace G. Wadlin. He had an office in Boston from 1875 to 1879 and he served to bring a number of the latest architectural trends to Reading.

The Shingle Style was not widely used in small towns such as Reading. What did occur in such places was the application of certain Shingle-style features to Colonial Revival structures in the late 1890s and early 1900s. This constituted the grafting of a non-historical style onto a historical one. Early American forms were used with greater fidelity toward the end of the Colonial Revival period: Reading had a town hall, a library, and a high school constructed in the Georgian Revival style in the early 1900s.

The styles based upon the desire for comfort and utility, the Craftsman and the Bungalow, appeared simultaneously in Reading ca. 1910-1920. In their purest form they are infrequently found, but several fine examples have been included in this multiple resource nomination. These styles were often adopted for speculative building on a modest scale.

In conclusion, it can be said that Reading has traditionally built in wood, except for a few, usually public, buildings. Its basic response to a new style has been to integrate it into the previous one. It has preferred to keep the form of the house in a relatively restricted space, holding the decorative details as close as possible to the wall surface. Value has been placed on solidity and integrity of structure, rather than on richness of decorative detail. Reading was not easily swept away by the tide of a new style. But when local architects introduced one, it seems to have acquired enough legitimacy to be accepted and adapted by local builders and their conservative clients. The quality of building materials has generally remained high.

Until the 1840s, most Reading houses were oriented to the south. Exceptions to this rule were the houses built along the Andover and Medford turnpike, which tended to face this important thoroughfare. Beginning with the Greek Revival period, however, more and more new houses began to exhibit an orientation to the street. Relatively uniform heights of 1½ and 2½ stories and setbacks lend regularity to residential areas. Well-developed trees add a pleasant aspect in many areas. The Common at the center of town, six parks, and

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nine conservation areas give the town open spaces for visual and recreational enjoyment.

In terms of architectural style, an overview of Reading reveals a strong vernacular tradition reinforced by the town's generally conservative approach to all change. While architectural evolution was gradual and bound by certain financial and aesthetic limits, it was at once persistent and well conceived.

In evaluating the architecture of Reading, it is worthwhile to compare the town to its neighbors. While Reading's styles did not reach the height of aesthetic expression that occurred in Andover, neither did it develop in the stylistically undifferentiated manner that much of Stoneham did. Rather, the uniqueness of the town's architecture lies in the high level of its vernacular interpretation of styles. Neither rich nor lavish, buildings were well-constructed, tending to be contemporary (ie. conservative) rather than innovative. They were sited most often for advantage of exposure or terrain, and their aesthetic/stylistic features were given thorough consideration.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

First Period (1694-1740)

The earliest extant type of house known to have been built in Reading exhibits the two or 2½ story center chimney plan typical of period houses of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Generally sited facing south on knolls along early travel routes, they are set on rubblestone foundations and constructed of heavy timbers sheathed in clapboards with asymmetrical facades. The Carroll-Hartshorn House, 572 Haverhill Street, (ca. 1700; no. A-1) and the Parker Tavern, 103 Washington Street, (ca. 1693; no. C-117, NR 1975) illustrate the popular lean-to form, and along with the Richard Nichols House, 483 Franklin Street, (ca. 1733; no. D-223) and the Joseph Parker House, 420 Franklin Street, (ca. 1711; no. D-226 are the town's best preserved examples.

Georgian Period (1740-1796)

Houses constructed during the Georgian period typically retain a center chimney plan although some houses were built with centerhall plans with pairs of chimneys set behind roof ridge line such as the Daniel Nichols Homestead, 434 Haverhill Street, (ca. 1741; no. A-5) and The Joseph Damon House, 178 South Street, (ca. 1754; no. C-88). Reading preserves a number of good examples of houses from this period. Among them are the Jerry Nichols Tavern, (ca. 1785; no. D-208) and The James Nichols House (ca. 1795; no. A-16). These represent two vernacular versions of the style. The former is identifiable by its small scale, six-over-six second floor windows which stand out well from their frames and are placed close to the cornice line. The latter has similar features on a smaller scale but features a gambrel roof. Doors are low and narrow and decorative detail is practically nonexistent while eaves are framed without returns. An awareness of more elaborate detailing possibilities is, however, evident in the heavy entablature entry treatment of the Nathaniel Batchelder House (ca. 1756-65; no. A-9) and the Parker House (ca. 1792; no. B-33).

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Federal Period (1796-1840)

During the Federal period in Reading, wood construction persisted but building proportions expanded, decorative details increased, and granite-block foundations became the rule. Stylistic detailing, however, continued to reflect rural vernacular building sensibilities. Characteristically, elements of the Federal style remained popular for a relatively long period, into the 1840s.

Federal houses in Reading are typically five bays wide, two and one-half stories high, and have central or end chimneys. Doorways are taller, narrow in width, and are enframed with simple, high entablatures. A few doorways exhibit more complex treatments: 127-129 Franklin Street (1825; no. A-10) exhibits a louvered fanlight and flanking sidelights while 101 Lowell Street (ca. 1831-35; no. D-211) has a doorway surrounded with tapered pilasters on pedestals and small but fine capitals. Examples also remain of less typical forms. One and one-half cottage is seen at 483 Summer Avenue (ca. 1840-50; no. C-96), while 320 Haverhill Street (ca. 1785; no. A-7) is the town's only example of brick-end wall construction.

During this period, housewrights began framing their eaves with returns. A thin molding often was placed just under a boxed gutter.

Greek Revival Style (1830-1854)

The Greek Revival style was warmly accepted in Reading, perhaps because of its solid character. Most houses built in this style represented one of two straightforward vernacular versions. The first has the familiar five-bay, 2½ story rectangular plan but is now oriented parallel to the street and adorned with detail. This is seen at The Joseph L. Pratt House, 453 Haverhill Street (ca. 1884; no. A-4). The second version was the same rectangle, but with its gable end turned to face the street, in imitation of the temple form. The main entrance could be either to one side of the gable-end elevation or on a long side. Cornerboards were widened to form mock pilasters; cornices were similarly deepened to suggest classical friezes as seen at 251 Ash Street (ca. 1851-54; no. B-84), and sometimes carried across the gable end to form a pediment, as was done at 115 Prescott Street (1850; no. C-124). In both versions, the door surrounds were the center of decorative focus. They were either composed of a classical arrangement of pilasters, entablature, and sidelights, or of an architrave surround with corner blocks. A slightly pedimented entablature is found in the simpler carpenter versions, usually accompanied by wide, shallow pilasters. This is seen in the doorway added to 607 Pearl Street (no. A-14). This house is illustrative of the practice during the Greek Revival period of "modernizing" an older house by the additional of a Greek Revival doorway surround.

A few of Reading's Greek Revival houses came closer to the "columnar style" found elsewhere. This was chiefly done by having the gable roof extend down to form a deep porch supported by well-proportioned columns. The houses at 472 and 484 Summer Avenue (ca. 1851-54 and ca. 1845-50; nos. C-97 & C-95) illustrate this practice. Flushboard siding also was used on some houses to suggest the stone walls of Greek temples. This is seen at both

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472 and 484 Summer Avenue and in the pediment of the gable end of 38 Salem Street (ca. 1839; no. B-31).

Nearly all of the town's Greek Revival houses were built upon brick foundations on man-made rises.

Gothic Revival Style (1850-1859)

The novel Gothic Revival style never gained much popularity in Reading; its appearance is marked by restraint in ornamentation and conservatism in style. Nevertheless, a few outstanding examples were constructed. The most well developed of these are the Octagon House, 96 Pleasant Street (1860; no. B-61), an assymetrically massed house whose composition directly reflects the influence of nationally known reformist Dr. Orson Fowler; the Stephen Hall House, 64 Minot Street (ca. 1850-60; no. C-115) a rectangular cottage with board and batter siding, bracketting and lancet windows in a local builder-architect's interpretation of an A.J. Downing design; and 20 Washington Street (ca. 1867-70; no. C-118), which features a large transverse facade gable with characteristic trefoil motif in the barge board. Limited hall mark detailing also enlivened modest eclectic cottages of the period of which 26 Center Street (ca. 1854-75; no. C-116) and 322 Haven Street (ca. 1876-89; no. B-68) are the best preserved.

Italianate Style (1850-1875)

The chief proportional change in houses brought about by the introduction of the Italianate style was a greater vertical emphasis, seen at 66 Prospect Street (ca. 1872; no. C-146) and the Kemp House, 186 Summer Avenue (ca. 1853; no. C-158). Characteristic ornamentation included brackets at the eaves line, seen on both houses, and three-sided bay windows, as found on the Prospect Street House. Higher-style features were cupolas and shouldered architrave surrounds, such as applied to the Kemp House and barn.

Transitional and more conservative remaining examples of this mode exhibit characteristic detailing applied to traditional three bay side hall plan cottage forms such as 42 Salem Street (ca. 1850-54; no. B-32) and five-bay center entry houses such as the A. Batchelder House, 797 Main Street (ca. 1850-54; no. A-29). The more vernacular elements of this style persisted for several decades culminating in Reading with construction of the Edward Manning Rowhouses, 256-274 Haven Street (ca. 1886; no. B-65), an excellently preserved and locally rare example of this primarily urban form.

Second Empire Style (1860-1885)

The Second Empire style was introduced to Reading fairly early with construction of the Bank Building (ca. 1860; standing, but altered). The style coincided with a time of increasing prosperity and aesthetic sophistication in the town and typically appeared in the affluent residential neighborhoods west of Reading Common. The most distinguishing features of the style consisted of blocky L-plan or T-plan woodframe bases topped by patterned slate mansard roofs and richly articulated with porches, porte cocheres, and carved trim. Remnants of original landscaping and extant carriagehouses enhance the picturesque quality in many instances. Reading's most fully developed and elaborate examples are 81 Propect Street (ca. 1872; no. C-145), Wisteria Lodge, 146 Summer Avenue



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(ca. 1873; no. C-160), and the Joseph Temple House, 42 Chate Street (1872; no. C-184). Following this initial innovative surge of construction by wealthy residents around 1870, basic elements of the style were also adopted for smaller cottages such as 16 Mineral Street (ca. 1875-85; no. C-193).

Stick-Style (1870-1889)

The Stick style was popular in Reading in part perhaps because it celebrated the town's primary building material, wood. In a few instances, the style was used alone, as at The Jacob W. Manning House, 140 High Street, (ca. 1877; no. C-195) and the Pierce House 128 Salem Street (1875-80, B-44). Here, high, peaked roofs, vertical and horizontal "structural" members, decorative half-timbering, and crisp millwork combine with tall fanciful chimneys. More often, the Stick style was combined with the Queen Anne style, for everything from modest cottages to larger dwellings. An example of the former is 316 Haven Street (ca. 1881; no. B-67), where "basket-handle" porch arches, a stickwork gable screen, and varied shingle patterns create picturesque surfaces. A more substantial Stick style Queen Anne house is 78-80 Prescott Street (ca. 1887; no. C-120), where sunbursts, lattices, scrollwork, brackets, and patterned shingles pull together a more complicated set of volumes. All of the town's Stick style Queen Anne buildings are of wood, on high brick foundations. One particularly interesting example of this genre is the wooden tower atop the fire station at 49 Pleasant Street (no. B-59), an eclectic brick building that does not itself display any Stick style characteristics.

Queen Anne Style (1880-1900)

This romantic reaction against High Victorian "reality" drew its inspiration from medieval and Renaissance-England sources. It was embraced warmly by Readingites, especially the burgeoning population of new residences. As will be seen, the elements of the style often were combined with those of other styles, chiefly the Stick, Shingle, and Colonial Revival. Among the town's finest examples of Queen Anne architecture are 227 Woburn Street (no. C-130), with its corner turret and attached barn, 99 Prescott Street (ca. 1894; no. C-122), 54 Woburn Street, (ca. 1895; no. C-176) and 77 Howard Street (ca. 1895; no. C-107). An unusual piece of whimsical landscape architecture of this period, a lattice work gazebo built before 1894 also stands at 25 Linden Street (no. C-109).

Shingle Style (1885-1890)

The Shingle Style, in its pure form, was a nonhistorical style that preferred abstract forms to ones alluding to historical precedent. In Reading, however, it usually was combined with elements of the vaguely historical Queen Anne and "free" Colonial Revival styles. One of the clearest examples of the Shingle style in town is the house of architect Horace G. Wadlin, at 206 Woburn Street, (no. C-132). It has a shingled exterior, shed-roof dormers and rows of small windows placed for abstract impact.

Another good example stands at 242 Summer Avenue (ca. 1900; no. C-114) in which twin gables and horizontally grouped windows dominate the composition.



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Colonial Revival Style (1889-1920)

Buildings in this style featured architectural motifs from Georgian England and early America, reflecting the renewed interest in "colonial" America that began in the 1880s. Porches were carried on classical columns, and even enlarged into porticoes; elaborate window treatments featured Palladian or oval motifs, and roofs were often hipped or of gambrel profile. Most of Reading's Colonial Revival buildings are of the "free" Revival style: the early ones were still influenced by the Queen Anne style's ethos of the picturesque, while the later ones tended to be modified by the "comfortable-house" philosophy of the Craftsman style. In Reading, the proposed Woburn Street Historic District has the highest concentration of houses from this period of architecture; those at 183 Woburn Street (ca. 1899) and 228 Woburn Street (ca. 1895-96) illustrate the style, and the ways in which it was modified, particularly well. Around the turn of the century, however, Georgian and Federal design sources began to be used much more correctly than before. This trend was spearheaded in Reading by architect Willard P. Adden, a town resident who was a partner in the Boston firm of Adden and Parker. Illustrative of this somewhat more self-conscious and intellectual approach to the past is the remodeling that Adden designed for 217 Woburn Street (ca. 1816; 1918) which transformed a two and one-half story, early house into a three-story Federal Revival mansion. Other examples of his work in this style are the present Town Hall and the Public Library in the Reading Common Historic District.

Craftsman and Bungalow Styles (1905-1920)

Examples of the Craftsman style in Reading are scattered throughout the west side of town, having been built mostly in upper middle class neighborhoods. This nonhistorical style was never as popular here as the historical Colonial Revival style, but 59 Prospect Street (ca 1911; no. C-147) is a fine example of the high level of achievement attainable by this suburban house form.

There are few true (one-story) bungalows in Reading, but houses in the bungalow style (i.e., one and one-half stories) began appearing in town in the 1910s. The style was taken quite seriously in Reading. The house at 121 Willow Street (ca. 1918; no. C-162) illustrates the characteristic use of a variety of building materials: fieldstone for the chimney and porch supports, and wooden shingles. Its low-pitched roof with deep overhang presages the simpler, one-story version seen at 44 Temple Street (ca. 1910-11; no. C-166). This small, shingled house displays the close attachment to the ground, low profile, horizontally grouped windows, and broad, low dormer characteristic of the style as it came to be interpreted by middle class Americans.

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Reading's development from a primarily agricultural to suburban residential community has resulted in a poor survival rate of non-domestic structures constructed before the mid-19th century and a relatively low percentage of commercial and industrial examples in particular.

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Commercial

The majority of Reading's commercial architecture is concentrated along Main Street and extending a short distance along side streets. A relatively high degree of replacement and alterations of buildings has produced a streetscape which varies widely in setbacks and scale. Voids seriously interrupt any sense of continuity that the street may once have possessed, and the quality of materials and construction techniques used here, particularly since the 1950s, tends to be inferior to that found elsewhere in the town. Only the Masonic Block, 600-622 Main Street, (ca. 1894; no. C-172) a large three-story brick block designed in the Renaissance Revival style for a prominent corner site achieves the architectural quality seen in local domestic architecture of the late 19th century. Although the first story has been altered, the use of ornamental brick work accented by granite lintels in the upper two stories continues to dominate the building's overall appearance.

Of interest, both for its architectural design and its symbolic impact on Reading's history, is the Boston and Maine Railroad Depot, Lincoln Street, (ca. 1870; no. C-168). A combination of Stick Style and Queen Anne motifs, including a deeply overhanging cornice supported on chanfered knee braces articulates this low wood frame building.

Industrial

Undoubtably, Reading's earliest industrial buildings were vernacular wood frame mill structures, none of which remain, and small shoemaking shops of the type known as "ten-footers." The latter appeared by the early 19th century and were scattered throughout the town; the best preserved surviving example is located at 273 Haverhill Street (ca. 1850; no. A-227)

No building's are known to survive in recognizable form relating to the lumber and cabinet making trades which flourished in Reading during the 19th century. However, the Pierce Organ Pipe Factory, 10-12 Pierce Street, (ca. 1852; no. B-38), a vernacular frame building whose three-story voicing room reflects its function, still stands and continues in its original use. The close proximity of Samuel Pierces' House, 128 Salem Street, (ca. 1875; no. B-44) preserves the town's long standing tradition of combined workshop/residence functions.

With Reading's emergence as a suburban residential community by the early-20th century, few new industrial structures were erected. An important exception and the only local example of the Art Deco style is the Ace Art Company, 24 Gould Street, (ca. 1924; no. C-170). Built to house offices and factory space for an innovative process for the production of photograph mounting corners, the original low building combines textured brick, concrete, ceramic tiles, and large windows in distinctive, albeit restrained, Art Deco manner.

Public Institutional

With one exception Reading's extant institutional architecture dates from after 1880 and is predominantly of brick construction. The town's earliest surviving public building then is the Walnut Street School, 53 Hopkins Street (ca. 1853; no. C-94), a wood frame, two-room schoolhouse with Italianate detailing later modified by notable architect H.G. Wadlin in 1884. Town prosperity as well as broad based social reform movements at the turn of the 20th

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century initiated a flurry of new construction of substantial masonry buildings, many designed by architects, all of whom were Reading residents in popular revival styles. A concentration of stylish Colonial and Georgian Revival civic buildings appeared at Reading Common: Reading Town Hall (ca. 1918; Willard P. Adden and Winthrop Parker with George Sidebottom), Reading Public Library, (ca. 1918; Horace G. Wadlin with Adden & Parker), and Reading High School, (ca. 1906; Adden & Parker).

Prior to 1905, these types of institutional buildings were constructed away from Reading Common, although near the center of town. Reading's first Municipal Building, 49 Pleasant Street, (ca. 1883; no. B-59) and the Highland School, 64 Middlesex Avenue, (ca. 1896-7; no. C-192) both the work of Horace G. Wadlin, and conceived in the Renaissance Revival style, bear witness to this trend. At the same time George E. Abbott designed the Romanesque Revival Municipal Light and Power Station, 226 Ash Street, (ca. 1894; no. B-82) and perhaps the Reading Standpipe, Auburn and Beacon Streets, (ca. 1890; no. D-206), both central elements in major services improvements for the town. In addition, need for better fire protection was felt in peripheral areas of town, spurring construction of a woodframe Colonial Revival Hose House, 1249 Main Street, (ca. 1902; no. A-22) to serve northern Reading.

Religious

Historically the center of religious activity in the town, Reading Common continues as the site of a cluster of religious institutions. The earliest surviving church in form, if not in fact, is the Old South Church, 6 Salem Street, an imposing woodframe Federal style meetinghouse originally built in 1817 and reconstructed from measured drawings in 1913 under the direction of architect Winthrop Parker; it remains a strong visual anchor in the district. Representing the advent of masonry construction for ecclesiastical architecture are the stone, Gothic Revival style First Congregational Church of Reading, 25 Woburn Street, (ca. 1911; Willard P. Adden and Winthrop D. Parker) and First Church of Christ, 32 Lowell Street (1913-1915; George H. Sidebottom).

The expansion of Reading's Catholic population at the turn of the 20th century is crystallized in St. Agnes Catholic Church, 186 Woburn Street (1908-09), in the Woburn Street Historic District. Constructed of brick, accented with stone, the building achieves a somewhat simplified interpretation of the polychromy characteristic of the High Victorian Gothic style.

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Methodology

The Reading Multiple Resource Area nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is based on the Historical and Architectural Inventory of Reading, Massachusetts, submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission in January 1981. The inventory was conducted between April and December 1980 by architectural historians Heli Meltsner and Bonnie Marxer of Architectural Preservation Associates, Cambridge, with assistance from members of the Reading Historical Commission and other interested citizens.

This survey was aided by an earlier survey of 17th and 18th century structures in Reading submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission by the Reading Antiquarian Society in January, 1975. The survey was based upon the book, Reading's Colonial Rooftrees.

In preparation for its inventory, the Reading Historical Commission mapped and photographed all structures built before 1875. Before the survey was finished these persons and other volunteers mapped and photographed all structures built before 1924. This cut-off date was determined by the available historic map series (see below). Architectural Preservation Associates assisted in identifying and mapping these later structures. The survey team then viewed every pre-1924 structure; it studied 405 of these, and selected 229 for submission to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for inclusion in the Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth, based upon the criteria of significance and integrity of form. The list included one cemetery, two archaeological sites, one area form, and four monuments.

Standards for inclusion in the inventory differed according to the historic period in question. In general, the older buildings enjoyed more relaxed standards of integrity of material, form, site, and condition. All First period Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival structures were surveyed; those having historical interest and architectural merit were included. The styles of the mid-19th and early 20th centuries were represented in proportion to their numbers. These later structures were subjected to more rigorous standards of historical significance, architectural representativeness, and condition. In all periods, local vernacular as well as high-style buildings were selected.

Historic research relied primarily upon secondary materials supplemented by the maps of 1765, 1795, 1830, 1854, 1875, 1889, 1906, and 1924. These are included later, except for the latter two, which are not feasible to reproduce.

The multiple resource nomination was drafted in March and April 1981 by Architectural Preservation Associates and was reviewed by local historians and the Reading Historical Commission prior to submission to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The nomination material is based on the 1980 inventory with the addition of several structures.

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A total of ninety individual structures and two cohesive historic districts are nominated. The criteria for inclusion on the multiple resource nomination are consistent with National Register guidelines. Vernacular structures have been included primarily when they were either the single example of their type or one of the few remaining well-preserved examples. Significant local historical associations as well as architectural importance were given consideration in the selection process.

The historic districts are based upon historic patterns of use, visual cohesiveness, architectural quality, and degree of representation of local history. The Woburn Street district is an upper middle class residential neighborhood of architectural excellence, that has high visibility due to its location along a major thoroughfare. The Common Area historic district is a center of continuous local historical interest. Intrusions in both districts are minimal. Supporting buildings are described on the forms with an "X" following the form number.

## 8. Significance Reading Multiple Resource Area, Reading, Massachusetts

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Community development

Specific dates see individual forms    Builder/Architect    See individual forms

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reading Multiple Resource Area typifies the small suburban communities surrounding Boston but additionally possesses unusually visible vestiges of previous eras of historical development. Its road network combines early internal and circuitous routes from the 17th and 18th centuries overlaid with the arrow-straight corridors which reflect 19th century regional transportation schemes. These in turn are set in a landscape which, despite increasing amounts of modern residential infill, retains much of its historical character. Concentrated development remains limited to the southern half of the town, where high style and vernacular residential neighborhoods and occasional small industrial complexes encircle the civic, ecclesiastical, and commercial core at Reading Common. The northern half of the town, in contrast, experiences less intensive land use, continuing to preserve large amounts of open space and wooded wetlands with scattered farmsteads.

The high quality, quantity, and diversity of Reading's built environment further enhances a sense of the past. While all periods of the town's history are represented, Reading is perhaps most notable architecturally for its outstanding collection of early (17th and 18th century) houses, its fine example of mid-19th, early-20th century residences - many architect-designed - and singular specimens of industrial, ecclesiastical and public buildings from various periods.

The major themes and periods of significance identified for Reading trace its development from a rural agricultural community in the 17th and 18th centuries through a prosperous cottage industry period - primarily cabinet making and shoe production - in the 19th century and its emergence as a suburban community after the Civil War to the present. The physical record of this development remains crystallized in the 90 individual structures and two districts accompanying this nomination. The Parker Tavern (1694) was listed individually in the National Register in 1975. In congregate the Reading Multiple Resource Area retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association, meeting criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

### Community Development Themes (Native American to 1638)

Only the sparsest amount of information is known about both the prehistoric and contact periods in the territory that would become Reading. Current data suggests that the Reading /North Reading area functioned as a peripheral subsidiary to the Mystic regional settlement core area of the Boston Basin during the Contact period.

### Early Settlement (1638-1769)

Within two decades of the establishment of permanent primary settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629), expansion along major rivers resulted in the formation of smaller, local cores, of which Reading (now Wakefield, 1644) was among the first. One of two primary north-south land transport corridors ran through Reading into the interior Merrimack

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valley, linking both to the hinterlands and coastal communities. Several initial settlers in the settlement received land grants around present-day West Street in the area known as Wood-End (Reading). Purchasing property from them, Henry Merrow erected between 1664 and 1667 the first house recorded to have been built in present-day Reading in the vicinity of today's Dragon Corner. A portion of his house is traditionally thought to have been moved and attached as an ell of present-day 232 West Street (no. C-138). Two integral lean-to houses built around 1700 survive, testimony to the dispersed nature of early agricultural settlement: the Carroll-Hartshorn House (no. A-1), located on a major road linking Reading and its parent town, Wakefield, and the Parker Tavern (no. C-117; NR1975) near Reading Center.

Reading's history during this period was fairly typical of the towns formed and settled by English colonists in New England, with politics linked closely to religion. The original grant remained one parish until 1713 when the Second Parish (North Reading) was formed. Similarly, expanding settlement in present-day Reading resulted in construction of a schoolhouse (1708) near present day Washington Street, establishment of a burial ground before 1737 at Reading Center (see no. B.C.D.) and laying out of the Common bounds there following a survey of public lands in 1737. Agitation for a separate church began in the 1760s; proof of need appeared in the form of a map drawn in 1765 by Col. Ebenezer Nichols (no. C-117) to demonstrate the distance of this scattered community from the First Parish meetinghouse.

While agriculture served as the basis of the community's economy a diversity of activities is evident from early on. Town records mention a tanner, a turner, a cooper, a tailor, wheelwright, a glazier, carpenters, blacksmiths, bricklayers, and weavers. The earliest "mill" was reputedly a sawpit, Lobs Pound, near Summer and Main Streets, beginning in the 1690s, followed by John Eaton's Slab City sawmill behind 100 Grove Street on a branch of the Aberjona. Joseph Bancroft initiated boot and shoe production at a greater than household manufacture scale in 1758; James Bancroft on West Street was engaged in commerce and in 1770 Ephraim Parker was licensed to dispense spirits (no. C-117; NR 1975).

1770-1844: Solidification of the Farming Village; Development of Industry (see map of 1795)

In the summer of 1769, the residents of Wood-End were authorized by the General Court to become a separate parish--the Third Parish. It is possible that they began to build their meetinghouse that fall, before the First Parish formally let them leave in February of 1770. The meetinghouse was located on the Common, across Salem Street from the present Old South United Methodist Church (no. D-199). Vernacular Georgian architecture of this period includes 51 Mill Street (no. D-208) and 273 Pearl Street (no. A-16)

Parish matters, however, had competition for the attention of the townpeople, in the form of acts by the British. The Stamp Act in 1765 had provoked the colonists' ire. By 1773, Reading residents were urging their representative to the General Court to work to repeal new taxes and other British regulations. When war finally broke out, Reading sent a contingent of militiamen to the battle of Lexington and Concord, led by Captain Thomas Eaton (co. C-113). Thereafter, the town contributed an average of 100 soldiers a year. The fighting never came close, but townspeople took in families fleeing from other areas

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that were involved, such as devastated Charlestown. Many also suffered from recurring smallpox epidemics.

One of Reading's most illustrious figures during the Revolutionary War era was Dr. John Brooks, a practicing physician who had begun training the local militia in the first parsonage (no. C-243) before the war broke out. He boarded at 32 John Street (no. B-247). After Lexington and Concord, he served in the Continental Army, winning a high commission. Brooks returned to his native Medford after the war, and went on to become a governor of the Commonwealth.

A census taken in 1776 showed that the three parishes of Reading had the second largest population in Middlesex County. However, in the years after the Revolutionary War, the inhabitants were not anxious for change. They expressed their wish to remain a quiet agricultural village by voting in 1803 to keep toll roads from being built through the town. The pressure for progress could not be resisted, however, and in 1806-07, the And-over and Boston turnpike was laid out through the heart of town, passing over the Common. This road linked Reading to the regional road system of the day; it is now Main Street; one stone mileage marker remains (no. 900-4).

The turnpike was expensive to build, and it never made money for its investors. Nevertheless, it served to shift the focus of commercial activity away from Ash Street to the east side of the Common. A general store had already been opened here in 1801, built by William Johnson near today's 28 Salem Street. This was soon joined by a hotel, built by Colonel Nathan Parker because his old tavern on Ash Street (no. B-80) was now off the main way. In 1810, Thomas Parker opened a store at the corner of the turnpike and today's Pleasant Street, which served the eastern area of town, followed by David Pratt's at the head of the Common in 1817 (no. B-242x); Sukey Parker's dry goods and millinery shop, and William Parker's grocery store in 1841. John Brookes Leathe shop at Dragon's Corner served one of the outlying areas of town from the 1820s to the 1860s (no. C-110).

Concurrently, the town's public services began to be established: A second school was added in 1781; a subscription library was started in 1791; and a postmaster was appointed in 1811.

In 1815, a terrific hurricane blew down many trees, and the congregation of the South Parish took advantage of the lumber windfall to build a new, monumental, high style, Federalist church at the head of the Common in 1817. But the hold of a single church was broken. New churches and societies were formed. The liberal Third Congregational Society built a church and academy in 1827; the first Baptist Church was grudgingly accepted in 1832. The first male auxiliary to the New England AntiSlavery Society was formed in Reading in 1833, according to William Lloyd Garrison, as well as the first Female Anti-Slavery Society in the country. Both were very active, helping the Abolition movement in a courageous and sustained way.

While blacksmiths, tinsmiths, masons, painters, and the like continued to practice their trades, and agriculture persisted throughout the period, the town's largest industry had actually begun in the second half of the 18th century, when some Reading residents started to make shoes in their own homes. Around the turn of the 19th century men such as



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Daniel Chute (no. C-180), Jonathan Temple, David Pratt (form no. C-113), and Ephraim Weston (no. C-137 and C-138) began producing shoes on a large-scale basis. Weston, for example, opened a store on West Street around 1807. He began a shoe business that was eventually making 500-700 pairs of shoes per month, and exporting them as far away as the West Indies.

In 1830 the town's annual footwear product was valued at \$122,000 and provided employment for 238 men and 150 women. The expansion of the shoemaking industry persisted until the close of the period. It remained, however, essentially a cottage industry based on domestic and small shop hand production.

Several new trades appeared as well; most prominent among them was chair and cabinet making led by Luther Elliot (no. B-66) Henry Kingman, Sylvester Harnden and others. Harnden's Shop and yard near Haven Street grew to employ as many as 80 persons. Other entrepreneurs followed this lead, and by 1845, Reading had 10 cabinetmaking shops employing 121 people. Also in the 1840s, a steam sawmill was opened on the south side of Salem Street, near the cabinetmaking shops. It later became a cabinetmaking shop itself, and then a planing mill, turning out much of the "fancy work" that ornamented houses in that part of town. It continued in operation until after 1894 under the ownership of S.H. Dinsmore (no. B-32). An offshoot of cabinetwork, clock production was begun by Daniel Pratt (no. C-133) and Jonathan Frost in 1832. They initially manufactured clock cases for purchased clocks, adding brass machinery production in 1846.

1845-1888: The Rail Age--Industrial Peak and Decline (see maps of 1854 and 1875)

In 1845, an event took place that would change Reading substantially. A committee of businessmen, whose money came from commercial transactions, rather than from the land, was successful in getting the Boston & Maine railroad to run through Reading. The depot was located west of the central nexus, a fact which was to have important implications for the future development of the downtown area. For example, the railroad was responsible, in part, for the development of town streets as they opened to facilitate communications with the depot.

The coming of the railroad put Reading in a new relationship with Boston. The city was now easily accessible as a market for commercial ventures. It was also a source of jobs for wage earners who could, because of the fast, relatively inexpensive transportation that the train provided, live in Reading and commute to the city. The new form of transportation thus stimulated two growing classes of settlers: businessmen who produced goods in Reading and sold them elsewhere, and commuters who earned their wages in Boston and used them to build homes in Reading. Increasing numbers of new comers were of Irish (1840s and 50s) and Canadian (1860s and 70s) origin.

The 1850s thus was a time of great growth and activity for Reading. The two primary trades prospered handsomely. By 1855 there were 13 cabinetmaking shops in town employing almost 160 workers. Men such as Alden Batchelder (no. A-29) and Charles Manning (no. B-49) produced traditional items like parlor desks and bookcases while other firms answered modern homeowners needs, such as Sylvester Harnden's, with a successful line of refrigerators. The boot and shoemaking trade engaged another 425 persons, more than 150

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of whom sewed shoes by hand in home shops called "10-footers" (no. A-227). Introduction of the MacKay Sewing Machine, first used in a home shop (C-124) in the 1850s, encouraged a transition to a factory mode of production, as it mechanically attached uppers and soles.

Reading's economy became notably diversified during this period as well. Samuel Pierce's organ-pipe factory of 1847 (no. B-38 and B-44) and Thomas Appleton's organ manufactory of 1857 (no. C-131) were two of a small number of firms producing this genre of musical instrument in the Boston area. Jacob Manning's nationally renowned nursery begun in 1854 (see no. C-195; see below) and Joseph Temple's necktie factory of 1866, Damon, Temple, and Company (see nos. B-31 & C-184) also reflect this trend.

The center of town began to be built up, not only with houses of railroad commuters, but also with new civic and commercial structures. The Lyceum building (now demolished) was built in 1854 to serve as a cultural as well as mercantile center; its construction indicated the availability of fluid capital. The same year, Reading's model and only surviving district school, The Walnut Street School, was built (no. C-94). A high school was begun in 1856, with classes being held in the first meetinghouse, which had been moved to Union Street. And, perhaps climaxing the town's rising economy, was the erection of the Bank Building at Main and Pleasant Streets in 1860. This building still stands, but it has been greatly remodeled.

Farther out of town, new real estate schemes opened fresh ground for housebuilding. Old land-owning families such as the Temples, Bancrofts, and Prescott sold off large parts of their farm holdings for residential development. The streets on either side of Salem Street were developed, by Eben Eaton and his son-in-law, Jacob Graves, and by Gardner French, a recent but forward-looking settler who believed in the growth of the village (see no. B-36). Prospect and Fremont Streets also were laid out in this period.

One interesting development of the 1850s was Amos Cummings' "Cummingsville," later called "Mudville" because of its poor drainage (see no. C-116). This was the area around Center Avenue and Minot Street, and it included Cottage Hall (now demolished), which was built by developer Cummings for meetings and dances. For a short time, high-school classes met here.

While much of new residential construction exhibited traditional and vernacular sensibilities, an unusual example of architecture reflecting a current national social reform movement was constructed on the Damon farmland subdivision. Built by Dr. Horace P. Wakefield in 1860, the Octagon House represents the influence of Orson S. Fowler's innovative ideas regarding healthful, affordable one-family houses for men of modest means.

This increasing development of the southern part of town (the South Parish) set it apart from the northern part of town (the North Parish), which had remained primarily agricultural. Therefore, in 1853, the original Second Parish, later the North Parish, was incorporated as the separate town of North Reading.

The advent of the Civil War dealt a damaging blow to Reading's booming economy, through the loss of the profitable Southern market for the town's two major employers, the

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cabinetmaking and shoe trades. (The Reading Agricultural and Mechanics Association, which had built the Bank Building in 1860, also closed, winding up its affairs 1866-67 without any loss to its depositors.) The cabinetmaking trade never recovered. It limped along through the 1870s and '80s, weakened further by a series of disastrous fires. The worst of these, in 1884, destroyed one of the few still-productive mill years - that formerly owned by Sylvester Harnden. This event opened up new land near the Common for real estate development, however, and Edward Manning, the landowner, promptly constructed modest housing including one unusual (for Reading) multi-family rowhouse (1886; no B-65). The shoemaking trade found new markets, but it declined around the turn of the century, too. This was apparently related to the increasing amounts of money needed to operate on a scale large enough to compete with other shoemaking towns such as Lynn. Fortunately, the last quarter of the 19th century saw a further diversification of industry in Reading. None of the businesses ever replaced the cabinet and shoe trades, being less well-established in the area-wide economic system, and less suited for Reading's entrenched craft industry tradition.

However, they did provide, for a time, a solid basis for town growth. Horton and Proctor's wire-brush factory near the depot, a second necktie factory off Salem Street, a small machine-making plant on Lincoln Street, and the appearance in 1870 of the Reading Chronicle are examples. The 1880s saw the addition of a poultry hatchery, a carriage-painting shop, a fireworks factory, tallow works, and a rubber-goods plant. The latter was especially important to Reading's economy after the collapse of the shoemaking and cabinet-making industries employing about 200 hands in the manufacture of rubberized auto top material and raincoat fabrics for a regional market.

In terms of residential development, the maps of 1854 and 1875 are instructive. A committee had been established in 1850 to name the town's roads. Until that time, a road might be known simply as "the road past Charles Parker's House" (now Charles Street). But with the arrival of the railroad and large numbers of new residents, greater clarity and objectivity were needed to handle the increasing complexity of town life. The map of 1854 shows the center of town being small, with few streets. By 1875, the center was larger and almost filled south of the Old South Church, and out along Salem Street. The area along Woburn Street, from Summer Avenue to West Street, and along Prescott Street, was a suburban neighborhood, and lots on these streets were larger than elsewhere in town. Speculative building became a common practice. However, the map of 1875 shows huge tracts of undeveloped land. In some cases, these were still owned, or at least controlled, by the old farming families. For example, the Bancroft family owned a large piece of land on either side of Lowell Street. The Prescotts still controlled land on either side of Summer Avenue and around Prescott Street. The Sweetsers owned property south of the railroad tracks, west of Ash Street. The Parker clan had long owned the land north of Salem Street. Additional property had been bought up by developers who were holding it for future settlement. Oscar Foote had purchased large pieces of land from the Temple Family. Another developer was Emily Ruggles, who ran a thriving dry-goods store and sold real estate as well. She owned a tract in the southeast part of town, the development of which proved considerably less lucrative than her dry-goods business (no.      ).

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The fact that the old families were slow to sell off their holdings, and that some developers chose to purchase land but not build immediately, explains the patchy nature of town settlement seen on the 1875 map, as well as the ability of the real-estate business to sustain itself over so many years.

1889-1924: Small Town to Suburb (see maps of 1889 and 1924)

The map of 1875 shows a goodly portion of the town laid out in house lots awaiting future development. By 1889, the land divided up in this manner exceeded the amount of land covered with buildings. Reading was moving closer to its primary 20th century role as "a nice place to live," even before the local industry that characterized 19th century town life began to wane. Part of this trend included a campaign for a dignified identity and up-to-date facilities. In 1884, an eclectic Town Hall had been built (form no. B-59), which also served as a firehouse and jail. Modern waterworks with a Chateau-esque Standpipe (no. D-206) were opened in 1891, with a model electric plant coming in 1895. A new brick business building, the Masonic Block (no. C-172), was built in 1894 on the prominent corner of Main and Haven Streets, giving the town square a solid, progressive appearance. That same year, electric trolley service to Wakefield arrived, and lines to Stoneham and Lowell were added a year later.

As Reading's population expanded, it also diversified during this period. Of the 17% foreign-born population in 1905, Nova Scotia, Ireland and English-speaking Canadians were the leading nationalities represented. By 1908 the Catholic population had achieved sufficient numbers to warrant erection a large masonry church, St. Agnes Church. Strains on the town's educational facilities also prompted construction of the Highlands School of 1896 (no. C-192) in a fashionable residential neighborhood and construction of a new high school in 1906, designed by Boston architects, Weddon and Parker, (no. C-186). Upgrading of the town's fire protection system resulted in construction of a Hose House in northern Reading in 1902 (no. A-22).

Willard P. Adden, a town resident (no. C-113) was also responsible for the Georgian Revival style Public Library and new Town Hall erected 1917-1918 on the Common in a wave of new municipal construction. Several years earlier the symbolic presence of the Old South Methodist Church, the meetinghouse (built 1817) had been preserved; following a devastating fire in 1911 it was rebuilt (1913) from measured drawings. Adden was chiefly responsible for Reading's interest in the more academically correct forms of the Colonial Revival style. He and architect Horace G. Wadlin (form no. C-132) played important roles in shaping the direction of Reading's public and residential architecture at the turn of the 20th century.

A Reading resident of note who was active throughout the second half of the 19th century but who made particularly important contributions to the fields horticulture and landscape architecture during this period was Jacob Manning (see no. C-195), a nationally known nurseryman. Manning specialized in propagating evergreens, introduced a new strawberry, and was the first person in the country to plant from the original stock of the Concord grape. He and his sons landscaped the Massachusetts building at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, thereby helping to build interest in landscape gardening. By 1894, his nursery between High Street and the railroad tracks covered 20 acres and employed 30 men;

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it boasted "the largest and most comprehensive variety of hardy perennials in the United States." Some of his plantings still survive, as does his home, which was featured on his advertising card to help orient potential customers who alighted at the Highlands railroad station.

Throughout this period, Reading continued to be home to a number of men and women active in social-reform movements. Among the most active supporters of the temperance movement was John B. Lewis, Jr. (no. C-237), who was devoted to home missionary work and who founded the Reading Temperance Brigade for Children. Working in another sphere of reform was the noted Reading suffragette Mary Daniel (no. B-230x) wife of tailor McPherson Daniel and a local pioneer voice for women's voting rights.

Reading attracted a few small manufacturing plants in the years after World War I, such as the Ace Art Manufacturing Company (no. C-170). Some traditional industries showed remarkable tenacity, too - Samuel Pierce's organpipe factory is still in business, although under a different name. By 1924, Reading had 15 manufacturing establishments in which 546 hands were employed. Nonetheless, the town increasingly became a residential community. The mass production of automobiles and the improvement of roads made Reading even more accessible than in the early days of the railroad. Growth has been continuous, if sporadic, especially since 1950: between that year and the present, the population of the town has doubled. A plethora of service-oriented businesses has sprung up to serve this population, and this demand for modern commercial facilities has contributed to the loss of nearly all pre-20th century buildings in the central business district, as commercial blocks, replaced houses and small stores. Several apartment buildings have been built, as well. In the main, however, the older residential neighborhoods of Reading retain their spectrum of historical styles and building patterns.

Preservation Activities

The preservation of the town's oldest structures, most of which are houses, is due in part to the fact that Reading is largely a residential community. These buildings continued to serve the town's needs, while contributing to its attractiveness. At the same time, ample vacant land made it unnecessary to replace them with denser housing.

The oldest organization actively generating appreciation of the town's historical resources is the Reading Antiquarian Society, a private, educational organization founded in 1916. The society maintains the Parker Tavern (form no. C-117) as a historic house museum; in 1975, it succeeded in having this building placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and filed an inventory of the town's surviving 17th and 18th century buildings with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Other of the society's activities have included projects for the Bicentennial of 1976, and a continuing series of articles in the Reading Chronicle about Reading's history and architecture. The society's actions have enriched and strengthened the town's sense of its past, and have generated interest and pride in its earliest structures.

This is largely due to the efforts of three of its most active members, Mrs. Robert Barclay, Mrs. C. Nelson Bishop, and the late Mr. Bishop. Mrs. Barclay has worked with schoolchildren

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for many years and the Bishops authored the book Reading's Colonial Rooftrees. They continued the research begun by the late Clinton L. Bancroft, Antiquarian Society president and historian in the 1930s.

The official public advocate for historic preservation is the Reading Historical Commission which was formed in 1977. The commission's first activity was to conduct a survey of the town's buildings for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Historical and Architectural Inventory of Reading, Massachusetts, was prepared by the firm of Architectural Preservation Associates, Cambridge, Massachusetts with review by members of the Reading Historical Commission. The inventory was filed in January, 1981. Architectural Preservation Associates then prepared for the Reading Historical Commission a Guide to Preservation Planning in Reading, identifying the commission's immediate and long-range interests, and setting up goals and strategies to help further these concerns. The commission members have reviewed the plan, and are beginning to implement a number of its suggestions. They also have participated in the preparation and review of this multiple resource nomination.

Like many New England town, Reading has a long history of reusing its buildings for practical reasons. The first meetinghouse was moved off the Common and reused as an assembly hall and school, and was moved again and used commercially. Early schoolhouses were shifted around with regularity and refit for another population of students or recycled as houses. The Prospect Street School began as a one-story school; was given a second story to expand its capacity; later used as a parochial school; and converted to government offices before being demolished. Other buildings have been consciously preserved and reused for their architectural value to the town. These include the Boston and Maine Railroad Depot (no. C-168), which became a museum for awhile; the former high school (no. C-186) which was converted into a community center; the Old Hose House, which was turned into headquarters for two local groups; and the Chestnut Hill School, which became a theater.

The most important reconstruction project in town took place in 1913; when the Old South Church was rebuilt after it had burned. Measured drawings made of the church enabled the exterior to be replicated almost exactly (no. D-199).

Recently, private interest in rehabilitation and renovation has outstripped public investment. Houses at 86 West Street (no. C-102), 57 Woburn Street (no. C-177), 37 Lowell Street (no. D-200), and 97 Pleasant Street (no. B-61) have either undergone, or are undergoing generally appropriate refurbishing. A significant number of homeowners have attempted to preserve their houses by using aluminum or vinyl siding. This well-meaning but destructive action, together with the town government's reluctance to make short-term investments in property for long-term benefits, are the Reading Historical Commission's most pressing challenges.

The Reading Historical Commission is presently trying to establish a procedure whereby its inventory would be consulted by departments of the town government when their activities would impinge upon listed properties.

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The information collected and evaluated by the Reading Historical Commission and Architectural Preservation Associates has been reviewed and integrated into the Massachusetts Historical Commission's preservation program through the work of the in-house Statewide Reconnaissance Survey team and the nomination process. An examination of Reading's role in the historical development of the Boston area appears in the Historic and Archaeological Resources of the Boston Area (1982; MHC).



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see individual forms

Quadrangle name Reading, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References Wilmington, MA  
(see individual forms)

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The MRA boundary is defined as the political/geographical bounds of the Town of Reading which reflect its historical development. Unless otherwise indicated, boundaries for individual properties conform to current lot lines.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission with Reading Historical Commission and Architectural Preservation Associates (consultants)

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date January, 1984

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 617- 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Patricia L. Westowski*

title State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 5/14/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*See Continuation sheet for listing* date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Ace Art Company

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

2. Common Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

3. Harnden-Browne House

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

4. Haverhill Street Milestone

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

5. Kemp Place

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper  
Attest

7/19/84

6. Kemp Barn

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper  
Attest

7/19/84

7. Nichols, Jerry, Tavern

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper  
Attest

7/19/84

8. Reading Standpipe

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

9. Smith Shoe Shop

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

10. Woburn Street Historic  
District

Substantive Review

for Keeper  
Attest

2/1/85

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

*Resub*

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

Keeper

Attest

*Wm W. B. B. 2/7/85*

12. Bancroft, Joseph, House

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

13. Bancroft, Samuel, House

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

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

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

15. Bassett, Edwin, House

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

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

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

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

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

18. Batchelder House  
Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

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

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

20. Battell House  
Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

*Delores Byers 7-19-84*

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Beard, Benjamin, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

22. Boston and Maine Railroad Depot  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

23. Bowser Gazebo  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

24. Brackett House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

25. Brande House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

26. Brooks, Francis, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

27. Carroll-Hartshorn House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

28. Carter Mansion  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

29. Coggin, Gilman, House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

30. Cook, Asa M., House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 7/19/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

6/8/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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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

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

32. Damon, Washington, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

33. Dewey Place

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

34. Durgin House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

35. Eaton-Prescott House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

36. Elliott, Luther, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

37. Hall, Stephen, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

39. Hartwell House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest

40. Highland School

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

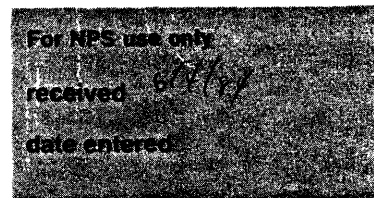
Shelous Byers 7/19/84

Attest



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. House at 11 Beech Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

42. House at 16 Mineral Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

43. House at 26 Center Avenue

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

44. House at 42 Salem Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

45. House at 44 Temple Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

46. House at 57 Woburn Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

47. House at 77 Howard Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

48. House at 79-81 Salem Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

49. House at 129 High Street

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

50. House at 199 Summer Avenue

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Shelene Byers 7/19/84

Attest

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. House at 206 West Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

52. House at 242 Summer Avenue Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

53. House at 322 Haven Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

54. House at 483 Summer Avenue Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

55. House at 1177 Main Street Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

56. Lewis House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

57. Manning, Charles, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

58. Manning, Jacob, House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

59. Masonic Block Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

60. Nichols, Daniel, Homestead

for Keeper Delores Byers 7-19-84

Attest

Entered in the  
National Register

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |                                     |            |                              |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 61. Nichols, James, House                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 62. Nichols, Richard, House               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 63. Octagon House                         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 64. Old Hose House                        | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 65. Parker, Capt. Nathaniel,<br>Red House | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 66. Parker House<br>(52 Salem St.)        | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 67. Parker, Joseph, House                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 68. Parker, Samuel, House                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 69. Parker, Stillman, House               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |
| 70. Parker House<br>(316 Haven St.)       | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
|   |                                     | Attest     |                              |

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
71. Parker, Joseph, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
72. Parker, William, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
73. Pierce House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
75. Pratt House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
76. Pratt, Stillman, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
77. Reading Municipal Building	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
78. Reading Municipal Light and Power Station	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
79. Roberts House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	
80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	<u>Melvin Byers 7-19-84</u>
		Attest	

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

81. Sanborn, Rev. Peter, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

82. Symonds, Thomas, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

83. Temple, Joseph, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

84. Temple, Mark, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

85. Walnut Street School

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

86. Wells, Charles, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

87. Weston, Ephrain, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

88. Weston, Jabez, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

89. Wisteria Lodge

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melvin Byers 7-19-84

Keeper

Attest