

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

204 Washington Street Boston MA 02108

XII-15

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Lowell

Address 578 Andover Street

Historic Name Elijah M. Read House

Original Residential

Present Residential

Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Elijah M. Read

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

1
2

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1850

Source stylistic analysis; 1852 map

Style Italianate

Architect

Exterior wall fabric flush board/clapboard

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) rear east

porch partially filled in

Moved Date

Approx. acreage less than one

Setting Residential, stone retaining wall extends on either side

Recorded by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen

Organization DPD Architectural Survey

Date 1/81

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This is the finest and best preserved Italianate house on Andover Street and one of the few in the city that has retained portions of its original setting. It is cruciform in plan with an octagonal cupola at the roof intersection. The architectural details, though typical of the period, are well executed and include flush board siding, quoins, ornamented brackets, a sawtooth frieze and ornamented brackets above each window. The house was considered elegant enough to feature it on the perimeter of an 1852 Walling map of Tewksbury.

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

In 1906, the property included 8 & 3/4 acres extending north to E. Merrimack and west to Daniels.
Elijah M. Read probably erected this house ca. 1850. Read was a mason in partnership with Peter Powers; together they erected several buildings in downtown Lowell during the mid-19th century.

Following Read's death, the house was owned by one of his heirs, John Davis, who had been living here for over 21 years. Davis practiced law in Lowell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lowell Historical Society files (L.53.L9 1893-1907, p. 163)
Atlas: 1875, 1906
Maps: 1852 (Tewksbury), 1856 (county)
Northern Middlesex Registry: building contract