

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. A	Form no. 42
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1. Town North Reading

Address 128 Park Street

Name Ebenezer Abbott Homestead

Present use Residence

Present owner Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. McInerney

3. Description:

Date 1819

Source Reading Assessor's Record

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) barn

Other features long westerly ell

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 5.9 acres

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 136'

Approximate distance of building from street
50'

6. Recorded by Barbara O'Brien

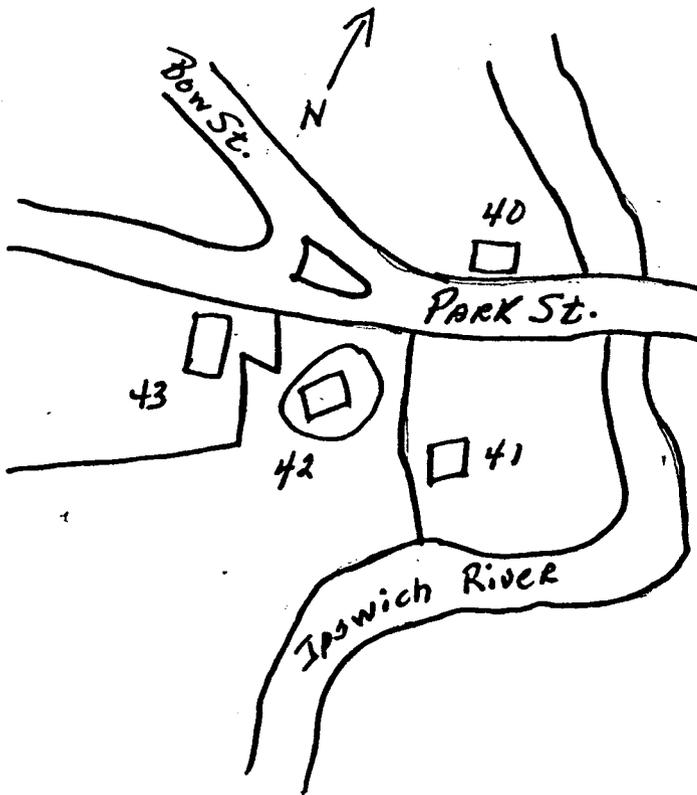
Organization Historical Commission

Date October, 1978

2.



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Capt. Ebenezer Abbott (III)

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>X</u>
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>X</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	<u>X</u>	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	<u>X</u>		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Capt. Ebenezer Abbott, son of Ebenezer and Sarah (Graves) Abbott, was a cordwainer and sometimes "mechanic," and served in the War of 1812. He was one of the first to whom the Parish sold Common land in the early 1800's. Three of the ten children of Ebenezer and Betsy (Swain) Abbott were born in this home, seven of the surviving sons were shoe makers or manufacturers, and all of the children of this close family settled after marriage in the immediate vicinity of the family homestead. Sumner Swain Abbott continued to share the home and large shoe shop to the rear with his parents after his marriage to Elvina Symonds in 1835.

With the exception of Ebenezer's eldest son, Ebenezer Tilden Abbott, who became a prominent Baptist after his marriage to Ruthe Tapley Hewes, the Abbotts continued to be strong, faithful

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Middlesex s. s. Registry of Deeds and Probate
- Reading Assessor's Records
- Early Maps thru 1910
- Genealogy of the Abbott Family of North Reading, O'Brien, incomplete
- Parish Records 1713 - 1931

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Reading	Form No: A-42
Property Name: Ebenezer Abbott Homestead	

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

9. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

supporters of Universalism and officers of the North Parish Society long after the bitter controversial split. A grandson, Herbert Leon Abbott, had been clerk of the Society for over 32 years when the Society dissolved in 1931.

Ebenezer Abbott, born in 1784, was 69 years old when North Reading incorporated in 1853. His sons, who had remained loyal to the old Parish Society, became leaders in town affairs holding many offices. Frederick Abbott, who was born in the homestead, went on to be elected to the office of State Representative in 1859 and 1860.

The Abbott Shoe Factory was founded by Ebenezer's sons and was operating well into the mid-20th century. The factory was located diagonally across the street from the homestead on the site of the steam box mill and saw mill east of the river.

At his death in 1867, Ebenezer left all his real estate, including the homestead, to his second oldest son, Sumner, with whom he had lived. The home remained in the family until 1946. Sumner S. Abbott served the Town as Selectman, Treasurer and Tax Collector and various offices in the Parish Society.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom