

FORM B -BUILDING

Assessor' number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map:54 Parcel:101

Reading

121

oston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village)

N/A

Address 98 Park Street

Historic Name Mason-Abbott House

Use: Present Private residence

Original Private residence

Date of Construction c. 1858-1869

Source 1857 Walling Map and 1870 Valuation

Style/Form Greek Revival/Italianate; S-shaped

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Granite block

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) C. mid 20th c. north ell

Condition Good

Moved  yes  no

Acreage 0.78 acres

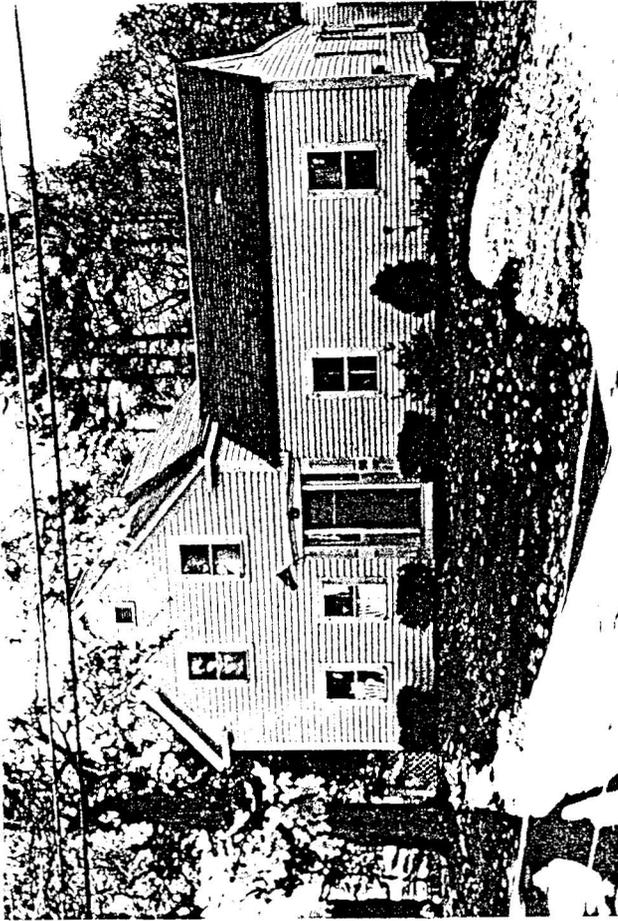
Setting Key component in node of mid-nineteenth century

residences bordering eastern Park Street between Washington  
and Mt. Vernon Streets. Set back from the street facing a  
of low rise.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

North Reading Historical Commission  
rganization

Date(month/day/year) 17/10/2001



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community: North Reading, MA

Form No: \_\_\_\_\_

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

98 Park Street is a clapboard-clad Greek Revival/Italianate residence which is a good example of the mid-Victorian connected house. One of the more interesting aspects of this house is its roughly S-shaped form which evidently evolved over the course of a century. The house is composed of four segments, including: a one-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-two-bay gable-roofed main block, an integral, one-story, two-bay-by-one-bay gable-roofed side ell, a one-bay-by-one-bay shed-roofed ell of a single story, as well as a modern north ell addition which rises a single story to a gable roof. The main block stands with end gable facing the street. Its gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The main block, together with its side ell constitutes a five-bay main facade. At the center of this elevation is a front door flanked by narrow three-pane side lights with solid lower panels. The front door is surmounted by a pedimented lintel with shallow raised moldings. In general, windows are fully and simply enframed and contain 2/2 wood sash.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

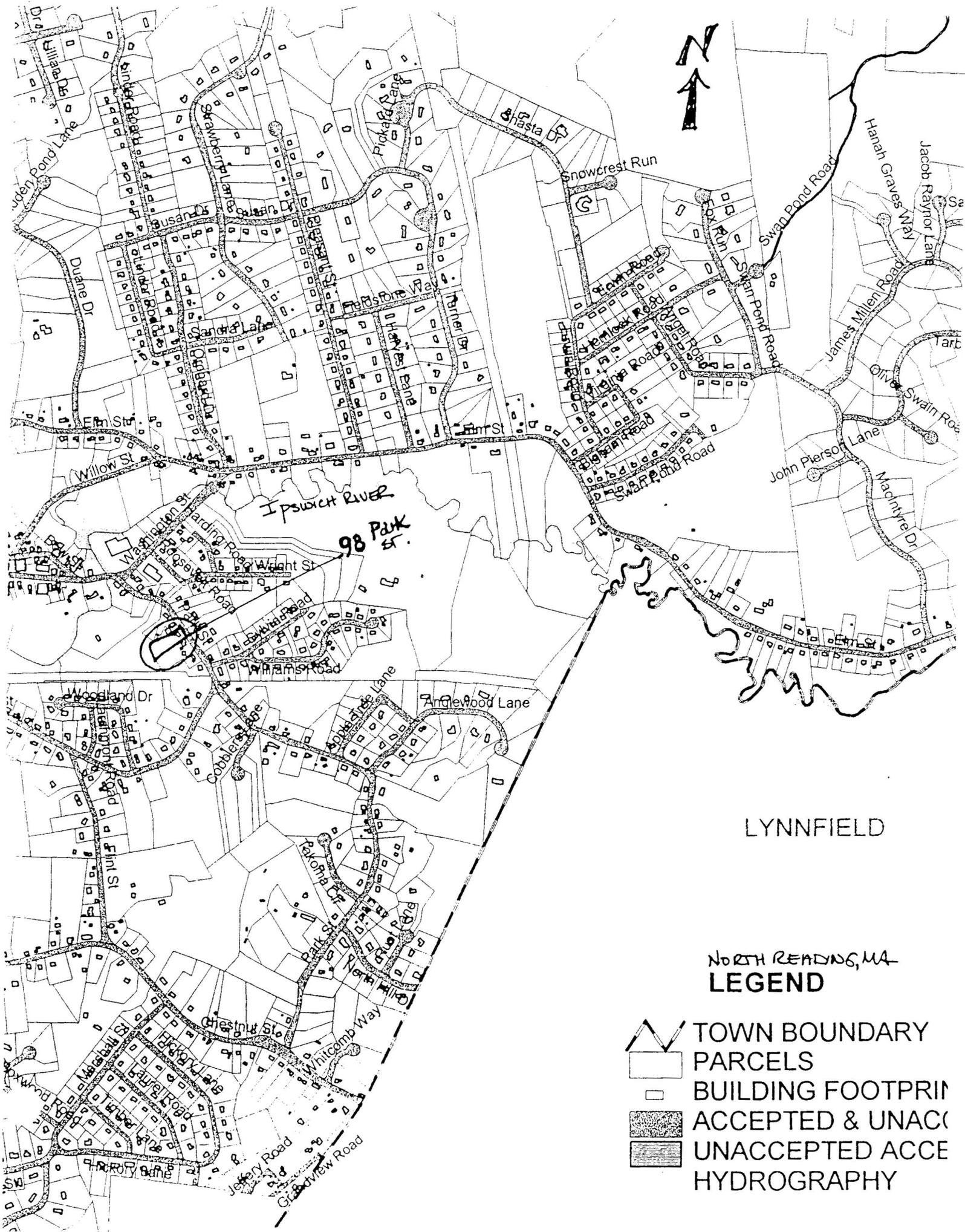
Built c. 1858-1869, 98 Park Street is a relatively early example of North Reading housing that was not built as a farmstead but rather as a house associated with shoemaking. 85 Park Street is not indicated on the 1857 Walling Map of Middlesex County but is shown on the 1875 Middlesex County Atlas. The house's original owner, Ozro Mason, is listed in North Reading's 1870 Valuation. 85 Park Street provides a physical link with North Reading's early industrial period (1830-1875). This period witnessed the introduction of the Salem Railroad along the Ipswich River (1850), the rise and decline of shoemaking as an important facet of the local economy, as well as the continuing, overriding significance of agriculture to the town's prosperity. In 1865 there were eighty-eight farms in the town. This period was also characterized by slow and gradual population growth rising from around 800 in 1830 to 1,203 by 1860--a figure that was not reached again until 1915.

In 1870, Ozro Mason's Park Street property consisted of a half-acre lot valued at \$410, a house valued at \$300, and a shop worth an estimated \$35. The shoe shop was located on the south side of the property. That Mason's land had a relatively high value had to do with its proximity to the Salem Railroad (1850) and a commercial/industrial node of buildings at the intersection of Park/Washington Streets and the Ipswich River. By 1875, this intersection was

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

North Reading Maps/Atlases: 1795,1831,1857,1875,1889,1906; Town of North Reading Street List, 1966  
North Reading Directories (Wakefield): 1896-97;1905;1907;1911-12; 1919-20;1931-1932;1941  
Valuation of Real and Personal Estates, Town of North Reading; 1870;1890;1910;1920;1930  
Massachusetts Historical Commission North Reading Reconnaissance Survey, c. 1980.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



LYNNFIELD

NORTH READING, MA  
**LEGEND**

-  TOWN BOUNDARY
-  PARCELS
-  BUILDING FOOTPRINT
-  ACCEPTED & UNACC
-  UNACCEPTED ACCE
-  HYDROGRAPHY