

FORM B -BUILDING

Assessor' number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map:54 Parcel: 86

Reading

133

oston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village)

Wilson's Corner/

Town Center East

Address 7 Washington Street

Historic Name Upton-Turner House

Use: Present Private residence

Original Private residence

Date of Construction c. 1855

Source 1857 Walling Map of Middlesex County

Style/Form Greek Revival/ L-shaped

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Brick basement

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Shed

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition Good

Moved  yes  no

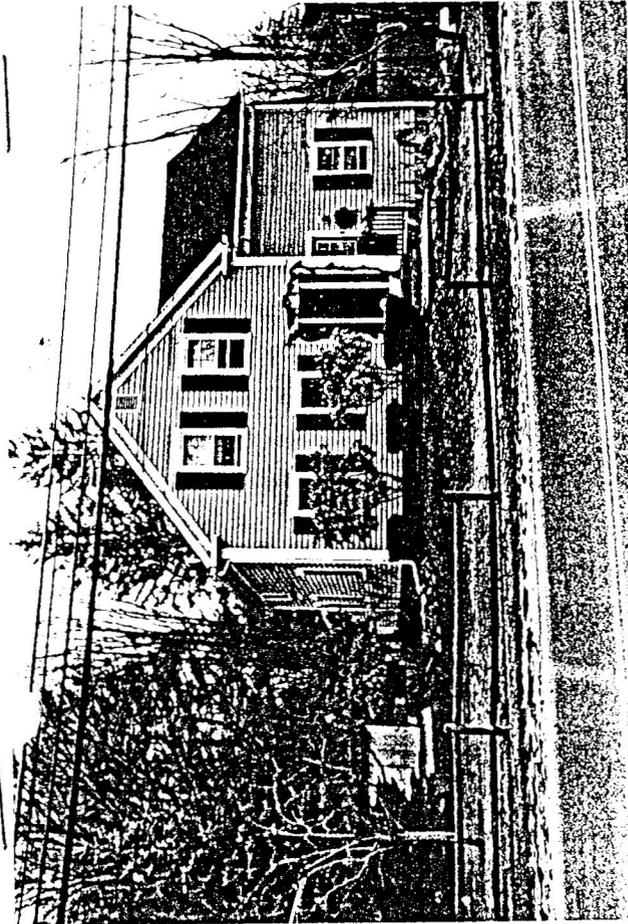
Acreage .25 acres

Setting Key component in linear concentration of mid

nineteenth century houses between the node of commercial concerns  
at Park and Washington Streets and the Ipswich River.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon  
North Reading Historical Commission  
ganization

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



## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

Situated on a low rise, 7 Washington Street is a modest, clapboard-clad Greek Revival dwelling. Rising a single story from a low brick basement to an intersecting asphalt shingle-sheathed gable roof, the main block measures three-bays-by-three-bays. Projecting from the main block's west wall is a one-and-one-half story ell. The edges of the main block exhibit narrow corner boards while the gables display return eaves. Particularly noteworthy is the main block's entrance surrounds. Accessed by two wooden steps, the multi-panel front door is flanked by multi-pane side lights and is surmounted by a pedimented lintel with a raised, cornice-headed molding. A secondary entrance is in evidence at the Washington Street elevation of the west ell. In general, windows are fully enframed and contain 6/6 wood sash.

In terms of scale, form and elements, 7 Washington Street is akin to several mid-nineteenth century cottage-scale houses in the Mt. Vernon / Haverhill Streets area.

### 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.*

Set out in 1854 at a cost of \$860, Washington Street's creation represents the eastward expansion of North Reading's town center. The town center had been more or less confined to the vicinity of the Town Common at Park and Haverhill Streets for over one hundred and fifty years. In 1850, the Salem and Lowell Railroad was introduced through the town, following the course of the Ipswich River. This transportation revolution explains in part the town center's southward expansion along Haverhill and western Mt. Vernon Streets.

Indeed, 7 Washington Street provides a physical link with North Reading's Early Industrial Period (1830-1875). During this period, the town's population growth was slow and gradual, rising from around 800 people in 1830 to 1,203 in 1860--a figure that was not reached again until 1915. During this period, the town achieved independence from Reading in 1853. Shoemaking was largely responsible for the growth of North Reading during this period. By the mid-1840s, five stores, two wheelwrights, one blacksmith and several mills as well as numerous shoe making shops figured importantly in the local economy. Agricultural pursuits, however, remained the principal way North Reading's citizens supported themselves. By 1865, the town encompassed 88 farms.

### 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  
Leary, Edward J., North Reading Excerpts at Random, 1969  
Massachusetts Historical Commission North Reading Reconnaissance Survey, c. 1980  
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Book 667, page 200

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

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

<b>Community:</b> North Reading, MA	<b>Form No:</b>
<b>Property Name:</b> 7 Washington Street	

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

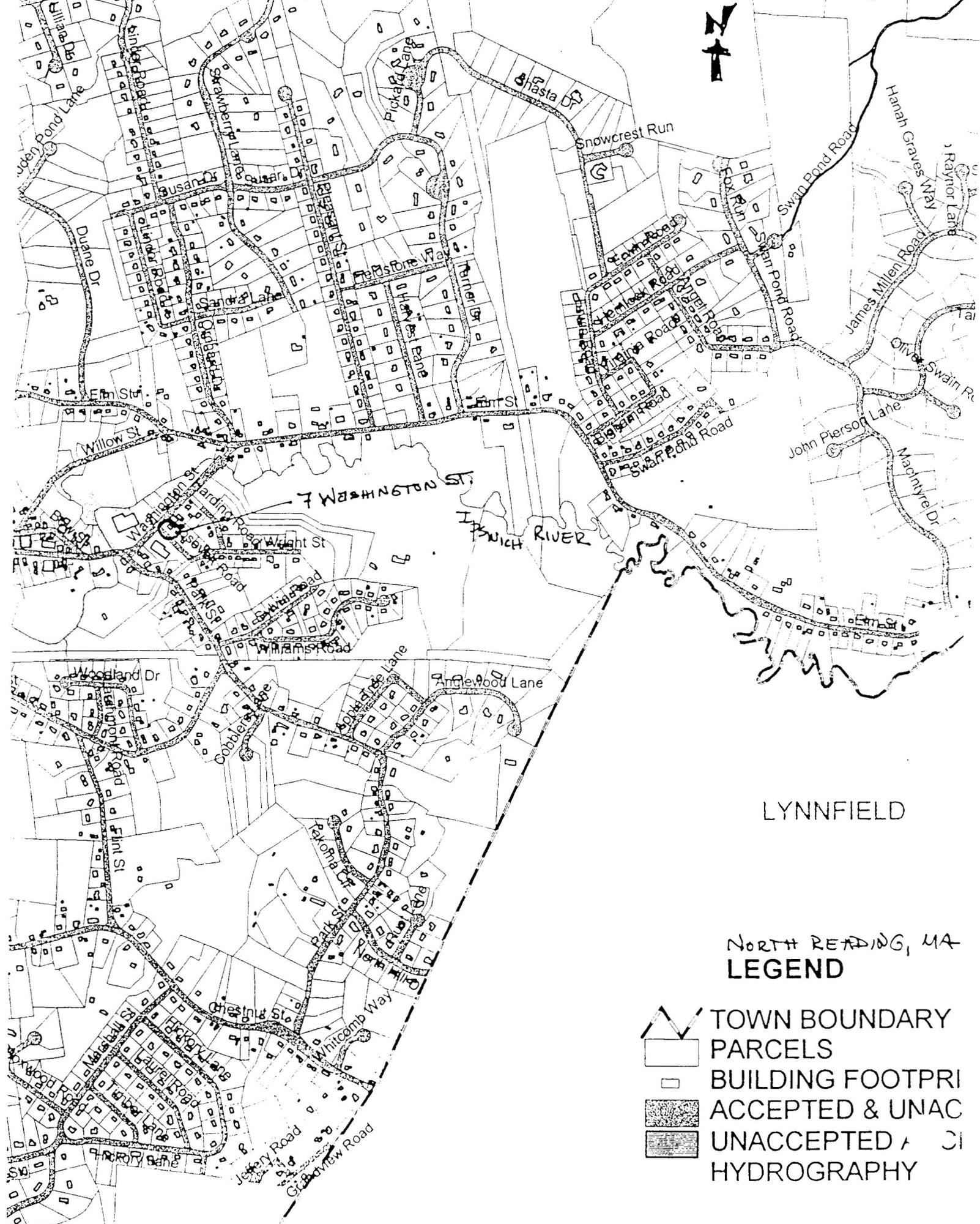
**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE continued**

Judging by Middlesex County deeds for other Washington Street properties Washington Street was set out by 1853. Called "the new town road leading from Park Street to Elm Street," Washington Street provided a more direct route linking the commercial concerns and churches of the town center with farms bordering Elm Street to the east.

7 Washington Street 's original owner has not been identified. Between 1870 and 1875, it was purchased by Alanson Augustine Upton as an income-producing property. A. A. Upton was one of the largest property owners in North Reading during the second half of the nineteenth century. Born December 11, 1823, he was the son of Amos and Hannah (Flint) Upton. He "was engaged in the pursuits of agriculture and general business in North Reading where he was a lifelong resident." Upton's main house was a large late Georgian residence which stood at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Haverhill Streets, now the site of the Craftsman-style house numbered 105 Chestnut Street.

The possibility remains that Upton's renter (s) at 7 Washington Street could have been involved in any one of numerous businesses in the town, built as it was at the height of the newly-independent North Reading's pre-Civil War prosperity. The possibility remains that this renter might have been a shoe worker, farm hand, mill worker, shop clerk, etc.

By 1890, Upton's real estate empire encompassed 330 acres and was valued at over \$20,000. One of six houses in the town owned by Upton, 7 Washington Street was valued at \$550 while its barn was worth \$225. From the early 1900s until at least the early 1930s, the house was owned by T. Alfred Turner and his heirs. By 1910, Alfred's widow Mary owned this house. By the mid-1960s, the house was owned by Frederick K. English, automobile mechanic, and assembler Marion Denning.



LYNNFIELD

NORTH READING, MA  
LEGEND

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