

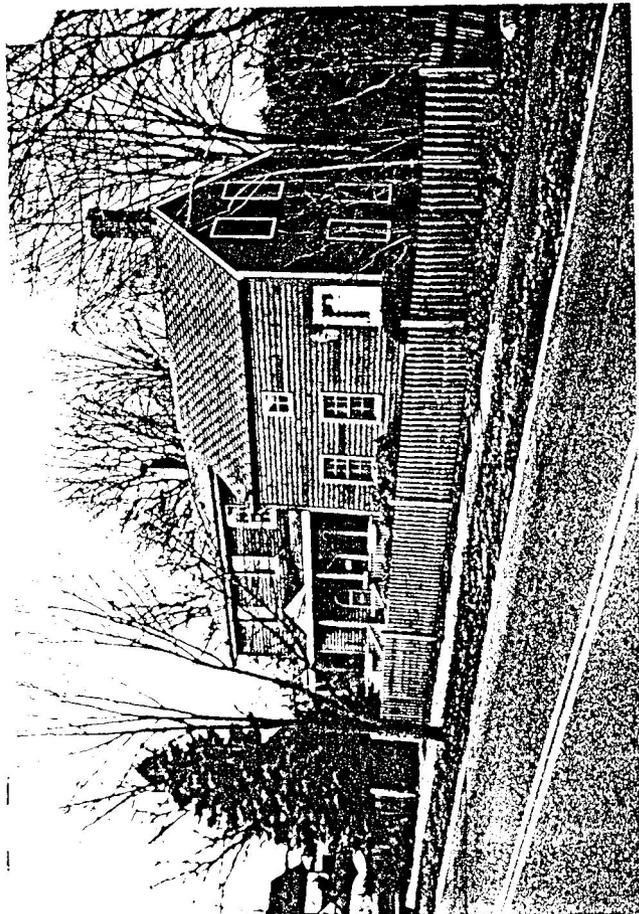
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map: 54 Parcel: 79

Reading

134

Town: North Reading, MA



Place (neighborhood or village) Wilson's Corner/

Town Center East

Address 10 Washington Street

Historic Name John H. Dixon House and (Carpenter's? Shoe?) Shop

Use: Present Private residence

Original Private residence

Date of Construction c. early 1850s

Source Suffolk County deeds, Volume 667; page 200

Style/Form Mid nineteenth century frame vernacular

Architect/Builder John H. Dixon, carpenter-attributed

Exterior Material

Foundation Stone

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

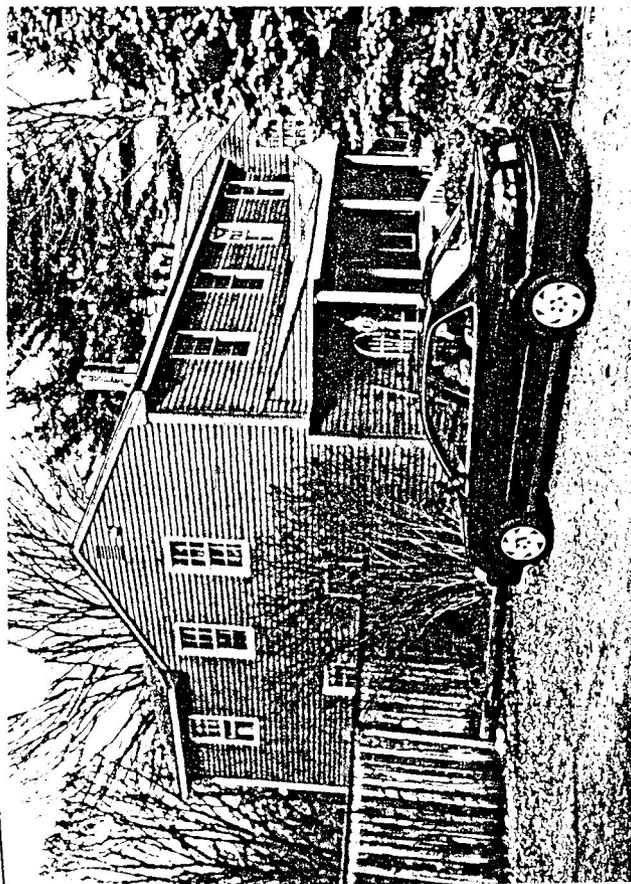
Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition Good

Moved  yes  no

Acreage .52 acres

Setting Key component in linear development of mid nineteenth century dwellings bordering Washington Street between the node of commercial concerns at Park and Washington streets and the Ipswich River at Dutton's Corner/Elm Street. The rear wall of this house overlooks the Ipswich River.



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

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.*

10 Washington Street's interest lies in its distinctive form. Encompassing three components, the two-story ell may represent part or all of the old shoemaking shop that once stood at the rear of the property. At first glance the house's two principal components appear to be separate houses but are joined at their southeast and northwest corners. All three components possess stone foundations, narrow corner boards, clapboards and asphalt shingle-sheathed gable roofs. In general, windows are fully enframed and contain 6/6 wood sash. Narrow brick chimneys rise from the center and eastern ends of the roof ridges of the western and eastern components, respectively.

Measuring four-bays-by-three-bays, the two-and-one-half story western component's main entrance is located at the center of the street elevation. Enframed by fluted pilasters that rise to corner blocks, the front door is surmounted by a cornice-headed lintel. The front door opens onto an open, full-length front porch with replacement posts and slat-work railings. The porch terminates at the west wall of the house's eastern component. Marking the porch's entrance is a low-pitched gable containing a Queen Anne sunburst in high relief.

The eastern component measures three-bays-by-two-bays. Rising one-and-one-half stories to a steeply pitched gable roof, an entrance is located at the eastern end of the street elevation. A small square window appears at the center of the main facade above the first story windows.

### 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.*

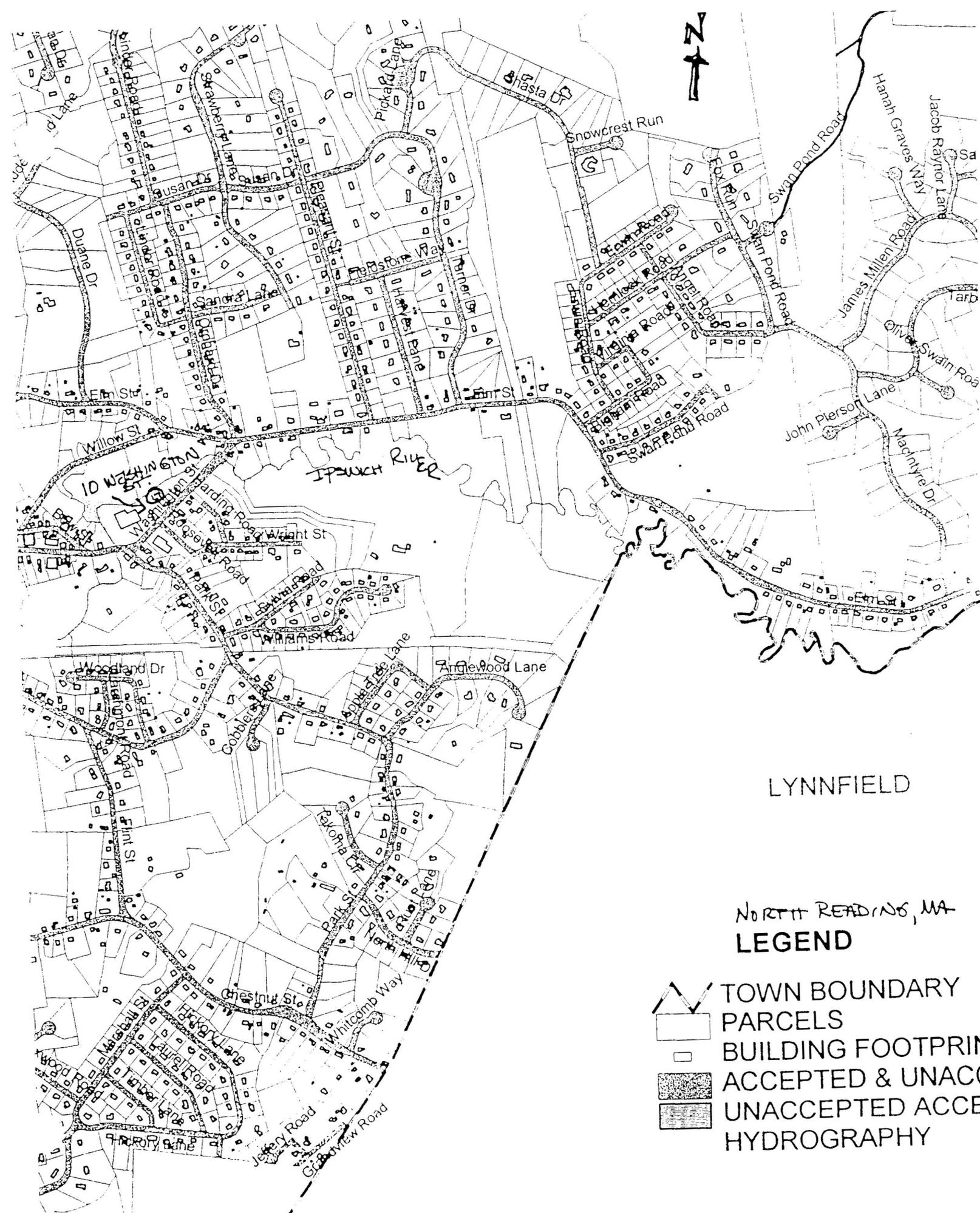
10 Washington Street was built during the early 1850s for and probably by carpenter John H. Dixon. This property has important historical associations with North Reading's shoemaking industry which flourished during the mid- to late nineteenth century. The Dixon house is part of a linear development of modest mid-nineteenth century vernacular homes bordering Washington Street between Park Street and the Ipswich River. Linking the town center with Elm Street farms to the east, Washington Street was set out around 1850. Originally numbering nine houses, three houses to the west of Roosevelt Road were torn down to accommodate mid twentieth century commercial concerns.

In 1853, North Reading blacksmiths George W. and Warren Eaton sold "a certain lot with all the buildings" to local carpenter John H. Dixon for fifty dollars. Shown with its present distinctive form on the 1875 Middlesex County Atlas, Dixon may have been responsible for its construction. Between 1875 and the late 1880s he built a rectangular shoe shop behind his house. In 1870, Dixon's house was valued at \$225 while his half-acre lot was worth an estimated \$80. By 1890, the value of his house had risen to \$605 while its lot was still valued at \$80. At that time, the shoe shop on the premises was reportedly worth \$150.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

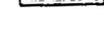
North Reading Maps/Atlases: 1795,1831,1857,1875,1889,1906; Town of North Reading Street List, 1966  
North Reading Directories (Wakefield): 1896-97;1905;1907;1911-12; 1919-20;1931-1932;1941  
Valuation of Real and Personal Estates, Town of North Reading: 1870;1890;1910;1920;1930  
Eaton, Chester W., & Warren Eaton, eds. Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of N.R.  
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.*



LYNNFIELD

NORTH READING, MA  
**LEGEND**

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