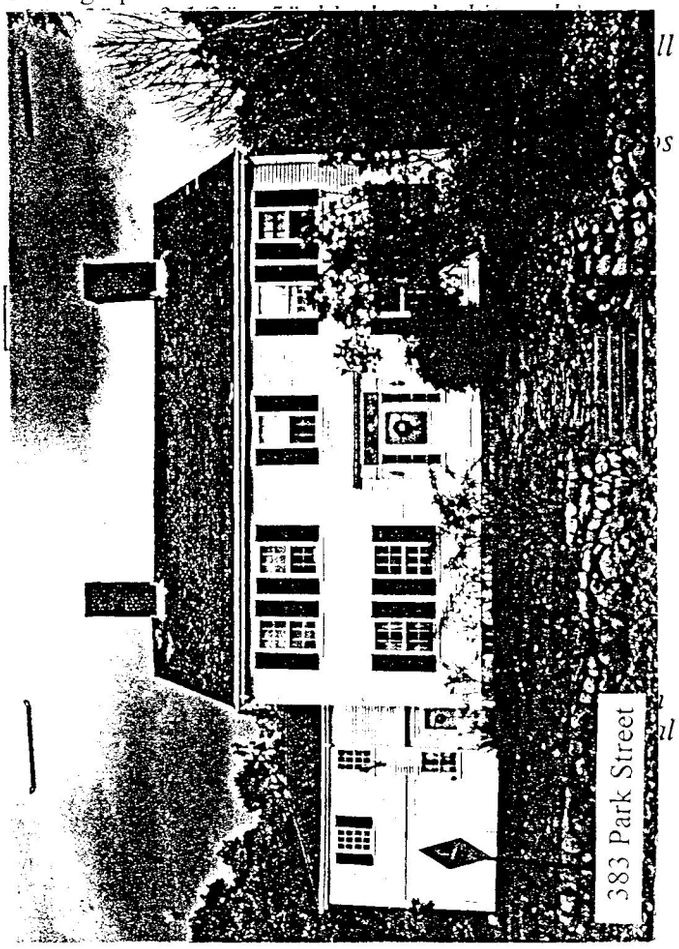
FORM A- AREA

Assessor's Sheets	USGS Quad	Area Letter	Form Numbers in Area
Maps: 18, 22	Reading	K	193 - 200

Massachusetts Historical Commission
) Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Photograph



Town North Reading, MA

Place(neighborhood or village) West Village

Name of Area West Village /Pudding Point

Present Use Residential

Construction Dates or Period c. 1710's to 1860

Overall Condition Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations Very intact

Acreage Approximately 20 acres

Recorded By Edward W. Gordon

Organization North Reading Historical Comm.

Date (month/year) 10/22/2001

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commissions Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

AREA FORM ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X]

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Roughly T-shaped in form, the West Village/Pudding Point area is located west of Main Street (Route 28) and just to the north of the Ipswich River. Unlike the segment of the Ipswich River east of Main Street which is characterized by meadow lands and level plains, the houses of the West Village area are situated on elevated, wooded terrain. The area includes residences bordering the north and south sides of Park Street between numbers 369 and 383. The Mill Street leg of the area includes historic properties at 18 and 25 Mill Street. At the center of the area, at the Park and Mill streets crossroads is a small, grass and plant-covered triangular traffic island/ornamental plot.

The northern boundary of this area begins at the northeast corner of 369 Park Street's lot and extends westward along the back lot lines of 369 and 373 Park Street, crossing Nutter Road and continuing along the back lot lines of 379 and 383 Park Street. At the northwest corner of 383 Park street the boundary jogs south, cross Park Street and continuing along the western edge of 382 Park Street 's lot. At the southwestern corner of 382 Park Street the boundary turns east, extending along the back lot lines of 382 and 376 Park Street. At the southeast corner of 376 Park Street the West Village/Pudding Point area's boundary turns south, running along the west side of Mill Street until it reaches 18 Mill Street. The area jogs around 18 Mill Street's lot, crosses Mill Street and follows this thoroughfare northward until it reaches the southwest corner of 25 Mill Street's lot. Here it jogs eastward

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [X] *see continuation sheet*

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this are relates to the historical development of the community.

Along with the Town Center and Chestnut Street Village areas, West Village/Pudding Point is a district of considerable architectural and historical significance to the town of North Reading. While the Town Common area might be percieved as the oldest section of the town because it has been host to a meeting house since 1717, the beginnings of West Village date to as early as the late seventeenth century. In 1694, a grist mill was established at the foot of Mill Street on the Ipswich River. For over two centuries grist, flax, saw, and cider mills operated on this site. By at least 1795 the David Needham Map of Reading indicates Lobs Pound Mill and early nineteenth century area deeds refer to this mill as a landmark located near certain properties. Local lore holds that the name Lobs originated in one of two ways. According to the 1868 recollections of a local man named Caleb Wakefield, Lobs was the name of an animal pound in the area. Once a common feature of the New England countryside, pounds were typically simple stone or wooden enclosures whose purpose was to hold animals that had strayed from nearby farms until they could be claimed by their owners. Neighborhood children are said to have "corrupted the name Nobby or Nob (a pet name for a colt) into Lob, hence Lob's Pound and Lob's Pound Mill." Another anecdote holds that children encircled the enclosure, directing the chant "Lob the horses around, lob the horses around" at the pound's exasperated keeper.

Although Lobs Pound Mill is little used, if at all, to identify this area today, Pudding Point is another name that has been frequently associated with this area since the mid nineteenth century. Local historian Edward J. Leary asserts that this name was derived from the habits of an Englishman who worked at the Lobs Pound Mill. A resident of "a small shanty next to John Eames (**25 Mill Street, Fig. 2**) on Mill Street," he was a familiar sight to persons passing through the area who observed him "sitting outside his home eating pudding from a pint bowl." Currupted from Pudding Pint to Pudding Point, point may also refer to the point -like bend in the Ipswich River evident at the Mill Street bridge. After the Civil War, the appellation Pudding Point gradually fell into disuse area and the area became known as West Village for reasons of its geographic location within the town.

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
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Le Page, Samuel M. A History of North Reading, Tercentenary Ed., 1944
Leary, Edward J., North Reading Exerpts at Random, 1971; Middlesex County Deeds
Mc Allester, Virginia and Lee, Field Guide to American Houses, 1984
North Reading Review, Annals and Reminicences, No. 13, August, 1964."North Reading, Its Turnpike, Stage Coach and Tavern days."
Visser, Thomas Durant, Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings, 1997

[X] Recommended as a National Register District. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement Form.

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

Architectural Description

and then northward in order to include **25 Mill Street's** parcel in its entirety, crossing Park Street and continuing northward until it reaches the northeast corner of 369 Park Street.

Located at the northeastern corner of the area, **369 Park Street (Fig. 1)** is a T-shaped, vinyl-sided house that rises two-stories from a fieldstone basement to a gable roof. Measuring five bays by a single bay, a shallow, enclosed vestibule projects from the center of the main facade. The front door may have been originally flanked by multi-pane side lights, areas now covered with clapboard-scale vinyl. The vestibule is enclosed by a gable roof. The main block's windows contain 2/2 wood sash. Brick chimneys rise from either end of the north slope. At the rear of the building are contiguous two-story and one-story ells. A drive way on the west side of the house leads to a mid- to late nineteenth century barn wood frame barn that has been converted to a two-car garage.

Diagonally across Park Street to the southwest at **25 Mill Street (Fig. 2)** is a wood shingle clad dwelling of considerable age. Set on a low rise at the corner of Park and Mill Streets, this house retains a still-rural setting, with mature trees and an ample lawn which sweeps southward from the main façade. At the western edge of the south lawn adjacent to Mill Street is an interesting rubble stone-constructed structure measuring four bays by a single bay. Presently serving as a garden shed/ guest house (?), this one-story structure may have been originally used to store apples or other agricultural or manufactured products.

easuring five bays by a single bay, this venerable residence rises two stories from a fieldstone basement to a low-pitched, asphalt shingle-sheathed gable roof. Rising from the center of the roof's ridge is a substantial brick chimney. Part of this house was reportedly built as early as the 1690s (an interior inspection of timbers might validate this early construction date). More likely, this house dates to the late First Period or shortly thereafter to around 1730. Simple corner boards accent the main block's edges. Exhibiting replacement railings and posts, a full-length porch projects from the main façade. At the center of the main façade is a projecting and enclosed vestibule. Here, the front door is flanked by three-pane side lights and Georgian Doric pilasters. In general, windows exhibit raised surrounds contain 12/12 wood sash while the lintels of second story windows are flush with the roof eaves.

Projecting from the main block's west gable is a long, narrow wood shingle-covered ell exhibiting standard size windows containing 2/2 wood sash.

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

Architectural Description

Crossing Mill Street and continuing southward, the Greek Revival cottage at **18 Mill Street (Fig. 3)** is included within the West Village/Pudding Point area. The northern half of the front yard is partially enclosed by a low field stone wall with three granite hitching posts. In addition, an old stone wall marks the southern edge of the property. Woodlands are in evidence at the rear of the house. A driveway on the south side of the lot extends to the old stable /garage ell. Built c. 1849-1850, it exemplifies the type of Greek Revival end gable cottage that is scattered about North Reading and is widely represented across New England.

Clad with clapboards, this house stands with its main façade (east gable) facing Mill Street. Rising a single story from a granite block foundation to a gable roof with return eaves, the house's main block measures three-bays-by four bays. The placement of the front door suggests a side hall interior plan. Set off by Doric pilasters and a cornice-headed entablature, its front door is set within a deep recess. The front door is flanked by multi-pane side lights. In general, windows contain 2/2 wood sash and are devoid of louvered shutters.

Projecting from the center of the main block's north wall is a square, possibly original, Italianate bay window. A one-story gable-roofed ell projects from the main block's rear wall. The ell's south wall is contiguous with a substantial garage (former stable?). Projecting from the north side of the rear ell is an enclosed screened-in porch of undetermined date.

The north and south roof slopes of the main block exhibit shed-roofed dormers exhibiting double windows. Added at an undetermined date, two dormers are located on the north slope and a single dormer rises from the south slope.

Continuing northward along the west side of Mill Street, past a modern log-constructed house, is a Greek Revival end gable cottage at **376 Park Street (Fig. 4)**. Situated on a high rise above the Mill/Park Streets crossroads and similar to **18 Mill Street (Fig. 3)** in terms of scale and form and elements, this clapboard-clad dwelling's main block measures three-bays-by- four-bays. Rising a single story from a heavy granite block foundation to a gable roof with return eaves, the edges of this cottage are accented by narrow Doric corner boards. The placement of the main entrance suggests a side hall interior plan. Two granite slabs provide access to the front door. Set within a deep recess enlivened by Doric pilasters and a cornice-headed entablature, the front door is flanked by three-pane side lights with solid lower panels and is surmounted by a heavy, cornice-headed, keystone-ornamented entablature. In general, windows are fully enframed by raised and molded surround, contain 6/6 wood sash and are enlivened by louvered shutters. Projecting from the south gable of the main block is a small side ell. Echoing the house's Greek Revival design, the handsome, columned -west porch represents new construction dating to the past five-to-ten years.

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

Architectural Description

Across Park Street to the northeast, overlooking its intersection with Mill Street is an extremely plain, wooden vernacular house at **373 Park Street (Fig. 5)** that is difficult to categorize stylistically. The origins of this house are not entirely clear. Situated close to Park Street and partially obscured by dense tree cover, a part of this dwelling is said to date to as early as 1722. The 1795 David Needham Map of the North Parish of Reading, however, indicates that number 373's lot was covered by a northern, discontinued segment of Mill Street. Local histories claim that this house was built during the mid nineteenth century as a general store that was moved to its lot from the traffic island at the intersection of Park and Mill streets. This residence is composed of two clapboard-clad components, including a one-and-one-half story, main block and a two-and-one-half story east ell. Together, these components are L-shaped in form and are enclosed by asphalt shingle-covered gable roofs. The three-bay-by-two-bay main block is difficult to read because of tree cover. Here, the off-center entrance exhibits simple wooden enframents and is flanked by simply enframed windows containing 6/1 wood sash. The large east ell may have originally been a freestanding stable. Wide double barn doors composed of vertical boards are in evidence near the southeast corner of the main façade. Here, again, windows exhibit simple surrounds and contain 6/1 wood sash.

Next door to the west of **373 Park Street**, across Nutter Street, is a Federal vernacular residence at **379 Park Street**, (Fig. 6) which bears a plaque exhibiting a construction date of 1792. This house's deep front lawn is dotted with old shade trees. The lawn's Nutter Street edge is enclosed by a low field stone wall. Possessing a substantial, T-shaped form, house evidently evolved over a period of one hundred years or more. Measuring five-bays-by-a- single bay, the narrow angular form of its main block is contiguous with a distinctive, twin gable-roofed rear ell of undetermined age. The main block rises from a heavy granite block foundation to an asphalt-sheathed gable roof with short asphalt-shingle sheathed roof slopes. Return eaves are in evidence at the eastern and western gables. Crisply accented by narrow corner boards, the main façade's recessed center entrance is accessed via two broad granite slabs. The front door is flanked by multi-pane side lights and is surmounted by a multi-pane transom. The entrance recess is set off by Doric pilasters and is sheltered by a deep and narrow entablature. Devoid of shutters, windows exhibit simple wooden surrounds and contain 6/6 wood sash. Projecting from the center of the main block's roof ridge is a narrow brick chimney.

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

Architectural Description

Projecting from the north wall of this house is one of the house's most distinctive features: a substantial, two-story, four-bay-by two-bay rear ell enclosed by a pair of side-by-side gable roofs (**Fig. 7**). Adjacent to the west wall of the ell is a one-and-one-half-story shed-roofed ell. Rising the height of the two-story ell's rear wall is an off-center chimney composed of large stones. Projecting from the twin gable-roofed ell's east wall is an open porch exhibiting modern replacement elements. An old gable front barn on the premises, just to the northeast of the house was converted into a two-car garage at an undetermined date.

Adjacent to 379 Park Street on the west, atop a moderately steep hill, is one of the most architecturally and historically significant residences in the town. Set back from the street facing an ample front yard enclosed by a low field stone wall, **383 Park Street's (Fig. 8)** ample lot still retains a rural appearance and retains vintage agricultural structures on the premises. Said to incorporate a structural component dating to 1713, the house's present appearance is that of a substantial Georgian vernacular residence. Situated on a rise on the north side of Park Street, its main façade overlooks an ample lawn that sweeps down to a low field stone retaining wall and the street. At the center of the retaining wall is an opening containing four granite block steps which lead to the house's main entrance. Running along the west side of the driveway at the eastern edge of the property is an old 4' retaining wall. At the rear of the house are woodlands containing several abandoned farm structures deserving further study, A tour of the property with a grand daughter of Daniel Shay, owner of this property from the 1920s until the 1960s, revealed a shoe shop, a two-story lean-to shed and a tin smoke house still extant, albeit in poor condition, within dense underbrush.

Essentially L-shaped in form, this house is composed of three structural components: a two-story, five-bay-by-three-bay main block, a two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay west ell and an extensive, largely windowless, one-story north ell that projects from the rear wall of the west ell. The north ell measures the equivalent of four-bays by-a-single bay. All of the buildings are clad with clapboards and are enclosed by asphalt shingle-sheathed gable roofs.

383 Park Street's (Fig. 8) main block rests on a foundation composed of granite blocks at the front while a brick foundation at the east wall is a full story below the grade of the basement's remaining elevations. At the center of the east wall's brick foundation is a recessed door providing access to the cellar. At the center of the main façade is a door with Federal-style surrounds that were probably added during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Here, flanking four-pane side lights and rectangular transom are set off by Doric pilasters, corner blocks and a lintel with a shallow molded cornice. In general, windows are fully enframed and contain 6/6 wood sash. The windows are set off by louvered shutters. The main façade culminates in a molded wooden cornice. Rising from either end of the gable-roof's ridge are brick chimneys. The original surrounds of the main façade's front door may have been similar or identical to the enframents of the entrance at the center of the main block's rear wall. Here, simple vertical and horizontal surrounds are crowned by a multi-pane transom, which in turn is surmounted by a shallow cornice-headed lintel.

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

Architectural Description

The Park Street elevation of the west ell exhibits a secondary entrance with simple vertical and horizontal surrounds and a cornice-headed entablature. To the left of this entrance is a standard-size window and wide and tall doors composed of vertical boards. At the second story are two standard-size windows containing 6/6 wood sash.

Directly across the street to the south of **383 Park Street** is the **Flint-Bacheller House** (a variation on Batchelder, the more typical spelling of this name) at**382 Park Street (Fig. 9)**. Situated close to the street, the terrain at the rear of the house begins its southward ascent to theIpswich River.Indeed, the farm house at 382 Park Street, together with its gable front barns, barn yard, sheds old well rank among the most intact, evocative agricultural properties in the town constituting the type of image that characterized the town until after world War II when suburban residential developm began to overwhelm the community'srural streetscapes. Although part of this house is said to date to the early 1700s, number 382 appears to be ac. 1830-1850 late Federal farm house. The main block's small front porch exhibits square posts and return eaves at the roof gables hint at the Italianate style. The house rests on a granite block foundation. Both main block and rear ell are clad with clapboards, their edges crisply accented by narrow corner boards. This house is composed of a two-story, five-bay-by-one-bay main block with a two-story three-bay-by-two-bay rear ell. More or less T-shaped in form, a one-story shed addition projects from the east wall of the rear ell. At the center of the main block's Park Street façade are formal double doors with lower panels and upper, these doors are surmounted by a rectangular transom. In general, windows exhibit simple wooden surrounds, contain 6/6 wood sash and are flanked by louvered shutters.

:he rear of the house is a substantial c. mid-nineteenth century gable front barn (**Fig. 10**). Essentially rectangular in ıorm, its main façade is sheathed with clapboards while its side and rear walls are clad with wood shingles. The barn rises a single story to a gable roof whose eastern slope is longer than its western slope. In the center of its main (north) façade, facing a driveway is a wide and tall entrance which is flanked, to the right, by a standard size door.

Rising to a height of two-stories the double barn doors are surmounted by a transom window divided into four, four-pane segments. The transom is not contiguous with the entrance's lintel. This barn's transom represents an interesting variation on the more typical, continuous twelve-pane transom. According to Thomas Durant Visser, " seventeenth and eighteenth century barns rarely had windows. When chores required more light than the small amount that filtered in through cracks in the walls, the doors were opened. By the early nineteenth century, however, farmers were considering ways to bring in more light inside their farm buildings." In addition, windows were more often included in the construction of post- 1820 barns because farmers were beginning to recognize the health benefits of light for their herds and flocks. In Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings, Visser includes a quote from the records of the Farmers' Club in Randolph Vermont: " All animals love the sunlight, And the more windows the better. When the sun shines; my lambs crowd together in it, and seem really to enjoy it."

In addition to the transom, a single, standard-size window containing 6/6 wood sash illuminates the attic. This window is flanked by louvered wooden shutters. Striking a picturesque note, a small, square cupola with louvered openings and a pyramidal roof cap rises from the center of the barn's roof ridge. According to Thomas Durant Visser, " New England farmers enthusiastically adopted new gable-front designs for their barns by the 1830s." Visser observes that "the gable front offers many practical advantages. Roofs drain off to the side, rather than flooding the dooryard. With the main drive floor running parallel to the ridge, the size of the barn could be increased to accommodate larger herds by adding additional bays to the rear gable end."

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET Community: Form No:

Massachusetts Historical Commission North Reading

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston Area Name: West Village/Pudding Point

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

Historical Narrative

Historically, the economy of West Village /Pudding Point has been fairly diversified in comparison with other parts of the town whose well-being was more dependent on agrarian pursuits. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries area residents were engaged in tavern-keeping, cabinetmaking, carpentry, wagon wheel repair and shoemaking. By the 1790s, West Village boasted a schoolhouse, one of four in the town at that time. The West Village School was located just to the east of **369 Park Street (Fig. 1)**. The completion of the Andover and Medford Turnpike in 1806, just beyond the eastern edge of West Village triggered the construction of two taverns along its length, resulting in the closing of the1750s Flint Tavern once located on or near the Park / Mill Streets' intersection. The turnpike, however, was a boon to the cottage industries and farms of the area, providing more direct product access directed to markets far beyond the boundaries of the North Parish of Reading. By the mid nineteenth century, West Village residents prospered from the sale of goods produced by several shoe shops and a cabinet shop (later a "carpenter's shop") as well as cider, saw and grist mills. By the early twentieth century, several sizeable farms were still located in the area and a religious summer camp was evidently conducted on the grounds of 383 Park Street (Fig. 7).

Evidently, **25 Mill Street (Fig. 1)** and **383 Park Street (Fig. 7)** are the oldest residences in the West Village/ Pudding Point area. Encompassing components reportedly dating to the 1690s and 1710s, respectively, these houses along with others located within the boundaries of this area have significant local historical associations with the town's most influential and prolific families, including the Batchelders, Eames, Uptons as well as the Flints. Uptons owned 25 Mill Street by at least the mid 1790s. Judging by mid-nineteenth century Middlesex County Deeds, this house was owned by members of the Batchelder family during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. In March, 1849 an M. Batchelder, yeoman, sold this property to Jeremiah Bolles, yeoman of Richmond, New Hampshire for $400. The deed mentions that the house on the premises was near Lobs Pound Mill. The 1857 Middlesex County Map seems to indicate that a cabinetmaker's shop was located on or near this house's land and may be the carpenter's shop. Bolles owned number 25 until September, 1866 when John E. Eames, carpenter purchased this property.

One of mid nineteenth century North Reading's most industrious men, John E. Eames was one of three blacksmiths working in the town by 1855. His blacksmith job was conducted "in conjunction with a wagon shop. Here, Mr. Eames operated the more common type of farm wagon. This shop was located in Mr. Barnard's field, set back from Park Street in about the present location of Burditt Road. Mr. Eames carried on this business with some success for many years." Eames also operated a store on Park Street as well as a cider mill that was located just to the south of his house. He also had an interest in the saw and grist mill on Mill Street. The small wood and field stone shed to the south of this house may have been used as a storage facillity for apples or other farm products.

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

Historical Narrative

By 1870, Eames, in addition to his Mill Street house, owned a second house in the area (see below). At that time, Eames' domain covered 31+acres and was valued at $$2,830. Eames' holdings also encompassed: two barns ($250); two shops ($150); one shed ($40); the five-acre Barnard Field ($150); the eleven-acre Back Field ($260); the six-acre Front Pasture ($180), four acres of meadow ($40) a five-acre wood lot ($400) and an eighteenth interest in the saw mill that was located nearby on the Ipswich River. Indeed, Eames, with his shops and saw mill, was a major engine for prosperity in West Village during the mid nineteenth century.

By 1890, Eames' domain had expanded from 31to 47 acres, embracing the Mill and Park Streets houses, the five-acre Barnard field, an eleven-and-a-half acre Back Field, a six-acre Front pasture, a four-acre meadow and the twenty-and-one-half acre Bolles wood lot. By the mid-1890s John E. Eames' son, John H. Eames had inherited 25 Mill Street. During the early 1900s and 1910s, John H's occupation is listed as farmer. By 1910, the Eames' Mill Street property had been reduced from 47 to 20 acres. At that time, the property encompassed the house ($950); barn ($250); a six-acre Front pasture ($400), the ten-acre Barnard field ($900) as well as four acres of meadow land ($60). John H. Eames owned 25 Mill Street until at least the early 1920s. By that time the value of his house and three-quarters-of-an-acre lot was estimated to be $1,150 while the remaining twenty acres and other buildings was valued at $3,600. By 1925, Bertha E. and Frank B. Jenkins, who was employed in Shawsheen Village in Andover lived here. From around 1930 until at least the mid 1960s, 25 Mill Street was owned by Ann M. and Frederick J. Noyes.

e second John E. Eames property in the area, a late Federal style dwelling at **369 Park Street (Fig. 1)**, may have en built during the 1820s for members of the Flint and/or Batchelder families. This house seems to be depicted on the 1831 Edmund Parker Map of Reading. In any event, John E. Eames probably purchased number 369 after the Civil War at the same time that he acquired 25 Mill Street, across the street. By 1870, Eames' Park Street property consisted of a three-quarters-of-an-acre house lot, a barn and the house itself which was assigned a value of $700. In 1890, John E. Eames' Park Street house was worth an estimated $750 and by the mid 1890s, Eames' son, Charles N. Eames had inherited the Park Street house. A carpenter by trade, Charles N. Eames owned 369 Park Street until at least the mid 1920s. By 1930, the only Eames listed in the town are Arthur W. Eames of Concord Street and J. Allen Eames of Winter Street. By 1966, this house was occupied by Eileen Douglas, office clerk and Ralph H. Douglas, an employee of a "disposable business."

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

Historical Narrative

383 Park Street (Fig. 7) was built in 1713 for George Flint, an early settler in the North Parish of Reading. A historical marker on the front of the house reads: "Built in 1713 by George Flint for his son George Flint born in 1685. Hither he brought the fair Jerusha Pope as his bride in 1713. Many worthy descendants have found shelter under its roof. From this house went Lt. John Flint, grandson of George and Jerusha, with musket on shoulder to aid the embattled farmers at Concord Bridge." According to Leary, the Flints had a small private cemetery on their farm at number 383. At an undetermined date, Flints and related families were disinterred from the family plot, their remains removed along with their tombstones to the Park Street Cemetery which had become a burial ground by at least the 1730s.

By 1750, the Flints kept a popular tavern that was located on or near the Mill/Park Streets crossroads. This tavern was operated by Eliezer Flint, grandson of George Flint of 383 Park Street. Born on March 12, 1731, Eliezer's father was the son of George and Jerusha Pope Flint. Eliezer's first wife was Abigail Hartshorn who he married in 1750 – the same year that he purchased the tavern at West Village. Abigail died in 1759 and Flint subsequently married Esther Damon in 1761.

Eliezer Flint's tavern was "located... in the vicinity of Mill and Park Streets" just to the north of Lobs Pound Mill. John Flint and John H. Stone writing about this Inn in 1860 noted that it stood next to "the main road from Boston to the interior." By all accounts, the tavern was also "well situated to accommodate the traffic passing eastward towards Salem and to the west toward Concord and Greenfield, Massachusetts and points between. " In the days before the Andover and Medford Turnpike was set out (1806) there was only one major thoroughfare in the North Precinct of Reading. This main road's circuitous course included Mill and Park Streets. Flint's Tavern was operating by at least 1750 when Eliezer Flint acquired this enterprise. Under Flint's management, "this tavern became a noted resort for travelers and quite celebrated for the famous "flip" its landlord made." According to local folklorist Edward J. Leary, "flip was made by putting a red-hot poker in a mug of cider, a favored drink amongst the men."

During the 1820s or 1830s, **383 Park Street** was the beneficiary of interior wall murals painted by Rufus Porter, (1792-1884) a self-taught itinerant painter, inventor and journalist. Born in West Boxford, May 1, 1792, he lived to be 92 years of age, traveling from Maine to the Carolinas painting frescoes on plaster walls. He was the founder and first editor of the *Scientific American*. In addition to 383 Park Street, examples of his work are also in evidence at **Damon Tavern** at **21 Bow Street** in the town center (MHC Area Form A, Form Number 25).

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

Historical Narrative

After brief military service during the War of 1812, Rufus Porter worked as a shoemaker, Maine school teacher, a builder of wind-driven grist mills and as a painter of signs and houses. In 1816 he embarked on a career as a portrait painter traveling to sittings along the eastern seaboard. Between 1825 and 1845 Porter worked on major fresco decorations in more than one hundred houses in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and, in at least one instance, in Vermont. According to M.J. Gladstone, former Director of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York, "his early murals are characterized by stippled or sponged foliage and a pictorial sparseness accentuated by a limited color range. In his later work Porter developed larger and looser handling with more varied foliage, an enriched palette, and the addition of architectural detail and genre incident." His mural painting appears to have ended abruptly in 1845 when he became involved in magazine editing and publishing. As an inventor, Porter was a true visionary and deserves recognition as the Leonardo da Vinci of American folk artists, patenting inventions as diverse as the precursors of the automobile, elevated railroad, prefabricated movable houses "and an airship designed to fly to California in three days."

383 Park Street (Fig. 7) remained in the Flint family until as late as the 1880s. During the mid nineteenth century, Samuel Flint made shoes and farmed his 117-acre tract which encompassed land on both the north and south sides of Park Street. Samuel Flint was among numerous practitioners of his trade who prospered prior to the Civil War. The war sent this industry into a long period of decline due to the loss of southern markets and improvements in shoemaking machinery. By 1878, *The Reading Weekly News* reported that "the boot business grows duller, and the workmen are ıg discharged." According to the 1870 North Reading Valuation of Real Estate, Samuel Flint had two shoe shops nis property which had a combined value of $100. At that time Samuel Flint owned two houses at West Village, including 383 Park Street ($400) and 382 Park Street ($200, Fig. 8). Flint's holdings also included: two barns ($200); three sheds ($100); and two mill buildings ($250). Flint's land was divided into the following uses: a two-acre house lot (383 Park Street) and a half-acre house lot ($100); a two-acre orchard ($175); the five-acre Barnard Field ($150); a five-acre meadow that was probably used for the grazing of farm animals ($160); four wood lots (Rapier, Rye, West and Back) which comprised $90+acres and were worth an estimated $2400 as well as a half-acre Mill Yard (presumably on the banks of the Ipswich River) valued at $40, a Saw Mill ($350) and 10 acres of "unimprovable land" (no value assigned).

By 1889, the old Flint farm had passed to Benjamin Eames who may have continued the business of shoemaking as well as farming. In 1890, Eames owned a house on Main Street as well as the old Flint homestead. By 1890, the two barns that were listed here in 1870 were no longer mentioned in the town-wide real estate valuation of that year. The number of sheds had been reduced from three to one ($40) while a shop structure ($25) was still extant. Eames evidently added acreage to the old Flint farm with the number of acres totaling 117 in 1870 and around 285 acres by 1890, renaming most of the farm's fields, wood lots and meadows. Included within the list of Eames' property were grist mill buildings ($850) and a saw mill ($850). The Eames period of ownership at 383 Park Street (Fig. 7) was short lived. By the early 1900s, a clergyman, William H. Fish (church undetermined) owned this property and may have used it as a seasonal retreat.

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

Historical Narrative

The Reverend Fish is neither listed in local directories or the 1910 property valuation. By 1920, the estate of Laura Fish is listed as owning twenty-eight acres of land on the north side of Park Street. Eight of those acres were wood lands associated with Shepherd camp, possibly a religious summer camp founded by Reverend Fish. Since the 1920s, Daniel and Francis R. Shea and their descendants have owned this historic property. By 1930, the Flint/ Eames 285-acre tract had been reduced to twelve acres. By that time, the house was worth an estimated $5,300, "other" buildings were assigned a value of $4400 while the land was worth $2500.

Directly across the street from the George Flint house at **382 Park Street (Fig. 8)** is another farm house with Flint family historical associations. Although this house has the appearance of a late Federal farm house dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, part of this building is said to date to the early eighteenth century. Labeled Flint on the 1857 Middlesex County Map, Samuel Flint is clearly indicated as the owner of both 382 and 383 Park Street in 1875. In 1870, 382 Park Street was worth an estimated $400. The barn still on the premises behind number 382 may be one of two barns that had a combined value of $200.

In 1890, the first clear picture of **382 Park Street** as a property separate from that of number 383 emerges as the result of new ownership. At some point during the 1880s, the Flints sold number 382 to John Bacheller farmer (not to be confused with the more prolific North Reading family called Batchelder). In 1890, Bacheller's domain embraced twelve-and-one-half acres and was valued at ($2,245). At that time, Bacheller's house was worth an estimated $1,450. In addition, he owned a barn ($125); shop ($20) and three sheds.

The shop was probably one of several shoe shops built by Samuel Flint during the mid nineteenth century and was probably no longer sheltering shoe manufacture by the time Bacheller purchased the property. Bacheller's land was subdivided into a half-acre house lot ($100); a one-and-one-half acre orchard ($100); a two-acre orchard ($150); a three-acre Ox pasture ($140) and a five-acre meadow worth an estimated $60. By 1915, John Bacheller's son (?) John and daughter-in-law Ella are listed as boarders on this farm and by c. 1920 they had inherited the property. In 1920, John Bacheller is listed as the owner of twelve acres of farm land. The combined value of land, house and "other buildings" was $5,700. In addition, Ella Bacheller is listed as the owner of four acres of meadow worth $100. By 1930, the Bachellers' property was valued at nearly $4,000. By 1936, the Bachellers are still listed here along with their son and daughter-in-law, Francis G. and Ellen M. Bacheller. Francis G. Bacheller worked at an unidentified lab. By 1940, Francis and Ellen had inherited this property and are listed here as late as the mid-1960s when they were in their eighties.

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

Historical Narrative

Situated on the north side of the intersection facing the Mill/Park Streets crossroads, **373 Park Street (Fig. 5)** reportedly dates to as early as 1722. The David Needham Map of 1795, however, does not indicate a house on this site and, in fact shows Mill Street continuing northwestward over the site of this house to the residences of "Widow Taylor"and "Widow Fay." Difficult to date by form and style, this plain, vernacular house's origins might be determined via a thorough deed search. In any event, by 1830, the northern segment of Mill Street was no longer extant and the land north of Park Street had returned to its original forested state. It is not clear if 373 Park Street is the house indicated on surveyor Edmund Parker's 1831 map of Reading. The possibility remains that Edward J. Leary's theory about number 373's origins is valid. Leary maintains that this house started out as the **Union National Store,** a commercial concern that sold groceries and hardware and housed a wheelwright's shop in its basement. This store was evidently in business during the mid nineteenth century and was later "moved down Park Street, it was left by the side of the road and converted into a house. That is why the Batchelder House is so close to the road today."

Best evidence suggests that 373 Park Street was owned by Flints by at least 1870. In 1878, the property passed from Sarah Flint to David Batchelder whose descendants continue to own this house. By 1890, Arthur Herbert Batchelder, painter, owned 373 Park Street along with Arthur M. Batchelder. At that time, a barn and shop had been added to the property. The possibility remains that the Arthurs Batchelder conducted their house painting business from the shop on the premises; a shop that may have originally housed shoe making, cabinet making or carpentry concerns. The 1911-1912 North Reading section of the Wakefield Directory listed both Batchelders as painters on Park Street. Batchelder resided here until at least the early 1920s. By that time Batchelder's house and one-acre lot was worth estimated $1,050. "Other buildings" on the property were assessed at $325. Batchelder also owned a ten-acre wood lot on Concord Street. By 1925, the house had passed to Gertrude and Arthur M. Batchelder, painter, and Gladys A. and Lester E. Batchelder. Lester was a bookkeeper who commuted to work in Boston. The Lester E. Batchelders lived here until at least the early 1940s while the Arthur M. Batchelders had moved to a house on Nutter Road by the mid 1930s. By 1966, Susan C. Batchelder, statistician and Herbert E. Batchelder, instructor owned this property.

Built in 1792, the farm house at **379 Park Street (Fig. 6)** was home to several generations of Batchelders. The house was purchased by Eben Beard, cabinet maker from Ebenezer Batchelder, yeoman of Reading. By 1870, Eben Beard lived in half of this dwelling. The inhabitants of the remaining half of the house are not identified in Middlesex County deeds. William Beard of Wilmington who owned property in North Reading may have been an occupant of this house. Eben Beard's domain encompassed nearly 47 acres. In 1870, the **Beard farm** was divided into a house lot, two fields, a Back Pasture, and three wood lots. By 1890, the only Beard listed in the real estate valuation of that year was Frank A. Beard who is listed as a taxpayer but not as a property owner.

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

Historical Narrative

By the early 1900s, as Beards passed from the West Village scene a new family, the Martin J. Duggans took their place at number 379. Duggan is variously listed as a "paper counter" (1911) and a "watchman" (1915). In 1910, Duggan's one-acre property was valued at nearly $1500 and encompassed a house ($1,000), a barn ($175) and a henhouse ($45). By 1925, the Duggans are no longer listed on Park Street although an Edward Duggan of North Cambridge had a summer residence on Martin's Pond. By the mid 1960s, this house was occupied by Maureen and Professor Michael P. Beddoes.

The remaining houses in the West Village area were constructed during the still-prosperous decades preceding the Civil War. By the late 1850s, a saw and grist mill, shoe making, blacksmithing, cabinet making and possibly apple cider production were all being conducted at West Village. For example, **18 Mill Street's (Fig. 3)** one-half acre lot was carved from the landholdings of Eben Beard of **379 Park Street.** In September 1849, Beard sold 18 Mill Street's lot to Luther Jenkins of Reading, yeoman for $62.50. At that time, Beard is listed as a cabinetmaker living in Lowell, MA. Jenkins agreed to build a fence along the three-sided boundary shared with Beard. Jenkins mortgaged the property to Herrick Batchelder, yeoman in 1850. By that time, the Greek Revival cottage at 18 Mill Street had been built. By 1852, Samuel Flint held Jenkins' mortgage. Luther Jenkins is identified as the house's owner on the 1857 Middlesex County Map.

By 1869, James T. Eames acquired this property from Samuel Flint at a cost of $700. Eames' work is not mentioned in Middlesex County deeds but by the mid 1890s he is listed as a "wood teamster," along with family member and boarder Paul R. Eames who also toiled as a teamster. By 1890, Eames' domain encompassed fifteen acres and included a house ($900); barn ($350); a shed ($25) as well as a pasture and a wood lot. Further inspection may reveal that the **gable front barn** on this lot , presently used as a garage, is the same barn mentioned in the 1890 Valuation. A 1911 directory notation regarding French reads "removed from town." The ownership history after 1910 requires further research. By 1966, Ruth A. Clarke and Arthur L. Clarke, "design draftsman" are listed at this address.

The Greek Revival cottage at **376 Park Street (Fig. 4)**, northwest corner of Mill and Park streets, was built c. 1845 on land carved from the holdings of Ebenezer Batchelder. Joseph Eames of Reading owned this house from the mid 1840s until the mid 1870s. In 1870, Joseph Eames' Park Street property encompassed one-and-one-half acres and included a house and a shed worth an estimated $700 and $50, respectively.

In August, 1875, Joseph Eames sold this property to Olive Jacques of Tewksbury for $2,000. Jacques, a widow, lived here until c. 1890 while her daughter Lizzie resided at 376 Park Street until c. 1906. After the early 1900s, the history of 376 Park Street is unclear. The Jacques seem to have sold this property between 1906 and 1910 although as late as 1930, a Royal C. Jacques is listed as a taxpayer without property in the real estate valuation of that year. By 1966, Jean F. Johnson, office worker occupied this house.

By the end of World War II, milling operations and cottage industries, most notably shoemaking, had not played a significant role in the community for at least forty years. Farming was no longer a factor in terms of land use by c. 1930. By 1940, West Village, along with the rest of the town had settled into its role as a bedroom community of Boston. By that time the population had risen from 1,292 in 1915 to 2,886 in 1940.

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8	Map #	MHC#	St.#	Property Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Feature	Materials	Type/Form
9									
10				**AREA**	**West Village**				
11									
12			18	MILL STREET	Luther Jenkins House	1849-1850	Greek Revival	g./clpbds/asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
13			18	MILL STREET	Jenkins (?) Barn	c. mid-19th c	connected gable fr	s/clpbds/ashalt.s.	Barn/rectangular
14			25	MILL STREET	Upton-Batchelder House	early 18th c	Early Georgn vernac	f.s./w.s./asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
15			25	MILL STREET	Store house	c. mid 19th c	Utilitarian	stone	Shed/square
16			369	PARK STREET	John Eames House	c. 1830s	Late Federal vernac.	f.s./v./asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
17			369	PARK STREET	Eames Barn	c. mid 19th c	Gable front	s/v/asph.s.	Barn-garage/rectanglr
18			373	PARK STREET	Union Nat'l Store ?	c. 1830-1850	Mid 19th c. vernac.	s./clpbds/asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
19			376	PARK STREET	Eames-Jacques House	c. 1845	Greek Revival	g./clpbds/asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
20			379	PARK STREET	Batchelder-Beard House	1792	Federal vernacular	g/clpbds/asph.s	Res./T-shaped
21			379	PARK STREET	Batchelder-Beard Barn	c. mid 19th c	gable front barn	s/clpbds/asph.s	Farm bldgs/rectanglr
22			382	PARK STREET	Flint-Bacheller House	c. 1850?	Italianate	g./clpbds/asph.s.	Res./T-shaped
23			382	PARK STREET	Bacheller Barn	c. mid 19th c	gable front barn	s/clpbds/asph.s	Barn/rectangular
24			382	PARK STREET	2 sheds	?	vernacular	s/clpbds/asph.s	Sheds/rectanglar
25			382	PARK STREET	Bacheller Well	?	vernacular	stone	well
26			383	PARK STREET	George Flint House	1713	Georgian	g&rb/clpbds/asph.s.	Res./L-shaped
27									
28									
29								Key:	
30								b.=brick	
31								s.=stone	
32								f.s.=field stone	
33								g.=granite	
34								clpbds.=clapboards	
35								w.s.=wood shingles	
36								v.=vinyl siding	
37								asph.s.=asphalt.s.	
38									
39									
40									

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community: North Reading
Property Address: West Village/ Pudding Point
369,373,374,379,382, 383 PARK STREET
18,25 MILL STREET

Area(s)

Form No.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district

☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Consultant Statement of Significance by Edward W. Gordon Preservation Consultant

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here

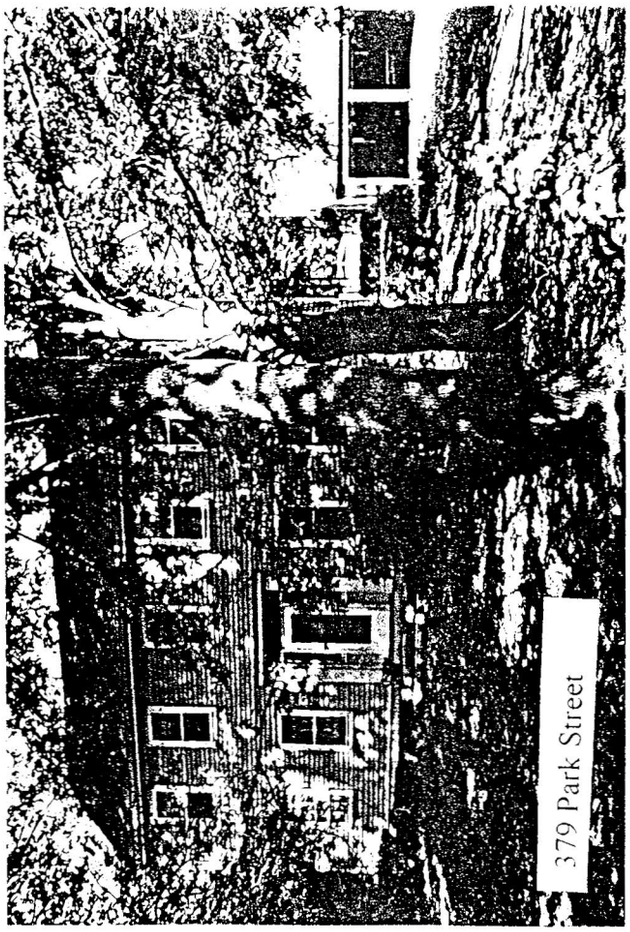
Considered eligible as a historic residential area that evolved beginning in the 1690s because of its proximity to a grist mill on the Ipswich River. Houses range from the early Georgian **25 Mill Street** which may date to as early as the first quarter of the eighteenth century to the mid nineteenth century Greek Revival cottages of the 1840s and 1850s at 376 Park Street and 18 Mill Street, respectively. Over time, this is an area that prospered from a diversified economy. Although there are no traces of the early tavern reportedly located in this area, Flints associated with 383 Park Street owned and operated this tavern from the mid eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries. In addition to agricultural pursuits (best illustrated by farms of the Bachellers and Flints at **382 and 383 Park Street,** respectively) area residents operated a general store (now a residence at 373 Park Street) as well as shops devoted to carpentry, wheel making and shoemaking. John Eames of **25 Mill Street** operated a wheelwright's shop just beyond the area's eastern boundary. During the mid nineteenth century Eames lived at 25 Mill Street. A shoe shop is still extant near the southeastern corner of the George Flint Farmstead at **383 Park Street**).

The area contains numerous interesting agricultural structures including the large gable front barn on the premises of **382 Park Street** and the field stone and wood storage facility on the grounds of 25 Mill Street.

AREA: West Village/Pudding Point

READING

NORTH READING, 1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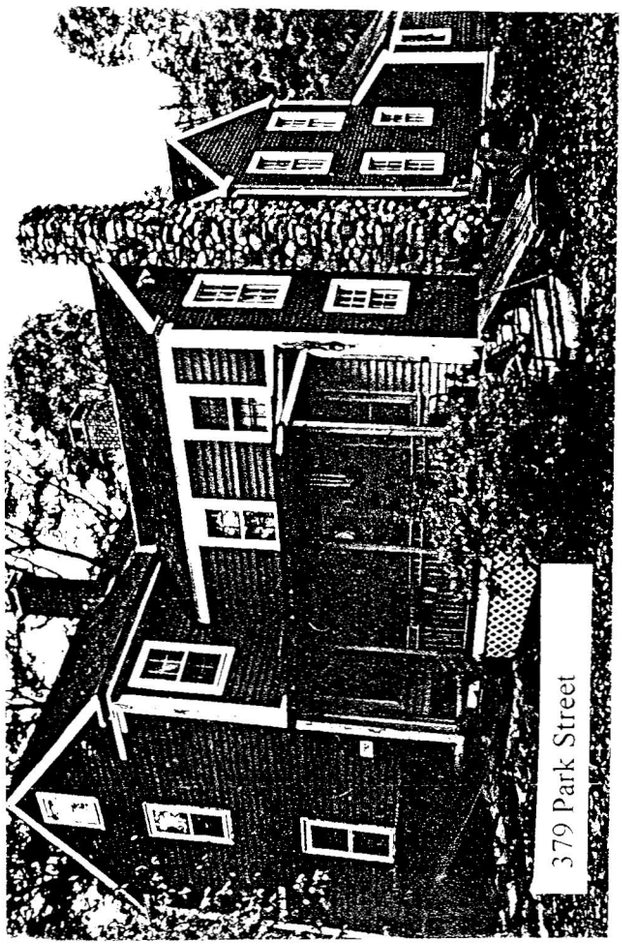
383 Park Street

382 Park Street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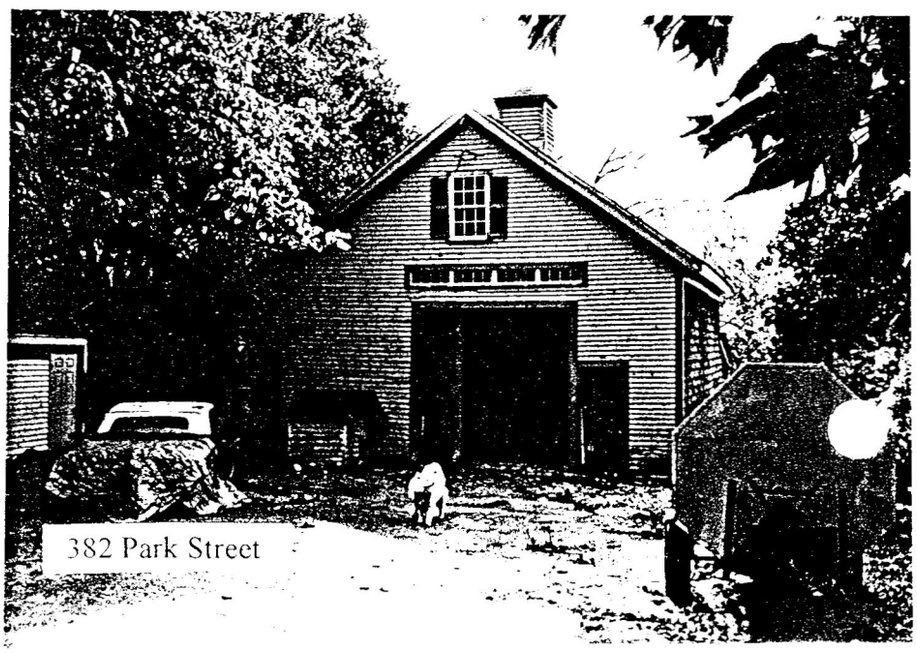
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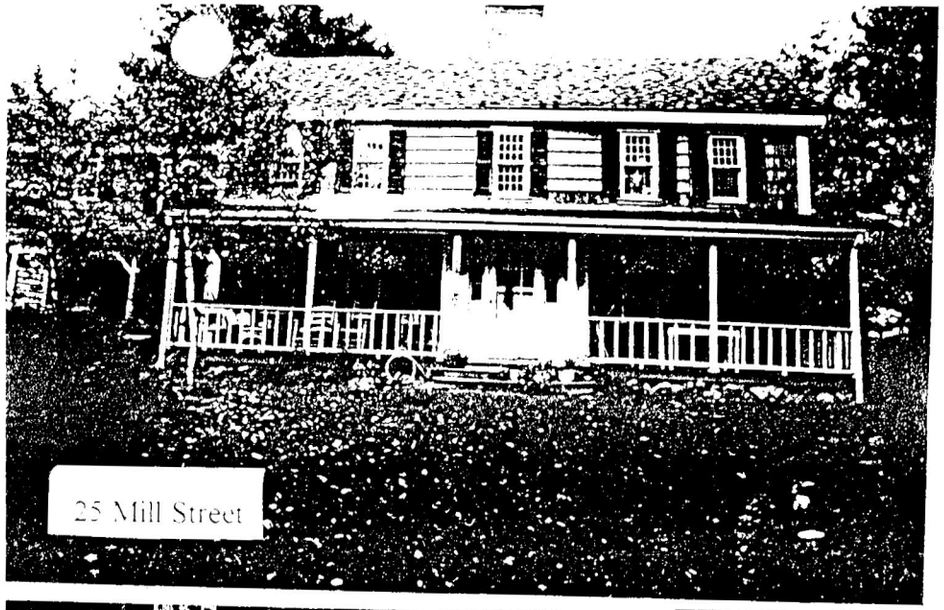
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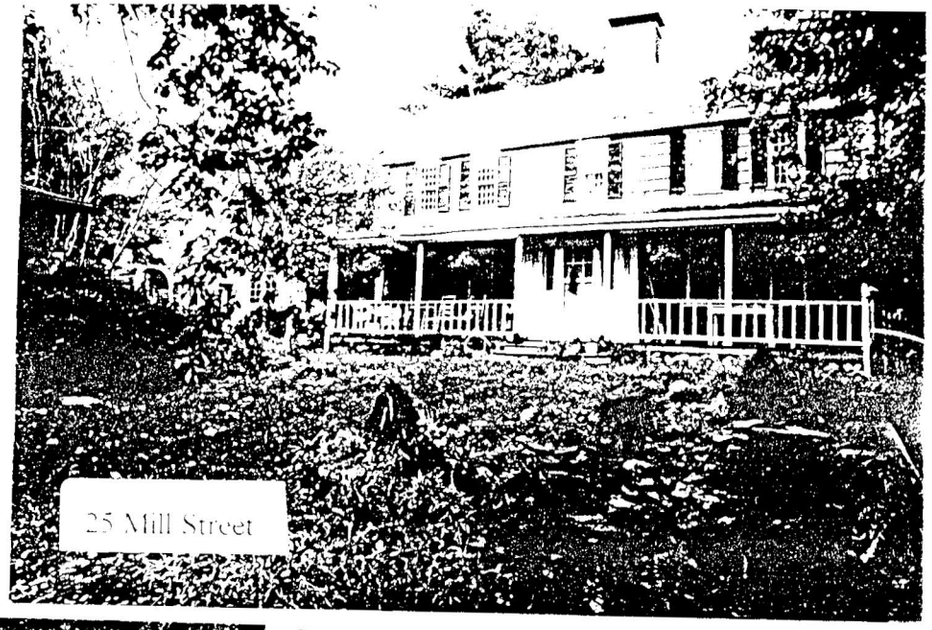
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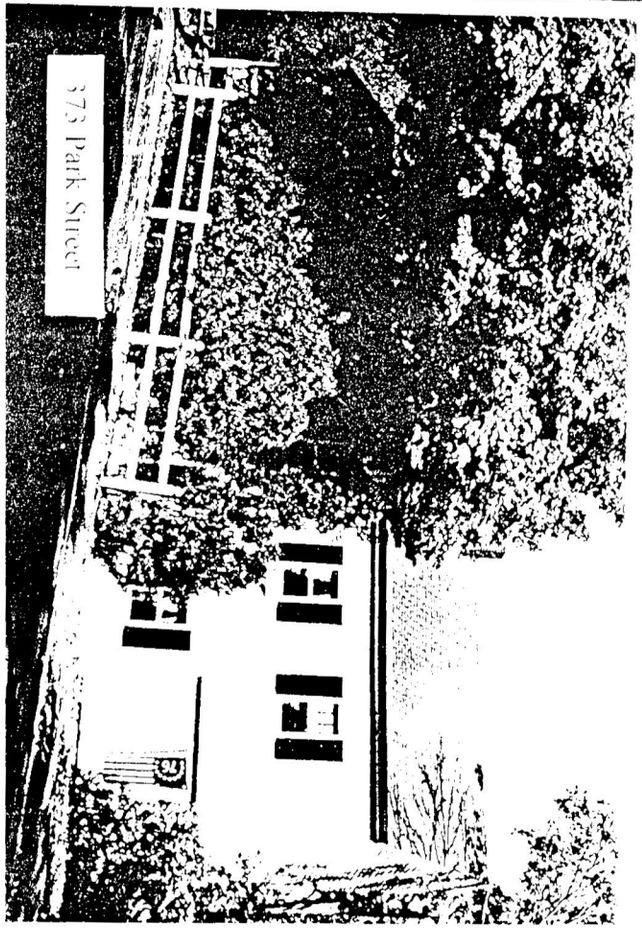
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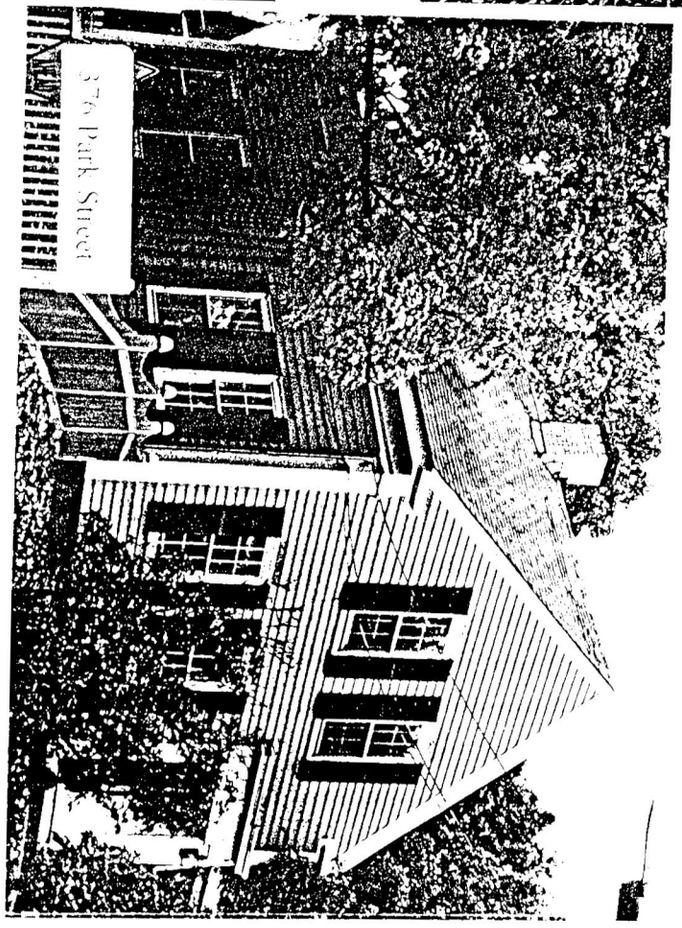
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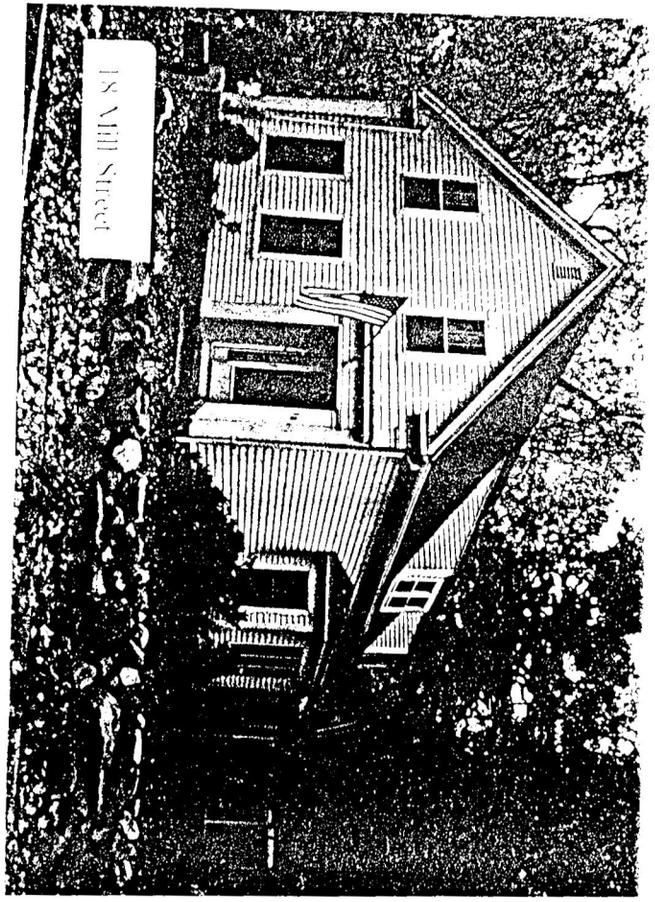
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