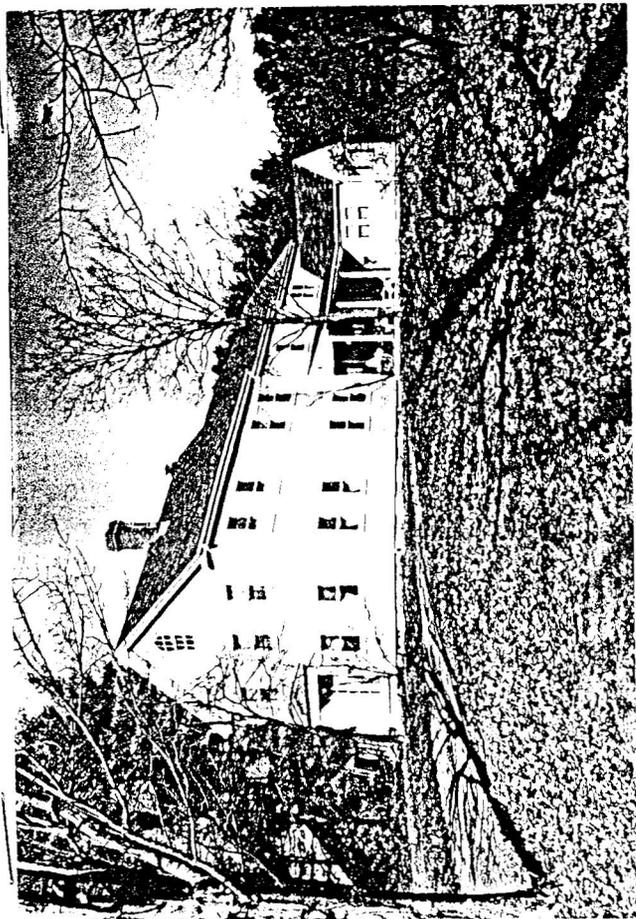


Massachusetts Historical Commission

Map:54 Parcel: 98

Reading

118, 119, 120



Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village) N/A

Address 95 Park Street

Historic Name Abbott-Eames-Upton Farmstead

Use: Present Private residence - Amber Farm

Original Farm house, Barn and Slaughter House

Date of Construction 1841

Source Town assessors records

Style/Form Greek Revival/Italianate; L-shaped

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Granite block

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures A large barn and slaughter house stand to the east of the farm house.

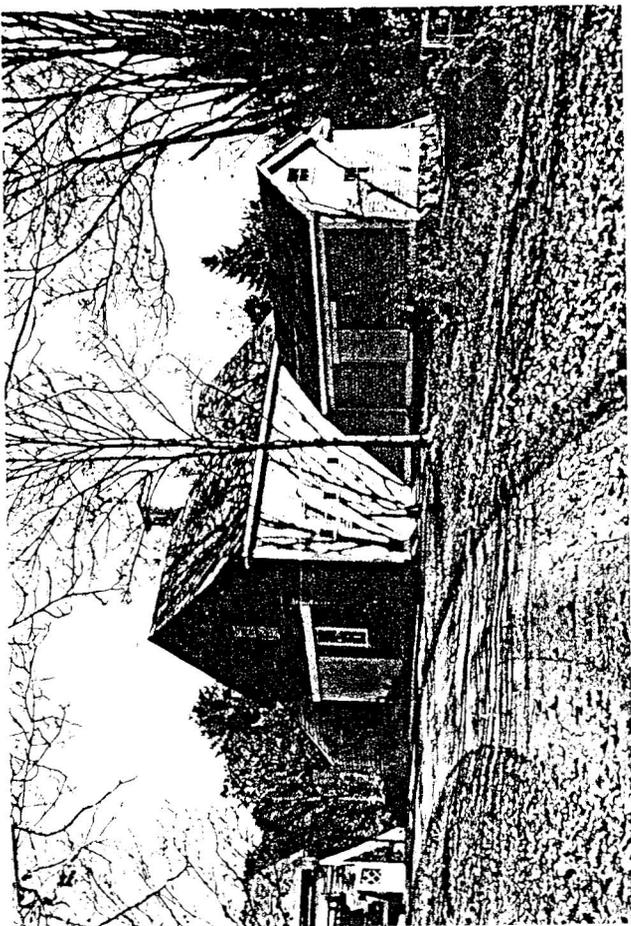
Major Alterations (with dates) Small, one-story side ell added during the 1980s.

Condition Good

Moved yes no

Acreage 1 acre

Setting Set back facing an ample, picket fence-enclosed lawn



with two substantial barns located to the east, this house is part of a node of mid-1800s houses bordering Park Street between Mt. Vernon and Washington Streets. Still extant along the Park St. side of the lot are ten granite fence posts. The north side of the property is enclosed by a well-crafted field stone retaining wall. A semi-circular mid-1800s driveway is still in evidence.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

95 Park Street ranks among the more substantial examples of Greek Revival /Italianate housing in North Reading. Town assessors records list this house's construction date as 1841. This house's form is similar to that of the c.1853 farm house at 171 Haverhill Street (see MHC Form). Three of 95 Park Street's four components are two-and-one-half stories in height. All four components are clad with clapboards and are enclosed by asphalt shingle-sheathed gable roofs. Rising from a granite block foundation, this house's main block measures three-bays-by-four-bays. Two ells are in evidence behind the main block. Projecting from the south wall of the easternmost ell is a small, one-story ell that appears to have been added at a later date. Nestled into the intersection of the rear and side ells is an open, shed-roofed porch.

The main block stands with its southwest gable facing the street. Its edges are accented by narrow corner boards. The placement of the front door suggests a side hall interior plan. The front door is set within a shallow recess and is flanked by narrow, five-pane side lights. Boldly rendered entrance enframements consist of Doric pilasters and a cornice-headed and pedimented lintel. In general, windows are fully enframed and contain 1/1 wood sash that replaced 6/6 wood sash at an undetermined date. The main facade's arched attic window retains original 6/6 wood sash. The main block is enclosed by a gable roof with return eaves. Rising from the center of the roof ridge is a corbelled brick chimney.

In addition to a residence, this property includes substantial wooden, rectangular and L-shaped barns that evidently date to the mid-nineteenth century.

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.

Presently called Amber Farm, 95 Park Street was built c. 1841. The house has significant local historical associations with three of the town's leading nineteenth century families: the Abbotts, Eames and the Uptons. Like the nodes of mid-nineteenth century residences bordering Washington Street and western Mt. Vernon Street, the development Park Street between Washington and Mt. Vernon Streets was linked to the introduction of the Salem & Lowell railroad through the town, to the north of eastern Park street in 1850. Following the course of the Ipswich River, this railway line encouraged commercial and industrial activities along its length, providing access to Boston, Salem, and Lowell markets for North reading goods such as shoes, furniture and agricultural products.

Frederick A. Abbott owned 101 Park Street by 1857. He was born in the old Ebenezer Abbott homestead at 128 Park Street (MHC Form A-42). He was one of the ten children (including seven sons) of Betsey Swain Abbott and Captain Ebenezer Abbott. Frederick's father was a cordwainer and mechanic (builder) who "was one of the first to whom the Parrish sold Common land in the early 1800s." All of the Abbott children settled near their parents' residence. The Abbott sons entered shoe making and manufacturing concerns. Frederick Abbott 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
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Book 878, page 393; Book 893, page 401; and Book 959, page 188

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

Community:

Form No:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

North Reading

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Property Name: 95 Park Street

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

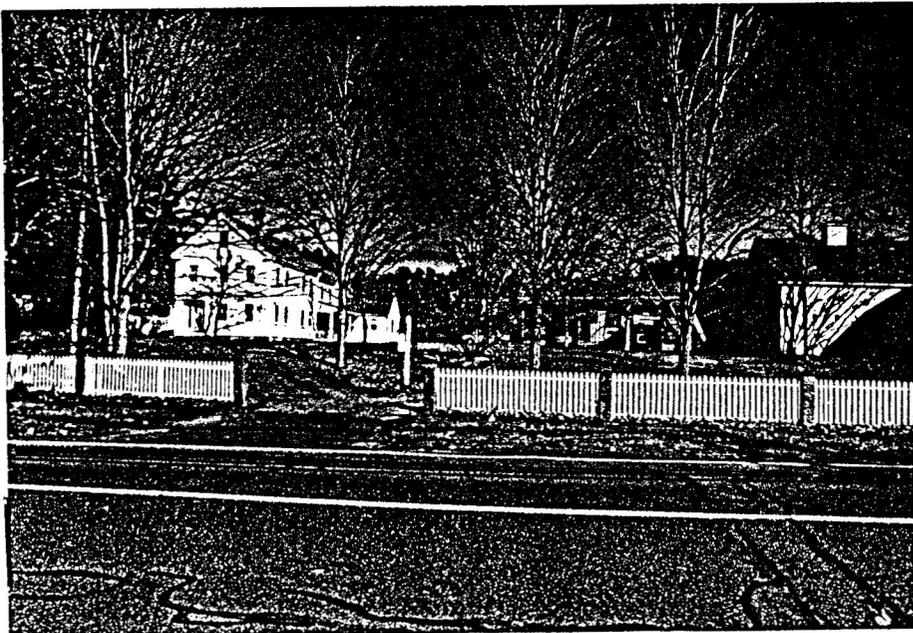
Historical Narrative

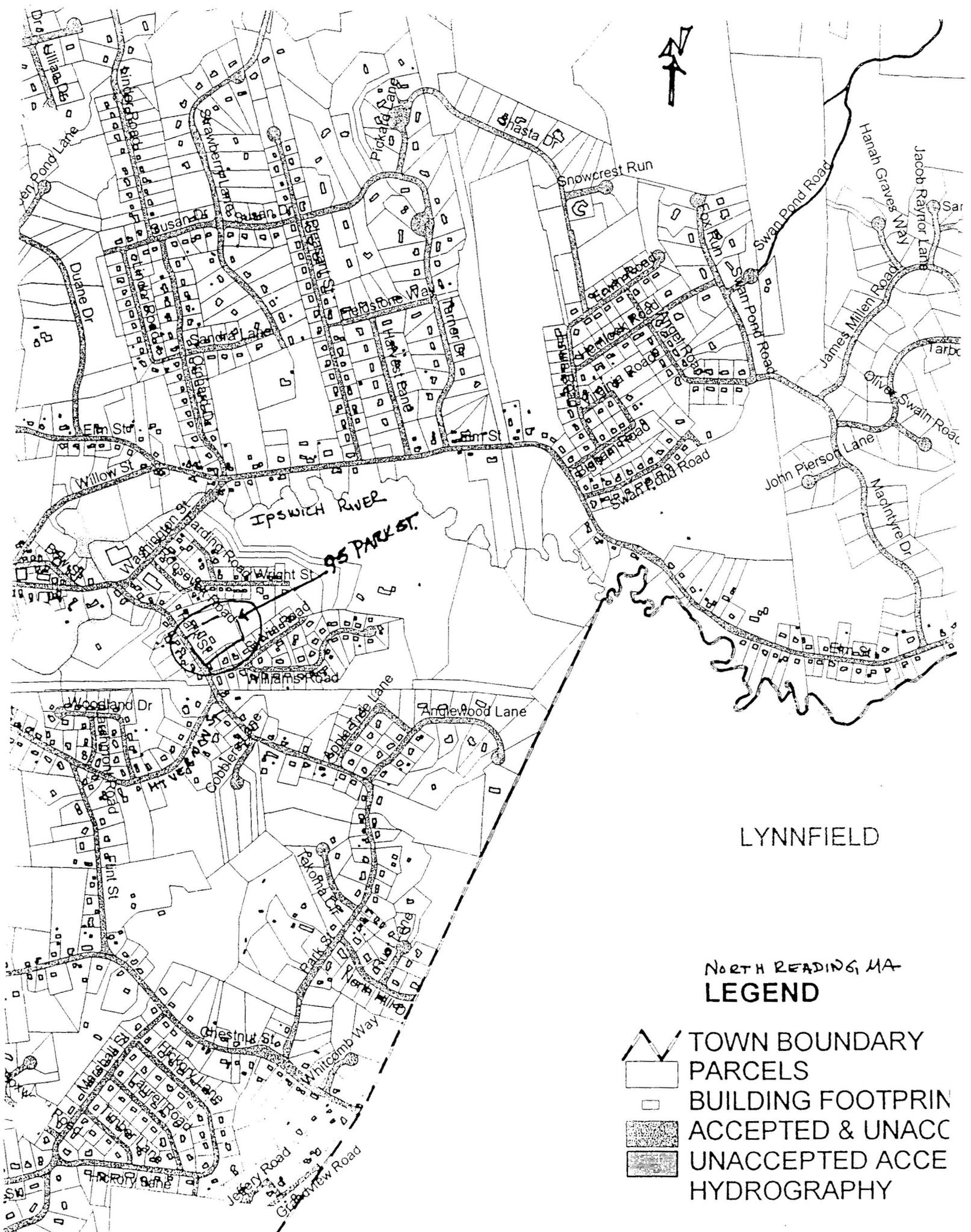
John K. Upton lived at 95 Park Street until his death on March 15, 1915. In 1870, his 15-acre Park Street property had a total value of \$3,136, including a residence worth an estimated \$1100, as well as a barn (\$300), and slaughter house (\$950). A two-acre orchard was also associated with this property. The present slaughter house probably dates to the late 1860s when Upton acquired this farm. Slaughter house operators seem to have been well-represented within the extended Upton family. The two other remaining slaughter houses in the town were operated during the second half of the nineteenth century by A. A. Upton and C. A. Upton at 11 Upton Avenue (MHC Form A ____, Upton /Chestnut) and 245 Elm Street (MHC Form A ____, Elm Street/ Dutton's Corner).

By 1890, Upton's property had quintupled in size, encompassing 76 1/2 acres. Buildings listed on the premises included a house (\$1350), a barn (\$500), a slaughter house (\$1050), ice-house(\$150), Hen-house(\$20) as well as a horse shed (\$20). Upton's farm included a 1-acre house lot (\$200), a 2-acre orchard (\$180), a 5-acre South Field, a 7-acre North Pasture, a 1 1/2 acre Sprang Meadow and a 60-acre wood lot. The total value of John K. Upton's farm in 1890 was \$7,480.

Between 1890 and 1910, the Upton farm decreased in valued from \$7,480 to \$5,360. The number of buildings And division of the property essentially remained the same. Upton's house, barn, slaughter house, hen-house, ice-house and shed were valued at \$1,500, \$500, \$800, \$25, \$50 and \$5, respectively. Upton's land encompassed a 1-acre house lot, 5-acre South Field, a 2-acre orchard, a 7-acre North pasture, a 1 1/2 acre Sprang Meadow along with 60 acres of wood land.

Further deed research is needed to document the post-1915 history of 95 Park Street. By the mid-1960s, Barabara A. O'Brien, bookkeeper / local historian, and Phillip H. O'Brien owned this house.

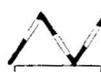
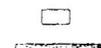
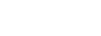




LYNNFIELD

NORTH READING, MA

LEGEND

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

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

Community
North Reading

Property Address
95 Park 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

Statement of Significance by Edward W. Gordon Preservation Consultant
Consultant

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

Currently known as Amber Farm, the Abbott-Eames-Upton House at 95 Park Street, together with its slaughter house and barn, constitute a remarkably intact mid nineteenth century agricultural property. Primarily Greek Revival in style, this handsome farm house was built for Frederick A. Abbott, farmer, shoe manufacturer and State Representative (1859-1860). Owned by local trader Benjamin Eames during the early 1860s, the house was long associated with John K. Upton who lived here from 1865-1915, operating a slaughter house on the premises, one of three surviving in North Reading associated with the Upton family.