

FORM B -BUILDING

Assessor' number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard

Map:62 Parcel: 71

Reading

89

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: North Reading, MA

Place (neighborhood or village)

Lower End

Address 232 Elm Street

Historic Name Undetermined

Use: Present Private residence

Original Farm hand's cottage

Date of Construction c. 1830 to 1850

Source 1830 Hales Map, 1857 Walling Map

Style/Form Late Federal Italianate/ L-shaped

Architect/Builder Undetermined

Exterior Material

Foundation Granite block

Wall Clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition Good

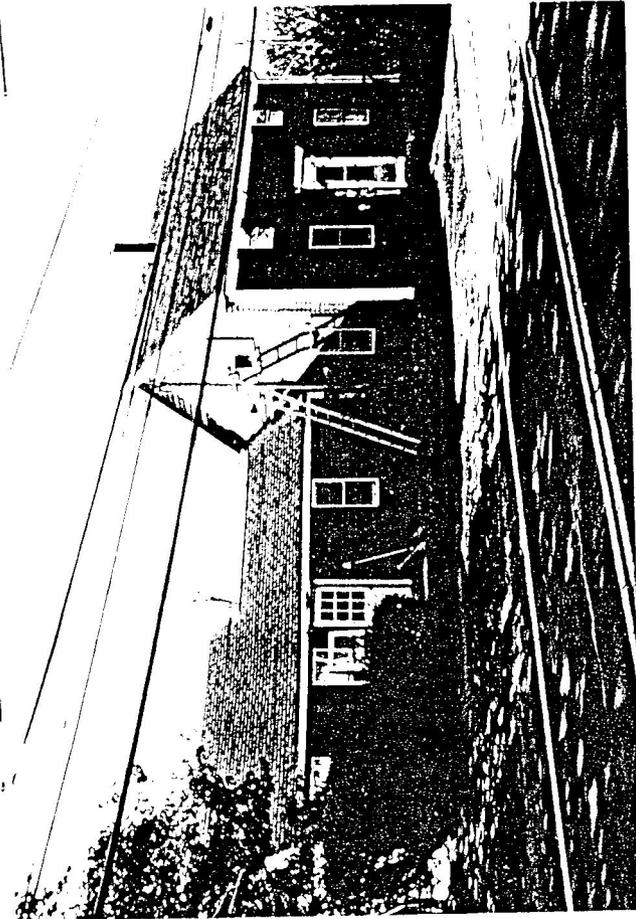
Moved  yes  no

Acreage 0.98 acres

Setting Situated very close to the road. To the rear of this house is the Ipswich River and adjacent meadow lands.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon  
North Reading Historical Commission  
Organization

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.*

Like 151 Elm Street, 232 Elm Street is an interesting, essentially intact example of a modest late Federal /Italianate vernacular cottage that was probably built around 1850 for a farm hand. Situated close to the street on a rise above the Ipswich River, this dwelling consists of a small, one-and-one-half story, three-bay-by-two-bay main block. Clad with clapboards, its edges are accented by narrow corner boards. The main block's east and west gables exhibit return eaves. Both the main block's gable roof and those of contiguous east ells are sheathed with asphalt shingles. Projecting from the west gable is a one-story shed-roofed ell (date of construction unknown, but probably not original). Rising approximately ten feet above the roof line, the street elevation of the two-bay-by-one-bay west ell exhibits a tall and narrow brick chimney. Rising from the center of the roof ridge is a narrow brick chimney.

Particularly noteworthy is the center entrance's surrounds, which consist of Doric pilasters, and a cornice-headed entablature. Above the standard-size windows on either side of the main entrance are small square windows which extend into the main elevation's narrow frieze board. In general, windows contain 1/1 and 2/2 wood sash and are flanked by louvered shutters.

### 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.*

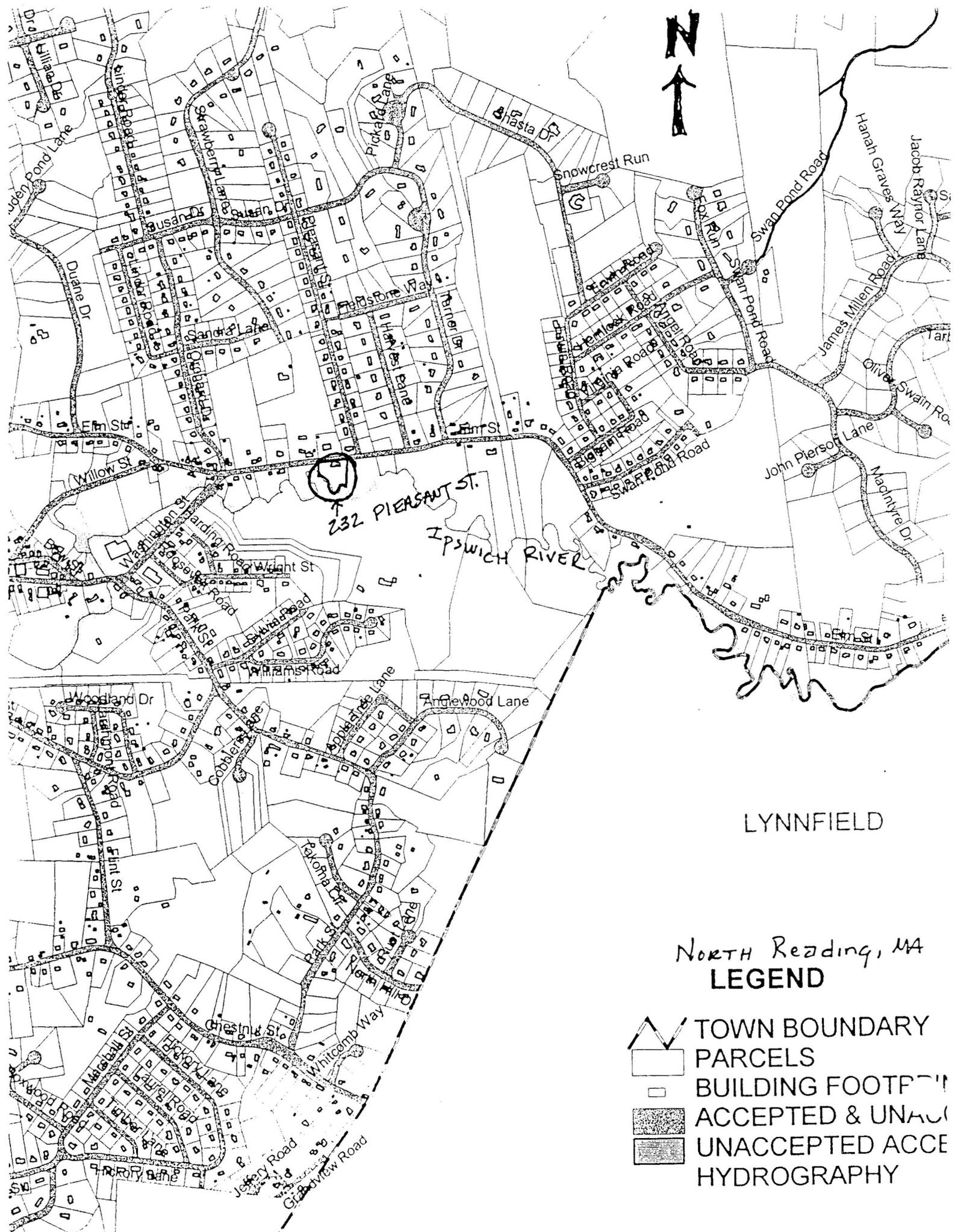
Built between 1830 and 1850, 232 Elm Street was probably built to house a farm hand who worked on the farms on the north side of Elm Street owned by Graves, Uptons, and Parkers. 232 Elm Street provides a physical link with North Reading's Early Industrial Period (1830-1875) -- a period when the town's economic base continued to be subsistence farming, with boot and shoe manufacturing coming to the fore after 1820. By the beginning of this period all three mills on the Ipswich River were owned by Flints. In addition to mills and shoe shops, the town possessed several district schools and two taverns. The primary focus for economic activity was West Village (Park and Mill Streets intersection) as the result of the introduction of the Andover Turnpike just to the east of the village during the early nineteenth century. Civic life remained focused on the Town Common area at Park and Haverhill Streets. Population figures for this period are approximate with an estimated 800 citizens in 1830. By 1860, the population had peaked at 1,203--a figure that was not reached again until 1915.

The early history of this house is unclear. Indicated on Middlesex County Atlases of 1857, 1875, and 1889, the house is labeled J.S. Gates on the 1906 Middlesex County Atlas. The 1890 North Reading Valuation lists Walter and Jacob Gates' total tax (including poll tax) as \$4 but does not list their street or a breakdown of their holdings. The Gates had vacated these premises by 1910. In 1966, residents at this address included Linda M. Smith, William A. Smith, fireman and Grace Littlefield.

### 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.  
Le Page, Samuel M. A History of North Reading, Tercentenary Ed., 1944  
MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report, North Reading, 1981

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



232 PLEASANT ST.

IPSWICH RIVER

LYNNFIELD

NORTH Reading, MA  
**LEGEND**

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