

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
A	43

1. Town North Reading

Address 130 Park Street

Name Abbott - Davis House

Present use residence & store

Present owner ^{Mr. & Mrs.} Robert M. LaBonte

3. Description:

Date 1847 (see #9)

Source Reading Assessor's Record

Style Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric House - wood cl
Store frt, vinyl

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features _____

Altered Front addition Date 1920's

Moved Rear ell Date c.1840

5. Lot size: 8,735 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 82'

Approximate distance of building from street
5'

6. Recorded by Barbara O'Brien

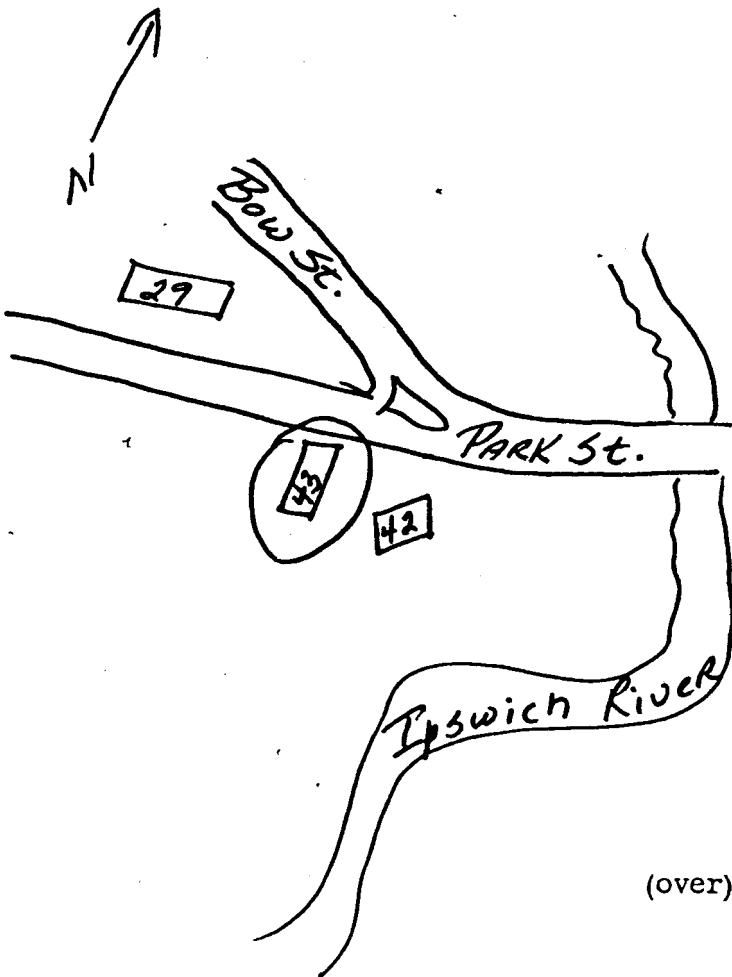
Organization Historical Commission

Date June 1978

2.



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Rear ell: Main House:
William Harnden/Benjamin S. Abbott

Original use dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	<u>X</u>
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	<u>X</u>
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	<u>X</u>		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Early in the Baptist movement when the "Neck" school house was located on land of William Whittredge, the Baptists used the building for a meeting house. In 1817, the Parish voted "not to allow the Baptists liberty to use the schoolhouse as a House of worship" and moved it to orthodox soil. It is said the "Neck" school house became the "nucleus" of this dwelling probably when the "Neck" school house was replaced by the Franklin school house.

Benjamin Swain Abbott, son of Ebenezer and Betsy (Swain) Abbott, purchased the property in 1841 "with a building thereon." He added the main house in 1847. The store front was added in the 1920's for a tailor shop.

In 1870, this was the office and residence of Dr. William P. Davis, a physician who served the community for about 40 years. Davis was also a school committee member.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Mddlsx Reg. of Deeds and Probate
- Reading Assessor's Records
- 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Towne of Reading, Eaton, 1896
- Historical Highlights of the Baptist Church, Robertson, 1967