

In Area no.	Form no.
A	46

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

2.



1. Town North Reading

Address 134 Park Street

Name Carpenter & French Store

Present use shops

Present owner Arthur Rodham

3. Description:

Date 1874

Source N. R. Assessor's Records

Style Late Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features ADDITIONS: two early additions to main buildings - date unknown; ely ell removed after fire; ely addition dates to 1930's; wly addition dates to 1950's

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 22,006 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 116'

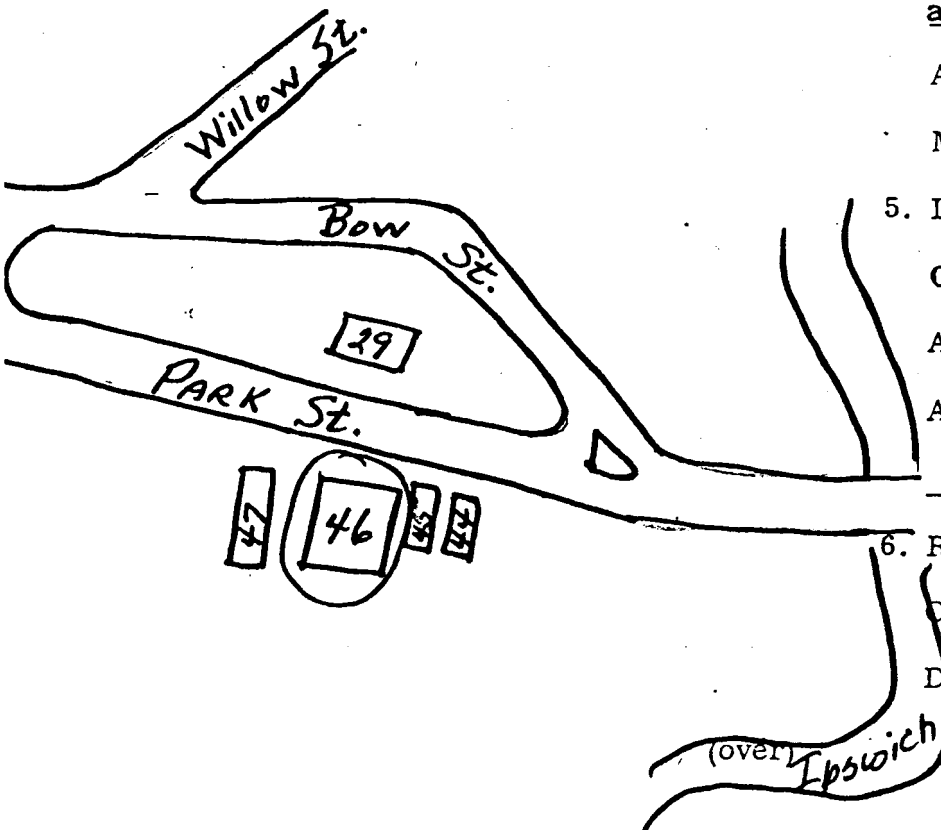
Approximate distance of building from street 25'

6. Recorded by Barbara O'Brien

Organization Historical Commission

Date January, 1978

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



(over) Epswich

7. Original owner (if known) Ellen Emerson Eaton, wife of James L. Eaton, Trader  
 Original use Hay, grain, provisions, hardware and farm equipment store  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The parcel of land on which the store sits was the site of the first of three Baptist Churches. The church was built 12 years after the formation of the Baptist Society in 1828. The Baptist Church records state the church was destroyed by an intense fire which consumed all but 500 lbs of the Paul Revere bell which was sold for scrap. The Baptist Church bell meant so much to the townspeople that within one month after the fire, a new bell was purchased and installed in the Third Meetinghouse on the Common.

Ellen Emerson Eaton was a descendant of Rev. Daniel Putnam, the first settled minister of the North Parish. The store she and her husband started sold provisions, grains, hardware, etc., for over 98 years, 1874 thru 1972. The store was known for many years before and after the turn of the century as the store of Carpenter & French. Today the store is more commonly referred to as Jones Bros. (Jones Bros., mirror image). Jones Bros. began operation in 1923 and closed in 1972 when the property was sold.

The store of Carpenter & French was the first location of the switch-board when crank telephones came into use; the second location of the post office and the first location in town to have a gasoline pump.

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

Middlesex s. s. Registry of Deeds and Probate  
 North Reading Assessor's Records  
 Early Maps thru 1910  
 "Historical Highlights" of the Baptist Church, Robertson, 1967  
 Interviews with Em Jones and Flossie Conron