

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
A	56

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

2.



1. Town North Reading

Address 162 Park Street

Name Ryer's Store

Present use store

Present owner William H. Ryer

3. Description:

Date 1842

Source Reading Assessor's Records

Style Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard

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

Other features many additions;

modernization of front

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

Moved XX Date 1911

5. Lot size: 31,734 sq. ft.

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

Approximate frontage 214'

Approximate distance of building from street

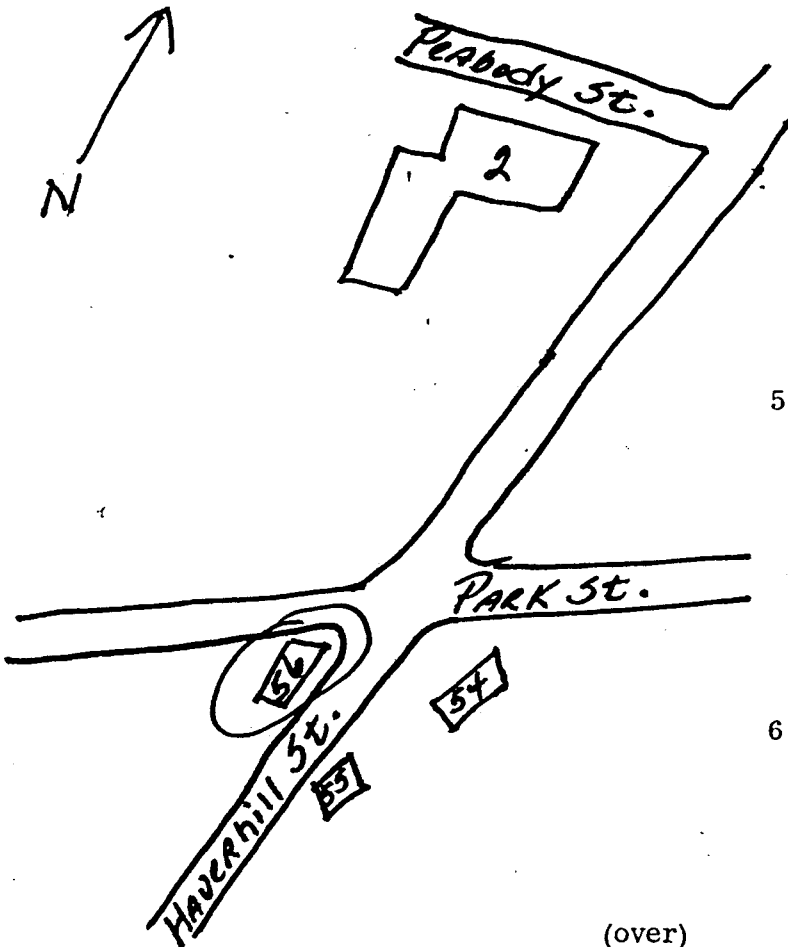
0'

6. Recorded by Nickerson/O'Brien

Organization Historical Commission

Date June 1978

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Edwin Foster  
 Original use store

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates store; after 1911, the additions were used as dwelling, but the single one room store has always been a store

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)
- |                       |                                     |                            |                          |                         |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Conservation               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Agricultural          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Education                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Architectural         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Exploration/<br>settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/<br>invention   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| The Arts              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Industry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/<br>humanitarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Communication         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |                         |                                     |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                          |                         |                                     |

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

Ryer's Store was originally constructed at 25 Bow Street (A-24) when that property was owned by Edwin Foster. The single room building has always been a store. It was purchased and moved in 1911 by William H. Ryer, Sr., and as far as we can determine is the oldest store in town with the exception of the store in the Damon Tavern. Ryer made several additions and his family used the added sections as a dwelling. During the 1940's and early 50's, a dentist, Dr. Swett, occupied a section of the store. Ryer's Store, one of the oldest businesses in Town, has been a post office, a gathering place for people of all ages, and is somewhat of a landmark in the center of Town.

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

- Mddlsx s. s. Registry of Deeds and Probate
- Reading Assessor's Records
- North Reading Assessor's Records
- Interviews with William H. Ryer, Jr. (Big Bill)