

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area

D

Form no.

221



Reading

Address 107 Grove StreetHistoric Name Joseph Parker HouseOriginal DwellingPresent DwellingOwnership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

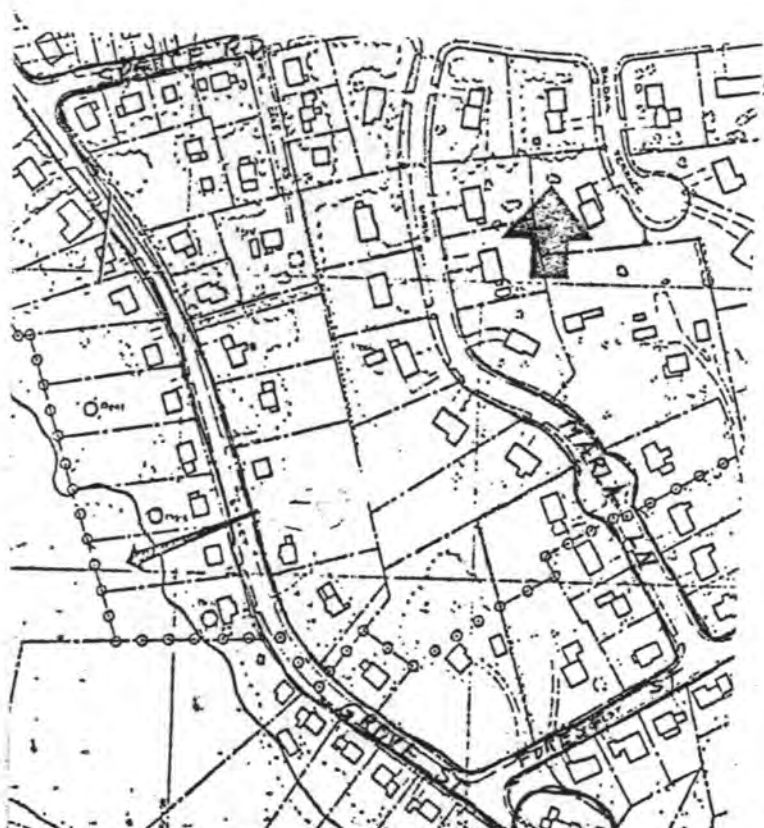
Public

Original owner Joseph Parker / Loea Parker

DESCRIPTION:

Date Before 1795Source Map of 1795Style Federal vernacular/Greek RevivalArchitect n/aExterior wall fabric ClapboardOutbuildings Attached garageMajor alterations (with dates) Series of extensions, door enframing, shedroof dormer, porch west, extension rear
Moved NO DateApprox. acreage 17,026 sq. ft.Setting At corner of two 17th and 18th century roads - faces south.Recorded by Architectural Preservation AssociatesOrganization Reading Historical CommissionDate November 1980Date 6/82UTM: 19/326840/4711300

(Staple additional sheets here)



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Federal in all but its door enframingent, this house probably was built c. 1795. It was either remodeled c. 1808, or added to at that time. Federal vernacular features include the massing, small windows at second floor level touching the plate, and the boxed cornice.

The central door enframingent was a Greek Revival alteration:^a fluted architrave surround and square corner blocks flank half-length sidelights. This treatment was more often applied to one and one-half story cottages, but is found, as here, in two and one-half story dwellings.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This house marks an 18th century settlement node, and is probably the house represented on the map of 1795, owned by Joseph Parker. It is likely that the house was remodeled in 1808. Simon Nichols, Sr., who married Joseph Parker's daughter, Mary, owned it next. He lived at 193-195 High Street and was a cooper. Simon Nichols, Jr., sold the property in 1808 to Loea Parker, a year after Parker's marriage to Anna Bancroft. Her brother, Nehemiah, lived down the road at 68 Grove Street and purchased the saw mill known as "Slab City mill," having begun its operation before 1720. Loea died at Fort Independence, Boston harbor, during the War of 1812. His wife also died in 1814.

In 1875 the house was owned by F. Howard Gilson, an early experimenter in photography. He recorded many of Reading's ancient trees in Trees Of Reading, Massachusetts, published by himself in 1888.

From 1910 through 1932 the homestead served as the vacation home of urban youngsters when the Fathers' and Mothers' Club owned it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1795 map Parker
- 1830 map yes
- 1854 map F. Buck (Franklin)
- 1875 map J. Clark (Joshua)
- 1889 map F. H. Gilson (F. Howard)
- Bishop, Rooftrees Chapter '43
- Pitkin, Vignettes, photo p. 38

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Reading	D-221
Property Name: 107 Grove St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) as part of an 18th-century node of settlement in this part of town; (2) for its connection with the locally prominent Parker and Nichols families, and particularly War of 1812 veteran Loea Parker, and with early photographer F. Howard Gilson; (3) for its role as the Fathers' and Mothers' Club's summer retreat for urban children; and (4) as a good example of vernacular Federal architecture. It retains integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 6/4/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 71. Parker, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 72. Parker, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 73. Pierce House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 75. Pratt House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 76. Pratt, Stillman, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 77. Reading Municipal Building | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 78. Reading Municipal Light and
Power Station | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 79. Roberts House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melvin Byers</u> 7-19-84 |
| | | Attest | |

RJ #84002781

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Parker, Joseph, House (Reading M R A)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. 6/4/84
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 7/5/84 - 7/19/84
Action: ACCEPT 7-19-84
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

Area

D

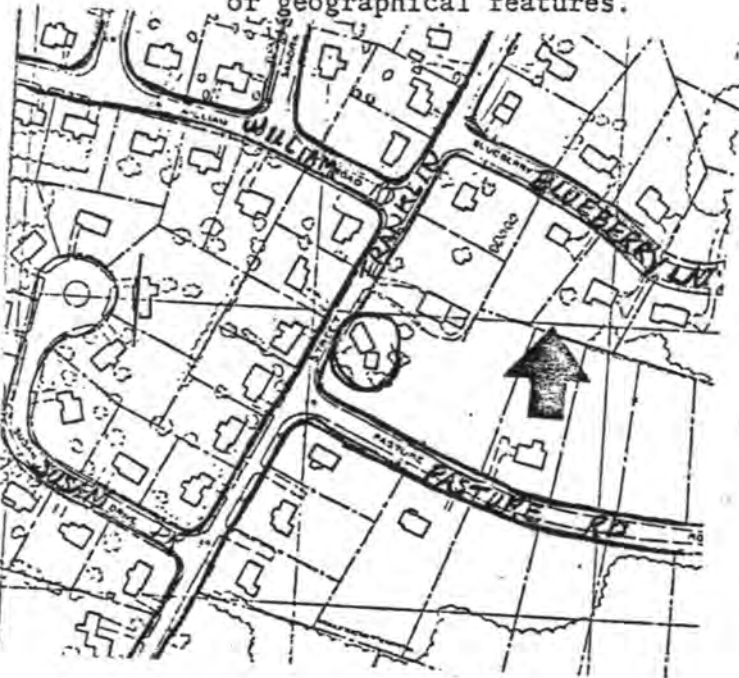
Form no.

226

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ~~XXVII 8~~
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.



Reading (#27)

420 Franklin Street

Name Joseph Parker House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Joseph Parker

NOTATION:

Date 1711Source Roof treesStyle First PeriodArchitect naExterior wall fabric Wood shinglesOutbuildings Barn c. 1857Major alterations (with dates) Ell tobarn 1840's, entry on west fenestra-

tion, on east c. 1960, dormer,
chimney removed

Moved no DateApprox. acreage Two acres

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Setting Facing south, large chestnut
Associates

Organization Reading Historical Commission trees in yard.Date November **REVISED**Date 6-82

UTM: 19/325990/4712460

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This house is something of a puzzle, being only three-bays wide. Though not common in Reading, three-bay houses built before 1800 were constructed so that a second set of rooms could be added on the other side of the front door, making that opening central. Here, however, the entrance is on one side. It is unknown if the house was built this way or altered at a later date. The windows have been altered at least twice, though they are still relatively small on the second floor, and placed against the boxed gutter. The eaves line appears to have been altered in the late 19th century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Added to the architectural puzzle is the question of: why, if it was standing here since the third decade of the 18th century, was it left off of the map made in 1765?

There is some evidence that this was indeed an early 18th century Parker farmstead sending sons off to the Revolution, as well as one son to become the innkeeper owner of the Parker Tavern (103 Washington Street). Nathan Parker of Ash Street bought the farm for speculative purposes. It was farmed into the 20th century. In the 1950's this large tract was developed: Blueberry Lane was opened and built upon. The following decade saw the opening of Pasture Road for suburban homes.

Ellen Nelson, wife of Fred Nelson, a well known local artist, established the Red Farm Studio in 1947 at this property. The business was sold in 1959.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1795 map J. Parker (Joseph) (Jr.)
1830 map yes
1854 map John G. Hutchinson
1875 map J. G. Hutchinson
1889 map J. G. Hutchinson

Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 35

Howard, Loea Parker, The J. G. Hutchinson House, Franklin Street, Reading, longhand notes, 1933.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: D-226
Property Name: 420 Franklin St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

The Joseph Parker House is significant (1) for its role as an early 18th century homestead; (2) for its connection with the locally prominent Parker family, and with local artist Ellen Nelson; (3) for its very early date; and (4) as a relatively intact example of First-period architecture. It retains integrity of location, general design, general setting, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

6/1/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 7 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	Date/Signature
61. Nichols, James, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
62. Nichols, Richard, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
63. Octagon House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
64. Old Hose House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
65. Parker, Capt. Nathaniel, Red House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
66. Parker House (52 Salem St.)	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
67. Parker, Joseph, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
68. Parker, Samuel, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
69. Parker, Stillman, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>
70. Parker House (316 Haven St.)	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Attest	<u>Melrose Byers 7-19-84</u>

Ref. # 84002781

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Parker, Joseph, House (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-19-84
☐ RETURN
Entered in the ☐ REJECT
National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Parlor, Joseph House

Reading Room

420 Franklin St.

XXXIII - 8A



Parker, Joseph, House
Reading, MA, Ma

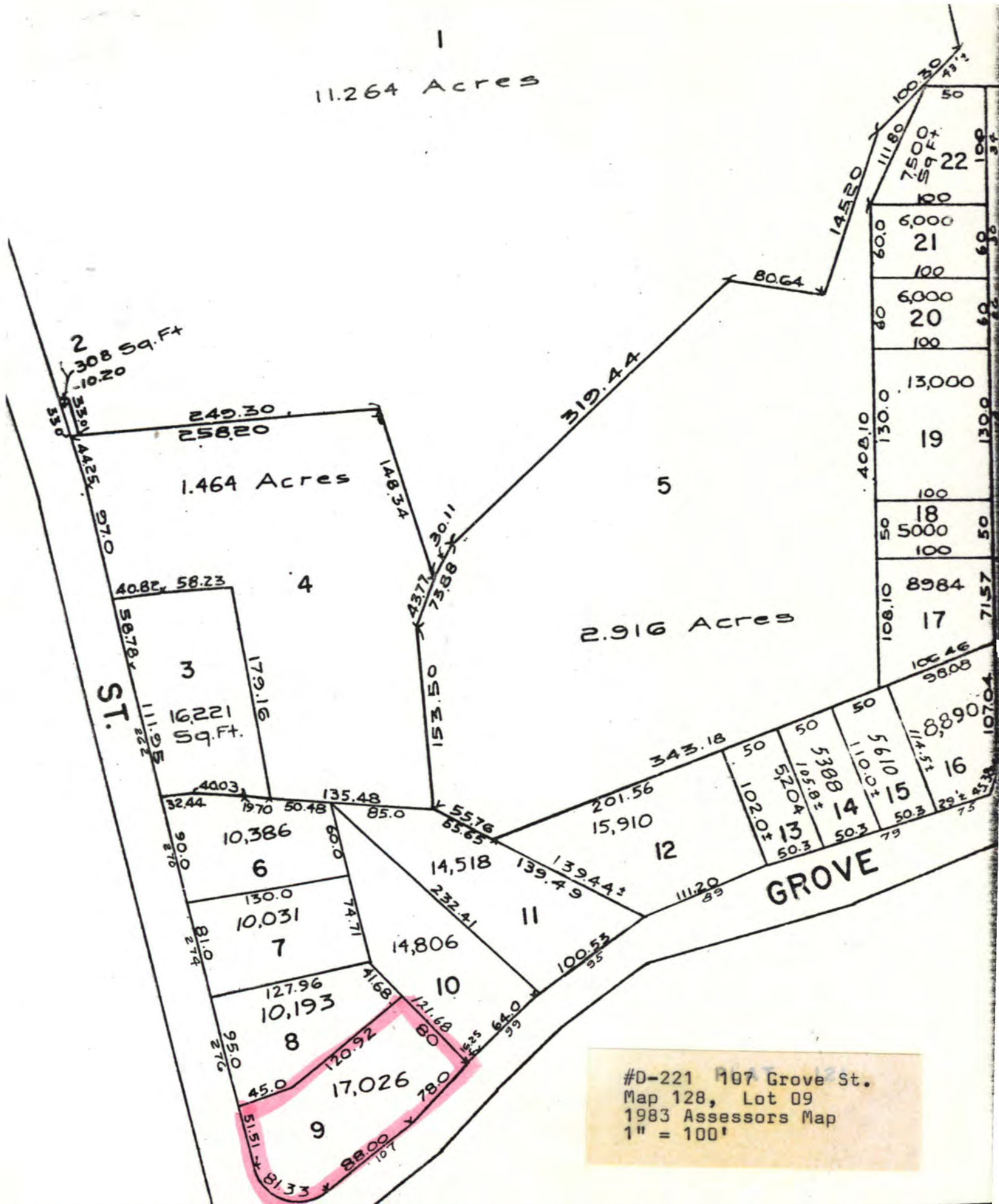
107 Grove St.

N-16A

11.264 Acres

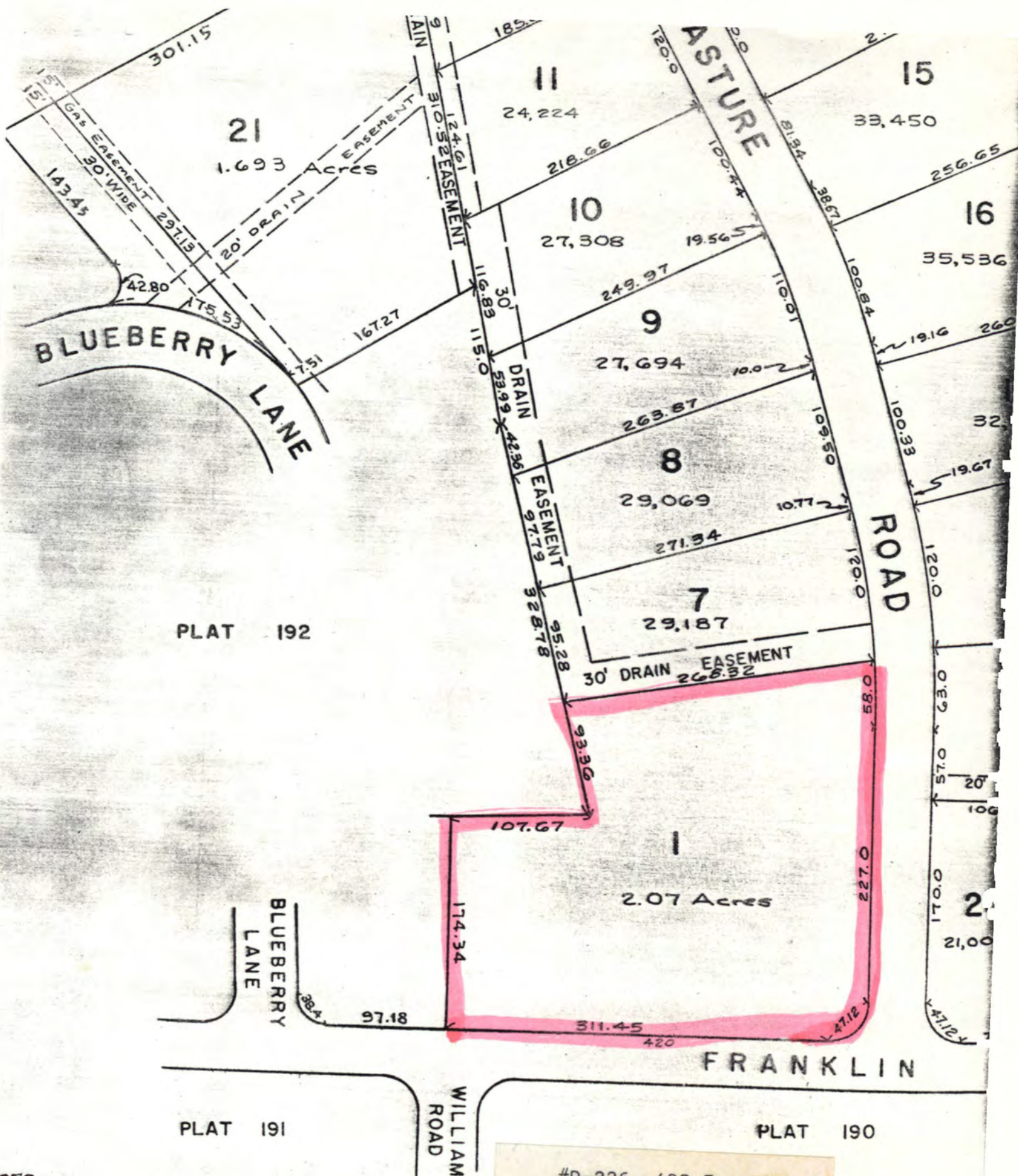
ST.

GROVE



#D-221 107 Grove St.
Map 128, Lot 09
1983 Assessors Map
1" = 100'

PLAN INFORMATION COMPILED FROM RECORD DATA,
FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY



#D-226 420 Franklin St
 Map 178, Lot 01
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

1.1, 1979.
 1.1, 1975
 1.1, 1973
 1.1, 1972
 1, 1967

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290