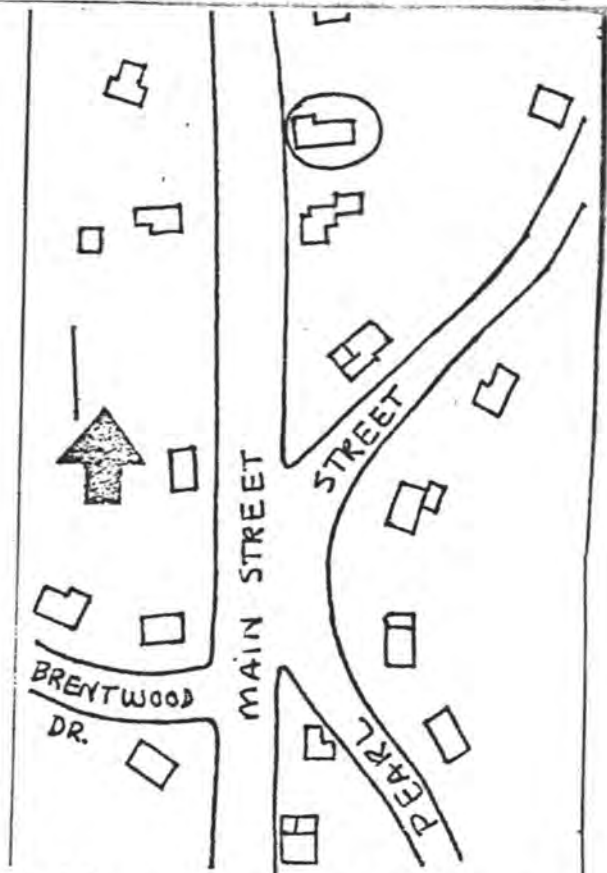


Area	Form no.
A	22



Reading
 Address 1249 Main Street
 Historic Name Old Hose House
 Original fire-hose house
 Present organization's headquarters
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Colonial Chorus, Inc.
 Public
 Original owner Town of Reading



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1902
 Source town annual reports
 Style Colonial Revival
 Architect --
 Exterior wall fabric clapboards, shingles
 Outbuildings --
 Major alterations (with dates) one-story additions north and south; open porch on south; cupola added 1904
 Moved no Date
 Approx. acreage 4,500 sq. ft.
 Setting on a hill, facing west toward a main road

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
 Organization Reading Historical Commission
 Date November 30, 1980

Date 2/16/84

UTM: 19/327200/4712780

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

This building was small enough to be treated on a domestic scale, and the Colonial Revival style -- a then-popular residential style in Reading -- was used for its design. The flared gambrel roof, lunette gable window, and triple window with wide surrounds are features of this style. The bracketed gable overhang appears to be a remnant of the Queen Anne style, although it may have been considered an allusion to the "garrison" type of overhang in colonial architecture.

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

Early Reading depended on fire buckets for fire protection, and every home was required by law to have a pair. In 1815, the first hand engine was purchased, and the men who operated it were exempted from military service. Thus began the volunteer system of fire protection in Reading. The northern branch of the department acquired "Old Fountain," an 1845 hand pumper, from Wakefield in the 1870's. The branch rented land on which to keep its equipment, but the land was sold shortly after the turn of this century. In 1902, the town bought this site for \$10, and erected this building, at a cost of \$1,180.50. In 1904 the tower was added, with a bell from the John Street School and an alarm striker.

In 1930, the building was sold to a community group, the Northern Residents' Association. It was the site of inexpensive entertainment during the Depression. In 1972, it was sold to another local group, the Colonial Chorus; today it serves as a meeting place and rehearsal space for the chorus' yearly musical productions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 367
Trader, Vol. I, No. 33, Oct. 18, 1897, p. 1
1902, 1903 Reading annual reports
Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 538
History of the Reading Fire Department, 1673-1974

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: A-22
Property Name: --	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This building is significant (1) for its role in the development of Reading's fire-fighting capabilities; and (2) as an example of how a small public building was often treated architecturally as a domestic one. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A 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 6/1/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 7 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

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

Ref # 84002769

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Hose 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
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- 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

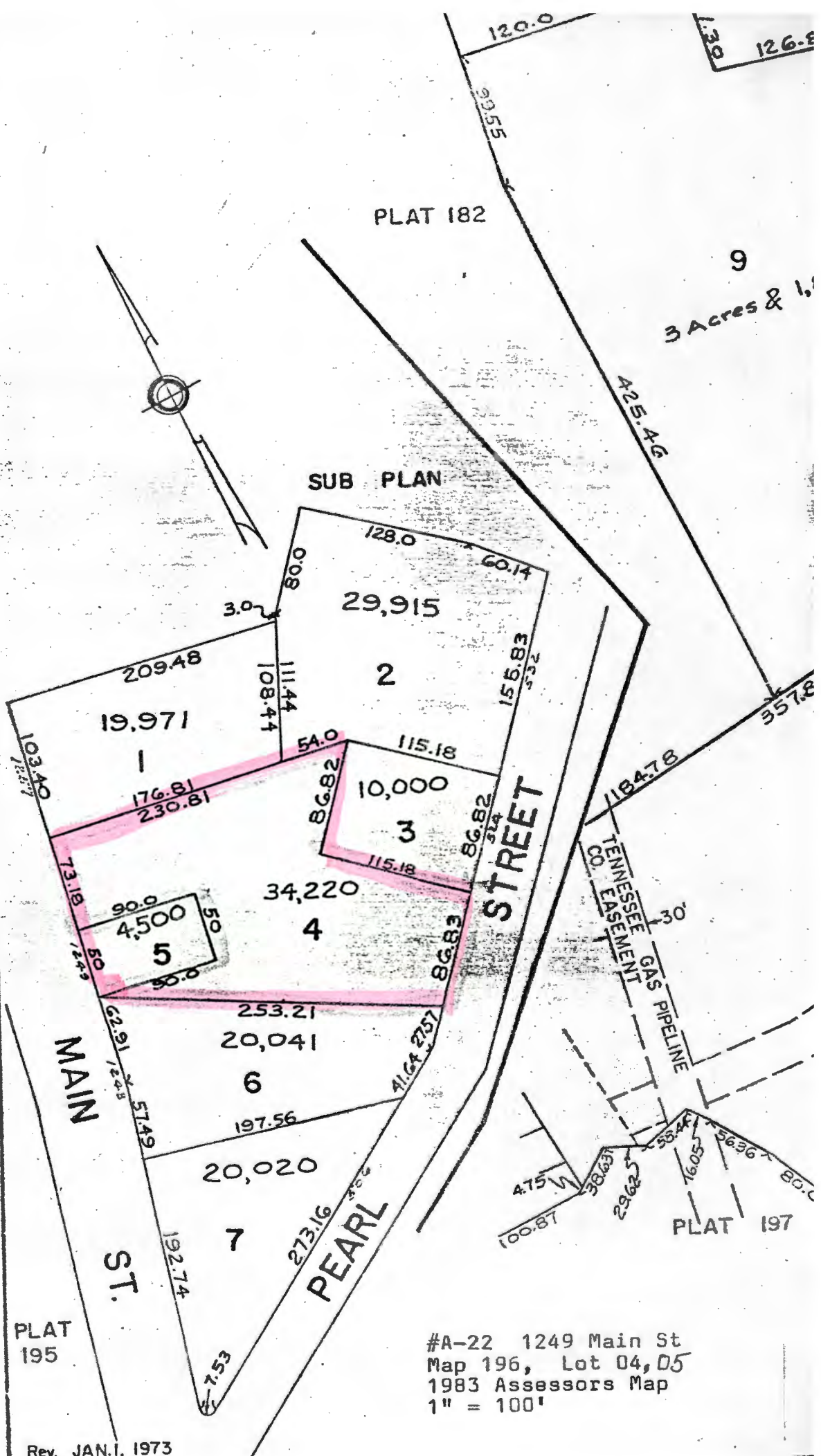


OLD HOSE HOUSE

Old House
Reading, MA

Main St.

XXXII 20A



#A-22 1249 Main St
 Map 196, Lot 04, D5
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000290