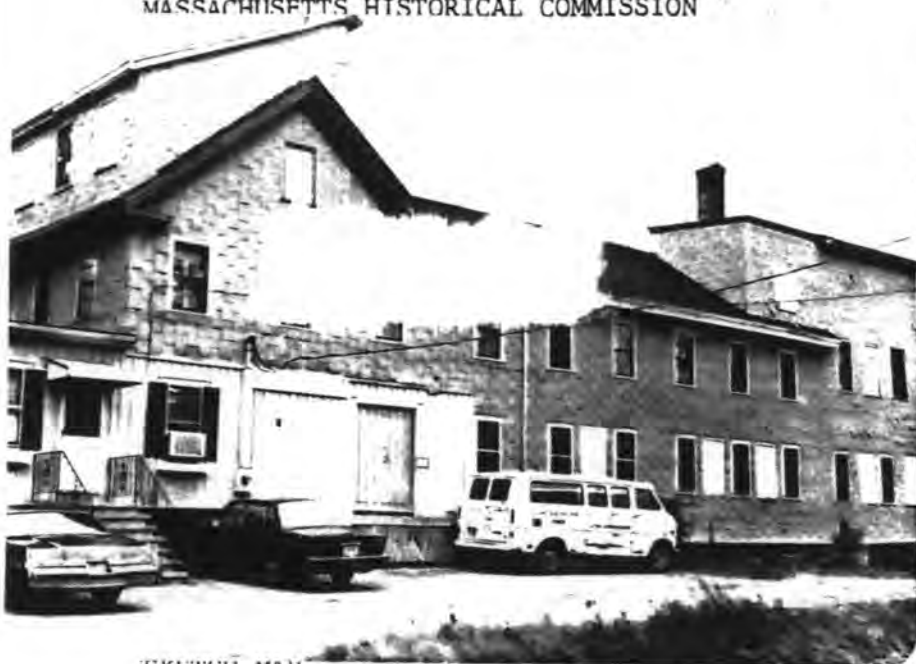


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area
BForm no.
38

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



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

Date 6/82

Reading

Address 10-12 Pierce StreetHistoric Name Pierce Organ Pipe FactoryOriginal organ pipe factoryPresent organ pipe factory

Ownership: ☐ Private individual
Private organization Dennison
Organ Pipe Factory
Public

Original owner Samuel Pierce

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1852Source Genealogical HistoryStyle ItalianateArchitect n/aExterior wall fabric asbestos sidingOutbuildings barn across the street

Major alterations (with dates) extensions
north 1854-75, west 1875-89, south
1889-1950

Moved NO DateApprox. acreage 22,291 sq. ft.

Setting Behind Pierce's house, this
factory stretches along Pierce
Street.

UTM: 19/327840/4710270

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The original factory looked very much like the houses of the time: gable end to the street over heavy granite foundations. The original building was 8 bays long and had a cupola. The south one-story addition is not seen in the picture of 1894, nor is the 3-story voicing room at the present north end. This is one of the few remaining industrial buildings from the 19th century in Reading, and the only one continuing its original use.

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

After an apprenticeship to George Badger, a cabinet maker of the town, and a stint with organ builders in Boston, Samuel Pierce moved to Reading in 1846 and the next year began making metal organ pipes in an ell of his house. This house was at 137/139 Salem Street, on the south side. In 1852 he opened a factory on Pierce Street. He expanded his manufacturing business to include the production of various organ parts as well as the metal pipes, and was a leader in this field, selling in the U. S., British provinces, Jamaica, and South America. In 1854 the building comprised 14,000 square feet of floor space, and the factory employed 50.

The close proximity of Pierce's new house and his factory continued the tradition in this section of Reading of combined workshop-living quarters, but elevated to an unprecedented scale. The Dennison Company succeeded Pierce's ownership. They began the manufacture of electrically powered organs, and built a number of console organs for movie theaters before "talkies" appeared.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map drawing on border
1875 map Organ Pipe Factory
1889 map Organ Pipe Factory - Pierce

Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 538
Eaton, Memorial Volume, pp. 163, 314

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: E-30
Property Name: 10-12 Pierce St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Pierce organ pipe factory is significant (1) for its role in Reading's production of organs and organ pipes; (2) for its connection with successful businessman Samuel Pierce; and (3) as the best surviving example of Reading's 19th-century industrial buildings. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, 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 6/4/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName 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

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

72. Parker, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

73. Pierce House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

75. Pratt House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

76. Pratt, Stillman, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

77. Reading Municipal Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

78. Reading Municipal Light and
Power StationEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

79. Roberts House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvyn Byers 7-19-84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pierce Organ Pipe Factory (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
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Pierce Construction Factory
Reading, MA, Mass.

10-12 Pierce St.

XXXII UZA

WILSON ST.

PLAT 87



#B-38 10-12 Pierce St.
Map 88, Lot 10
1983 Assessors Map
1" = 100'

PLAT 88

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290