

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
258,259,340	D

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Town Arlington, MA

Name of area (if any) Peirce Farm

Historic District

General date or period 1830-1850

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

UTM:

A: 19/320340/4698220
B: 19/320370/4698100
C: 19/320280/4698140

UTM:

A: 19/320340/469220
B: 19/320370/469100
C: 19/320280/469140

Acres:

aprox. 2 acres

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date December 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

MAR 5

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The proposed Peirce Farm Historic District consists of three mid-19th century farmhouses located at the intersection of Claremont and Oakland Avenues. The three formerly comprised the Peirce homestead in Arlington Heights, the western part of the town. Forming a triangle, the three stand at an angle to the plane of the streets, reflecting earlier roadways that are no longer in existence.

Built ca. 1830, the J. Peirce Farmhouse (#259) is a 2 1/2 - story, 5-bay dwelling built primarily in the Federal style. Greek Revival-style features reveal a transitional period in American architecture. The central doorway, flanked by sidelights, is framed by a basket arch that is probably an early 20th century replacement.

The second house, the John A.P. Peirce Homestead (#258), was built ca. 1835. It is a 2 1/2-story clapboard side-hall residence and displays both Federal and Greek Revival features. (see continuation sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Peirce Farm area of Arlington Heights was settled originally in the 1830s by three members of the Peirce Family. The three--Thomas Peirce, John A.P. Peirce, and J. Peirce--were among the first to settle the rocky, thickly wooded highlands of western Arlington. The family's property covered most of what is today considered Arlington Heights and the area adjoining Park Avenue. Today the three properties provide a unique glimpse into Arlington's agricultural past. It was not until the 1870s that the Peirce family was forced to sell much of their land, thus ensuring the rapid development of this scenic part of western Arlington.

Local historian Marietta Peirce, who grew up in the J.A. Peirce House, recorded much of her family's history at the turn of the century. Today her papers are an invaluable link to Arlington's past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Frederick Clifton Pierce, Pierce Family Genealogy
1875 Beers and Co. Atlas
1884 Bird's Eye View of Arlington
1897 Stadley & Co. Atlas
1923 Sanburn Map Co. Atlas
Arlington Directories of 1869/70, 1883, 1890, 1898, 1923

Continuation Sheet
Peirce Farm Historic District/Arlington

Three bays wide with a front facing gable, the building is capped by a heavy raking cornice and framed by corner pilasters.

The Thomas Peirce House (#340), built ca. 1850, represents the full-blown Greek Revival style with temple front, side entry, deeply incised pilasters, and a single-story colonnaded porch encircling the front and side elevations.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Peirce Farm Historic District is significant for its associations with Arlington's agricultural economy in the first half of the 19th century and with a family that was significant in the community's 19th century development. The district is composed of three well-preserved and unified examples of Federal and Greek Revival-style architecture; all are buildings that are sited in a way that reflects the early road patterns of the area. Peirce Farm retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

25.

Arlington MRA/Peirce Farm Historic District
Area D
Criteria A,C

<u>MHC#</u>	<u>HISTORIC NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>STYLE</u>
340	Thomas Peirce House	178 Oakland Avenue	ca. 1850	Greek Revival
259	J. Peirce House	123 Claremont Avenue	ca. 1830	Federal/Greek Revival
258	John A. P. Peirce House	122 Claremont Avenue	ca. 1835	Federal/Greek Revival

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pierce Farm Historic District (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 6 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4/4/85 - 4/20/85
Action: ACCEPT
RETURN 4-18-85
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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ 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

X 10. Geographical Data

X Acreage of nominated property _____ *Please provide acreage.*
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 *A. Byers* Date 4-18-81 Phone: _____

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

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

ARLINGTON

✓ 1. ~~Town~~ Center Historic District (BOUNDARY INCREASE) ✓ Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

Scout Cove Nantux 4/18/85
Sharon M. Dwyer 9/27/85

✓ 2. Pierce Farm Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper

National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85

✓ 3. Kensington Park Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper

National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85

✓ 4. Orvis Road Historic District Entered in the ✓ Keeper

National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85

✓ 5. Allyn House

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 9/27/85

6. Arlington Coal & Lumber

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/85

7. Arlington Gaslight Company

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/85

8. Arlington Pumping Station

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/85

9. Arlington Reservoir

BOUNDARY INCREASE

Attest

Sharon M. Dwyer 9/27/8510. Baptist Society Meeting
HouseEntered in the
National Register

Attest

Delores Byers 4/18/85

REF #
85002678

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pierce Farm Historic District (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 3/6/85
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 9/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-27-85
☐ 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

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	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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ moved date _____

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☐ 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

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



178 Oakland (Thomas Pierce Hse);
123 Claremont (J. Pierce Hse);
l. to r.

Pierce Farm Historic District
Arlington MA (MRA)

Neg: with photographer
View W, showing N, E elevs.
PHOTO # 8

Pierce Farm

DUETTE PHOTOGRAPHERS
EIGHT CENTRAL STREET
ARLINGTON, MA 02174
(617) 643-3557

84139-12

MAR 6 1985



123 Claremont (J. Pierce Hse);
178 Oakland (Thos. Pierce Hse);

L. to R.

Pierce Farm Historic District
Arlington MA (MRA)

Neg: with photographer

View N, showing S.W. elevs.

PHOTO #9

DUETTE PHOTOGRAPHERS
EIGHT CENTRAL STREET
ARLINGTON, MA 02174
(617) 643-3557

84139-11

MAR 6 1985



Pierce Farm (H)
Arlington MA, MA

DUETTE PHOTOGRAPHERS

EIGHT CENTRAL STREET

ARLINGTON, MA 02174

(617) 643-3557

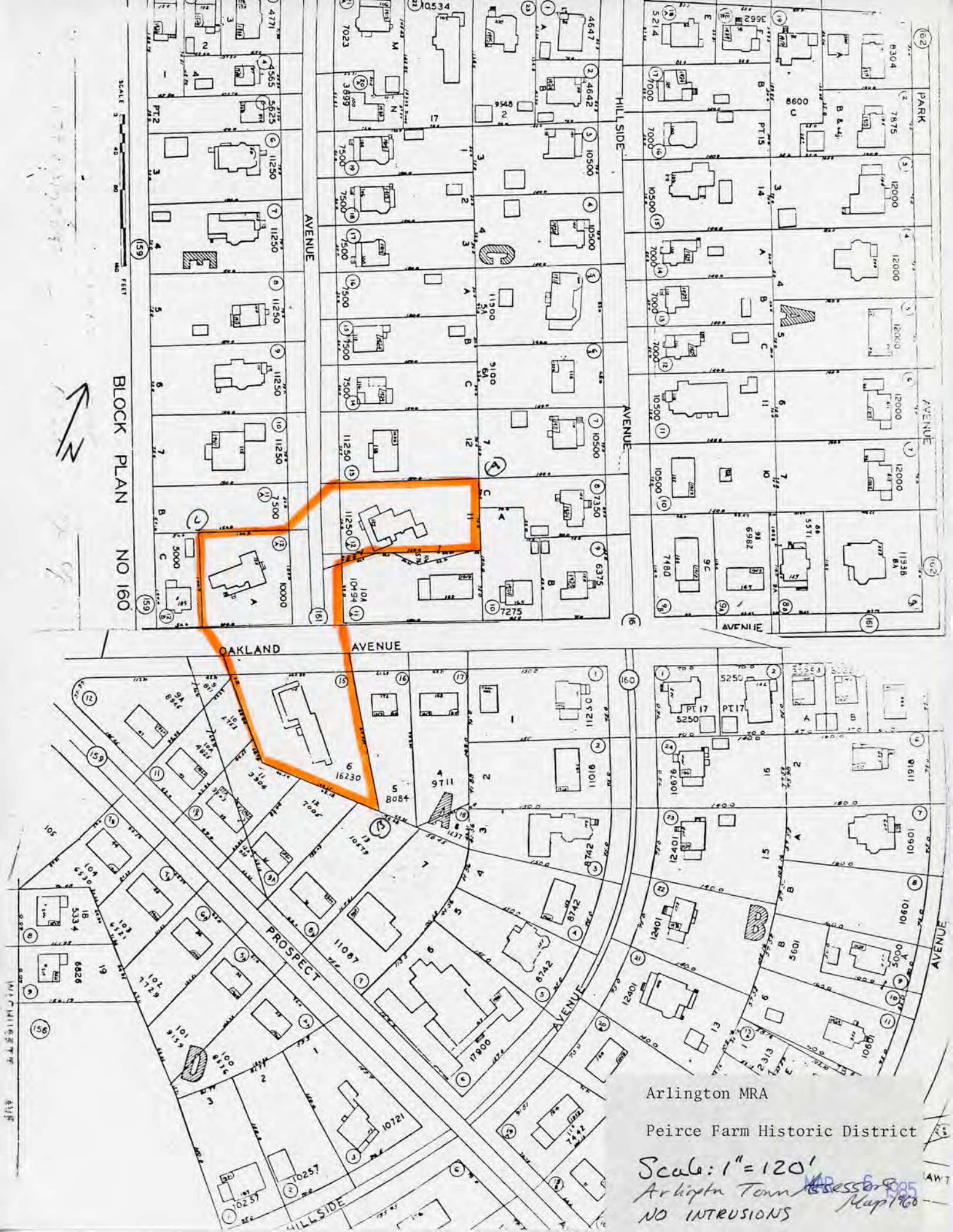
84139



Pierce Farm HD
Arlington MA, MA

DUETTE PHOTOGRAPHERS
EIGHT CENTRAL STREET
ARLINGTON, MA 02174
(617) 643-3557

84139



SCALE 0 40 80 120 FEET

BLOCK PLAN NO 160

Arlington MRA

Peirce Farm Historic District

Scale: 1"=120'
Arlington Township
NO INTRUSIONS