

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area	Form no.
C	92



Town Reading

Address 55 Walnut Street

Historic Name William Parker House

Use: Original dwelling

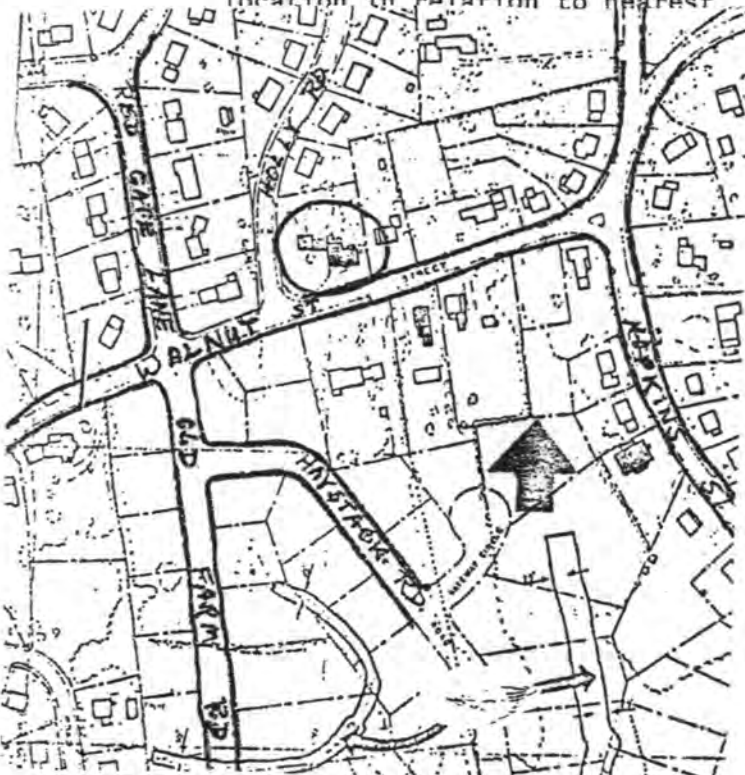
Present dwelling

Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner William Parker

Draw map showing property location in relation to nearest



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1796

Source Roof trees

Style Federal

Architect 1910 addition by Willard P. Adden

Exterior wall fabric clapboards, shingles

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) greatly enlarged (c. 1810); dormers, extension, porch, garage added (1968);

rear entry no Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 23,633 sq. ft.

Setting On small rise, facing south.

A new road cut off one side of the property.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Reading Historical Commission

Date November 20, 1980

Date 6-82

UTM: 19/326700/4708280

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The exterior of this house displays traces of its 18th-century construction as a single-family house, and its early 19th-century expansion to a Federal two-family residence, before 20th-century reconversion to a single-family. It has a thick sill resting on large blocks of granite. The larger of the two interior chimneys is centered on its three-bay portion.

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 is significant in Reading history as the home of William Parker, who -- with 33 other members of his family -- were part of the dissenting movement from the Congregational Church in 1849. The group of 90 dissenters, who were excommunicated for their action, formed their own church, the Bethesda Congregational Church, in 1849 -- an event that made explicit a doctrinal break in the community that remained unresolved until the two churches reunited in 1886.

William Parker's son, Luther, was known in Reading as an artisan of considerable talent. He constructed an organ, several clocks, and a bass viola in 1813, that his son, William Strong Parker, played in the Bethesda Church.

Later residents of the house included Walter S. Hopkins, Sr., whose son, Walter, Jr., farmed a market garden known as Hill End Farm on 10 acres of the property.

In 1916-1918 Willard P. Adden lived here. He was a principal in the firm of Adden and Parker. They designed the Reading Public Library, restored the Old South Church, and collaborated with another architect, George Sidebottom, on the Town Hall. Adden also remodeled 284 Summer Avenue (form no. C-113) and 217 Woburn Street (form no. C-131).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1830 map yes
1854 map Luther Parker
1875 map S.M. Pratt (Stillman)
1889 map " " "
Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 40

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-92
Property Name: 55 Walnut St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its role in the religious dissent that formed the Bethesda Congregational Church; (2) for its connection with the locally important Parker family, and with the local architect Willard P. Adden; and (3) as an example of an 18th-century half house expanded to a full house in the early 19th century. It retains integrity of location, design, 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 6/14/84

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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

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

Entered in the
National Register

Working No. 6/4/84
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-19-84
☐ RETURN
☐ 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



POLAROID

Parker, William, Huse
Reading MRA, Ma

55 Walnut

M 0 0 • 7 0 1 X

PLAT 17

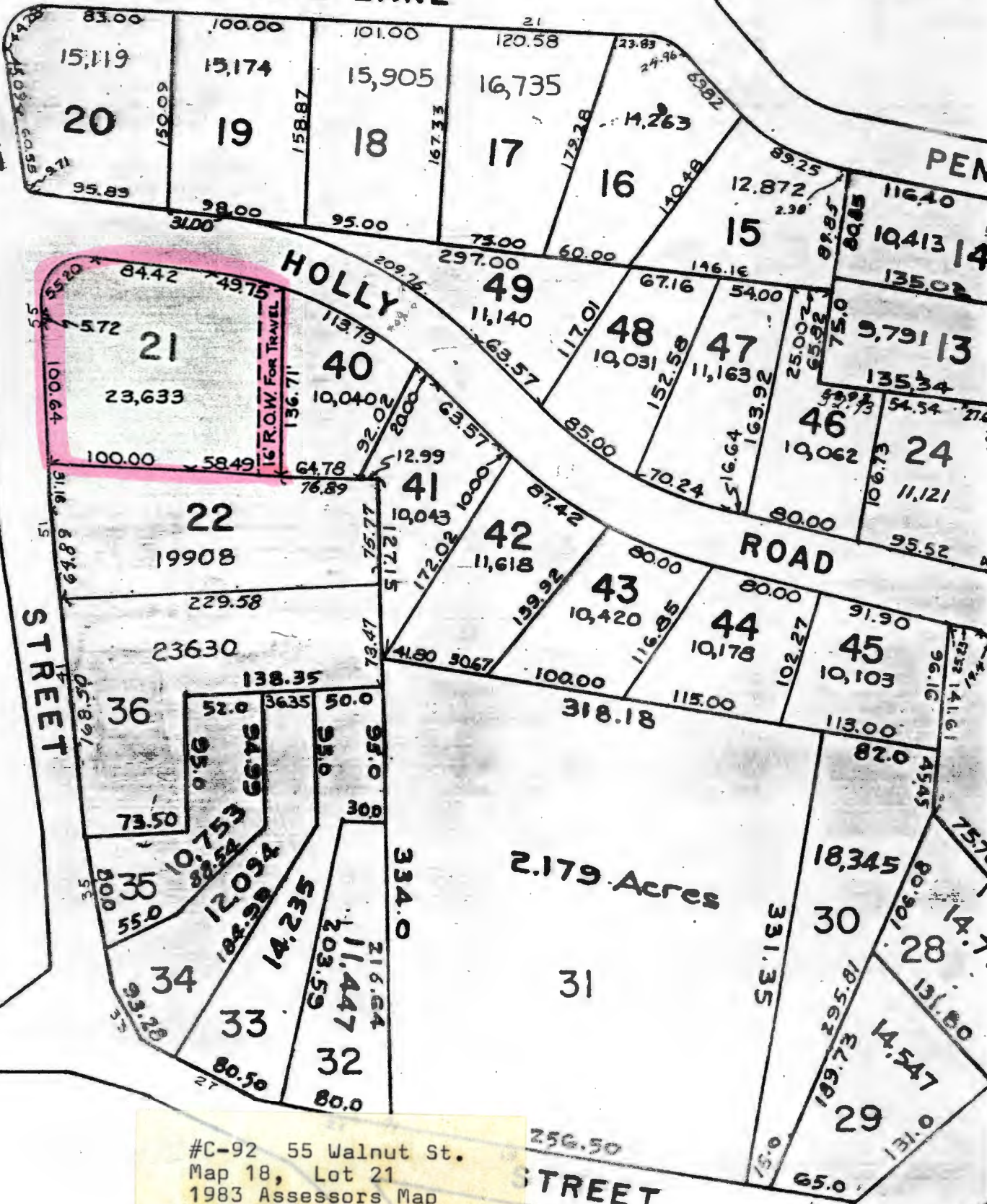
PLAT 17

RED GATE LANE

WALNUT

RED GATE LANE

PEN



#C-92 55 Walnut St.
Map 18, Lot 21
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