

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

A-8



Reading

52 Salem Street

Name Parker House

Original Dwelling

Present Dwelling

Property: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Jonas Parker

LOCATION:

Buildings

Date 1792 Built around earlier chimney.

Source Roof trees & Weston diary

Style Early Federal

Architect n/a

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) Attached garage, early ell on fieldstone

foundation for 2 additions. Both present in picture, though one story,

Moved of 1832

Date

Moved No

Approx. acreage 23,517 sq. ft.

Setting Set close to main road running east. The house faces south. The

large public park behind it was once part of the farmstead.

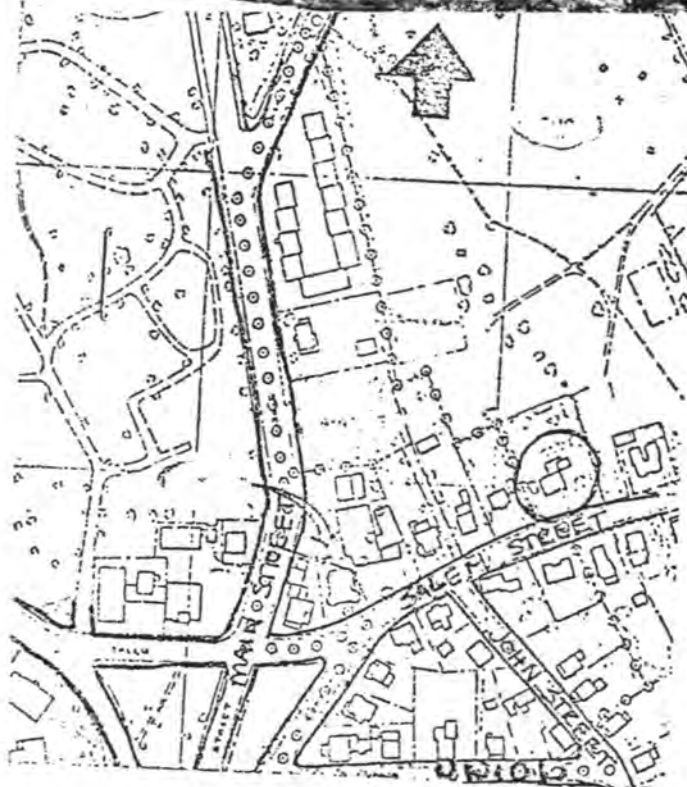
UTM: 19/327460/4710260

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Reading Historical

Commission
Date November 19, 1980

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)



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

This 5-bay, center entrance, central chimney, 2-1/2 story house is enriched by a more important door than one generally found in Reading. Broad in width, it has sidelights nearly to the sill, and shallow pilasters support a deep entablature crowned by a shallow hood. The second-floor windows nearly reach the plate. The house is set on long, thin blocks of granite. Its side door has an eaved entablature and 5 very small, square panes set above the narrow door.

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 stands on land once part of the large John Boutwell farm, part of which was sold to the Parish Church for Laurel Hill Cemetery. A house stood here in 1715.

Jonas Parker, who lived at Walnut Street, bought 40 acres and the house in 1790. In 1792, according to James Weston's diary, a new house was raised on the spot, apparently around the old Boutwell chimney. Jonas gave this house to his son, Amos, while the Walnut Street family homestead went to another son, Aaron. Jonas was active in Revolutionary affairs. Amos moved the old meeting house from the Common to Union Street and billed the Parish in 1818 for \$28.55.

A large parcel of the former Parker farm was purchased by Mrs. Alden Batchelder, Mrs. Joseph Temple, Miss May Temple, Mrs. Lucia Temple Crocker, and Miss Clara Pierce, and presented to the town in 1917 as a memorial to Joseph Temple, Alden Batchelder, and Samuel Pierce. This is now known as Memorial Park. Warren Manning suggested a community day to build the park, and the whole town threw itself into a mammoth effort, with men, women and children donating time, tools, money and work on April 19, 1919. The theme was "work or go hungry" -- so all worked and participated in a huge dinner after the day. The following year, another work day was held but on a smaller scale.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1795 map Parker
- 1830 map yes
- 1854 map D. Parker (Dana)
- 1875 map D. Parker
- 1889 map M. D. Parker (Milton)
- Bishop, Rooftrees, Chapter 36
- Pitkin, Vignettes, p. 110
- James Weston Diary, property of Reading Antiquarian Society

20M-2/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: D-23
Property Name: 52 Salem St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Parker House is significant (1) for its role as an early farm homestead; (2) for its connection with the locally important Parker family, and with Memorial Park, created on the Parker farm; and (3) as a well-preserved example of Federal architecture in Reading. 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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 749

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

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Parker 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: _____

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

Entered in the _____
National Register _____
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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair		

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

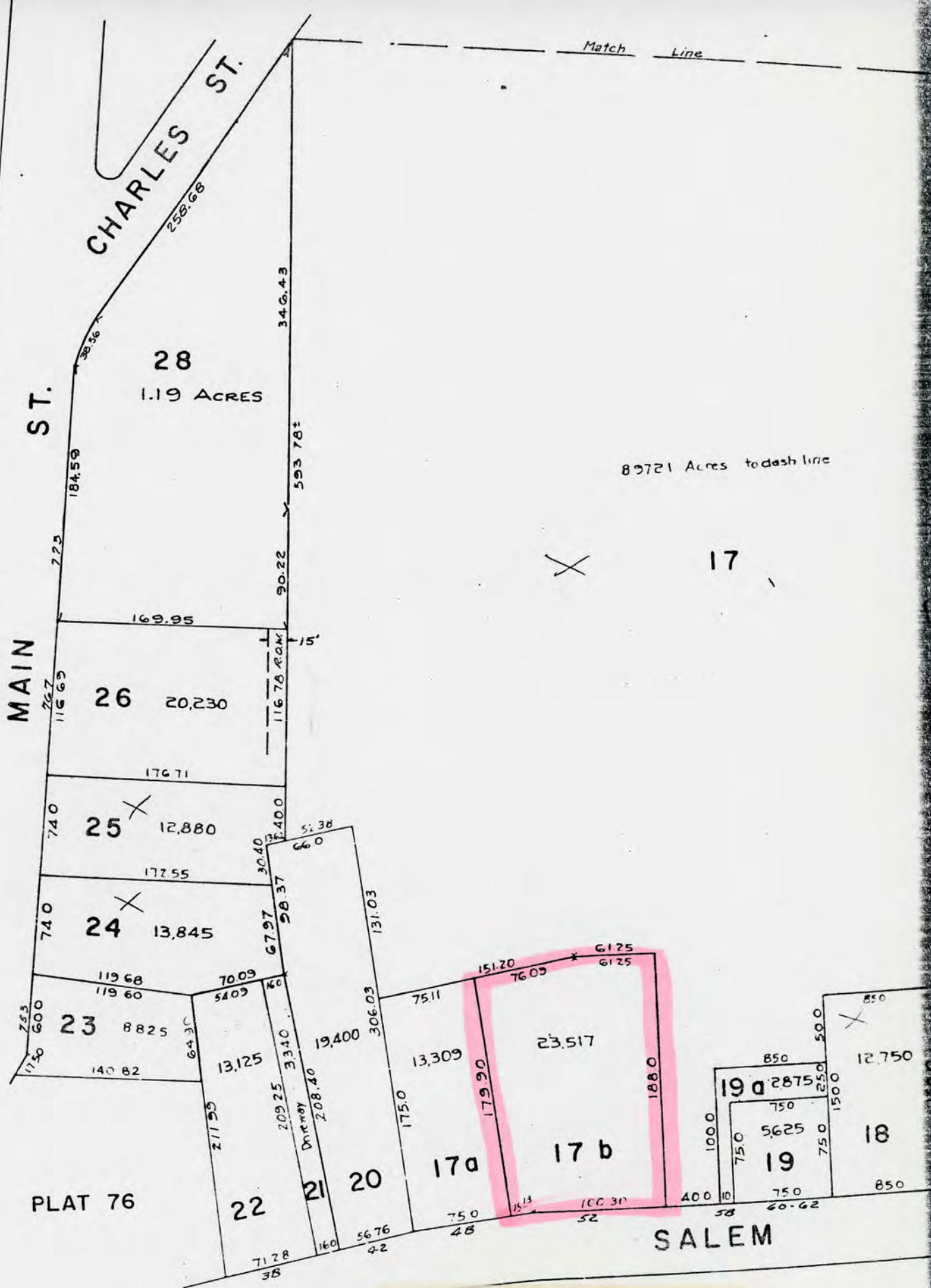


Darker House

Bedding Room

XXIV - 26

B-6
316 Haven St.



#B-33 52 Salem St.
Map 87, Lot 178
1983 Assessors Map
1" = 100'

PLAT 76

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290