

FORM B - BUILDING

Area B	Form no. 44
------------------	-----------------------

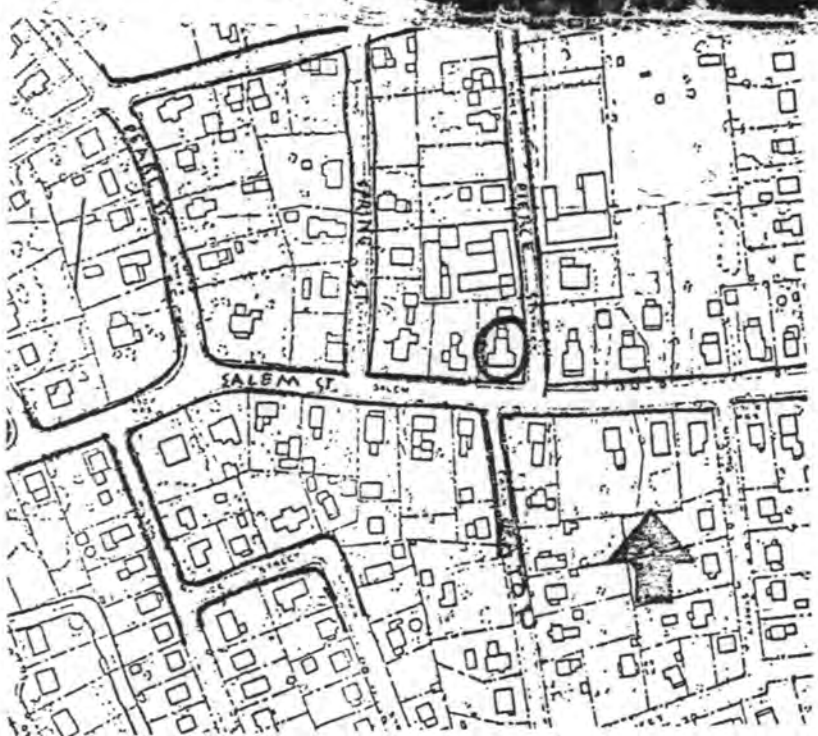
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading
 Address 128 Salem Street
 Historic Name Pierce House
 Original Dwelling
 Present Dwelling
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Samuel Pierce

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1875-1880
 Source Map 1875, Assessors valuation list
 Style Stick Style
 Architect George Abbott
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings 2-car garage
 Major alterations (with dates) 1 1/2 and 1 story rear extension, fenestration on east altered.
 Moved NO Date _____
 Approx. acreage 10,775 s.f.



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

Setting Faces south on a slight rise at corner of street named for its builder. Granite retaining wall borders property.

Date 6/82

WTM: 19/327840/4710220

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house represents a fairly elaborate Stick-style structure. Its asymmetrical composition is topped by a steeply pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Both end gables and the center gable feature gable screens, with the latter's displaying a cut-out floral design. Knee braces support the end gables at eaves level; the braces frame into vertical-board siding that fills the gable ends and continues around the house as a cornice. The elaborate front porch includes arches between chamfered posts on pedestals, scalloped trimwork, and eaves brackets. This is a display of the versatility of wood as material, and the jigsaw as its tool.

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

Samuel Pierce was the owner of Reading's most important organ pipe and organ accessories firm. After apprenticing himself to George Badger, a cabinet manufacturer, he went to Boston to learn the organ pipe trade. Returning to Reading he began manufacturing in an ell of his house in 1847. He moved his factory to specialized buildings on Pierce Street in 1852 and greatly expanded his business, employing 50 men and selling widely. He built this house near his factory after 1875.

He was a selectman in 1870 and also served in the lower House of the Great and General Court on many important committees, and was for many years Treasurer of the Old South Congregational Society. From a farming family, he became a wealthy businessman, and a responsible figure in town, county, church and government.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1889 map S. Pierce (Samuel)
- 1880 Valuation List
- Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 314 and p. 163 photo

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: B-44
Property Name: 128 Salem St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Pierce house 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 one of the town's best examples of Stick-style architecture. 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 6/4/84
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>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
72. Parker, William, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
73. Pierce House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
75. Pratt House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
76. Pratt, Stillman, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
77. Reading Municipal Building Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
78. Reading Municipal Light and Power Station Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
79. Roberts House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____
80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Melora Byers 7-19-84</u> Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pierce 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	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 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

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

State House (Reading M.A.)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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: _____



SPEED
LIMIT
30

Potter House

Reading MBA Mo

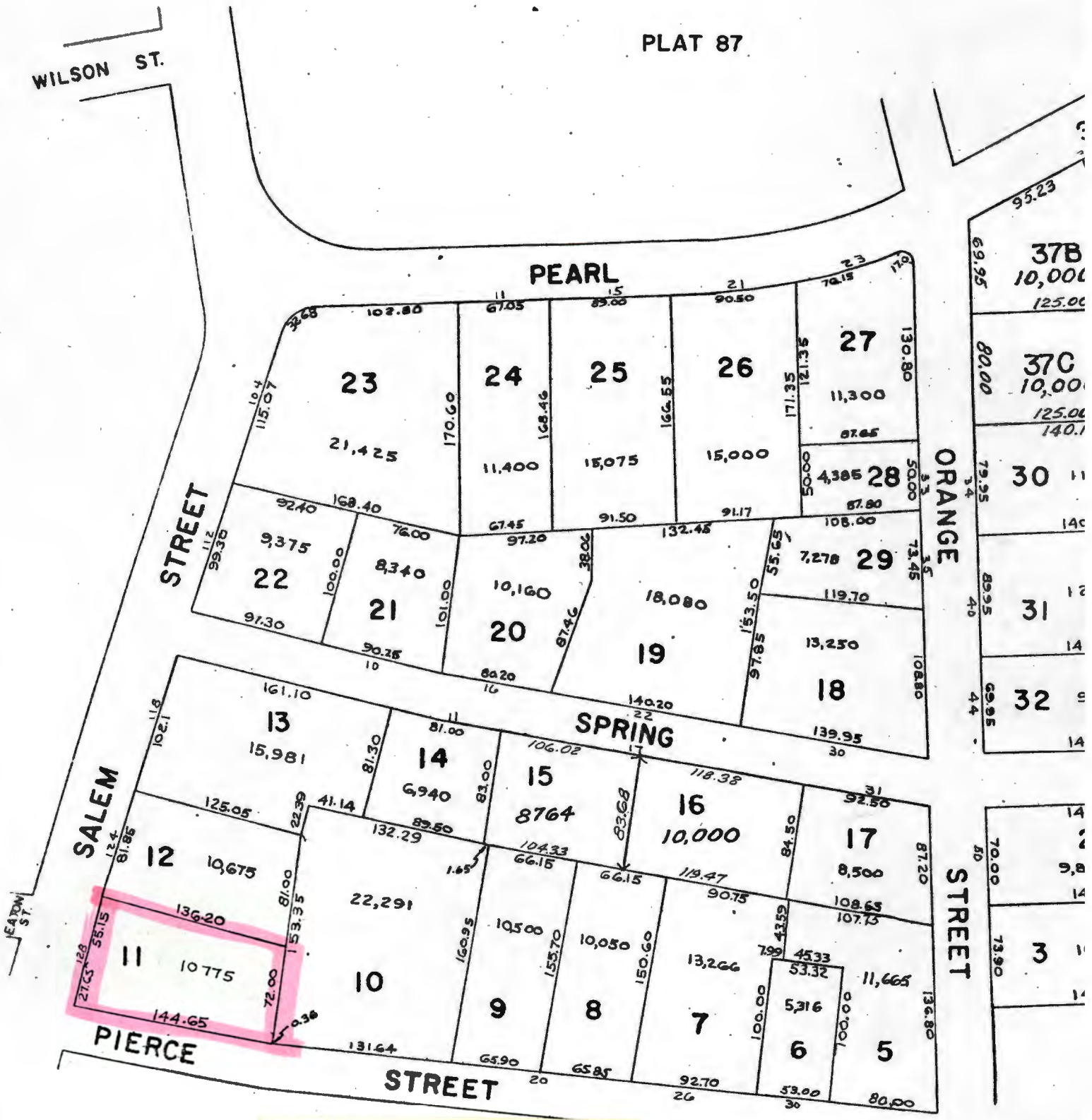
128 Salem St

~~XXVIII~~

46A

WILSON ST.

PLAT 87



#B-44 128 Salem St.
 Map 88, Lot 11
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100' PLAT 89

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290