

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street Boston, MA 02108

Area <u>B</u>	Form no. <u>82</u>
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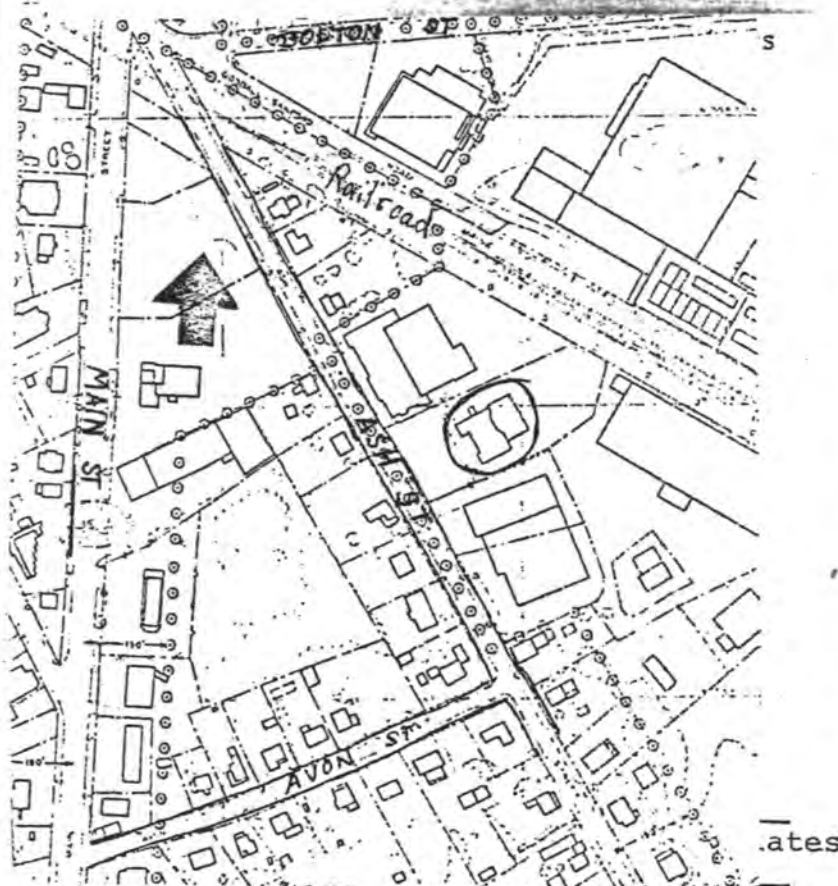
Reading
226 Ash Street
Reading Municipal Light & Power Station
Original Electrical Generation until 1925
Present Operating center, switching
ship: ☐ Private individual
Private organization
Public Reading Town of
Original owner Town of Reading

OPTION:

Date 1894 - Operating Sept. 26, 1895
Source Memorial Volume
Style Romanesque
Architect George E. Abbott
Exterior wall fabric Brick, slate roof
Outbuildings Service building

Major alterations (with dates) Removal of stack, bricking up of windows
1978. Removal of railway sidings.

Moved No Date
Approx. acreage 52,560 sq. ft.
1.3 acres.
Setting Backing on B & M Railroad.



Date Commission November 30, 1980

REVISED

Date 6/82

(Staple additional sheets here)

WTU: 19/327380/4709220

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

This small hipped-roof municipal structure was completed in 1894 by George E. Abbott, an architect who lived in Reading and perhaps helped to design the water pumping station completed three years earlier. Built in a similiar style, the simple columns define interior functions. Larger windows, which form the principle decorative scheme, are topped by relieving arches and granite lintels repeated on the south projection in small windows. The central door is emphasized by granite facing.

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

In 1891 Massachusetts passed an act enabling cities and towns to build gas and electric plants. Reading took advantage of the act, appointing study committees to determine whether to purchase a franchise or to build. They decided on the last course and, after voting a bond issue, elected a Municipal Light and Power Board, purchased the lot on Ash Street near the train lines, and hired an architect and mechanical and electrical engineers. The Board provided for a larger building and more capable equipment than the original bond issue of \$50,000 would cover.

It was not until 1903 that the board showed a profit on incandescent lighting. By 1912, Reading was servicing the communities of North Reading, Lynnfield, and Wakefield.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Municipal Light and Power Board
Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 339
Pitkin, Vignettes, p. 47

Town Reports, 1894/5, 1912

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: B-82
Property Name: 226 Ash St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Reading Municipal Light and Power Station is significant (1) for its role in the electrification of the town; and (2) as one of the town's few examples of Romanesque architecture. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A, 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 849

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

Reading Municipal Light and Power Station
(Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 7/5/84 - 1/14/84
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 | ☐ 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



Reading Municipal Light &
Power Station

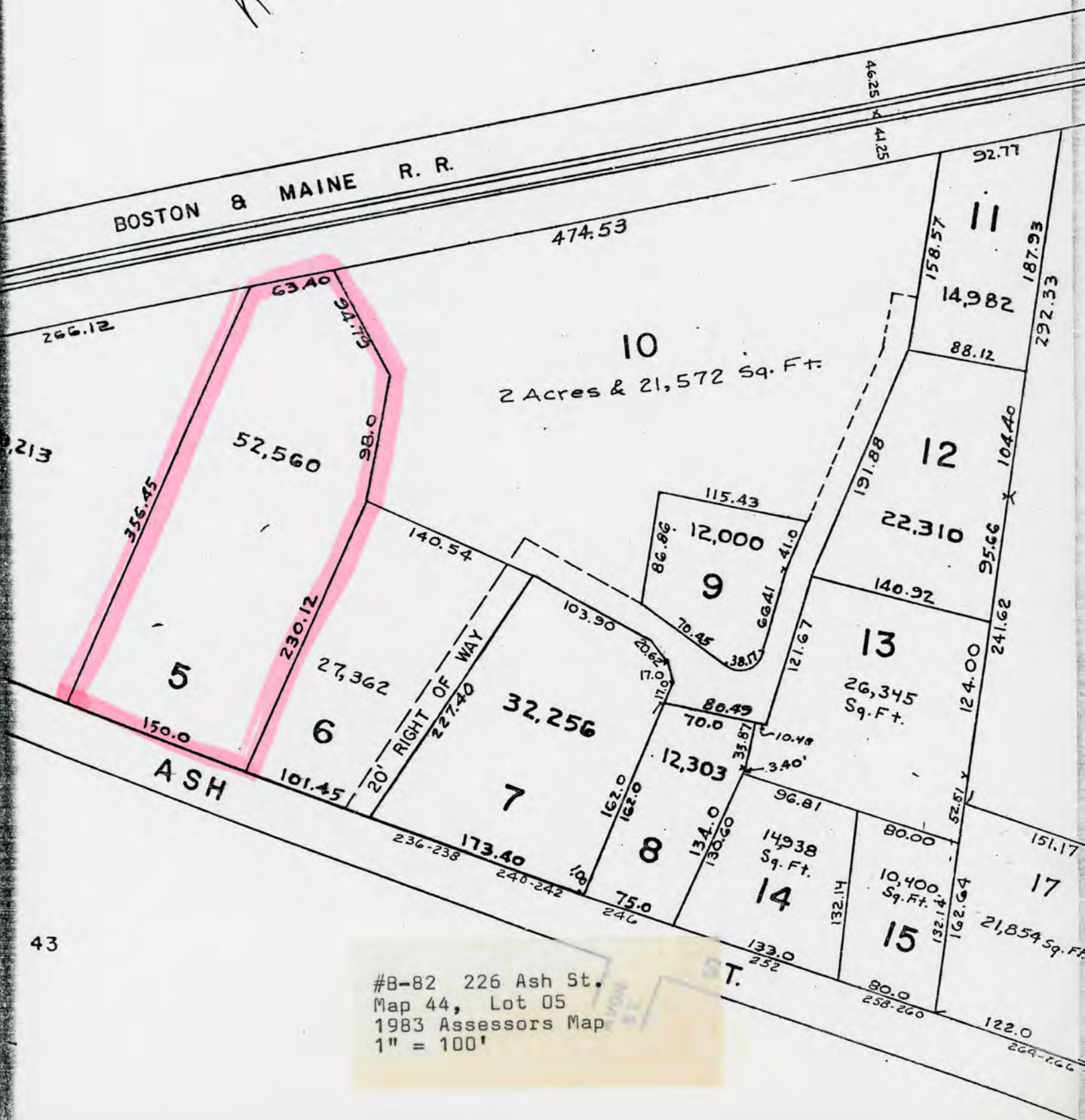
Reading M Pt, Ma

B-82



22 Ash St. Light + Power Station XXXII.22A

PLAT 45



#B-82 226 Ash St.
 Map 44, Lot 05
 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