

FORM B - BUILDING

Area B	Form no. 38
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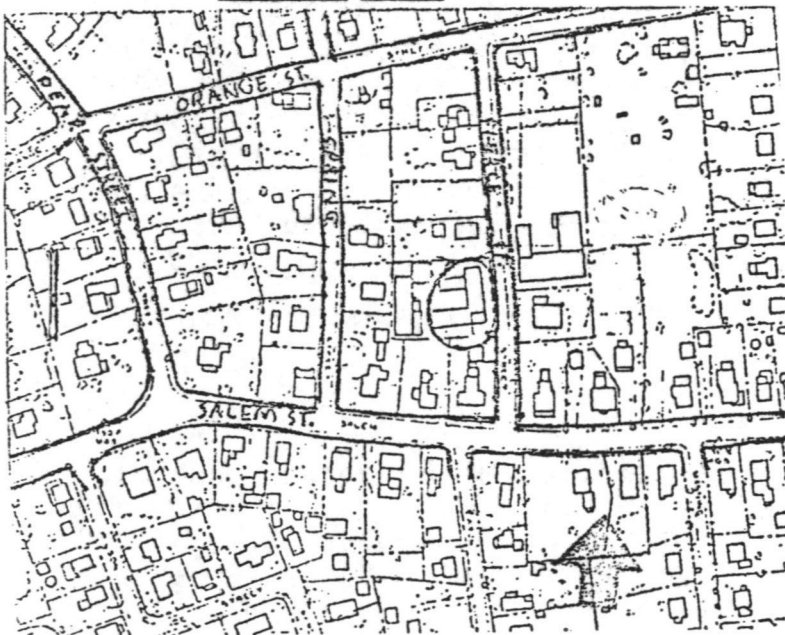
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Reading
 Address 10-12 Pierce Street
 Historic Name Pierce Organ Pipe Factory
 Original organ pipe factory
 Present organ pipe factory
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Dennison
Organ Pipe Factory
 Public _____
 Original owner Samuel Pierce

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1852
 Source Genealogical History
 Style Italianate
 Architect n/a
 Exterior wall fabric asbestos siding
 Outbuildings barn across the street
 Major alterations (with dates) extensions north 1854-75, west 1875-89, south 1889-1950
 Moved NO Date _____
 Approx. acreage 22,291 sq. ft.
 Setting Behind Pierce's house, this factory stretches along Pierce Street.

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

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/327840/4710270

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

The original factory looked very much like the houses of the time: gable end to the street over heavy granite foundations. The original building was 8 bays long and had a cupola. The south one-story addition is not seen in the picture of 1894, nor is the 3-story voicing room at the present north end. This is one of the few remaining industrial buildings from the 19th century in Reading, and the only one continuing its original use.

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

After an apprenticeship to George Badger, a cabinet maker of the town, and a stint with organ builders in Boston, Samuel Pierce moved to Reading in 1846 and the next year began making metal organ pipes in an ell of his house. This house was at 137/139 Salem Street, on the south side. In 1852 he opened a factory on Pierce Street. He expanded his manufacturing business to include the production of various organ parts as well as the metal pipes, and was a leader in this field, selling in the U. S., British provinces, Jamaica, and South America. In 1854 the building comprised 14,000 square feet of floor space, and the factory employed 50.

The close proximity of Pierce's new house and his factory continued the tradition in this section of Reading of combined workshop-living quarters, but elevated to an unprecedented scale. The Dennison Company succeeded Pierce's ownership. They began the manufacture of electrically powered organs, and built a number of console organs for movie theaters before "talkies" appeared.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1854 map drawing on border
1875 map Organ Pipe Factory
1889 map Organ Pipe Factory - Pierce

Eaton, Genealogical History, p. 538

Eaton, Memorial Volume, pp. 163, 314

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: E-38
Property Name: 10-12 Pierce St.	

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Pierce organ pipe factory 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 the best surviving example of Reading's 19th-century industrial buildings. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, 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 Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 72. Parker, William, House Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 73. Pierce House Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 74. Pierce Organ Pipe Factory Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 75. Pratt House Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 76. Pratt, Stillman, House Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 77. Reading Municipal Building Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 78. Reading Municipal Light and Power Station Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 79. Roberts House Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____
- 80. Rowhouses at 256-274 Haven Street Entered in the National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 7-19-84
Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pierce Organ Pipe Factory (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
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the RETURN
National Register 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
- 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

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: _____



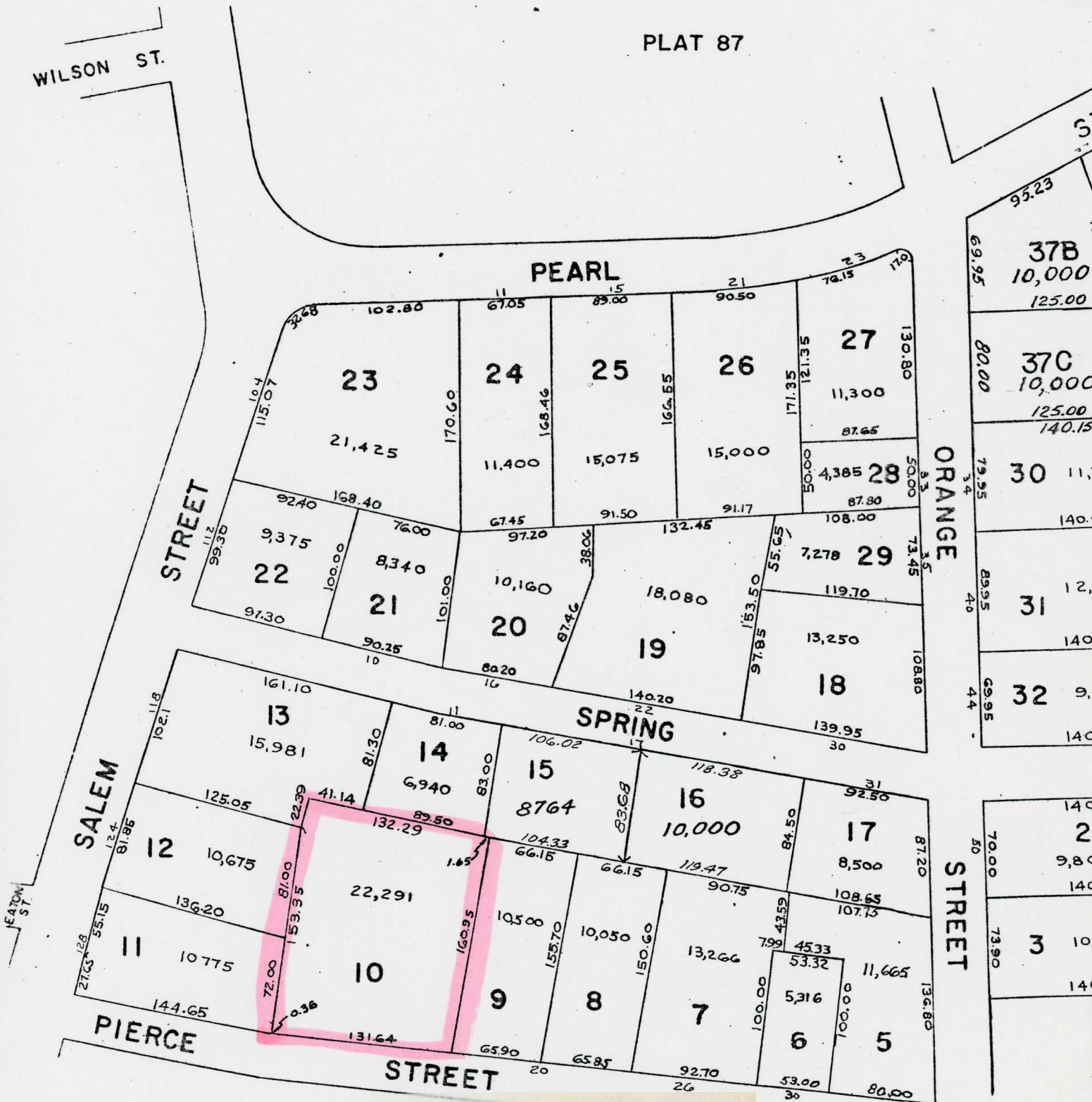
Pierce Organ Pipe Factory
Reading, MA, Mass

10-12 Pierce St.

XXXII UZA

PLAT 87

WILSON ST.



#B-38 10-12 Pierce St.
 Map 88, Lot 10
 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