

FORM B - BUILDING

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Area<br><u>C</u> | Form no.<br><u>97</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|

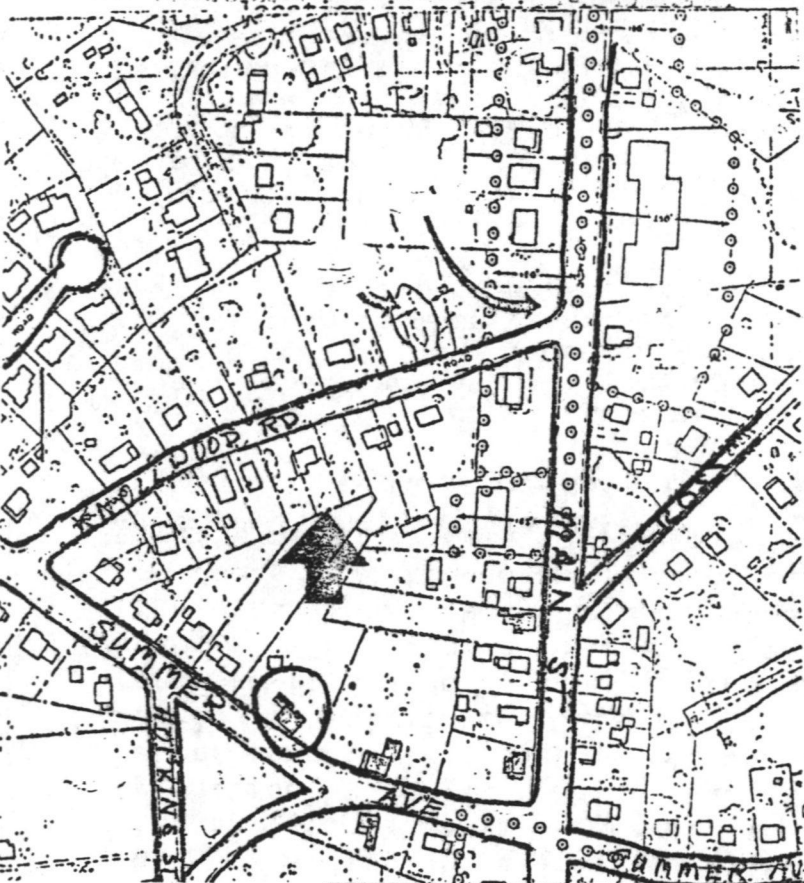
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading (#9)  
 Address 472 Summer Avenue  
 Historic Name Stillman Pratt House  
 Original Dwelling  
 Present Dwelling  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Stillman Pratt?

DESCRIPTION:

Date late 1840's  
 Source Concerning the Past  
 Style Greek Revival  
 Architect n/a  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards, flush boards  
 Outbuildings Garage  
 Major alterations (with dates) Ell on west, and dormers on south  
 Moved NO Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 33,825 s.f.  
 Setting Faces south on Summer Avenue



on raised mound of land;  
 between granite-block embankment  
 with posts at drive

Date Nov 1980 **REVISED**  
 Date 6/82

UTM: 19/326960/4708460

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house displays a Greek Revival variation on the traditional one and one-half story, Georgian-Federal vernacular house form. It is found in only three houses in Reading, one situated so near by as to suggest their having been built either in concert, or one having been being used as the model, probably in the late 1840's. On all, the high-pitched roof extends to form a veranda, whose roof is supported by four fluted Ionic columns. The cornice is wide. The front facade is flushboarded. A notable detail here is the Greek key motif on the corner pilasters. Windows and doors have fluted architrave surrounds and corner blocks. Though modest in scale, this cottage displays inventiveness of form and fine

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

Stillman Pratt, who owned the house in 1854 went into business as a shoe manufacturer, employing up to fifty men, who probably worked at home. After service in the Civil War, he retired from business in 1871 to a farm on Walnut Street. He was a Selectman, and thus a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor.

Deacon Stillman E. Parker, who owned the property in 1875, was educated at Andover Academy, Warren Academy, and Amherst. Like his predecessor, he was a shoe manufacturer, employing many Reading shoemakers, men and women. He, too, gave a good deal of time to public service. He was a member of the Board of Selectmen, an assessor, and for twenty-two years served on the School Committee. He was a representative to the General Court in 1859.

Leach Park, which this house faces, was originally named Mayall Park, after its benefactor who lived nearby in a house now demolished. He developed a process to produce rubber goods, and built in 1882 a factory near the railroad. It was purchased by the Reading Rubber Mills who produced material for the carriage and organ-manufacturing trade, both active in Reading in 1898.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1854 map S. M. Pratt (Stillman)
- 1875 map S. E. Parker (Stillman)
- Pitkin, Vignettes, p. 43
- Eaton, Memorial Volume, p. 168
- Wadlin, Concerning the Past, Chapter LXXX

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Community:<br>Reading          | Form No:<br>C-97 |
| Property Name: 472 Summer Ave. |                  |

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

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

This property is significant (1) for its role in the node of settlement at the junction of four major roads; (2) for its connection with two public-minded men, Stillman M. Pratt and Stillman E. Parker; and (3) as a largely intact example of the colonnaded-porch type of Greek Revival architecture. It retains integrity of location, general 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Ref # 84002799

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Pratt, Stillman, 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

Entered in the National Register Action:  ACCEPT 7-19-84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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                             | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good         | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair         |                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection





Pratt, Stillman, House  
Reading M R A, Ma

C-97

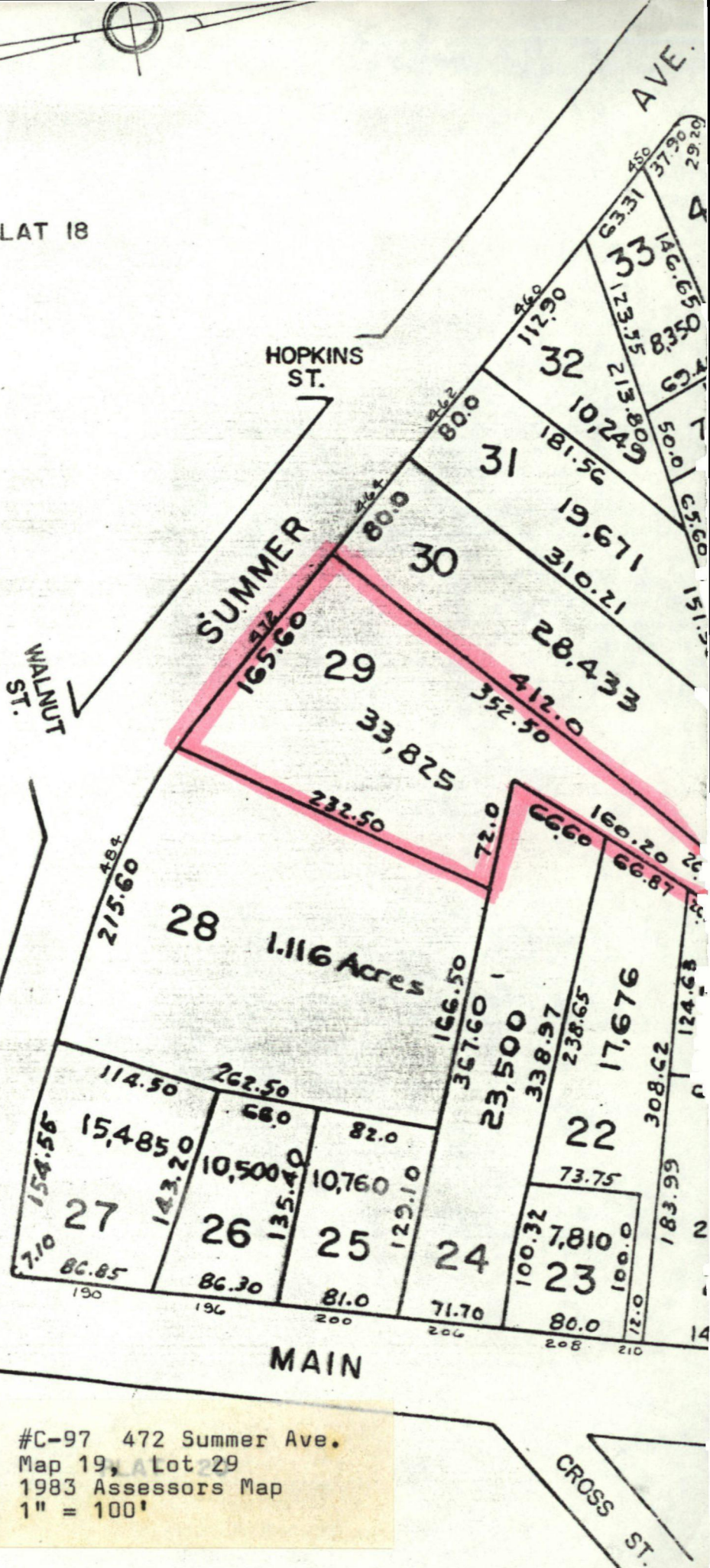
472

Summer Ave

N-26A

PLAT 18

PLAT 12



#C-97 472 Summer Ave.  
 Map 19, Lot 29  
 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