

JAN 24 1990

FORM NO.

178

91

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

81:18 front facade

81:16 rear facade

81:21 2nd floor, left rear chimney post  
and girt with quirk beading

81:23 1st floor, right-hand room

Town Reading 017

Address 288 Grove St.

Historic Name Samuel Foster House

Use: Present residence - rented

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1710

Source Bishop, Reading's Col. Roof-trees

Style First Period

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none. (belongs to golf club-club house across driveway, tennis courts)

Major Alterations (with dates) lean-to, 18th? shed, 19th or early 20th c.

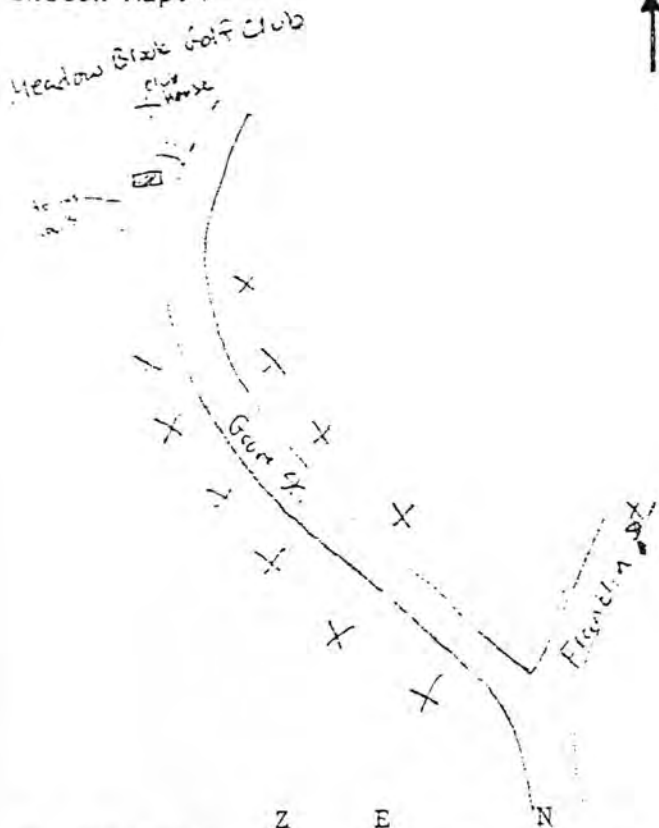
Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage part of 60 acre parcel

Setting woods in front to road, woods and golf club grounds behind, new suburban development to the southeast

Sketch Map:



UTM REFERENCE 19 / 325-360 / 4711-94-

USGS QUADRANGLE Wilmington

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Anne Brophy

Organization Boston University

Date December 1985

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: READING	Form No: 91
Property Name: Samuel Foster House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

Despite extensive alterations, the Samuel Foster house clearly retains integrity of location, materials and workmanship in its transitional First Period frame, (most now hidden beneath later material,) making it eligible under criterion C. If the later boxing is removed, the house is very likely to yield information important to our understanding of late First Period construction under criterion D. Its original one-cell 2 1/2 story integral lean-to form is unusual for Massachusetts, making it further eligible under Criterion C and worthy of further study under Criterion D.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Samuel Foster house is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded central chimney structure with an asymmetrical six bay facade. The original main facade, which now faces into overgrown woods, has a simple one story flat-roofed pre-1920 enclosed entrance porch on the third bay from the left. A 1/2-story integral lean-to extends along the left rear, including the chimney bay extending one bay beyond the side of the house. A long 1 story probably 19th-century shed projects from its left end. As all visible First Period framing appears only in the left three bays (including the chimney bay) of the house, the same portion which includes the integral lean-to, it is probable that the house began as a one cell 2 1/2 story structure with integral lean-to which was enlarged twice to the right of the chimney during the Second Period.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The house has undergone many alterations and additions, including the partial removal and apparently subsequent replacement of its central chimney to accommodate stove flues. However, exposed framing members visible in closets and upstairs rooms indicate that the building retains most of its transitional First Period frame intact under later finish.

The southwest (left) front 1st floor room has no visible First Period finish; the 16" wide longitudinal summer beam is boxed. The southwest corner of the room has been closed off into a closet with a window inside. In this closet, the exposed quirk-beaded summer beam of the larger room is visible extending out of its box through the closet wall to form the north cornice of the closet. The end and front girts and the corner post are also exposed and quirk-beaded, a transitional First Period decoration. The lean-to has been completely redone at least twice in the 20th century; its exposed ceiling beams are unfinished. (As lean-to's were rarely finished with as much care as the main rooms, it is impossible to tell by stylistic evidence alone if the lean-to was integral..)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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The second floor left chamber has an exposed and quirk-beaded transverse summer beam, front plate, and end tie beam. A partition wall under the summer tie beam divides the room in two. Moldings applied to plate and tie form part of a cornice around the end room. The chimney girt has a beaded box with applied moldings. The north part of the room has been partitioned to create a closet and part of a hallway leading behind the chimney stack. In the hall, the chimney post is exposed and quirk-beaded. The chimney girt resting on this post is exposed and has one quirk-beaded edge, facing out, and one unfinished edge, facing into the chimney bay. This treatment is the same as that at the John Bickford house in North Reading and is typical for late First Period chimney girts.

The principal rafter/common purlin roof clearly incorporates an integral lean-to on the left side, visible in both the attic and lean-to garrett.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The right front room has visible only Second Period boxed framing members. There is evidence that the room was extended to its present three-bay size possibly at the same time that the present boxes were installed, as the boxed longitudinal summer beam extends from the chimney to a transverse beam. On the other side of this beam, but not directly opposite the summer, a second longitudinal summer beam extends to the end girt. The rear girt visibly sags at the rear post supporting the transverse beam. The tenant says that restoration revealed an earlier door in place of the window presently in the center of the wall between the post and the fireplace wall.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Samuel Foster was a farmer who moved to Reading from Lynn in 1709. By his death in 1762 he had established a saw mill which he ran in partnership with his grandson Abraham.

REFERENCES

Bishop, Reading's Colonial Rooftrees.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located near the southeast corner of the property, the setting of the Samuel Foster House has been altered with the development of the golf club. A line of convenience around the house isolates it from the clubhouse on the north and the tennis courts on the south.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

2/24/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR  
State \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

91. Bullard, Isaac, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

52<sup>N</sup> 92. Foster, Samuel, House

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

93. Gardner, Addington, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

94. Green House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

52<sup>N</sup> 95. Hammond House

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

96. Hapgood House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

97. Hill, Abraham, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

98. Hill, Deacon Samuel, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

99. Hopstill Bent Tavern

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

100. Hosmer, Joseph, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000178 Date Listed: 03/09/90

Foster, Samuel, House Middlesex MA  
Property Name County State

First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for Betty L. Savage*  
Signature of the Keeper

03/09/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: Acreage

The correct acreage is <1.

This information has been confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Foster, Samuel, House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000178

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C+D  
REVIEWER Savage  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 3/9/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTMs \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps \_\_\_ USGS maps \_\_\_ photographs \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Reading, MA  
288 Grove St.

Samuel Foster House

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR

1985

81:6



Reading, MA

288 Grove St.

Samuel Foster House

1st Period Buildings of R. Ma, TR

8/23

1985



81:18

Reading, MA

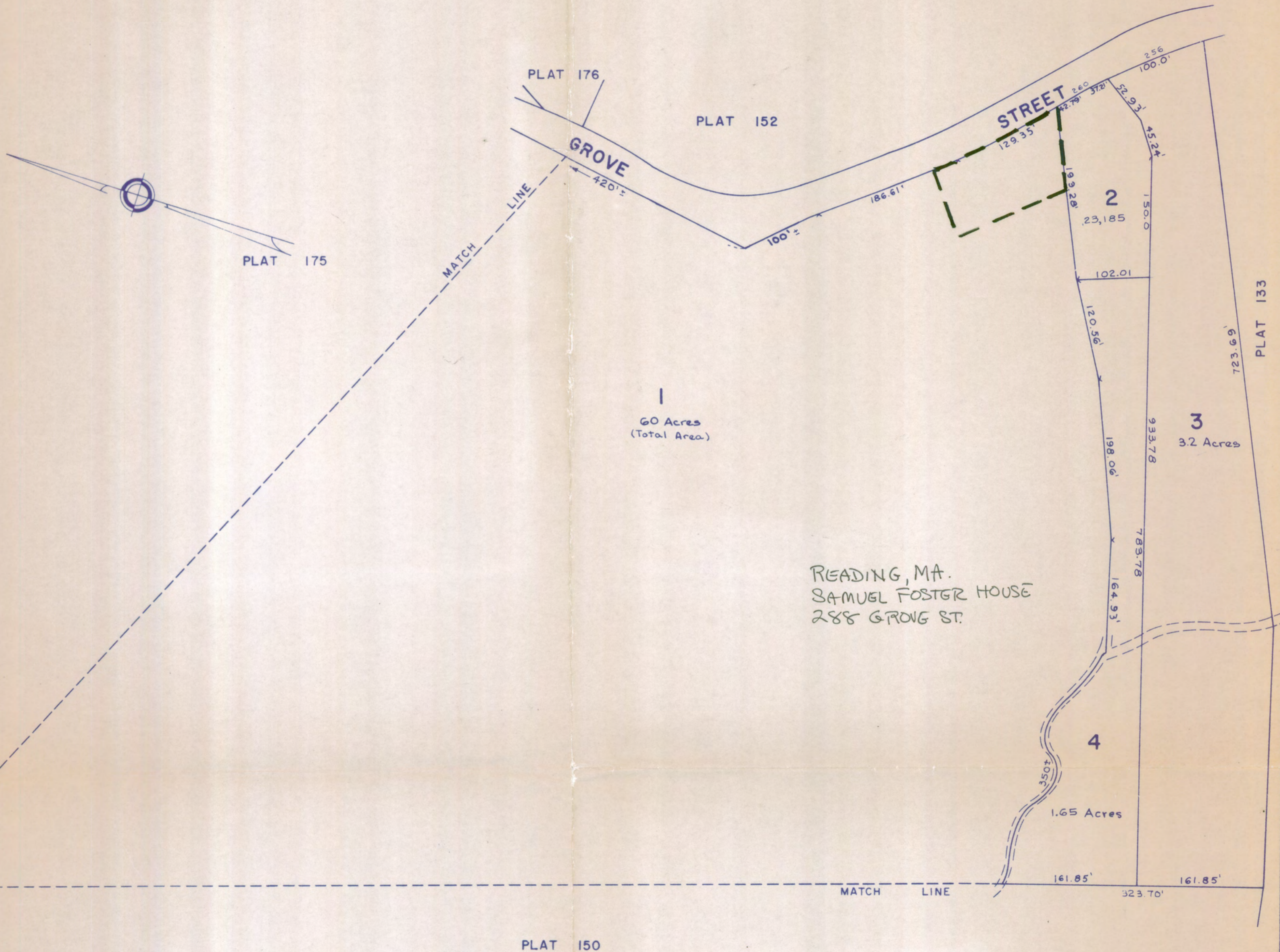
288 Grove St.

Samuel Foster House

1st Period Buildings of Fe. Ma, TR

81:21

, 985-



READING, MA.  
 SAMUEL FOSTER HOUSE  
 288 GROVE ST.

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281