

JAN 24 1990

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 19:26 attic
19:29 left-hand room
19:31 right-hand room
19:32 detail, summer tie beam, left-hand chamber
19:35 shadow molded sheathing, underside of chimney girt, left-hand chamber
19:36 exterior pendant, left-hand end

Town Hamilton

009

Address 76 Bridge StreetHistoric Name Brown HouseUse: Present ResidenceOriginal Residence

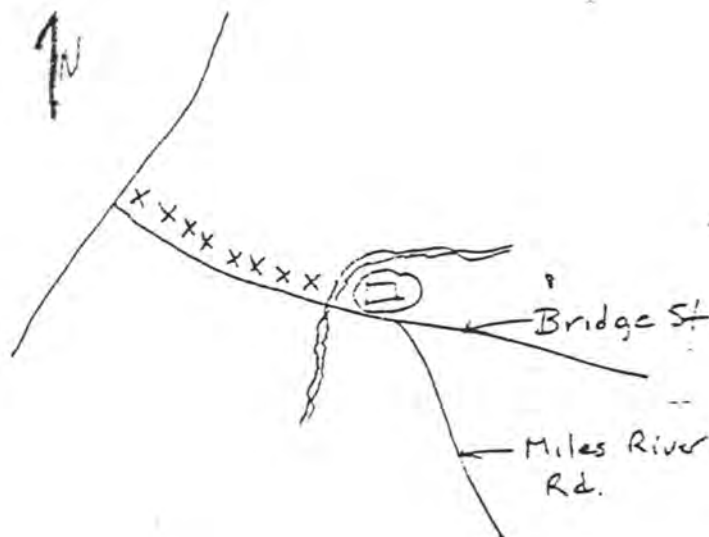
DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1662-1673Source Cummings, 1st Period Houses, p. 143Style First Period core, Second Period exteriorArchitect UnknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings Garage - mid 20th c. made of split log - rusticMajor Alterations (with dates) Second cell and lean-to added ca. 1680-1690Condition GoodMoved No Date N/AAcreage 3.6 acres

Setting Semi-rural. Street of widely spaced houses. Open land and river to the rear.

Recorded by Anne GradyOrganization Boston UniversityDate July, 1985

Sketch Map:

TM REFERENCE 19 / 348-140 / 4719-630CGS QUADRANGLE Marblehead North (now Salem)ALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: HAMILTON	Form No: 14
Property Name: Brown House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting in its First Period frame and finish which embody distinctive characteristics of form and construction eligible under Criterion C. The construction date of the earlier side, between 1662 to 1673 places the Brown House among the earliest houses surveyed. The house is representative of construction in the third quarter of the 17th century in the configuration of its chamfers and shadow molded sheathing, and in the retention of the principal rafter/principal purlin roof framing system. That roof system, derived from East Anglian practices, was supplanted almost completely after the third quarter of the century by the principal rafter/common purlin system. The Brown House, in fact, illustrates the shift in preference among carpenters to the purlin roof, for the newer west end of the roof is framed with common purlins.

The roof also retains a rare example of diagonal wind brace between rafter and principal purlin, a feature found in the Fairbanks house of 1637.

The enlargement of the house by the addition of a second cell and lean-to in the First Period is representative of the evolutionary growth of many First Period houses.

The house gains added significance for the presence of an intact framed overhang which still retains its original cyma-molded overhanging girt and two large drops. The Stanley-Lake house in Topsfield is the only other example in the study area in which an original drop is retained in situ. William Sumner Appleton recorded the circumstances under which the drops were preserved. "The gable end was long concealed by the lower story having been built out flush with the upper. In this case, it happened that the same carpenter who boarded it in was years later employed to uncover it. One of the drops was found in place and the other, which was in the carpenter's possession was returned..." [1] Appleton acquired the molded overhanging girt of the demolished lean-to for the architectural museum at SPNEA.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Brown House is 5 bays wide, 2 1/2 stories in height and one room deep. There are 19th century additions to the rear and east (right) side. The front right-hand rooms and chimney bay comprise the original single cell structure constructed between 1662 and 1673. By the 1680s or 1690s, a second cell was added to the west and a lean-to extended behind the addition and possibly behind the earlier end of the house as well. The west end of the house preserves a framed overhang with cyma molded exposed overhanging girt and original large

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pendants. A smaller overhang trims the gable end. The lean-to has been removed. The clapboarded exterior is vernacular Second Period, evidenced by fenestration of small, simply enframed sash windows, symmetrically placed across the facade. The small entrance porch, reminiscent of a medieval flitch gate, and the elaborately pilastered chimney date from a restoration of the house c. 1920.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

First Period features are found in all four front rooms and on the exterior. The right-hand room is a little over 19 feet wide and 21 feet deep. The longitudinal oak summer beam in that room is 12" wide by 15" deep and is decorated with broad quarter-round chamfers and lamb's tongue stops, except on the south face at the right-hand end. Here the stop just peters out. Joists are tusk tenoned and are spaced 18 inches on centers.

In the right-hand chamber, the 11 inch wide transverse summer tie beam has quarter-round chamfers, flat collars and triangular stops.

A First Period style staircase, modeled after the one at the Parson Capen house was installed in the lobby, probably during the restoration of c. 1920.

The left-hand room of 1680s or 1690s construction date is 20 feet deep by 21 feet wide. The 14 1/2 inch wide longitudinal summer beam has wide quarter-round chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. On the fireplace wall is a replica of the shadow-molded sheathing now in SPNEA's architectural museum which was found in a reused position in the house.

In the left-hand chamber, the 14 inch wide pine summer tie beam has broad quarter-round chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. The oak front plate has a flat chamfer without stop. The face of the plate is covered with a shadow-molded board which may be part of the original trim. The chimney girt, also flat chamfered without stops, is covered on the lower surface by a shadow-molded board. In the closet which spans the previous location of the fireplace (the fireplace has been bricked up), the same molded board remains with a thick coating of white wash. The above shadow-molded boards look like original finish, but there is no way to be certain that they were not installed in the c. 1920 restoration.

The attic preserves clear evidence of two separate roof framing systems. Over the original right-hand rooms are the remaining

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principal rafters of a principal rafter/common rafter/principal purlin roof system. The frame is of oak and is chamfered. In the newer part of the attic, the pine rafters of a principal rafter/common purlin roof system are visible. There are collar beams in all rafters except those in the east end wall. There is a diagonal brace between the purlin and a rafter in the older part of the roof. When the lean-to was added, new rafters were inserted along the rear slope of the original roof. Their ends resting near the ridge on top of the earlier rafters. The front slope of the roof was set out at a later date so as to create an overhanging eave. New narrow deep purlins were inserted in all parts of the roof at some point.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The presence of the Miles river and open fields around the house gives the site an unusually continuity of setting.

The house was on the site by 1673 when John Brown Sr. gave the property to his son Nathaniel, but may have been built c. 1662 when Brown originally acquired the land.

The Brown House is associated with the early 20th century restoration movement. Mrs. W.G. Mitchell had the house restored c. 1920. The restoration included replication of the original sheathing for fireplace wall finish, the introduction of a staircase copying the Parson Capen House staircase, and the reconstruction of the exterior chimney along the lines of the plastered chimney at the Parson Barnard House.

REFERENCES

Cummings, Massachusetts and its First Period Houses, Publications of the Colonial Society in Massachusetts, 51:143-144.

#

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

1/24/90

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

5. 1. Abbot--Stinson House Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

2. Adams, Abraham, House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melanie Byrum 3/9/90

Attest _____

5. 3. Adams--Clarke House Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

4. 4. Beverly Grammar School

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melanie Byrum 3/9/90

Attest _____

5. 5. Blanchard--Upton House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

6. Brown House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melanie Byrum 3/9/90

Attest _____

5. 7. Brown, Austin, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

5. 8. Burnham, James, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

5. 9. Carlton--Frie--Tucker House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

10. Chase, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melanie Byrum 3/9/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brown House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

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: 90000223

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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 _____



76 Bridge Street, Hamilton

Hamilton, MA

Brown House
76 Bridge Street
extension

1985

85:04

1st Period Building of E. Ma, TR



Hamilton, TLA

Brown House

76 Budge Street

detail: summer to
1985

1st Period Buildings of E Ma, TR

19:32



Hamilton, TIA
Brown House
76 Bridge Street
Left-hand room
1985

1st Floor Buildings of F. M., TR

19:29



Hamilton, TVA
Brown House
76 Bridge Street
right hand room

1st Period Buildings of E. Mc, TR

19:31



Hamilton, TN
Brown House
76 Bridge Street
attic
1985

19:26

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma, TN



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281