

JAN 24 1998

FORM NO.

33

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 13:14 arched chimney foundation in west cellar
14:23 south and east facades
14:26 attic, looking east

Town Ipswich

Address 36 Heartbreak Road

Historic Name Thomas Low House

Use: Present Residential

Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1700

Source Waters, Candlewood, and visual analysis

Style First Period core with Federal vernacular exterior finishes

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Sunken root cellar

Major Alterations (with dates) Lean-to
added, late 18th c.; ell added, 1981

Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 1.1 acres

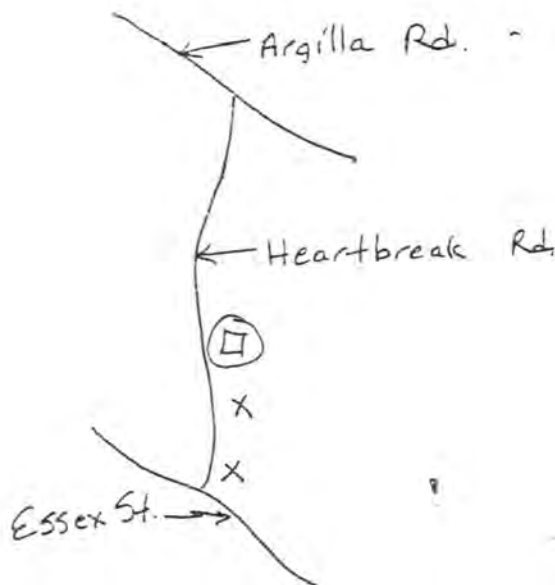
Setting Semi-rural; widely spaced
houses of primarily late 19th
and 20th century construction.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date July 1985

Sketch Map:



Z E N

TM REFERENCE 19/350-140/4724-870

EGS QUADRANGLE Ipswich

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: IPSWICH	Form No: 33
Property Name: Thomas Low House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Low house retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting and association in its First Period features. The framing of the roof has distinctive characteristics of form and construction eligible under Criterion C. The rest of the construction is hidden behind later finishes except for one post which has a crude chamfer. The combined evidence of the very wide chimney bay, wide summer beam boxes and the overhangs at the gable ends and the roof framing make it virtually certain that the concealed structure (and possibly finish) of the rest of the house is First Period in origin. Under Criterion D, the house is likely to yield important information about First Period construction in the Ipswich area, when the structure is uncovered.

The chimney foundation is an early example of brick arch foundation construction, perhaps facilitated by the presence of clay fields on the property. [1]

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Low house is 5 bays wide, 2 1/2 stories high and one room deep with a two story lean-to and a wing on the east (right) end. The original house was a double cell structure, to which the lean-to was added and then presumably raised in the 18th century. The current east wing was built in 1981, more or less replicating an earlier east wing. The clapboarded house has an overhang at each gable end. Roof pitch is relatively steep. The Federal vernacular exterior has 19th c. 2/2 sash windows, a plain doorway and a central chimney (presumably original). Fenestration is symmetrical on the facade. A bay window on the west side and diamond patterned fastier boards on the raking eaves were added in the Victorian Period.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The only First Period features currently in the house are a single chimney post with crude chamfer and the collar beams in the attic (survey data indicates collar beams disappear as a feature of the roof framing of one room deep houses before the end of the First Period). Chimney bay dimensions, size of summer beam boxes, steep roof pitch and overhangs at the gable end in combination also indicate First Period construction.

East and west room dimensions are 16 feet wide by 19 feet deep. The chimney bay is an ample ten feet wide. One chimney post visible in a closet appears to have an intentional flat chamfer. The longitudinal summer beam in the east room and the summer tie beam in the west chamber have boxes that are 14 inches wide. Other beams are concealed above the plaster ceilings and floors are covered with tongue and groove boards so joist spacing can not be measured.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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In the attic, six sets of original front and rear principal rafters remain in place, with evidence of three purlins per slope. There are collar beams.

In the cellar, the chimney foundation, approximately 12 feet square is composed of a broad brick arch set on fieldstone walls 2 to 3 feet high. There is a brick partition in the middle of the arch. Another brick foundation, the function of which is not readily apparent, angles up toward the left side of the arch. Very large bricks set on edge are used to form a partition next to the left side of the arch. The fieldstone foundation walls of the left side of the cellar are faced with brick.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The house received a complete overlay of trim in the Federal style. A mantel piece with reeded pilasters and the staircase with a slim handrail and scrolled, cut out step ends are the most significant elements of that trim.

Built into a hill near the house is a 19th century (or earlier) root cellar perhaps 12' by 12' square with rubble stone foundation and a carefully constructed arched brick ceiling.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house is first mentioned in a deed of 1708 when John Low, who had been in possession of the property since 1690, conveyed the house to his brother Thorndike.[2] A brickmaker, Daniel C. Hobson, is thought to have made bricks on this site c. 1800.

REFERENCES

1. Thomas Franklin Waters, Candlewood, Publications of the Ipswich Historical Society XVI:10
2. Ibid: 8-9

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

Section number _____ Page _____

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

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Johnson, Capt. Timothy **Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____52. Kimball, Solomon, House **Substantive Review**
**Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____

53. Lake, Stanley, House

Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____54. Lambert, Thomas, House **Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____55. Larch Farm **Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____**Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____

56. Livermore, William, House

Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____57. Low, Thomas, House **Substantive Review**Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____58. March, Samuel, House **Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____59. Morse, Timothy, House **Entered in the
National Register**Keeper Helene Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____60. Murray, William, House **Substantive Review**Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

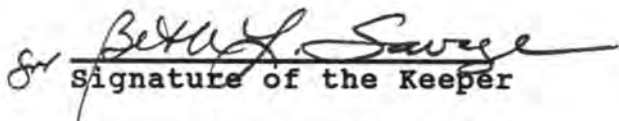
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000237 Date Listed: 03/09/90

Low, Thomas, House Essex 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.


Signature of the Keeper

03/09/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: VBD

The handwritten scale on the sketch map supersedes the typed or printed one: the handwritten scale is the appropriate scale for the reduced map.

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 Low, Thomas, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

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: 90000237

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
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



14-23

Low House
34 Heartbreak Rd
Ipswich

1st Period Hours of B. May, TR



13-14

Low House
34 Heartbreak Rd
Ipswich

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

cellar



14-26

Low House

34 Heathbrink Rd

Ipswich

1st Period Buildings of E. No. TR

Attu

54C

54B



63B

SCALE 1"=100'
ZONING IS RURAL RESIDENCE A

54

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281