

JAN 24 1990 FORM NO.

8

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 27:27 south and east facades
27:28 1st Period shadow-molded door reused in cellar
27:30 original east chamber, east wall
27:35 dining room, east wall
27:37 detail, summer beam, south wall of dining room
28:0 detail, summer beam with chimney girt, original west room
28:2 detail, summer beam, original east room
28:5 rear (east) facade

Town Wenham 009Address 38 Larch RowHistoric Name Larch FarmUse: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

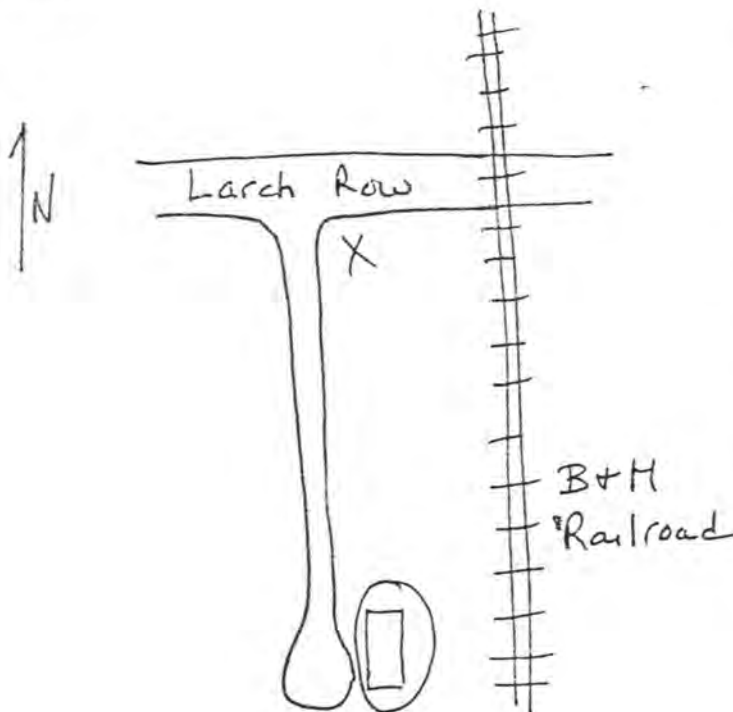
DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1700Source Wenham Town Records, III, p. 178Style First PeriodArchitect NoneExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings Barn - rebuilt 19631940s house - Cape, 2 cow sheds - 1940s

Major Alterations (with dates) Northern ell added, pre-1729 (?); west lean-to raised to full 2 stories, 18th cen.; Southern ell added ca. 1780-1790

Condition GoodMoved No Date _____Acreage 8.56 acresSetting Amid farm fields with row oflarch trees at the front of thehouse and along the road.Recorded by Anne GradyOrganization Boston UniversityDate October 1985

Sketch Map:

UTM REFERENCE 19 / 345-840 / 4718-130USGS QUADRANGLE SalemSCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WENHAM <i>Wenham Farm</i>	Form No: 8
Property Name: Goldsmith- Pickering-Low	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Goldsmith Pickering house retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship in its First Period frame which embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction under Criterion C. Its central chimney plan and end leanto with single-cell, two-story house is typical of a larger number of First Period houses, while its plank frame contains unusual variations, showing an evolution of local practice for the Wenham group of which it is a good example.

Its later transformation from First to Second Period plan created a highly unusual house form.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Goldsmith-Pickering House is an eight-bay-long clapboard structure, three bays deep in the four northern bays and two bays deep in the four southern bays. At its core is a First Period house with additions to its back (north) and front (south) now enveloped in a Post-Colonial exterior trim with a late Federal period doorway with elliptical fanlight and side-lights. Late Georgian projecting window heads decorate the evenly spaced windows of the current front (west) facade, except the higher second story windows of the south wing which reflect the higher first floor of the addition and abut the main cornice. The roof ridge parallels the main facade and continues in a leanto covering the greater depth of the north wing with a gable at right angles to the main roof covering the original house. A large brick chimney pierces the ridge between the second and third bays of the south wing, and a pair of [later? see ALC p. 190] brick stacks rise above the east and west slopes in the third bay of the north addition. On the rear wall, below the gable of the first period house, are overhangs at the second story and attic levels. This section of the rear wall preserves a substantial number of the eighteenth century clapboards.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The original core of the house began as a 40'x 20' two story single cell plan with an original end leanto room west of the chimney bay. After a 1963 fire the plank frame of the original house, jetties along the original south facade and east end, and elements of the internal frame were exposed. The original hall (now with the original chimney bay), presently the dining room, was located west of the south-facing lobby entry and first chimney. The old chimney was removed after the house was remodeled into a Georgian double pile plan by the north addition. The room's longitudinal summer has flat chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. The chimney girt also has flat chamfers and lamb's tongue stops at its outer ends and on both sides of its juncture with the summer. These latter stops do not terminate but are joined by a unique flat chamfer joining the two stops along the outer edge of the chimney girt beneath the summer.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WENHAM <i>Larch Farm</i>	Form No: 8
Property Name: Goldsmith-Pickering Low House	

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

One exposed wall brace survives in the south wall, another was cut for the installation of a Federal doorway and its mortise survives in the original front girt. A hinged section of the south wall permits the examination of the plank frame construction with its exterior battens and the five inch overhang of the story above. Sometime in the eighteenth century, probably pre-1729, the leanto was raised to a full two stories with a gable roof above. This west gable was destroyed in 1963 and not restored.

The east first floor room, on the opposite side of the first floor chimney and now used as a study, has a longitudinal summer beam. This is decorated with quarter-round chamfers and lamb's tongue stops with joists spaced only 18" on centers. The original chimney girt in this room, the only oak member in an otherwise pine frame, also has a quarter round chamfer.

The original east second floor room retains its plank walls, but the ceiling was destroyed. An old transverse summer beam with flat chamfers was reused and only the outermost joists are original. Sawn ogee braces remain only on the east wall, although mortise evidence indicates their original presence on the south wall. The surviving braces are 10" to 11" wide, wider than the other examples from the Wenham area, and are not placed symmetrically. One was installed upside down, making the top of one convex and of the other concave. The upper story of the corner posts in this room are particularly massive. Neither the end tie beam or the original chimney girt is chamfered. A portion of first period plaster, now preserved under glass, contains the initials of Zacheus Goldsmith, the first owner. In the cellar, a shadow-molded board and batten door is reused as a door to the chimney arch of the pre-1729 north addition. Stylistically it may date from the period of the original house, where it may once have been an internal door. On another cellar door are a pair of wrought iron forked strap hinges which may date from the First Period.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The north wing (pre-1729) transformed the plan into a Second Period double pile by removing the first chimney for a central hall and reorienting the front entrance from south to north. The resulting house is an unusual transitional example of the new form. Interior features of these changes include c. 1725 feather-edged vertical sheathing relocated after 1963 from their position in front of the south wall braces of the First Period west room to inside the original entrance of the chimney bay in the present dining room. The east room (study) has an 18th century paneled chimney breast purchased and installed after the fire, as well as other Georgian finish relocated from other parts of the house.

The south wing of the house (c. 1780-90) retains much significant Post-Colonial interior trim in an important high style addition. In the large entry hall there is a paneled chimney breast and mantle piece with a frieze curving at either end. The south room, called a 'ballroom', is an

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WENHAM <i>Wick Farm</i>	Form No: 8
Property Name: Goldsmith-Pickering Low House	

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

excellent example of Post-Colonial detailing: a mantelpiece with pulvinated frieze, elaborate cornice mouldings, and panelled dados on the exterior walls. Important features dating from Timothy Pickering's occupancy after 1806 include the exterior federal doorway to the south wing entry hall and two features attributed to Samuel McIntire. In the original west (dining) room is a Federal mantelpiece with composition ornament, relocated in 1963 from another house. Between the dining room and the hallway of the north wing is an arched opening composed of delicate Federal Period moldings and reeding made after 1806.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Zaccheus Goldsmith, a Wenham yeoman who owned this property with Joseph Fowler since 1695, was given a town timber grant "for a dwelling hous of fourtey foott long ang twenty foott wide" here in January 1700. These rather unusual dimensions match the surviving First Period core and provide a well-dated example of the plank-framed Wenham rural farmhouse with single cell and original leanto. [1] While later alterations include the loss of the chimney stack and much interior finish, the reused First Period door and surviving decorative finish of the building's frame add to our knowledge of a small but important group of plank Cape Ann period houses and a Wenham sub-group with unusual curved or serpentine braces outlined in the plaster wall surface which Cummings has attributed to a single hand or school " at the very end of the seventeenth century." [2] The preservation of Goldsmith's initials in the early plaster ties this farmer to the contemporary record, while the inverse positioning of one of the braces is a unique example of the aesthetic and carpentry practice in the earliest years of the 18th century.

The house gains added significance from the apparent transformation to a Georgian double-pile plan by 1729, suggested by a deed of partition of that date, [3], showing the transformation of a typical First Period plan into the newer style without the accompanying exterior organization typical of other properties. The addition of 1780-90 was constructed during the ownership of the Russel family who owned the house from 1748-1806, probably during the occupation of Samuel Russel Trevett of Marblehead. [4] Such additions suggest he was transforming the farm into a county seat, part of the broad post-Revolutionary pattern in the area.

Timothy Pickering, a prominent Federalist who purchased the farm in 1806, [5] was U.S. Senator (1803-11) and a member of the House of Representatives (1813-17) from Massachusetts during his ownership. His additions of English larches and lindens to the landscaping of the property are unusual surviving examples of the kinds of changes made by men like Pickering, who promoted agiculture and was a member of the Essex Agricultural Society. The alterations of the exterior doorways and interior arch continued the transformation of the simple yeoman farm into a country estate. [6]

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
WENHAM <i>Lorch Farm</i>	8
Property Name: Goldsmith-Pickering Low House	

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

NOTES

1. Cummings, Architecture, p. 190; Wenham town records, I:178.
2. Cummings, Framed Houses, pp. 90, 158, 206.
3. Essex County Deeds. LIV, 102.
4. Research by Rupert B. Lillie, MHC form, Wenham 110.
5. Cummings, Architecture, p.190.
6. Charles Hammond, _____ (Ph.D. Thesis, BU, 1980).

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1/24/90

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
51. Johnson, Capt. Timothy Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
52. Kimball, Solomon, House Substantive Review Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Beth J. Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
53. Lake, Stanley, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
54. Lambert, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
55. Larch Farm Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
56. Livermore, William, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
57. Low, Thomas, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth J. Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
58. March, Samuel, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
59. Morse, Timothy, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
60. Murray, William, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth J. Savage</u> 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 Larch Farm
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: 90000266

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 _____



Larch Farm

38 Larch Row

Wenham, MA

South + east facades
1985

1st Period Buildings of F. No. TR

27:27



27:28

Wenham, TX

Larch Farm

38 Larch Row

Shadow molded door



Wenham, 17A
Larch Farm
38 Larch Row
East Choverley
1988

27:30

1st Period Buildings of R. Ma, TR



Wentham, TIA
Larch Farm
38 Larch Row
dining room
1985

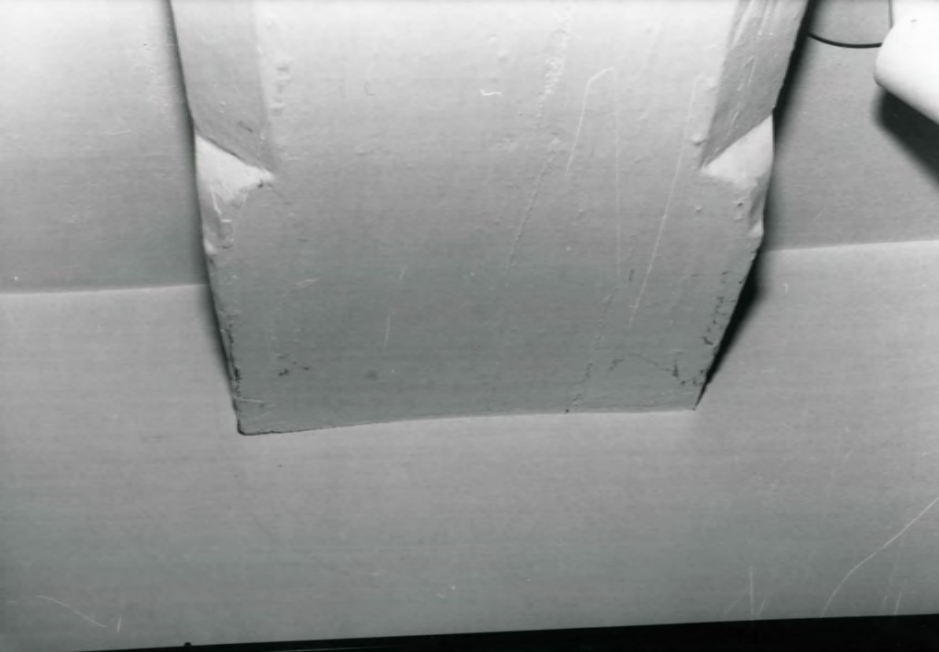
27:35



Wexham, TIA
Larch Farm
38 Larch Row
detail: Summer
1985

28:0

1st Period Building of E. May TR



27:37

Wenham, MA

Larch Farm

38 Larch Road

detail: summer beam

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR



Wenham, TLA

Larch Farm

38 Larch Row

detail: Summer

1985

28-2

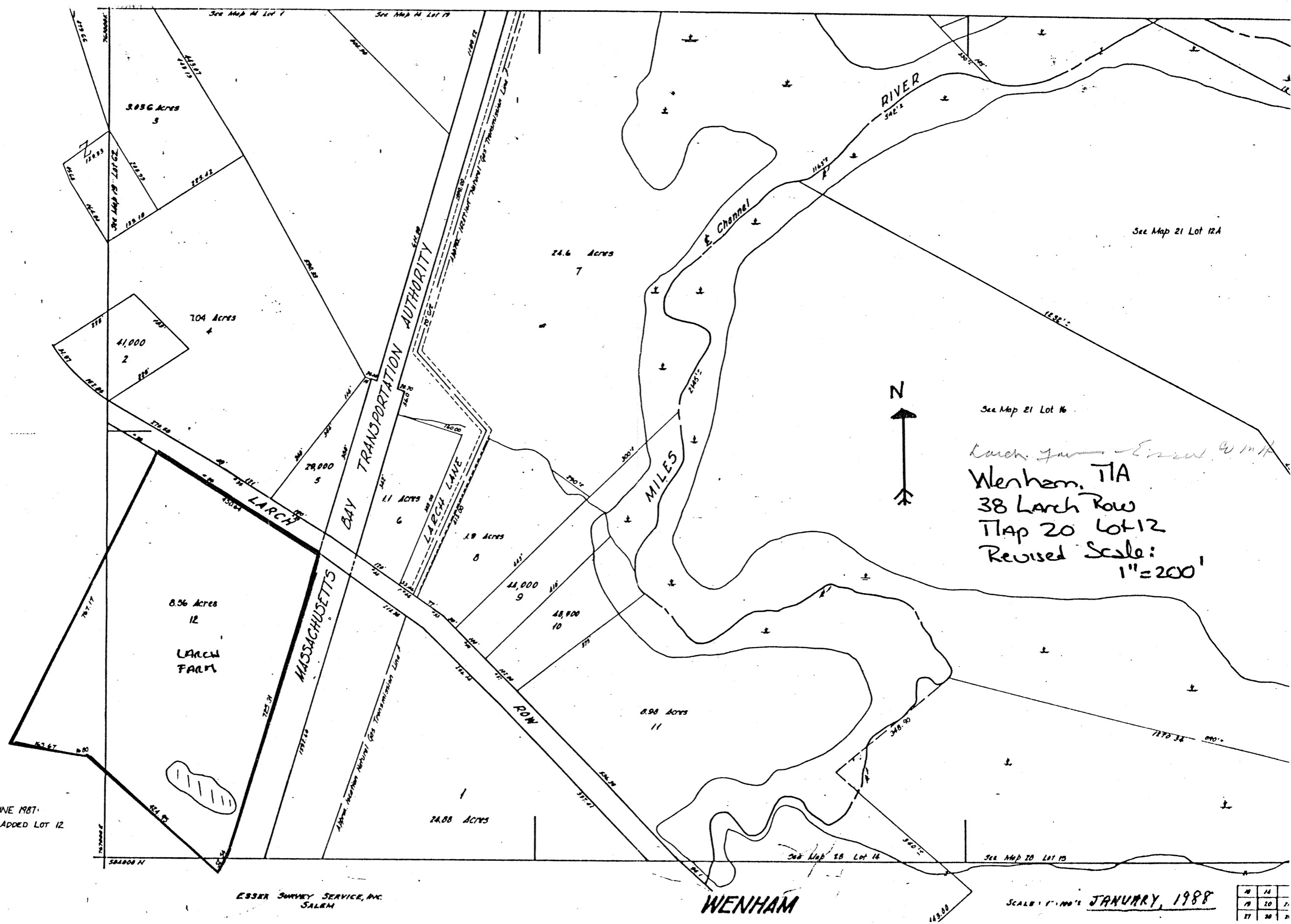
1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR



Wenham, VA
Larch Farm
38 Larch Row
near facade
1985

28:5

1st Floor Building of E. Main, TR



JUNE 1987
 ADDED LOT 12

See Map 21 Lot 12A
 See Map 21 Lot 16
 Larch Farm - Essex Co. 1/11/88
 Wenham, TIA
 38 Larch Row
 Tlap 20 Lot 12
 Revised Scale:
 1" = 200'

ESSER SURVEY SERVICE, INC.
 SALEM

SCALE: 1" = 200' JANUARY, 1988

18	14
19	20
21	26

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281