

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

75

Photos

- 39:10 exterior
- 39:11 detail S corner clapboards
- 39:24 1st floor left summer at front wall

Town Middleton 009

Address Old South Main Street

Historic Name Lieut. Thomas Fuller
House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1684

Source documents; Watkins' Middleton History, visual analysis

Style First Period

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) Leanto added before 1700; leanto raised to 2 stories 19th c.; additions east and west of leanto, roof rebuilt, rearranged fenestration and bow window added to front late 19th c. (?)
Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 1.08 acre

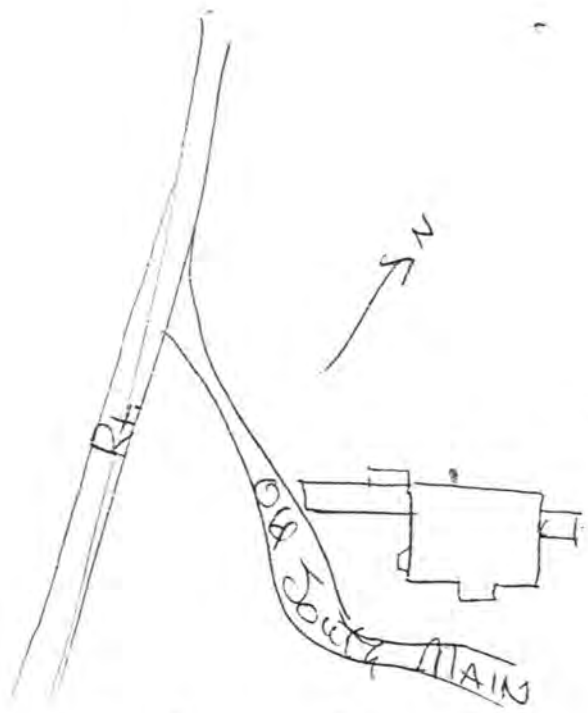
Setting Faces south at an angle off Old South Main St., now by-passed by new commercial highway, abutting the Full family cemetery and modern residences

Recorded by Richard Candee

Organization Boston University

Date May 1986

Sketch Map:



Z E N

TM REFERENCE 19 / 334-750 / 4717-270

SGS QUADRANGLE Reading

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: MIDDLETON	Form No: 75
Property Name: Lt. Thomas Fuller House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Fuller House retains integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling and association. In its structural carpentry it embodies distinctive framing and decorative characteristics of seventeenth century construction that make it eligible under Criterion C. The same characteristics also indicate that further research may yield additional information important to the history of First Period architecture in Massachusetts, thus the property is also eligible under Criterion D.

The use of transverse summers supported with posts and acting as binding beams on the first floor can be found in a smaller number of Massachusetts First Period houses than those with summers acting as bridging beams running in a longitudinal direction from end to chimney girts. These include the 1680s addition to the Whipple House in Ipswich, the pre-1681 Pickman House in Salem, the Balch House in Beverly, and the later c.1715 Parson Barnard House in North Andover [1].

This is significant for the 1684 Fuller House is the earliest in Middleton with this feature and located at the northerly end of the road later extended from Salem to Andover. In the following year Thomas Fuller was appointed "an overseer of the highways from his house to Andover bounds." Other documents confirm the hall and parlor plan of the house and the existence of a leanto by 1690. [2] Thus the house contributes to the continuity of that pattern both in date and geographic location. The chamfer stop is of an unusual (perhaps unique) combination of elements related to type B but with a wide collar like those in type C normally associated with quarter round chamfers. If the boxing of the west side were removed for investigation, the house might yield more information about the decorative treatments of late seventeenth century framing members and the spacing of ceiling joists in the 1680s.

SETTING

The house faces south at an angel off Old South Main Street, now bypassed by a new commercial highway, abutting the Fuller family graveyard and modern residential properties.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Fuller House is a two and one half story, central chimney plan, house with evenly spaced fenestration in the five-bay facade to which a projecting one-story gabled entry lobby was later added. The end walls originally had one window on each floor, although a Victorian bow window was added to the western first floor room and window

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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openings enlarged on the first floor facade and the second story west end. Behind the two original front rooms, a leanto was added, perhaps as early as 1690 or possibly replacing one of that period. It was later raised to a second story in the 19th century. Perhaps at the same time the roof was rebuilt, probably reusing six old principal rafters and purlins. Two shed roofed additions extend from raised rear leanto off the western end, the nearest incorporating a hipped roof porch covering the side door. A small gabled addition projects to the east end of the rear leanto. The wooded clapboards survive having recently been re-exposed after the removal of synthetic siding. The brick chimney stack is either original or of later First Period construction.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The First Period framing of the rooms on either side of the central chimney is unusual for having transverse summers on the first floor, matching the position of those acting as ties on the second floor. These are supported by two-story posts centered between the corner posts of each room, creating two bays approximately 7' wide in each room. The summer and tie beam in the western half are exposed beneath the plastered ceilings hiding the joists: both are about 8 1/2" wide and thus depthwise beams typical of the Salem area. They are decorated with 2" wide flat chamfers terminating with a collar 1 3/4" long and a 3" long raised cove stop with reported crosscuts on the cove. [1] This unusual combination appears at both stories. On the second story all the posts are flared to a shoulder have a 1 1/4" bevel and taper stop. The upper end girt also has a simple bevel, as do the first floor and rear plates where exposed.

Wide winder stairs are sheathed with plain pine vertical boards in front of the brick chimney stack. The eastern rooms, extant in 1690 according to documentary reference, now have later boxing over the second floor flare and shoulder and the summer and tie may be identical beneath the later boxing. The kitchen fireplace has been opened on the east side and is 10' wide between the old jambs with a rear beehive oven at the north corner. The cellar contains the massive stone chimney base and the first floor is supported by wide squared sleepers running longitudinally.

REFERENCES

1. Cummings, Framed Houses, p.54.
2. Watkins, Middleton, pp.153-4, 155-159.
3. Lura Woodside Watkins, Middleton, Massachusetts, A Cultural History, (Salem: Essex Institute, 1970), p.154 based on visit by Abbott Lowell Cummings and John Cole.

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
21. Foster, Stephen, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
sub 22. Foster, William, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
23. Fowler, Rea Putnam, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
24. French--Andrews House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
sub 25. Friend, James, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
26. Frye, Samuel, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
sub 27. Fuller, Joseph, House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
28. Fuller, Lieut. Thomas, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
29. Giddings, George, House and Barn Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byrum</u> 3/9/90 Attest _____
30. Giddings--Burnham House Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Beth L. 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 NAME: Fuller, Lieut. Thomas, 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: 90000242

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 _____




Thomas Fuller House
Old South Main St.
Middleton, MA

Exterior from S.
facing N.

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma. MRA

39:10



OLDEST HOUSE IN MIDDLETON
- LT THOMAS FULLER JR -
LIVED HERE IN 1684

Thomas Fuller House
Old South Main St
Middleton, MA

Exterior
SE corner

1st Floor Balcony of E. No. 100

39: 11

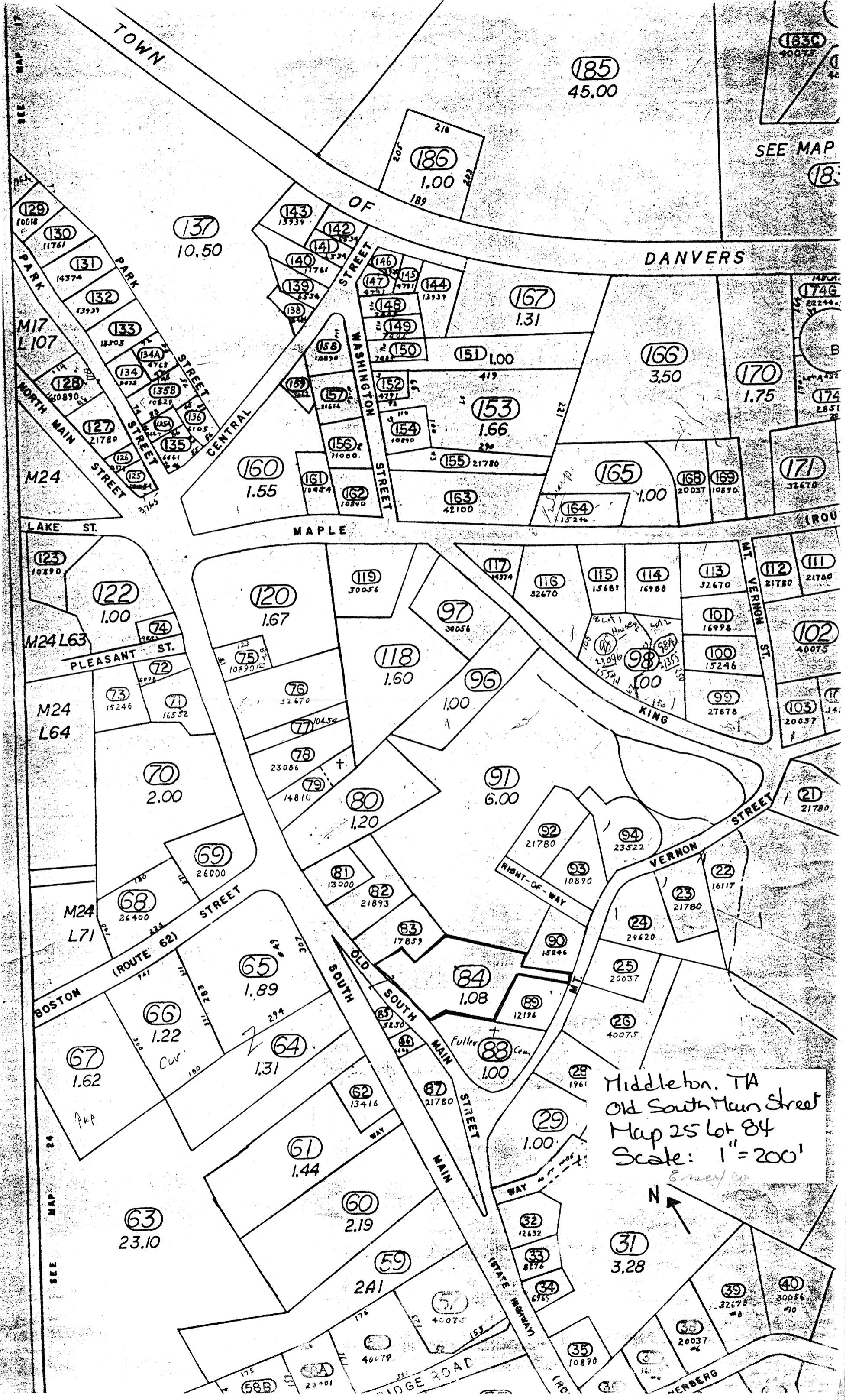


Thomas Fuller House
Old South Main St
Middletown, MA

17 detail 1st floor transverse
summer, SE room, front
wall

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma. MRA

39:24



(185)
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SEE MAP
(183C)
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DANVERS

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Middleton, TA
Old South Main Street
Map 25 lot 84
Scale: 1" = 200'
Erney Co



SEE MAP 17
SEE MAP 24
SEE MAP 25

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281