

JAN 24 1990

210
FORM NO.

56

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 23:1 right-hand room fireplace with rear oven
- 23:2 right-hand room, end wall, summer and end girt
- 23:6 attic/roof structure
- 23:12 left-hand chamber exterior

Town Georgetown 009

Address 170 Jewett St.

Historic Name Dickinson-Pillsbury-
Witham House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date after 1700

Source A.L. Cummings

Style First Period

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Shingles

Outbuildings 18th c. barn

Major Alterations (with dates) E11
attached, 1856

Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 8.8 acres

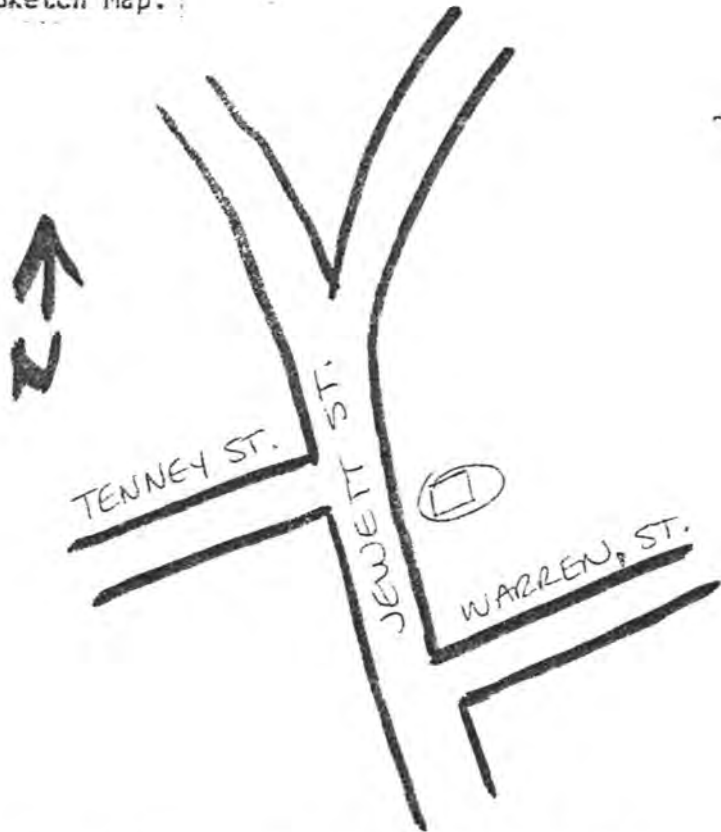
Setting Semi-rural; relatively isolated
site near Rowley line. Surrounded
by meadow, woodland and an occasional
house.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date April 1986

Sketch Map:



UTM REFERENCE 19 / 340-770 / 4732-340

USGS QUADRANGLE Georgetown (now Ipswich)

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: GEORGETOWN	Form No: 56
Property Name: Dickinson-Pillsbury- Witham House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Dickinson-Pillsbury-Witham house retains First Period integrity of location, design, workmanship, setting and feeling to a high degree in its surviving frame and simple features and fittings, making it eligible under Criterion C. During restoration, the archeologist owner did not remove early paint from the plaster walls or ceilings, nor the soot blackening the ceilings over the fireplaces. In addition, the house retains many simple fittings - wooden latches and pegs, hardware, cupboards and a shelf hung from the back of the chimney with wooden hangers - which combine with the unaltered finishes to more accurately portray the feeling of a First Period farm building than most of the houses surveyed. The very simplicity of the interior is probably representative of the great body of simple First Period farmhouses now lost to us. The analysis of paint and plaster evidence on the walls and ceilings may yield information important to our understanding of this type of building, making it eligible under Criterion D. The unusual piecing of the right end girt is also worthy of future study.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Dickinson-Pillsbury-Witham house is a 5 bay wide 2 1/2 story, central chimney structure with clapboards on the front and shingles on the sides and rear wall. There are hewn overhangs on the front and at the left gable end. The house began as a single cell 2 1/2 story structure to the right of the chimney bay. The left-hand rooms were added within a generation. The ell projecting from the rear right-hand end was attached 1856.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

This simple farm dwelling has escaped major remodelings over the years and retains much of its original First Period construction and finish. The growth of the house is visible primarily in the attic. Abbott Lowell Cummings has found evidence of brick nogging in the walls up to the window sill level, which confirms accounts in early family records.

The owner found evidence during restoration that the original windows were of the type in which sills and headers were let into the studs. The stylistic similarity of the two halves of this clearly two-stage house suggests that it was enlarged relatively soon after its initial construction. In the right hand room, the substantial hard wood longitudinal summer beam has a flat chamfer with plain, coved (semi-lamb's tongue) stop at the outer wall and full lamb's tongue stops at the chimney girt. Joists are spaced 20-21 inches on centers. The chimney girt is covered with a box which has a crude quirked bead along the edge. The same quirked bead is found along

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the edge of the board covering the reveal of the recessed fireplace and on boxes covering the corner posts. It is as though an attempt was made to fashion a quirked bead without the proper molding plane (Note: the same crude quirked bead appears on the fireplace walls of the Goodale house in Ipswich).

At the end wall, a curious piecing out of the end girt is visible. On both sides of the summer beam, there is a rising angled cut on the end girt as though the girt were scarfed at that point. The center of the beam is then apparently a separate piece perhaps six feet in length.

On the front, rear and fireplace walls of the room there is vertical feather-edged sheathing.

The fireplace has a rear oven. The owner feels that the present fireplace may not be the original one. Perhaps the chimney stacks date from the period of the addition of the left hand rooms.

In the lobby the stairs, which do not appear to have been altered, are enclosed with vertical sheathing boards. Evidence of hinge marks indicated that a door once further closed off the staircase. The chimney girt and chimney post seen in the stair hall exhibit rising brace mortises, evidence that the left hand chimney girt was once an end wall girt. There is also an additional post supporting the left-hand chimney girt which has been inserted next to the chimney stack beside the staircase, a somewhat makeshift construction

The left hand room has a longitudinal summer beam with a flat chamfer and lamb's tongue stops. There is vertical feather edged sheathing to the right of the fireplace.

In the left-hand chamber, the space where the rafters angle down over the outer-most joist is plastered on an angle, a feature not found in the original, right-hand side of the house.

In the attic a purlin roof is visible. There are collar beams only in the right-hand side. The construction of the left-hand part of the roof is just slightly different than the earlier, right-hand part, the rafters being slightly slimmer.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The owners found a piece of the bolection molding which surrounded the fireplace in the left-hand first floor and copied it. They also copied from a piece found somewhere the bolection molding which now surrounds the overmantel panel in this room.

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HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house is important for its association with Paul Pillsbury, who purchased the house in 1801-2. Pillsbury was a prolific inventor who patented in 1863 a corn sheller which stripped the kernels from ears of corn. The principle behind his bark mill is still used in mills made today. He also invented the first shoe pegging machine, which was used in his house in Georgetown.

REFERENCES

Field, Jane. Georgetown, Mass. 1863-1963.

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

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------------|
| 11. Coker, Benjamin, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Conant, Exercise, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 13. Corning, Samuel, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 14. Davis, Ephraim, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 15. Davis--Freeman House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 16. Dickinson--Pillsbury--Witham House | | Keeper | <u>Betty J. Savage</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| Substantive Review | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 17. Dustin House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 18. Dyke-Wheeler House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 19. Emerson House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 20. Foster, Phineas, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Melores Byers</u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | 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: 90000210 Date Listed: 03/09/90

Dickinson--Pillsbury--Witham 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.

Beth L. Savage
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 Dickinson--Pillsbury--Witham 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: 90000210

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 S. J. [unclear]
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 3/9/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR 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 _____



Jewett Street, Georgetown
1st Paved Buildings of E. Man, TR

Georgetown

Dickinson - P. Hs bury Withara Ho

Jewett Street

Extension

1985

85:00



Georgetown

Dickinson - Pillsbury - Witham Hb.

Jewett Street

ext wall - summer + End girt

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

23:22



Georgetown

Dickinson - Pillsbury - Withers Hb

Jewett Street

Attic - roof structure

1985

1st. Period Building at E. Me., TR

23:06



Georgetown

Dickinson - Fillsbury - Withers House

Jewett St

left-hand chamber

1985

1st Period Building of E. Ma. TR

23:12



Garretts
Dickinson - Pillsbury - Withers House
Jewett Street
right hand room fireplace
1985

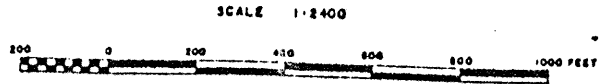
1st Period Building of E. May, TR

23:01



Dickinson - P. K. Kroy - W. K. Kroy
 Georgetown, MA
 170 Jewett Street
 Tap 19 Lot 59
 Scale 1" = 400'

Prepared under the direction of the Georgetown Board of Assessors
 Photography and Photogrammetry by Aerial Survey Corp.
 Property Lines by New England Survey Service, Inc.



1000 FOOT GRID BASED
 ON MASSACHUSETTS COORDINATE SYSTEM, MAINLAND ZONE
 THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF THE GRID NUMBERS ARE OMITTED

PLAN INFORMATION COMPILED FROM RECORD DATA,
 FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY

GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
 PLANIMETRIC SURVEY
 1968 SCALE 1" = 200'

NEW ENGLAND SURVEY SERVICE INC.
 CIVIL & CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 BOSTON, MASS.

17
 18
 19

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281