

116

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 80 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 3:36 attic
- 3:37 exterior

Town Stow 017

Address 156 Taylor Road

Historic Name Tenney Homestead

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1700-1725

Source Visual analysis

Style First Period / Federal updating

Architect None

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings garage - 20th c.

Major Alterations (with dates) rear ell  
(19th c.?) raised to 2 stories by current

Condition Good owner

Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 5.7 acres

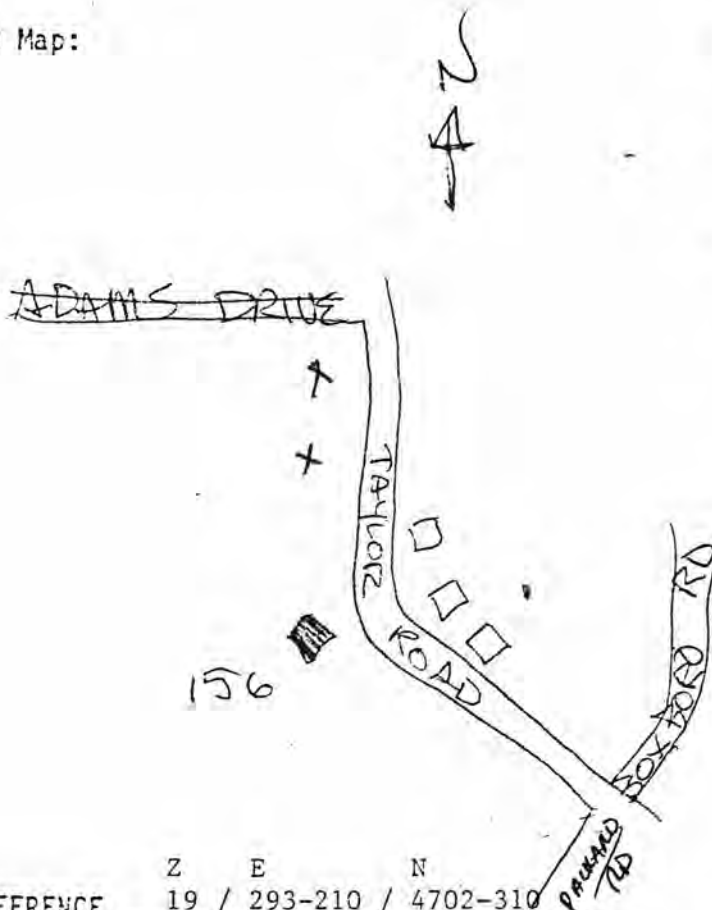
Setting Faces south on slight rise, perpen-  
dicular to road and set well back in  
open field.

Recorded by Nora Pat Small

Organization Boston University

Date August 1985

Sketch Map:



UTM REFERENCE Z 19 / 293-210 / 4702-310

USGS QUADRANGLE Hudson

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: STOW	Form No: 116
Property Name: Tenny House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Tenney Homestead, with its currently covered sponge painting and minimally visible First Period frame, indicates that if the later coverings are removed, it will yield information important to our understanding of late First Period room decoration under criterion D. The rare Massachusetts Bay early stone chimney embodies an unusual and distinctive type of chimney construction, apparently indicative of a regional trend in western Middlesex County, making it eligible under criterion C. The house retains integrity of location and, under its later coverings, probably retains integrity of materials and workmanship.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Tenney Homestead is a 2 1/2 story, central chimney clapboarded structure one cell deep with a two story ell (19th and 20th century?) projecting from the right rear. The front door has a simple Greek Revival surround. An ell extends from the left end of the house, and a short 1-story leanto is tucked into the corner between it and the rear left corner of the main house.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Most First Period elements, including sponge painting on the sheathing in the right first floor room, are now concealed, but enough remains visible on the first floor to indicate a late transitional date for the house. The original stone central chimney stack, which changes to brick from the attic floor up, is a very unusual and important feature in this part of Massachusetts. Other First Period houses in western Middlesex County with stone chimneys include the George Robbins House in Carlisle, (#99,) and the Brown-Stow House, (#115,) also in Stow. The right first floor room does not have any visible First Period features. The present owners uncovered early painted horizontal sheathing on the end wall, which they have since covered up again. Photographs show the horizontal boards with circular designs which look like sponge painting. Differences in the painted pattern on some of the boards in the photos indicate that the present two windows are replacements. The left room has an exposed summer beam with a late simple beveled chamfer. The fireplaces in both rooms have side beehive ovens (the left is covered), indicating a late transitional date.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house has a long association with the Tenney family, farmers in Stow from 1690 to the mid 1930's.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

c/24/80

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

*West  
part*

101. Jaquith, Abraham, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/14/91

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

102. Mason, John, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

103. Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

104. Noyes--Parris House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

105. Page, Christopher, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

106. Putnam, Rev. Daniel, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

107. Robbins, George, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

108. Spaulding, Zeb, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

109. Tenney Homestead **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

110. Upham, Phineas, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 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: Tenney Homestead

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

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: 90000181

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



136 Taylor Road,

3:37

Stow, MA

Tenney House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

1985



3:36

Stow, MA

15-6 Taylor Rd.

Tenney House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TA

1985-



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281