

13

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

- 15:20 attic
- 15:24 detail, southeast corner, right-hand corner
- 15:25 chimney girt in lobby; note chamfers in front and rear edges
- 15:28 exterior view

Town Wenham 009

Address 75 Arbor Street

Historic Name John Perkins House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1710-1720

Source Visual analysis

Style First Period core/Colonial Revival exterior

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards/shingles

Outbuildings Small barn - late 19th c. small shed

Major Alterations (with dates) 2-story porch with overhang removed, open 1-story entrance porch added mid 20th c.

Condition Good

Sketch Map:



Moved No Date N/A

Acreage 6.76 acres

Setting Semi-rural on secondary route to Hamilton, landscaped property with orchard and open field - 20th c. residential surrounds

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date June 1986

Z E N

TM REFERENCE 19 / 345-090 / 4719-410

USGS QUADRANGLE Salem

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WENHAM	Form No: 13
Property Name: John Perkins House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The James Perkins House retains integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship in its late First Period frame which embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction eligible under Criterion C. The frame is representative of a larger number of frames dating from the early 18th century in exhibiting the meager decoration and smaller framing stock characteristic of that transitional period. The enlargement of the house by the addition of a second cell and lean-to both with chamfered frames is illustrative of typical patterns of growth in First Period buildings. The use of a transverse summer beam and different room depth dimensions in the new part are atypical solutions, however, perhaps resulting from the availability of timbers from an earlier structure. The Perkins house also may incorporate rare surviving evidence of a two story porch concealed in the front wall (Criterion D).

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The John Perkins House is a five bay wide clapboarded structure with rear additions consisting of a lean-to spanning the left-hand three bays, a gable roofed ell to the right and rear of the building and another ell to the left rear. The front, right-hand portion is the original single cell house, but the left-hand rooms and lean-to were added within a generation. The exterior is characterized by simple Colonial Revival trim including an open pedimented porch with square posts and simply-framed sash windows. The single chimney which pierces the ridge of the roof is an 1880's replacement of the original one.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

First Period features in the form of exposed chamfered framing are visible in the left-hand room, the lobby, the lean-to and the right-hand chamber.

In the original right-hand room, c. 15 square feet, there is a boxed longitudinal summer beam. The left-hand addition, however, displays an exposed 7" wide transverse summer beam with flat chamfers. The rear girt of this room is two feet closer to the front of the house than the rear girt in the original part.

In the lobby, the exposed chimney girts, one of which is original and the other a replica, display flat chamfers on the rear edge and on the front edge normally concealed in the front wall. A late 19th century photograph shows the house with a two story enclosed porch with overhanging second story. That porch has been removed and replaced by a shallower one story extension with open porch in front of it. The presence of the chamfer on the front edge of the summer

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beam, however, suggests that that edge of the beam was intended to be exposed from the beginning as inside the house. Possibly the porch shown in the 19th century photograph is an original feature of the house.

The center rear room of the house in the right-hand most part of the lean-to had a kitchen fireplace until the chimney was rebuilt in 1880. In this room the beams and joists are exposed and all except the inner face of the chimney girt and the beam showing in the west wall have plain bevelled chamfers without stops.

Upstairs, only the right-hand chamber displays exposed framing. The summer tie beam is a very narrow timber perhaps 5" wide. All beams in the room, the flared posts, plate and tie beams, have a small flat chamfer. On the summer beam and the front plate the chamfers taper to a very simple stop.

In the attic, roof framing is composed of principal rafters, 3 common purlins per slope and a ridge purlin. The original right-hand portion of the roof is divided into three bays, and like the summer tie beam in the chamber below the framing members are quite slim. Although the framing system is the same, it is clear that the added left-hand two bays were built in a separate building campaign.

The cellar is under just the right-hand room.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

A 19th century barn is in keeping with the historical character of the property.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The property, which remains in the hands of the Perkins family, was a large farm until the turn of the 20th century.

REFERENCES

Wenham Town Records, Vol. 1 (Wenham: Wenham Historical Society, 1930)
supplement: 2, 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1/24/90

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

- 5061. Newman--Fiske--Dodge House ~~Entered in the National Register~~ **Substantive Review** *SR* Keeper Betty L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 62. ~~Noyes~~, James, House Entered in the National Register Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 5063. Old Farm **Substantive Review** *SR* Keeper Betty L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 64. Old Garrison House **Substantive Review** Keeper _____ R
Attest _____
- 65. Osborne, Prince, House Entered in the National Register *SR* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 66. Osgood, Col. John, House **Substantive Review** *SR* Keeper Betty L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 5067. Paine--Dodge House **Substantive Review** *SR* Keeper Betty L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 68. Patch, Emeline, House Entered in the National Register Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 69. Perkins, John, House Entered in the National Register Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 70. Proctor, John, House Entered in the National Register *SR* Keeper Melrose Byrum 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: Perkins, John, 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: 90000269

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
 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 _____



15-20

Wenham, MA
John Perkins House
75 Arbor Street
attic
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR



Wenham, MA

15-24

John Perkins House

75 Arbor Street

detached post - s.e. corner

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, MA



Wenham, MA

John Perkins Ho
75 Arbor Street
Chimney 91st

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, MA

15-25



Perkins House
75 Arbor St.
Wenham, MA

Exterior view
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

15-28

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281