

JAN 24 1990

165

FORM NO.

97

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

6:31 2nd floor, left room

6:33 exterior

Town Billerica

017

Address 33 Riverhurst RoadHistoric Name Deacon Samuel Hill

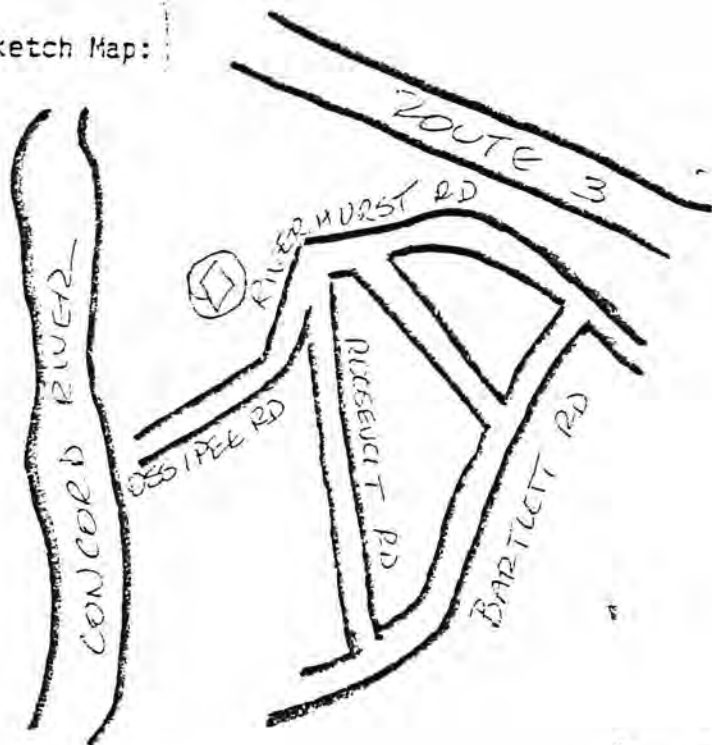
House

Use: Present ResidenceOriginal Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1725, with ca. 1840 remodelingSource visual analysisStyle First PeriodArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Remodelling to Georgian ca. 1840; added lean-to, 18th c.Condition GoodMoved Yes Date UnknownAcreage 1.1 acresSetting Open lot in wooded neighborhood of small 20th c. housesRecorded by Nora Pat SmallOrganization Boston UniversityDate August 1985

Sketch Map:



RN

TM REFERENCE 19 / 310-850 / 4711-670SGS QUADRANGLE BillericaSCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BILLERICA	Form No: 97
Property Name: Deacon Samuel Hill House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Deacon Samuel Hill House retains integrity of design and workmanship in its transitional First Period frame under Criterion C. The removal of the central chimney exemplifies a common means of remodeling a center-chimney plan house to a center hall Georgian house.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Deacon Samuel Hill House is a two and a half story, 5-bay clapboarded structure, originally one room deep, with an added rear lean-to. During an 1840 remodeling, the central chimney was removed and replaced by a central stair and two interior chimneys set between the front and lean-to rooms. (The chimneys are not visible from the front facade.)

SIGNIFICANT FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The house exhibits late First Period transitional beaded summer beams and some horizontal interior sheathing. The first floor rooms both have exposed longitudinal summer beams with quirk beading. All other framing members are boxed. Brick nogging survives in both end walls and the original rear wall. A.L. Cummings found blackened joists in the first and second floor right-hand rooms indicating originally unplastered ceilings. The second floor right-hand chamber also has an exposed, quirk beaded longitudinal summer beam. The chamber has a sawmill-sawn rising brace in the right rear corner, and evidence of another in the left hand corner. The front, rear, and end walls have horizontal sheathing.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The left-hand second floor chamber has very fine 18th century marbled raised-field paneling to the right of the present chimney (original rear wall,) a distinctive and rare survival of a popular 18th century style of painted decoration.. The section consists of nine raised-field panels set in three ranks, with marbling in both panels and the rails and stiles.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house was probably built by Deacon Samuel Hill, who inherited the farm from Ralph Hill Jr. in 1695 and died in 1755.

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

91. Bullard, Isaac, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

92. Foster, Samuel, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

93. Gardner, Addington, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

94. Green House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

95. Hammond House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

Entered in the
National Register

96. Hapgood House

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

97. Hill, Abraham, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

98. Hill, Deacon Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 3/9/90

Attest _____

99. Hopestill Bent Tavern

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

100. Hosmer, Joseph, 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 Hill, Deacon Samuel, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

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: 90000165

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 _____



33 Riverhurst Rd., Billerica
MA

Dea. Samuel Hill House

45+ Poind Buildings of E. May, TR



33 Riverhurst Rd., Billerica, MA

Dec. Samuel Hill House

1st Road Buildings of E. Mass, TR

18:9

1985



BILLERICA, MA
HILL HOUSE
33 RIVERHURST RD.
Invalley Co. Inc.

Scale: 1" = 100'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281

The following letter includes information to supplement the material provided in the nomination forms for the Deacon Samuel Hill House & the Abraham Jaquith House by the local historical commission

381 Boston Road, Billerica, MA 01821

November 29, 1989

Betsy Friedberg, N. R. Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

Copies of Forms 97 (Deacon Samuel Hill house) and 98 (Abraham Jaquith house) came today, and I thank you for them.

As I said at the meeting in Topsfield, I am somewhat embarrassed by the nomination of these buildings in the absence of concurrent nomination of the Patten homestead (Billerica Inventory # 319). Our already more extensive information on the latter, of course, is only recently acquired and is still expanding. On the other hand, it is the only Billerica house with documented champfer/stop summer beams (at least one *in situ*), and more of the framing is now exposed. Such are the vagaries of time and chance!

I certainly approve of the inclusion of the two houses and do not wish to interfere with their nomination. Nevertheless, after quick examination at the meeting, I found myself troubled by the dates assigned. I enclose copy of a quick note I dropped off with Anne Tait yesterday at lunch, which she may or may not have shared with you.

→ Now that the forms have arrived, I find myself even more troubled by the observation that my name is listed along with "visual analysis" as source of the dates (1725 in each case). I must at least ask that this be removed from the form for, on the basis of my own information, the dates are unacceptable in each case without solid basis for assignment by "visual analysis". A specific date was not mentioned during either of the visits (by Abbott Cummings and Nora Small); in the former case we were taking off from his question one evening: "Where, Charlie, are the seventeenth century houses in Middlesex County?" "Don't know", I said, and they are all remodelled, but I can show you a couple of putative candidates". I did get from Abbott that the quirk beading was more apt to be after 1700 than before (which is why I have used the name "Deacon Samuel Hill house"). I have continued to use the traditional name "Farley Garrison House" for the other. I don't really think that what we see is the garrison house of 1675, but I doubt even more that it is Abraham Jaquith's creation *de novo*.

A couple of notes for what be worth.

97. I wonder where Abbott found the blackened joists? I have never seen them exposed (I see the joists in the lower left-hand room, but was neither very smart nor observant at the time).

98. My own understanding was that the final demise of the east half of the house was a fire. I doubt that Jake Casey has very clear memories of its condition before, but the observation of difference in maintenance by the two brothers during the late nineteenth century was a "local legend" in my boyhood.

George Farley was not the first person born in Billerica. Rather, that was his son Samuel.

Hannah married Abraham Jaquith Jan. 13, 1726/7; she and her new husband were deeded the homestead under agreement to "see the old folks through". Father Ebenezer died 1728, but mother Elizabeth didn't remarry until 1735/6 (thereby relinquishing her rights).

Please delete reference to research done by Charles E. Stearns and Billerica Form 405 (where I was brash enough to follow my father in the belief that part of the 1675 garrison might be preserved within the extant west half.) You properly ignore the local tradition embodied there. I'll be happy to up-date the form, when more convincing evidence is available.

I told Anne Tait I'd send her references to two recent publications on the Farley and Hill families:

Donna Valley Stuart: "Some descendants of George Farley of Billerica, Massachusetts"

New Engl. Hist. Gen. Reg., Vol. CXXXVI, p. 133-147 (1982)

Donna Valley Russell: "Ralph Hill of Plymouth and Billerica, Massachusetts"

Nat. Gen. Quart., Vol. 72, p. 3-32 (1984)

Sincerely,

CS
Chairman, Bill. Hist. Comm.

✓ CC: Anne Tait, Margaret Ingraham

X BIF
I think
you have the
original
Charlie & CD
me on
this —

381 Boston Road, Billerica, MA 01821

November 27, 1989

W.F. → you received
w/ my
meeting
report

**Notes on two Billerica houses included in the regional inventory of
"first-period houses"**

- (1) The Deacon Samuel Hill house - date given as 1725, source not clear.
It was originally (and still is, in part) sited on land, of which the succession of ownership is clear:
- (1) Ralph Hill, Jr. bought homestead "with a new dwelling house" in 1658.
 - m. his step-sister, Martha Toothaker in 1660
 - had six children between 1661 and 1681
 - died testate in 1695; his widow died in 1704.
 - (2) "Deacon" Samuel Hill inherited the homestead entire in 1695.
 - m. before 1705 Deborah [—]
 - had nine children between 1705 and 1723
 - died intestate in 1755; Deborah had died in 1748.
 - [his youngest daughter and new husband, Abraham Jaquith, took care in his last illness]
 - (3) Ralph Hill inherited the homestead entire
 - m. Mehitable Patten in 1733
 - had ten children between 1734 and 1755
 - died testate in 1784; made his will the day after marriage to his second wife, who survived.
 - [at this time there were two houses, of which Ralph was living in the "new house"]
 - (4) William, married in 1775, got the "old house" - the one inventoried - and was living there in 1818.
 - Solomon, married in 1779, got the "new house", which he promptly sold to two unmarried sisters. (We tried unsuccessfully to move this house, too, but eventually had it demolished)

I agree that the "old house" is the Deacon Samuel Hill house, but isn't circa 1700 a better guess than 1725 (after the birth of his ninth and last child!)?

- (2) The "Abraham Jaquith house", also given the date of 1725, is trickier.
Again, the descent of the land is relatively clear.
- (1) George Farley was on the Dudley Farm by 1654, when his last child was recorded in Billerica.
 - He had married Christian Births in 1641.
 - They had eight children between 1643 and 1654 (only the last recorded in Billerica)
 - He died in 1695; his widow died in 1702.
 - He deeded the homestead to his only married grandson in 1692, in return for an agreement to "see the old folks through" and not sell until after both grandparents had died.
 - (2) Caleb Farley married Sarah Godfrey in 1686.
 - had nine children between 1687 and 1703
 - sold the homestead to Job Lane in 1702 (promptly after his grandmother's death)
 - this sale rescinded in 1706, and (the same day) sold the homestead to his brother Joseph
 - Joseph (of Roxbury) sold to another brother Benjamin (also Roxbury), deed unrecorded
 - Benjamin (of Roxbury) sold to another brother Ebenezer of Billerica in 1713.
 - [Ebenezer, in the meantime, was established on another (More) site in Billerica, inherited from his father. In addition to the George Farley homestead, he purchased another homestead (Hamlet) from Benjamin. He was living on the More place in 1705-10.
 - [Ebenezer sold the More place to Joshua Abbot in 1714 and, although he did not sell the Hamlet place until 1720, seems to have returned to the Farley homestead in 1714.]
 - (3) Ebenezer Farley had married Elizabeth Shed in 1703.
 - They had four children between 1704 and 1709.
 - He died intestate in 1728; his widow married Jerathmeel Bowers of Chelmsford.
 - Prior to his death, he deeded the homestead to his daughter Hannah and her husband Abraham Jaquith (married in 1726), in return for an agreement to "see the old folks through" and also to discharge obligations to two nephews and a ward(?) when they came of age.

Why Abraham Jaquith and 1725? It is possible that either Job Lane or Ebenezer Farley built a new house when he took over a homestead so long neglected (1702?, 1714?), less likely that Abraham and Hannah built a new house after 1728.