

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

VI-15  
1st floor, left room

VI-16  
1st floor, Stairhall

VI-18  
2nd floor, left room, fireplace wall

Town Billerica

Address 161 Concord Road

Historic Name Abraham Jaquith House

Use: Present Residential

Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1725

Source visual analysis

Style Late First Period

Architect None

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Large barn - late 19th c.

Major Alterations (with dates) East half of house rebuilt early 1920's after original portion collapsed early 19th c. Barn added probably 18th c.  
Condition Good

Moved No Date n/a

Acreage 1/2 acre

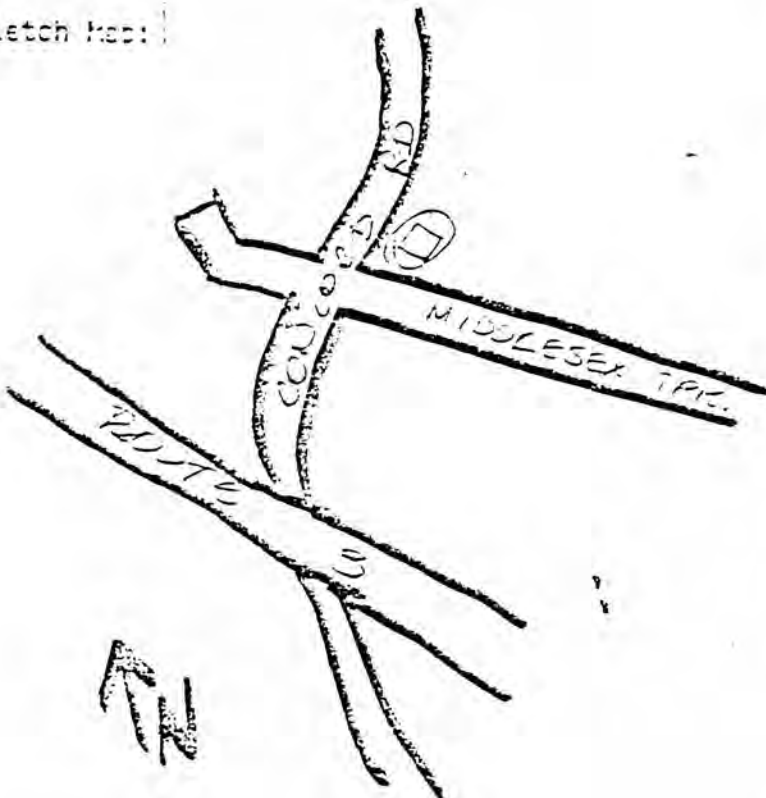
Setting Residential, among 18th and 20th century houses that are widely spaced along main road

Recorded by Nora Pat Small

Organization Boston University

Date August 1988

Sketch Map:



GRID REFERENCE E 19 / 312-740 / N 4712-940

U.S. QUADRANGLE Billerica

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BILLERICA	Form No: 98
Property Name: Abraham Jaquith House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Jaquith house retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship in the survival of most of its First Period frame, chimney, and transitional wall finishes, making it significant under Criteria C. Its two-cell central chimney plan is a distinctive feature characteristic of many late First Period houses; the 18th century lean-to is typical of the subsequent growth First Period houses experienced. The deterioration through neglect and subsequent replacement of one half of the original house is a rare example of what may have been a common fate for many First Period buildings jointly owned by the builder's heirs, and may provide clues for the reevaluation of other First Period Buildings currently considered to have been originally single-cell dwellings. The second floor longitudinal summer beam represents a very unusual framing technique worthy of further study. The house also retains integrity of association in its rare continuous ownership by one family from its construction to the present day.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Jaquith House is a 5-bay, 2 1/2 story central chimney clapboarded structure, one bay deep with a lean-to which runs the length of the north side. The three west bays comprise the surviving First Period core of the house and its Second Period lean-to; the two east bays were entirely rebuilt in the 1920's after the collapse in the early 20th century of the original east end of the house. The central door on the symmetrical south facade has a mid 19th century doorhood with brackets. The roof ridge parallels the main (south) facade and is pierced by a large brick chimney in the third bay. The north side of the roof extends down over the lean-to. A small early 20th-century one story sun porch extends from the west end of the house.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The west first floor room is two bays wide and one deep. Its exposed longitudinal summer beam is quirk-beaded, as are the exposed corner posts, front, rear, end, and chimney girts. The first floor lean-to room has worn lapped horizontal boards on its south wall which are possibly part of the north wall covering of the original structure.

The first floor entrance has its original staircase in front of the chimney, with short turned balusters and a molded stringer. A pendant hangs down into the lobby from the bottom of the top newel of the staircase. The paneling under the stringer is vertical feather-edged boards.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BILLERICA	Form No: 98
Property Name: Abraham Jaquith House	

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

The second floor chamber has exposed quirk-beaded longitudinal summer beam, end beam, and chimney tie beams and plates. The gunstocked corner posts are exposed but not finished. Horizontal feathered floor-to-ceiling sheathing covers the north, west, and south walls. The second floor lean-to has weathered, lapped horizontal boards on its south wall, probably part of the exterior covering of the original one-bay deep house. The lean-to framing is laid against this sheathing. Where the lean-to butts up against the original outer north wall of the First Period building, the molded feet of the common rafters of the original roof can be seen projecting beyond the plate.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The original section of the house contains original early Second Period paneling in both floors. The first floor room fire place wall has field paneling above and to the left of the fireplace, with vertical feather-edged paneling to the right. The other three walls are covered with horizontal, feather-edged boards. The second floor chamber fireplace wall is covered by feather-edged vertical boards. Horizontal feather-edged sheathing covers the other three walls of the chamber.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Although local tradition attributes this house to George Farley, the first person born in Billerica (in 1654), stylistic evidence suggests that the present house was built upon the marriage of George's granddaughter, Hannah, to Abraham Jaquith 1726/27. Members of the Jaquith family have lived in the house to the present day. The lean-to was added in the 18th century. A family story recounts that, in the late 19th century, two brothers each owned half of the house. The brother on the east let his house deteriorate so badly that it eventually fell down, while the west side of the house was properly maintained and is still standing. A late 19th century sketch shows the full house, while early 20th century photos in the current owner's possession show the half house. The right half of the house was inaccurately reconstructed around 1922.

REFERENCES

- interview with owner, summer 1985. (Joseph Jaquith Casey)
- research done by Charles E. Stearns, Billerica Historical Commission, MHC Form 405 Billerica.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Jaquith, Abraham, House

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: 90000166

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

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Please provide interior photo.*

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

Signed *[Signature]* Phone 202 343 9553  
Date 3/9/90

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

98

VI-15  
1st floor, left room

Town Dillerica

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1st floor, Stairhall

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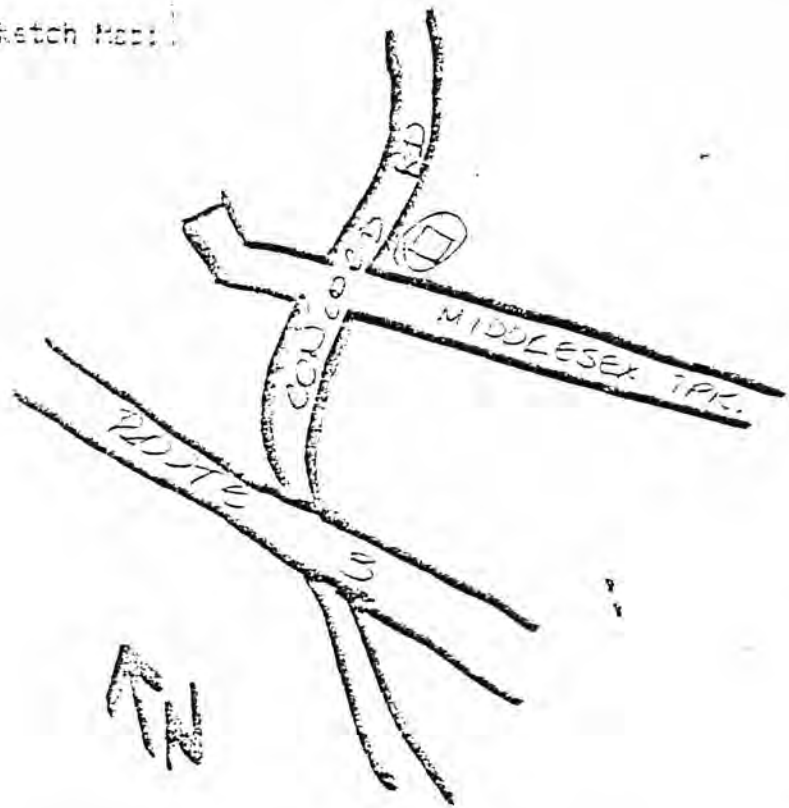
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TW REFERENCE 2 E N 19 / 312-740 / 4712-940

SSS QUADRANGLE Dillerica

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BILLERICA	Form No: 98
Property Name: Abraham Jaquith House	

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Community: BILLERICA	Form No: 98
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

2/24/90

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

- 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: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Jaquith, Abraham, House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/91      DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000166

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    3/14/91 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE 3/14/91

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

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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

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

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

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



Billerica  
Abraham Jagwitz Ho  
161 Concord Rd  
Gretchen Schuler  
12/90

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR



Billerica

Abraham Jagwitz House

161 Concord Rd

Gretchen Schuler

12/90

List of Buildings of E. Mass., TR



Billerica  
Abraham Jaguith Ho.  
161 Concord Rd  
Gretchen Schuler  
12/90

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR



Billerica

Abraham Jugue Ho.

161 Concord Rd

Grethen Shuler

12/90

1st Annual Bookings of Fairway TR



Billerica  
Abraham Jaquez Ho  
161 Concord Rd  
Gretchen Schuler  
12/90

1st Floor Buildings of B. May, MA



Bileneva  
Abraham Jagwitz Ho  
161 Concord Rd  
Gretchen Schuber  
12/90

1st Floor Buildings of E. May, TR



161 Concord Road, Billerica

Billerica, MA

Abraham Jaguith House

161 Concord Road

1<sup>st</sup> floor. Left room

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass., TR

06:15



Billerica, MA  
Abraham Jacquot House  
161 Concord Road  
2nd floor, left room  
1985

1st period Buildings of E. Man, MA

06:18



Billerica, MA  
Abraham Jaguith House  
161 Concord Road  
1st floor. Starhall  
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

06:16

BILLERICA, MA  
JAQUITH HOUSE  
161 CONCORD RD.  
Middlesex County, MA  
Scale: 1"=100'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281