

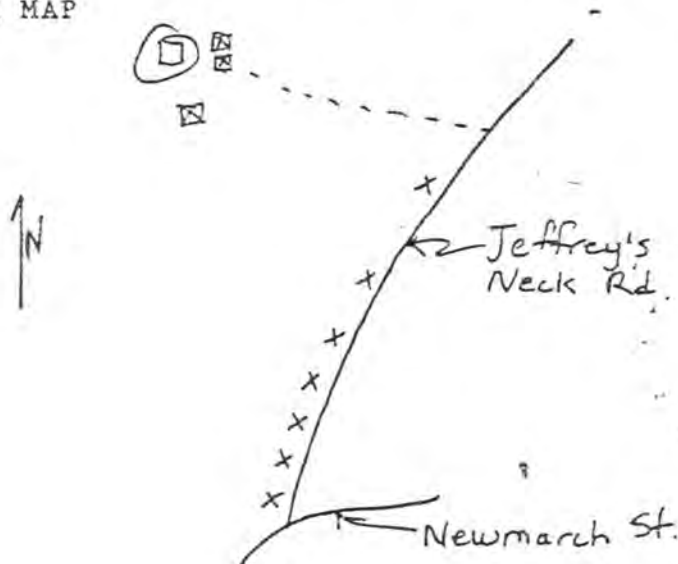
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
10 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

38

Photos

- 20:12 detail, summer beam, rear room
(originally Collins Lord House)
- 20:13 detail, summer beam and post,
south wall, left-hand room
- 20:14 detail, summer beam and post, north
wall, left-hand room
- 20:15 detail, summer beam at south wall,
left-hand chamber
- 20:16 left-hand chamber
- 20:22 original piece of dentil molding
laid against original molded board
which partially covered the exterior
girt
- 20:27 T-shaped summer beam, left-hand room
- 20:29 left-hand room
- 20:32 south and west facades

SKETCH MAP



REFERENCE Z E N
19 / 350-170 / 4728-680

S QUADRANGLE Ipswich

SCALE 1:25,000

Town Ipswich 009

Address 52 Jeffrey's Neck Road

Historic Name Ross Tavern

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date late 17th century

Source A.L. Cummings: research and
visual analysis

Style First Period

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Barn; small buildings re-
erected from another Ipswich site

Major Alterations (with dates) 2 houses
moved from other Ipswich sites and
joined to tavern: 1930s

Condition Good

Moved From lot next to southerly
abuttment of Choate
bridge, Ipswich Date 1940

Acreage part of
31.8 acres parcel

Setting On crest of a hill, surrounded
on three sides by distant views of
salt marsh and inlets.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date July 1986

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: IPSWICH	Form No: 38
Property Name: Ross Tavern	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Ross Tavern retains integrity of materials, design and workmanship in the First Period features of the two 17th century buildings it incorporates. These embody distinctive characteristics of form and construction under Criterion C. The evidence for exterior embellishment of the Ross Tavern is among the most significant surviving expressions of First Period architecture in New England. The cyma molded overhanging girt, the crease molded coverboard, the crease molded dentils and the red point are prime expressions of what Cummings identified as the "distinctly elegant regional school" of architecture which developed in Ipswich at the end of the 17th century.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Ross Tavern is, in its main body, 5 bays wide and one room deep. There is a wing to the right hand side and a large ell to the rear. The house is composed of two earlier houses moved on to the site and restored by Daniel S. Wendell. The main body of the house was dismantled and moved from an earlier Ipswich site abutting the Choate Bridge. The left-hand rooms and chimney bay comprised the original part of that structure. That single cell building was probably moved onto the Choate Bridge site between 1734 and 1736 and enlarged at that time by the addition of the right-hand rooms. In the 19th century the building became known as the Ross Tavern. The rear ell, originally the Collins-Lord house on High Street (just south of 33 High Street), was also dismantled and moved by Wendell. In 1940, a kitchen wing was added to the right-hand side of the two reconstructed and restored 17th century houses and a small lean-to was built next to the ell at the left rear.

The house was restored to a high style First Period appearance by Daniel Wendell on the basis of very specific physical evidence. The clapboarded exterior has gables on the front and rear facades (restored from evidence of mortises in the plate), and a deep two story entrance porch originally was proven by mortises on the outer face of the framing). All the gables have molded verge boards (unweathered ends of the purlins on the exterior indicated an original verge board). There are elaborately embellished overhangs at the second story on three sides and in each of the gables. The second story overhang had been closed in for a number of years before the house was dismantled. Wendell found three cyma molded overhanging girts, mitered at the corners (the posts above have a right angled tenon which helps to hold the mitered ends together). The girts are supported from beneath at the centers by the projecting rounded ends of the T shaped summer beams of the left-hand room. At the corners, the overhanging girts are supported by brackets (restored on the basis of impressions in the wood on the underside of the girts, but with conjectural profiles). A board with crease molded edge partly covers and extends above the girts (several original pieces of this cover board survive; one original piece of girt with cover board attached is in SPNEA's architectural museum). Halfway up the cover board was positioned a board crease molded on the edge and cut into dentils (a single piece of

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board with dentils survived in a reused position in the house, but the pattern of weathering and a faint remainder of red paint on the lower cover board made it clear where the dentiled board should be placed). Square blocks with incised patera-like designs are placed every 2 feet or so in the dentil course. The designs are conjectural, but paint and nail hole evidence on the cover board indicated the presence originally of square blocks in these location. The final element in the assemblage of trim at the overhang is at the top. The molding profile is conjectural, but the pattern of weathering on the board below the molding suggested to Wendell the amount that the molding above must have projected. The nearly identical trim of the overhang in the gables was derived after similar reasoning.

The pilastered central chimney dates from 1940. Fenestration on the original part of the Ross Tavern is leaded glass casements, three part windows on the first and second floors; two-part windows on the porch and in the gables. The windows on the second floor were restored to their original central locations based on evidence of mortises in studs. On the first floor only the left-hand most window on the facade could be located from physical evidence, but since posts run up the center of the wall, either the windows were originally off-center, or there were two windows. The entrance door is a simply framed vertical board door.

The rear ell, originally the Collins-Lord house, retains its plainly-finished overhang on the rear wall. On the first floor, the ell has casement windows with rectangular panes, leaded glass and fixed transoms above. The presence of transoms was indicated by a fragment of stud or jamb Wendell found while dismantling the High Street house.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

First Period features are visible in the left-hand room and chamber and in the rear ell.

The left-hand room exhibits two unusual framing features: T shaped summer beams and two sets of joists at right angles to each other. The summer beams, T shaped in order to provide support for the overhanging girts on 3 sides, have flat chamfers and lamb's tongue stops at the outer walls and where the summer beams join. (Wendell thinks originally the summer beams may have had quarter-round chamfers as does the summer tie beam upstairs, but that Ralph Burnham who restored the house in the 1920s may have shaved off the quarter-round). The summer beams are supported by posts with bevel-molded heads. Joists in the room are slightly chamfered and are spaced 21 inches on centers. The second set of joists in the inner bay, needed to provide a structure onto which to nail floor boards, are shallower than the primary joists and are halved over the primary joists. As a further refinement to secure the floorboards, the inner edge of the overhanging girts are rabbetted to receive the edges of floorboards. The shadow-molded sheathing on the fireplace wall was replicated from fragments found elsewhere in the house.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Community: IPSWICH	Form No: 38
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In the left-hand chamber, the summer tie beam has quarter-round chamfers, flat collars and lamb's tongue stops. The south window in the chamber retains an original jamb of plain, rectangular design.

The rear ell, now 27 feet long by 18 feet wide, was originally a double cell, central chimney house. Currently the ell is composed of one large room with crossed summer beams. Clearly there have been alterations to the original structure including the removal of the central chimney. At the junction of the two crossed summer beams, the flat chamfered longer summer beam is finished with a triangular stop and two pips. A small house on the property is the frame of another Ipswich building, of probable First-Period provenance, which Wendell dismantled, moved to this site and reerected. Wendell believes the building may have been clapboarded only on its upper portion and gable ends for the frame lower down is weathered. Wendell speculates that the building may have had plaster infill between the framing members where it was not clapboarded. The frame of the building has the unusual feature of purlins which are cambered upward in the middle so that where they are attached to the middle rafter in the two bay building, they more effectively resist the downward thrust of the rafters.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house is associated with the early 20th century restoration movement, as the subject of a very careful restoration by a highly competent amateur architectural historian. The restoration brought to light many distinctive features of the houses, several of which are unique extant examples of their form in New England. The crossed joist and the girts rabbetted for floor boards fall within that category. Rabbetted girts were known in English buildings of the period, however. The evidence for transoms found by Wendell in the Collins-Lord house provided one of two known examples of First Period transom window evidence for ALC.

Unfortunately, we do not know the identity of the wealthy client who commissioned the elaborately decorated Ross Tavern. The house is first mentioned in a deed of 1736 on a site near the Choate Bridge, but must have been constructed elsewhere by an unknown party and moved to the second site.

The Collins-Lord house was built c. 1675-1700 by Robert Collins or Robert Lord Sr.

REFERENCES

- Abbott Lowell Cummings, Massachusetts and its First Period Houses, Publication of the Colonial Society in Massachusetts 51:156-157
Abbott Lowell Cummings, Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1979: 127.
-----, pp. 74, 76, 77 126, 127, 129, 136, 137, 148, 150, 153, 162, 194.

Note: HABS drawings are not entirely accurate. According to Wendell, the tenon in the overhanging girt is incorrectly drawn. The drawings were made c. 1933 before the building was dismantled.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: IPSWICH	Form No: 38
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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Ross Tavern is situated at the top of a hill on a 32 acre parcel on which there are several other buildings. The Tavern was moved to this location in the twentieth century and is not historically related to the other buildings on the hill, thus, a line of convenience of 100' by 100' has been drawn around the dwelling.

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

71. Putnam, Deacon Edward, Jr., House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

72. Putnam, James, Jr., House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

73. ~~Ross Tavern~~ **Substantive Review**
Keeper Beth L. Sawase 3/9/90
Attest _____

74. Sawyer House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

75. Smith House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

76. Smith, Hazariah, House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

77. Thorndike, Capt. John, House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

78. Titcomb, Benaiah, House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

79. Tufts, Rev. John, House
Entered in the National Register
Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

80. White--Ellery 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
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

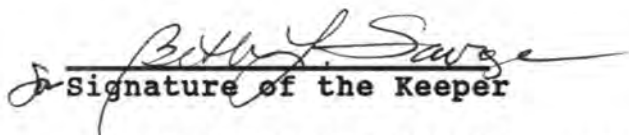
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000235 Date Listed: 03/09/90

Ross Tavern 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.


Signature of the Keeper

03/09/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: Acreage

The correct acreage is <1.

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 NAME: Ross Tavern

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: 90000235

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
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 3/9/90

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 _____



Ipswich, TIA

Ross Tavern

52 Jeffrey's Neck Road

detroit, summer beam

1985

20:12

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma, TR



Ipswich, VA
Ross Tavern
52 Jeffrey's Neck Road
detail, summer + post. 20:13

1st Period Buildings of E. Va., VA



Ipswich, TWA

Ross Tavern

52 Jeffrey's Neck Rd

detail: Summer + post

1985

20:14

3rd period Building of E. No. TR



Ipswich, TIA

Ross Tavern

52 Jeffrey's Neck Rd.

detail: summer

1985

20:15

1st Period Building of E. North



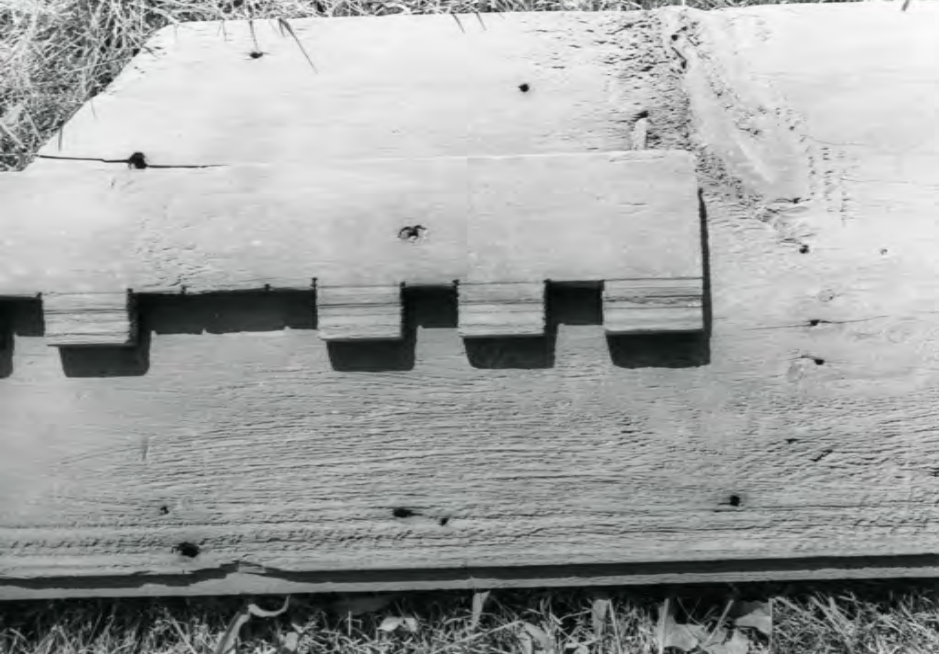
52 Jeffrey's Neck Road,
Ipswich, VA

Ross TARNER

Left-hand chamber 20:16

1985

1st Period Buildings of B. No. TR



Ipswich, TA

Ross Tavern

52 Jeffrey's Neck Road

original - dentel molding -
exterior girt

20:22

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. No. TR



Ipswich, VA
Ross Tavern
52 Jeffrey's Neck Road
T-shaped summer
1985

20:27

1st Period Buildings of F. Ma, TR



Ipswich, TA

52 Jeffrey's Neck Road
Ross Tavern

Left-hand room

20:28

1985

1st Period Buildings of Ten, May TR



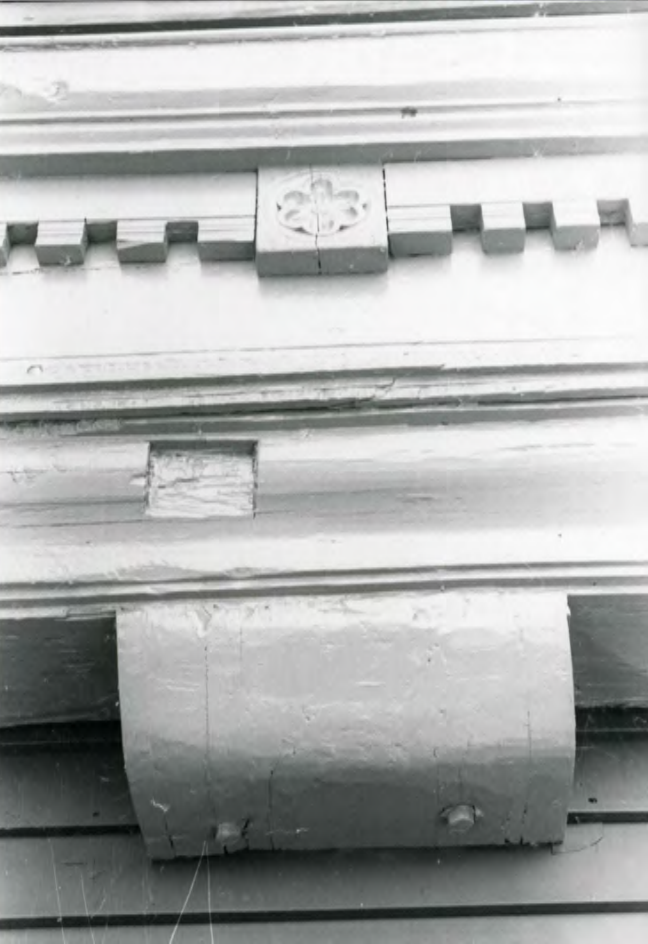
52 Jeffrey's Neck Road,
Ipswich, MA

Ross Tavern

Southwest facades
1985

20:32

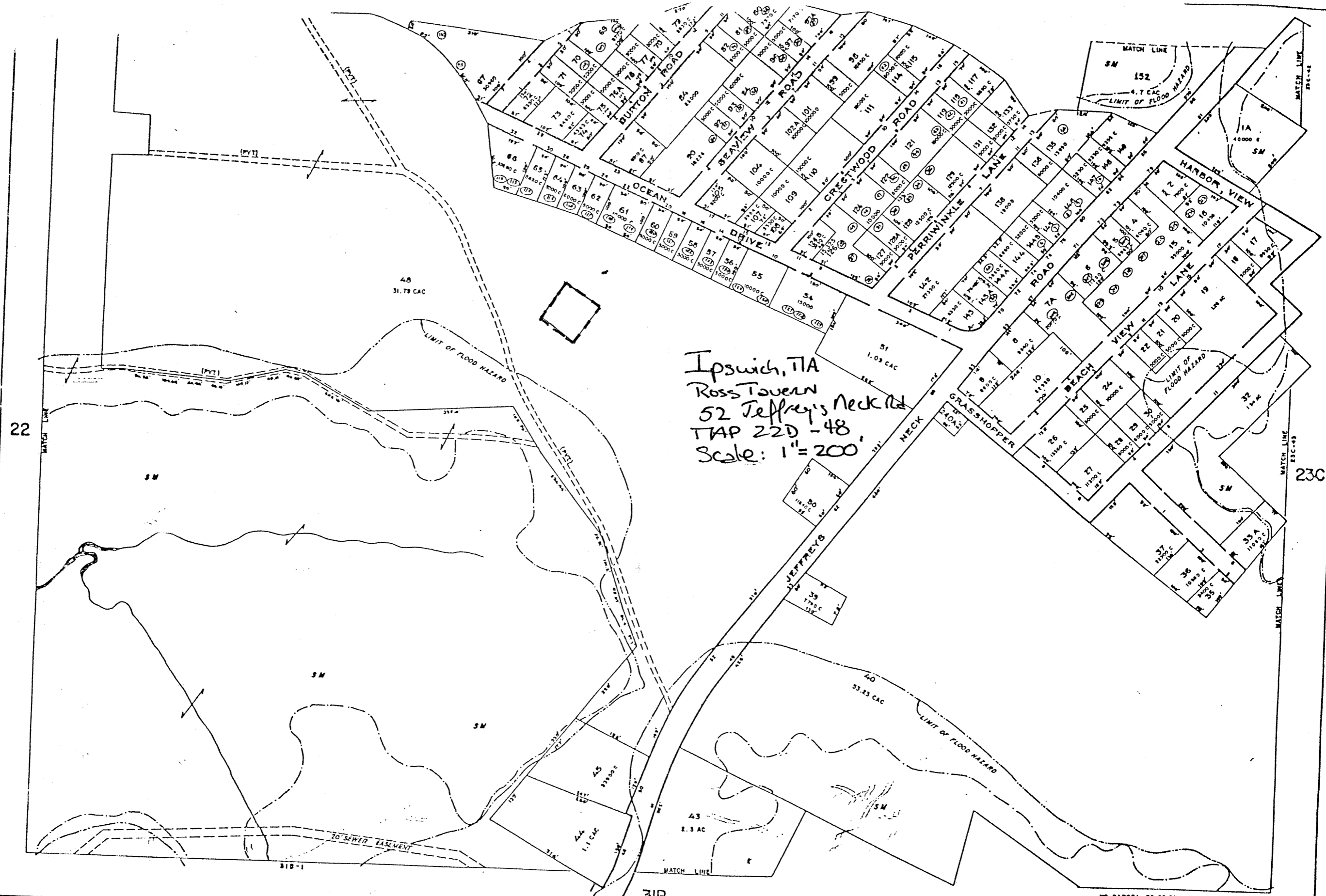
1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR



Ipswich, MA
Ross Tavern
52 Jeffrey's Neck Rd
dental building
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. MA, TR

21:00



Ipswich, IA
 Ross Tavern
 52 Jeffrey's Neck Rd
 TAP 22D - 48
 Scale: 1" = 200'

31B

SCALE 1" = 100'
 ZONING IS RURAL RESIDENCE A

NO PARCEL 82, 88, 91, 11, 12, 13, 14
 120, 137, 123, 134, 139,
 140, 141, 150, 23, 123

22D

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281