

115

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 10 BOYLSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116

- 2 : 13 exterior
- 2 : 14 1st floor right room
- 2 : 15 1st floor left room

Town Stow . 017

Address 172 Harvard Road

Historic Name Brown- Stow House
 (Ichabod Stow House)

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1699 - 1711

Source visual analysis

Style First Period / Federal

Architect N/A

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings barn , shed, wagonshed/garage -
20th c. outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates) later 18th
century half house; leanto late 18th c.
and 19th c. ; 1950s ell

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 8 acres

Setting On south side of rural road amid
farmland, opposite woods. Numerous stone
walls cross the property; a stone dooryard is

located at the south end of the house.

Recorded by Nora Pat Small

Organization Boston University

Date July 1985

Sketch Map:



Z E N

REFERENCE 19 / 291-360 / 4701-540

QUADRANGLE Hudson

1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: STOW	Form No: 115
Property Name: Brown-Stow House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown-Stow House retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and association. The archaeological survival of remnant diamond-shaped quarrels and original room proportions confirms the existence of a First Period frame which is likely to yield further information of significance to the history of Middlesex County building practices, meeting Criterion D. The house meets Criterion C for its use of longitudinal second-story summers, a stone chimney stack, and closely-spaced principal-rafter roof without purlins, all of which combine to form an important First Period and transitional example of regional architecture.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The house began as a single cell, two-story house with gabled roof and central chimney, probably built in the early 18th century. During the Second Period, it later grew to a double cell plan, with slightly asymmetrical five-bay facade and central entry. To this a rear two-story leanto was added in the late 18th century, creating a classic "saltbox" profile. A 19th-century ell was added to the left of the leanto; in the 1950's a 1-story ell was added to the right side of the house. A modern greenhouse is built along the south gable-end of the oldest part of the house.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The Brown-Stow House has very little exposed framing today, having been restored to its Second Period interior appearance during the 1950's and succeeding years. Joists are approximately 23" on centers in the later right hand room. Both stories of the larger and older left-hand rooms have longitudinal summer beams, now boxed, and the chimney is of fieldstone to the attic floor. It passes through the roof as a brick stack. The original rear plate is exposed behind the chimney, (where a second chimney was built for the leanto;) it shows mortises for studs.

The roof is of the principal rafter system without purlins, (except at the chimney bay where the rafters are cut to rest on purlins.) A.L. Cummings recalls the discovery of several First Period framing details during the private restoration, and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities has been given diamond quarrels discovered in or about this house by a former owner.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Interior paneling with fluted pilasters on either side of the fireplace of the first floor left-hand room is an excellent example of Second Period design and craftsmanship). Equally important are the unusual "tombstone" design overmantel panels and fluted pilasters of the

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right-hand chamber fireplace wall. It is difficult to determine if the fireplace in this room is original or dates to the Second Period addition of the right-hand rooms.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The site of the house was granted to Boaz Brown in 1699; he died in 1711. His family mortgaged the property in 1751. In 1764 it was sold to Stephen Stow and remained in the Stow family into the twentieth century.

REFERENCES

Forbes, Harriette M. "Some Seventeenth Century Houses in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Old-Time New England, Jan. 1939, pp. 99-101.

Crowell, Olivia S. and Preston R., Stow, Massachusetts, 1683-1933. Stow, MA: 1933.

3/24/90

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
81. White--Preston House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
82. Whittemore House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
83. Woodberry--Quarrels House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
84. Woodbury, Peter, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
85. Bacon, Stephen, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
86. Bickford, John, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
87. Brewer, Moses, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
88. Brown--Stow House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
89. Browne, Abraham, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____
90. Buck, Ephraim, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byers</i></u> <u>3/9/90</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brown--Stow 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: 90000182

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 _____



172 Harvard Street,
Stow, MA

02:13

Brown - Stow House

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

1985



Stow, MA

172 Harvard ~~St.~~

Brown-Stow House

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

1985



2:15

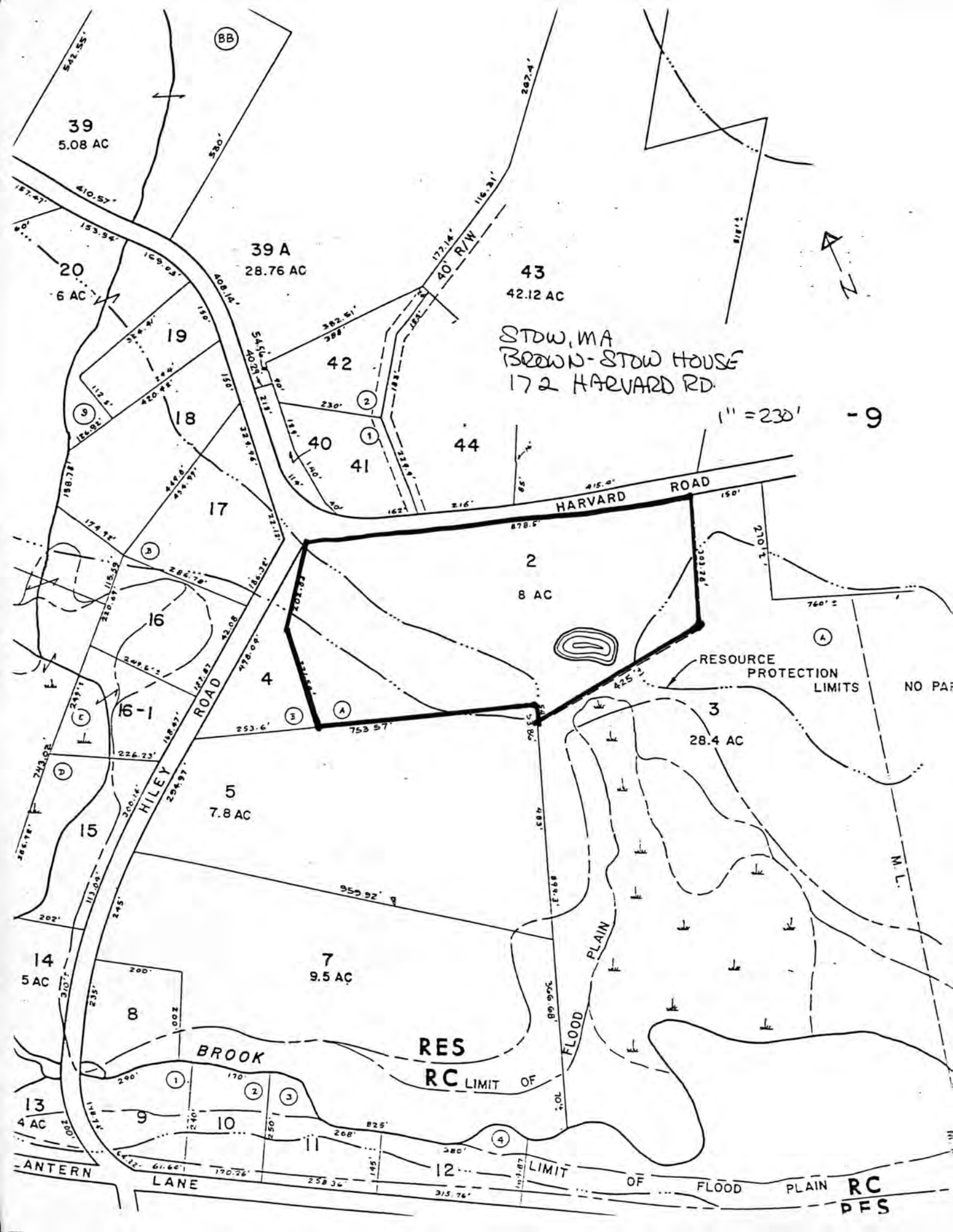
Stow, MA

17 1/2 Harvard Rd -

Brown-Stow House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma. TR

1985



STOW, MA
BROWN-STOW HOUSE
172 HARVARD RD.

1" = 230'

- 9

HARVARD ROAD

5
7.8 AC

2
8 AC

RESOURCE PROTECTION LIMITS

3
28.4 AC

7
9.5 AC

RES RC LIMIT OF

14
5 AC

13
4 AC

ANTERN LANE

LIMIT OF FLOOD PLAIN RC PFS

BROOK

FLOOD PLAIN

M.L.

NO PAR

BB

39
5.08 AC

39 A
28.76 AC

43
42.12 AC

20
6 AC

19

42

44

40

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281