FORM B - BUILDING

FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

JAN 24 1990 229

FORM NO.

50

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

3:23 exterior

3:25 right-hand room, fireplace wall

3:26 detail, ships knee brace

3:27 front chimney post with mortise for door bolt

Town Haverhill 009

Address 5-9 Pentucket Street (rear

Historic Name Emerson House

Use: Present two-family residential

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1730

Source documentary research; stylistic analysis

Style Transitional First Period

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Two-story porch shown in 1898 photograph, now removed

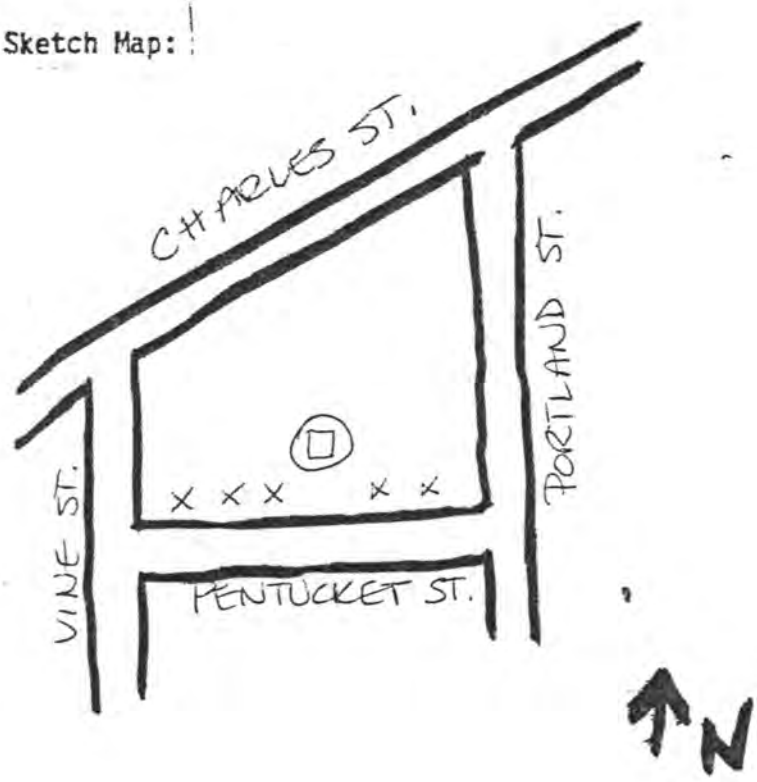
Condition good

Moved Yes Date 1857-1859

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Residential street of closely spaced wood frame dwellings built primarily in the 2nd half of the 19th century - behind small parking lot

Sketch Map:



	Z	E	N
UTM REFERENCE	19	329-860	4738-140

USGS QUADRANGLE Haverhill

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date June 1986

SIGNIFICANCE

The Emerson House retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship in its transitional late First Period frame and contemporary Second Period fireplace wall finish under criterion C. Clear evidence that some framing members were originally boxed while others were exposed and chamfered is characteristic of transitional houses. The ship's knee brace is an unusual feature, and its appearance in early Massachusetts houses is worthy of further study.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Emerson House is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay wide, one room deep clapboarded structure with fairly steep roof pitch. The original late First Period single room plan house is the right hand portion of the present building. A two story lean-to spans the left part of the rear of the house. Built probably in the early 18th century, the house was moved to this site from its original one between 1857 and 1859. An 1898 photograph shows a two story porch on the front entry which has since been removed. The house was examined while in a partially-gutted state in 1982 by Abbott Lowell Cummings, whose observations are incorporated into the following description.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The right hand rooms on both floors, 20 feet square, exhibit a combination of original First Period and contemporary Second Period features, indicating a late transitional house. In the first floor right hand room, the 11 x 12 inch longitudinal summer beam has a flat chamfer and lamb's tongue stops. The joists, spaced c. 20 1/2 inches on center, are also chamfered. The fireplace wall has a chimney breast with broad raised field panel over a now filled in fireplace opening 7'1" wide x 4'3" high. There is also a crown moulding and a chimney girt casing of which the soffit portion was installed at the same time as the chimney breast. (A.L.C. removed the later fascia portion of the casing and found an absolutely clean chimney girt which had never been exposed. It was crudely finished and without chamfer, indicating that the above described trim was the original finish of the fireplace wall.) The right hand room also has a ship's knee brace inserted in the front outer corner between the corner post and end girt as a strengthening device.

In the lobby, one of the chimney posts has a slot cut into it to receive a door bolt. A.L.C. saw evidence of a chamfer on the outer side of the chimney post. He felt this might have been an exterior chamfer, exposed beyond the clapboards which would have abutted the post. (The chamfer helps confirm that the porch shown in the 1898 photograph, which ALC did not think was deep enough to have been an early porch, was added later.)

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

In the right hand chamber the summer tie beam and the corner post are finished with a flat chamfer, but again, the chimney girt is unchamfered and clean from having always been boxed. Cummings felt that the corner post had not been exposed for long. Unfinished joists, (which also had never been exposed,) are spaced c. 24 inches on center.

In the attic, bridle jointed principal rafters and three purlins per side are visible. There is no evidence of collar beams. Changes in the roof boarding indicate almost certainly where the central chimney previously emerged. The rafters over the left hand part of the house are of pine while those over the original part are oak.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The left hand rooms exhibit Federal trim, including a ceiling in the chamber coved at the front and rear of the house. There are remnants of interesting c. 1840 wallpaper in the house. The staircase trim is Federal in style, and probably dates from the construction of the left hand side of the house.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Although there was a house on the original site on the corner of Winter and Pecker Streets as early as 1695, stylistic analysis indicates that the present structure was built sometime after the Pecker family acquired title to all the land between 1720-1730, and before they sold it to John Cogswell in August 1764. Nehemiah Emerson, who bought the land in 1787, most likely built the left side of the house. His daughters acquired the house in 1832, and by 1859 mention in their wills of a new house on the old site indicates that the original house had been moved to its present location by then.

REFERENCES

Deed Research Notes by Ann F. Armstrong

Article in Haverhill Gazette, Sat., July 24, 1982.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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
11. Coker, Benjamin, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
12. Conant, Exercise, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
13. Corning, Samuel, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
14. Davis, Ephraim, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
15. Davis--Freeman House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
16. Dickinson--Pillsbury--Witham House		Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Substantive Review		Attest
17. Dustin House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
18. Dyke-Wheeler House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
19. Emerson House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 3/9/90
		Attest
20. Foster, Phineas, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper Deborah Byrne 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: Emerson 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: 90000229

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 _____

5-9 Pawtucket ~~Road~~ St. (rear)
Haverhill, MA

Emerson House

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma TR

1985

Haverhill, MA

5-9 Pentucket St.

Graham House

1st Period Buildings of Ess. Co. TR 03:25

1985

Haverhill, MA
5-9 Pentucket St.
Gmason House

98:E0

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass TR

1985 –

5-9 Pentucket St.
Haverhill, MA
Emerson House

Last Period Buildings of E. Mass TR

03:27

1985

HANDRAHILL, INC
EMERSON HOUSE
5-9 PENTUCKET ST.
1" = 40'
N
PENTUCKET STREET
PORTLAND
507
5540SF
4940SF
3100SF
11,280 SF
7900SF
7842SF
1515SF
1805SF
5060SF
2,500SF
6,920SF
3,000SF
8,320 SF
8,000 SF
8,650SF
11,700SF
8,900 SF
6,000SF
18
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17

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281