

FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

FORM 8 - BUILDING

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

ADA
LISTED
3/9/90

87 302

K NR IND 3/9/90
NR TRA

Photos

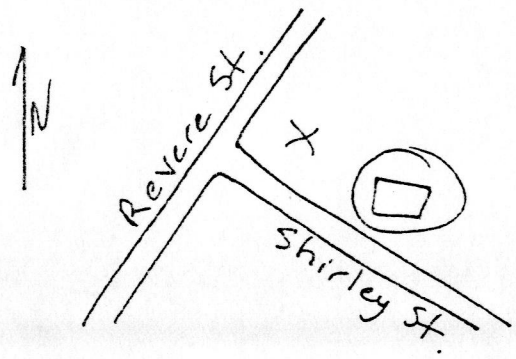
- 32:11 east (later) room, fireplace wall
- 32:13 west room, fireplace (east) wall
- 32:15 west chamber, fireplace wall
- 32:16 east (later) chamber, fireplace wall
- 32:18 attic, looking west into older part of house
- 32:19 front (south) slope, west attic, showing evidence of original gable
- 32:25 summer beam at south wall, west room
- 33:3 exterior

Town Winthrop
 Address 40 Shirley Street
 Historic Name Deane Winthrop House
 Use: Present Residence
 Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1638-1650
 Source Visual analysis by A.L. Cummings
 Style First Period
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior Wall Fabric Clabboards
 Outbuildings late 20th c. tool shed

Sketch Map:



Major Alterations (with dates) N/A
 Condition Good
 Moved Possibly Date mid-18th c.
 Acreage less than one acre
 Setting Residential neighborhood of closely spaced houses, primarily dating to early 20th c.

UTM REFERENCE 19 / 337-160 / 4693-920
 USGS QUADRANGLE Lynn
 SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Anne Grady
 Organization Boston University
 Date April, 1986

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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|--|-----------------------|
| Community: WINTHROP | Form No: 87 302 |
| Property Name: Deane-Winthrop House | |

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Deane Winthrop House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association in its First Period frame, floor plan, and finish. It embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction under Criterion C. The enlargement of the structure from single to double cell plan by the middle years of the First Period illustrates a pattern of growth common to many houses in the study area, though rarely accomplished within the First Period. The house also incorporates rare surviving evidence of 17th Century gables on the facade.

The c. 1638 to 1650 construction date, corroborated by Cummings, places the Deane Winthrop house among the earliest surviving dwellings in Massachusetts. The retention of original shadow molded sheathing of two varieties and the presence of an intact principal rafter/common rafter roof with evidence of facade gables and rafter feet exposed at the eaves makes this house among the most significant structures in the study area.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Deane Winthrop House is a 2 1/2 story structure, 5 bays wide and one room deep, with steeply pitched roof and added lean-to. The original single cell building of 1638 to 1650 is on the left. "Quite soon and perhaps by the same carpenter(s)", [1] the chimney bay was widened and another file of rooms was added to the right (east). With the addition of a lean-to spanning the four eastern most bays in the 18th century, the building achieved its present form. Now characterized by simple 19th-century finishes: clapboards, sash windows, and plain window and door enframements, the building has symmetrical fenestration except in the chimney bay. Here, the doorway and window above are cut off-center to the left, reflecting their initial placement in the original narrower chimney bay. The central chimney at the ridge is a mid-18th century replacement of the original.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

First Period features are visible in all areas except the added lean-to. In the left hand (earliest) first floor room, the transverse summer beam and chimney girt have c. 2 inch wide quarter-round chamfers, flat collars and lamb's tongue stops. Corner posts and girts have one inch wide flat chamfers and taper stops.

In the right hand first floor room, the transverse summer beam and chimney girt have 1 1/2 inch flat chamfers, lamb's tongue stops, and pips. The owner reports that the studs are 4" x 8" laid depthwise and that there is nogging in the outer walls.

In the upper stair hall, the jowled corner post of the original single cell house, with mortise for rising brace, is visible at the center of the present chimney bay.

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Office of the Secretary, Boston

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In the left hand chamber, the summer tie beam and chimney tie beam have quarter-round chamfers, flat collars, and lamb's tongue stops, except at the south end of the summer tie beam, where there are no stops. The rear girt is pit-sawn and without chamfer. Flared posts in the chamber have inch wide flat chamfers and taper stops. Joist spacing in the floor is 18 to 20 inches on centers. To the right of the fireplace is First Period vertical shadow-molded sheathing with an unusually deep profile, (apparently the original finish of the wall, although possibly introduced in the 1907 restoration.)

In the right hand chamber, ceiling beams are not exposed, but flared corner posts have one inch wide flat chamfers. The fireplace wall retains original shadow-molded sheathing south of the fireplace opening, and a board and batten door with similar molding north of the fireplace. The sheathing is molded on both sides. The same molding profile embellishes the stairhall side of the sheathing and is visible still whitewashed next to the attic stairs.

The attic exhibits a principal rafter/common rafter roof, with principal purlins framed into the principal rafters. As Cummings noted, the character of the earlier attic on the left does not differ significantly from that of the later right hand side. Cuts in the sheathing of the front slope of the roof indicate that there were gables at either side of the facade originally.

In the lean-to garret, the ends of the rafters originally exposed at the eave on the exterior are visible. The rafter feet are bird mouthed over the plate and shaped to a taper under the eave.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The chimney, which was built in the mid-18th century, exhibits several unusual features. The foundation arch in the cellar is among the largest in the study area, having a 12 foot five 5 inch vault. The open space in the center of the chimney stack behind the fireplaces is actually accessible through a large rectangular opening, with wooded lintel across the top, inside the closet on the first floor under the stairs. The space inside the chimney is c. five foot square and two stories high. Other modest pre-20th century finishes, including several mantelpieces and perhaps early plaster, survive in the house.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The site was granted in January 1638 to Captain William Pierce, "the celebrated mariner who piloted a number of the earliest settlers to New England." [2] In 1647 or 1648, Pierce's heirs conveyed the property to Deane Winthrop, the youngest son of Governor John Winthrop.

The house was acquired by The Winthrop Improvement and Historical

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association in 1907 and restored, making the house an early example of a structure saved and restored by a local historical society for use as a house museum. As such it is part of a broad pattern of cultural development in New England and an early representative of the preservation movement.

REFERENCES

HABS Drawings (MASS. - 575).

1. Cummings, Abbott Lowell, Massachusetts and Its First Period Houses, p. 191.
2. _____. Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, p. 176.



EXTERIOR (1985)



SUMMER BEAM (1985)



EAST ROOM - FIREPLACE WALL (1985)



WEST ROOM - FIREPLACE WALL (1985)



FRONT SLOPE OF ATTIC
ROOF (1985)



WEST CHAMBER (1985)



EAST CHAMBER (1985)



27

26400
TOWN OF WINTHROP
15

ALMONT

20421
TOWN OF WINTHROP
6801 6813 6819

29

WINTHROP, MA
DEANG WINTHROP HOUSE
40 SHIRLEY ST.
1" = 100'

DERNE WINTHROP
NO. 1
HISTORICAL
28 MAY 1927

SHIRLEY

94

FRANKLIN

TAPPAN

95

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

WINTHROP

40 Shirley Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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| | WTH.302 |
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Re-evaluation of construction date due to dendrochronology

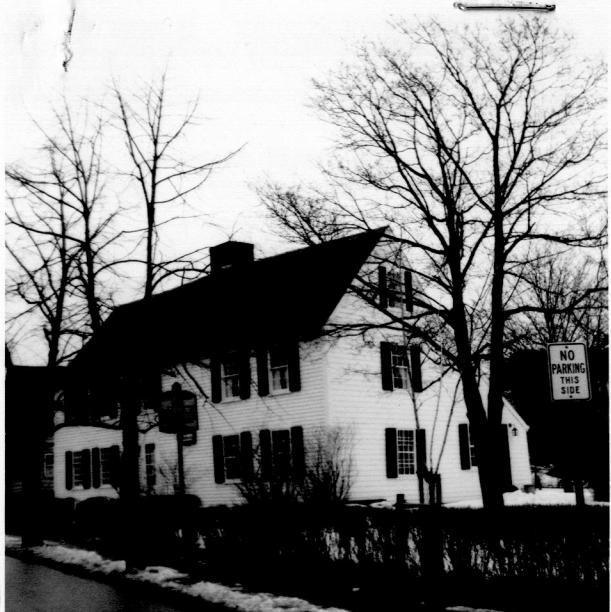
As a result of the dendrochronology testing of the Deane Winthrop House in November of 2001, the construction date of Phase I of the building has now been identified as 1675, and the date of Phase II as 1696. The research team consisted of Daniel Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, England, with Anne Grady of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) acting as liaison. Their report, cited below, presented the following results and conclusions. Six samples were taken from the west section, including one from the downstairs summer beam, one from each of three principal story posts, and from each of two rafters. Four of the samples were dated successfully. One principal post was felled in the winter of 1672/73; another was felled in the spring of 1674, as was a common rafter. The summer beam was felled during the winter of 1674/75. This suggests that construction took place during 1675 or soon after. Six samples were also taken from the east section, three from the principal posts upstairs and three from principal rafters. Only the three posts were successfully dated, two to the winter of 1695/96 and one to 1694. This suggests that construction began in 1696.

The full results of the analysis are presented in: D. W. H. Miles, M. J. Worthington, and Anne Andrus Grady, *Development of Standard Tree-Ring Chronologies for Dating Historic Structure in Eastern Massachusetts, Phase II*, Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Completion Report, Interim Report 2002/6, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, May 31, 2002. An abridged version of the report can be found on the website www.dendrochronology.com. The full report can be found at SPNEA, now known as Historic New England, and at the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

A note on dendrochronology dating

In recent years tree-ring chronologies have been developed for eastern Massachusetts and adjacent regions, and a number of buildings or parts of buildings have been evaluated and given new construction dates due to tree-ring dating, or dendrochronology. The principle behind tree-ring dating is a simple one: the seasonal variations in climate produce variations in growth which are reflected in the varying width of the annual rings of the tree. The rings in timbers from historical houses are compared with previously dated ring sequences from old-growth trees and from timber from structures with well-established dates to allow precise dates to be ascribed to each ring. Computer comparisons quantify how good the match is between the two. A dendrochronologist then analyzes the results and establishes the date the tree was felled. Some caution must be used in interpreting these dates to determine the construction date of a building. Sometimes timbers from the same construction phase of the same building have been felled one, two or more years apart. However, it was common practice to build timber-framed structures with green or unseasoned timber, and it is likely that construction was completed within twelve or eighteen months from the felling date.

--Dayl Cohen, 08/2007



K NURIND. VICTOR 3/19/70 6
2. Town Winthrop 2 PAP 302

Street 40 Shirley St.

Name Deane Winthrop House

Original Use _____

Present Use _____

Present Owner Museum
Indoor

Date 1637 Style 17th C Col + 2nd period
later add. pattern.

Source of Date W.I. & H.A., WPA

Architect _____

erated Moved Altered _____

IMPORTANCE OF SITE TO AREA: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: _____

WALL COVER: Wood frame w/ clapboardings + shingles Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency _____ Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony _____ Recessed _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard none, lean-to, pitched-roof
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

See town map

Recorder ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE, INC.

For 68.3044

Photo 6A E-13-346-1-006

MAR 3 1967

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Built 1637 by Cap't Wm. Pierce who commanded the Mayflower on trip to Salem in 1629. Deane Winthrop was the youngest son of Gov. John Winthrop. He owned the house in 1647 + for several yrs. afterward.

Dr. Cummings considers this one of the eight to ten 17th C Houses in Mass which retain most of their early architectural features.

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Winthrop Improvement + Historical Ass'n.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds