

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	MLT.42
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Adams, Samuel House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	307 Highland St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Milton
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Wadsworth Hill;
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1800
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture;
<b>Area(s):</b>	MLT.I
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

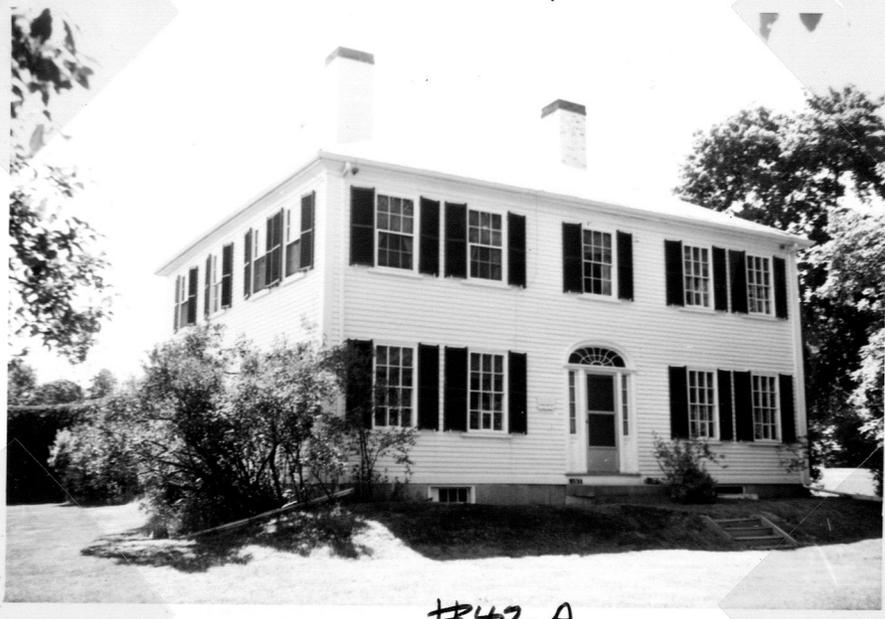
This file was accessed on: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:11 PM

USGS Blue Hills  
Wadsworth Hill  
Sect A

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

MLT. 42

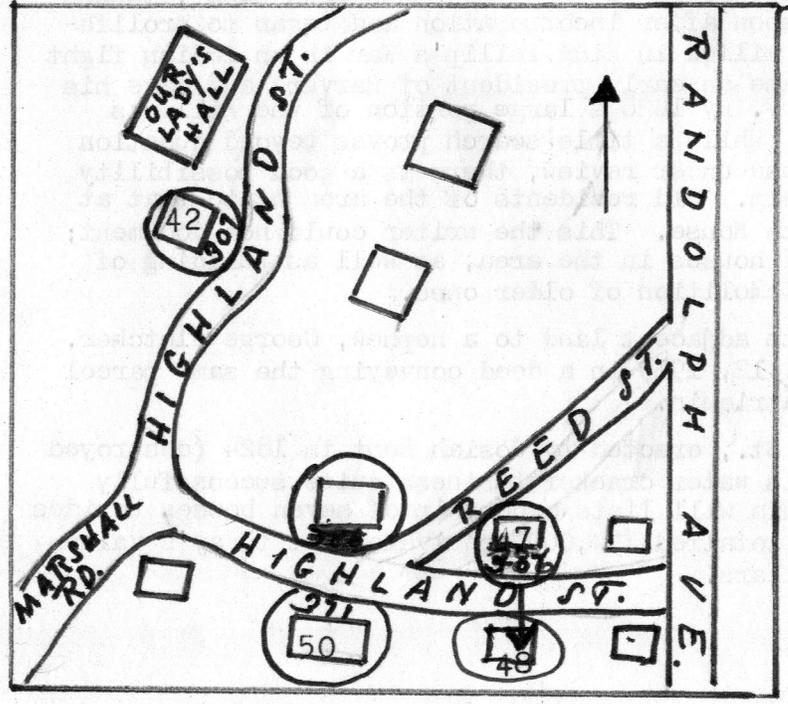
In Area no. <u>42</u>	Form no. <u>42</u>
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#42A

City MILTON  
 Address 307 Highland Street  
 Name Samuel Adams House  
 Present use Dwelling house  
 Present owner Dr. Janice Rafuse  
 Description:  
 Date 1800 or before  
 Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
 USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard  
 Outbuildings (describe) barn att. to house; summer kitchen  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_  
fireplace in every room; bake ovens in kitchen & dining room.  
 Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:  
 One acre or less 41,000 Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 286.53  
 Approximate distance of building from street 50 ft.

6. Recorded by William J. Loughran  
 Organization Milton Historical Commission  
 Date 4/27/78

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	x	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	x	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	x	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	x				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The house at 307 Highland St. takes its name from one Samuel Adams of Chelmsford who came to Milton about 1825, and through marriage to Josiah Bent's daughter, succeeded him as proprietor of the water cracker business founded in 1801. A Norfolk deed of 1826 records sale of the business from Bent to his son-in-law.

The upland area traversed by Highland St. appears on old maps as "Wadsworth Hill", taking its name from a family which settled on it soon after incorporation and began to proliferate. Capt. Samuel Wadsworth of Milton was killed in King Philip's War in an Indian fight at Sudbury in 1676. His son, Benjamin, became an early president of Harvard and gave his name to the present Wadsworth House dormitory. By 1826 a large portion of the Hill was still in the hands of the Wadsworth family. While a title search proves beyond question that Samuel Adams owned and occupied the house under review, there is a good possibility that a Wadsworth built and owned it before him. Old residents of the area state that at one time the house was known as the Wadsworth House. This the writer could not document; there has been considerable moving around of houses in the area, as well as building of newer houses on foundations surviving from demolition of older ones.

Samuel Adams' will bequeathed this house with adjacent land to a nephew, George Fletcher. This bequest is referred to as late as Sept. 12, 1919 in a deed conveying the same parcel from Ainslee and Emily Marshall to George Patriquin.

In the small wooden factory at 371 Highland St., erected by Josiah Bent in 1824 (destroyed by fire in 1909), Samuel Adams carried on his water cracker business quite successfully until 1871. He died a fairly wealthy man. His will lists ownership of seven houses besides the bakery. His real estate holdings alone totalled \$34,000, equivalent at today's values to perhaps four or five hundred thousand dollars.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Teele's History of Milton
- Hamilton History of Milton
- Norfolk Deeds

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

MLT. 42

Community: Milton	Form No: 42
Property Name: Samuel Adams House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

The Samuel Adams House, built about 1800, is an excellent and well-preserved example of the Federal style. Both organizationally and stylistically, the house is typical of this post-revolutionary period of building.

The basic plan arrangement displays a concern for symmetry. The four rooms of the first floor lie to either side of a central stair hall and are further divided on the longitudinal axis by two chimneys (opening to fireplaces in all four rooms). Incorporated within these two chimney coves are enclosed stairways, very steep and curving, that lead to the second floor. The main stairhall contains a long, generous flight of stairs that curves gracefully towards the top. Additionally, there are two sets of stairs leading to the cellar. Entrances to the house consist of the main, center entrance lying on the axis of the main stairhall, and two side entrances at either end of the longitudinal axis. The front doorway is articulated with an elliptical fanlight and sidelights; the two secondary entrances are simply detailed with a flat pediment.

The plan of the second floor does not adhere to the strict symmetrical arrangement of the first. The basic plan form of four rooms has been somewhat altered to create six rooms of varying sizes.

Details of the original house remain relatively unchanged. Original random width flooring exists throughout; wainscoating is common to most rooms, and corner posts are exposed. Windows in many instances are deeply set at 45° angles and have paneled shutters. Fireplaces are detailed with the usual Federal concern for simple elegant lines. Those fireplaces in the kitchen and dining room contain bake ovens; both are framed with paneled wood and have cupboards above.

The foundation of the house consists of stone and some very large regular granite blocks. Brick foundations support the two chimneys.

The exterior is clad with clapboards. The roof is a rather steep hip roof.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen FitzGerald

el/

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



#42B

• MAR • 67



four rooms of the first  
divided on the lower  
incorporated with  
curving, that lead to  
light of stairs that  
sets of stairs leading  
an entrance type on  
side of the longitudinal  
the and slightly; the

ritical arrangement of  
allied to create six

that random with floor  
corner posts are exposed,  
paneled shutters, five-  
regain lines, those five-  
are framed with paneled

regular granite blocks.

The Samuel Adams house  
of the Federal style,  
of this post-revolution  
The basic plan arrange  
floor lie to either at  
dial ends by two chim  
in these two chimney  
the second floor, the  
curves gracefully tow  
to the cellar. Anter  
the side of the main  
side. The front door  
two secondary entrance

The plan of the second  
the first, with the  
rooms of varying size  
Details of the exterior  
ing exists throughout  
Windows in many inst  
places are detailed w  
places in the kitchen  
wood and have out

The foundation of the  
brick foundation  
the exterior is clad

MLT:42

DATE: 10.5.83

DATE REVIEW DUE:

PROPERTY: Samuel Adams House 307 Highland St. Milton #42

STAFF IN CHARGE OF REVIEW: Jenkins

ACTION:

AGENCY:

Does this property meet the NR criteria?

Opinion:  district? No More information

Criteria:  A B  C D

Level: Local State National

Statement of Significance by Zimmerman (staff)

- Prob part of district (Other bldgs inv are Fed doub, chim, Geo cent chim hip roof + brick 1909 fact) assoc. w/ Bent Water Cracker Co → a venerable establishment still in the business of producing nearly indestructable hardtack → this stuff prob went w/ types like Rob't Forbes to Canton (assoc. w/ China Trade?) Bent's Crackers were a fairly imp. Milton business in 19c (see <sup>tour 12</sup>)
- Architecturally, one of a number of fine Federal Information required to form opinion: houses in Milton
- what's intervening on Highland Street? are all existing bldgs shown on map? what are the other bldgs shown like?
- where is current Bent Co fact? i.e. how long was now yucky Bent fact (#50) used for cracker mfg? are Bent connections strong enough for (A)?

Result:

Agreed Eligible: Date:

DOE by SOI: Date:

Determined Not Eligible: Date:

\* from SO says  
 Eliot St since  
 1890's