

78

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

- 29-26 main. view of house
- 29-22 detail, transverse summer beam and molded post head, south wall of original (northwest) room
- 29-17 northeast room
- 29-23 Door between stair hall and original left hand (north) chamber
- 29-19 rear (north) wall north east chamber
- 29-25 detail post, at rear wall, original right-hand chamber
- 29-18 Fireplace wall, northwest room

Town Danvers 007
 Address 42 Summer St.
 Historic Name James Putnam Jr. House

Use: Present Residential
 Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1715
 Source Local Records
 Style First Period core; Second Period envelope
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior Wall Fabric shingles
 Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) South rooms, gambrel roof added ca. 1780

Condition Good

Moved No Date --

Acreage less than one acre

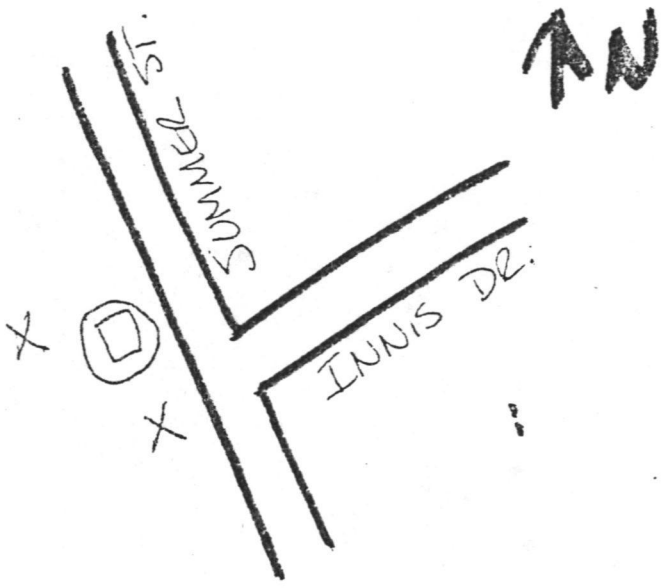
Setting Adjacent to road, surrounded by scattered suburban development of mixed date. Convalescent home to the rear.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Boston University

Date February, 1986

Sketch Map:



UTM REFERENCE Z E N 19 / 340-010 / 4715-350

USGS QUADRANGLE Salem

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: DANVERS	Form No: 78
Property Name: James Putnam Jr. House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The James Putnam house has integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship in its First Period frame, intact except for the roof. It embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction under Criterion C. The configuration of the posts at the second level is an unusual variant, combining features of both the jowl and the flare (noted also in the White Preston House in Danvers).

The house is also noteworthy as an example of the way in which a First Period house was enlarged c. 1780 to approximate the Second Period double pile house. The construction of another file of rooms with rear fireplaces and a central hall in front of the original house created a highly unusual house form. The ample addition is significant for its adaptive plan and for its assemblage of well crafted large Second Period (post-colonial) finishes.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The James Putnam House is five bays wide, two rooms deep, and two and one half stories in height. A broad gambrel roof covers both the original c. 1715 double-cell house, now forming the rear (north) half of the building and the file of rooms added c. 1780 to the south. The pedimented doorway and symmetrical placement of the sash windows on the south facade are features of the late Second Period enlargement of the house. Fenestration of the east and west walls reflects the two stages in the house's development. Small sash windows arranged as on the end wall of a single room deep house light the north rooms, while a file of larger windows light the later, higher studded rooms to the south. Three chimneys pierce the roof of the shingled structure: two at the ridge which serve the fireplaces at the rear of the south rooms and one at the center of the north slope, an early 19th century replacement of the central chimney of the original house. There is a small one story addition to the right rear.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

In the four rooms of the original house of slightly asymmetrical plan, much of the framing is exposed. The transverse summer beams of the downstairs rooms have 1 1/4 " flat chamfers and simple triangular stops, as does the chimney girt in the right-hand (northeast) room. The heads only of the posts supporting the summer beams are exposed. These have flat chamfers at the sides and a deep quarter round molding at the lower edge. Joist spacing in the downstairs rooms is a relatively wide 21" on centers.

In the northeast and northwest chambers, framing exhibits narrow flat chamfers and triangular stops. The posts have a distinctive configuration which is neither precisely a flare nor a jowl. The post curves outward to a thicker dimension with a slightly concave curve and then continues

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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straight upward (see photo). The door to the left hand rear chamber is comprised of two raised field panels with 3" wide feather edges and applied bolection mouldings (see photo). In the lobby, the staircase is enclosed with plain board sheathing, possibly original. The door to the attic is made of vertical boards, but bolection moldings are applied to it to simulate a paneled door and relate its design to the adjacent paneled door to the northwest chamber. The foundation walls of the north portion of the house are built in from the sills in characteristic First Period manner.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

C. 1780, judging by the style of the finishes, another file of rooms was added to the south of the original structure. All four rooms display Second Period raised field panels on the fireplace walls, wooden dado with molded chair rail and baseboard, and cornice moldings. These, with the staircase, which runs straight up to the landing which communicates with the older part of the house and then rises three more steps, form the relatively high style treatment of this important addition. Additional features are the crosssetted fireplace surround in the southwest room and the turned balusters, newel posts, and molded handrail of the staircase.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house was the residence of individuals important to local and national history. In 1715, local records refer to the property of James Putnam, Sr. (1661-1727) "on which his son James has lately built him a house." James Putnam, Jr. (1689-1763), yeoman and brickbuilder, served as selectman in Salem Village in 1747 and was active in the establishment of Danvers as a separate town in 1752. James Jr.'s son, Archelaus Putnam (1744-1800) was a physician and Danvers Selectman in 1774. It was Archelaus who enlarged the house so that the property was described in the 1790 Danvers direct tax list as "House on road, (including Chaise house 192 ft. and wood house 365 ft.) 2178 sq. ft., 2 stores, 31 windows, 229 sq. ft. glass, built of wood, 80 p., value \$900."

The House's most distinguished resident was Col. Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) who leased the property from early 1802 to the summer of 1804. Pickering, a prominent Federalist, was Secretary of War and then Secretary of State under Washington and Adams. While residing in the house he served as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and in 1803 was appointed to an unexpired term in the U.S. Senate. Nevertheless, Pickering found time to pursue experiments in scientific farming at the Danvers property, which he continued at Larch Row in Wenham (also included in the present study) where he moved in 1806. Pickering's endeavours and his promotion of modern farming methods were reflected in his membership in the Essex Agricultural Society, linking the property to the development of agriculture in Essex County.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: DANVERS	Form No: 78
Property Name: James Putnam Jr. House	

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

FOOTNOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Charles Hammond, Ph.D. Thesis, B.U., 1980.

Tapley, Harriet S., Chronicles of Danvers (Old Salem Village)
Massachusetts 1632-1923. Danvers, The Danvers Historical Society,
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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 *Betty L. Savage* 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
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Putnam, James, Jr., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

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: 90000205

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 _____



Danvers
James Putnam Jr House
42 Summer Street
Northeast Room
1985

1st Period Biddings of E. May, TR

29:17



Danvers

James Putnam Jr. House

42 Summer Street

Fireplace wall, north west room

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

29:18



Danvers
James Putnam Jr. House
42 Summer Street
Near well north east chamber
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

29:19



DANUSAS
James Putnam House
42 Summer Street
Detail: Transverse Summer Beam
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass., TR

29:22



Denvers

James Putnam Jr House
42 Summer St

Door from stair hall to
original left hand chamber
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

29:23



Danvers

James Putnam Jr House

42 Summer Street

Detail Post - at rear wall

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma., TR

29:25



42 Summer St, Danvers

Danvers

James Putnam House

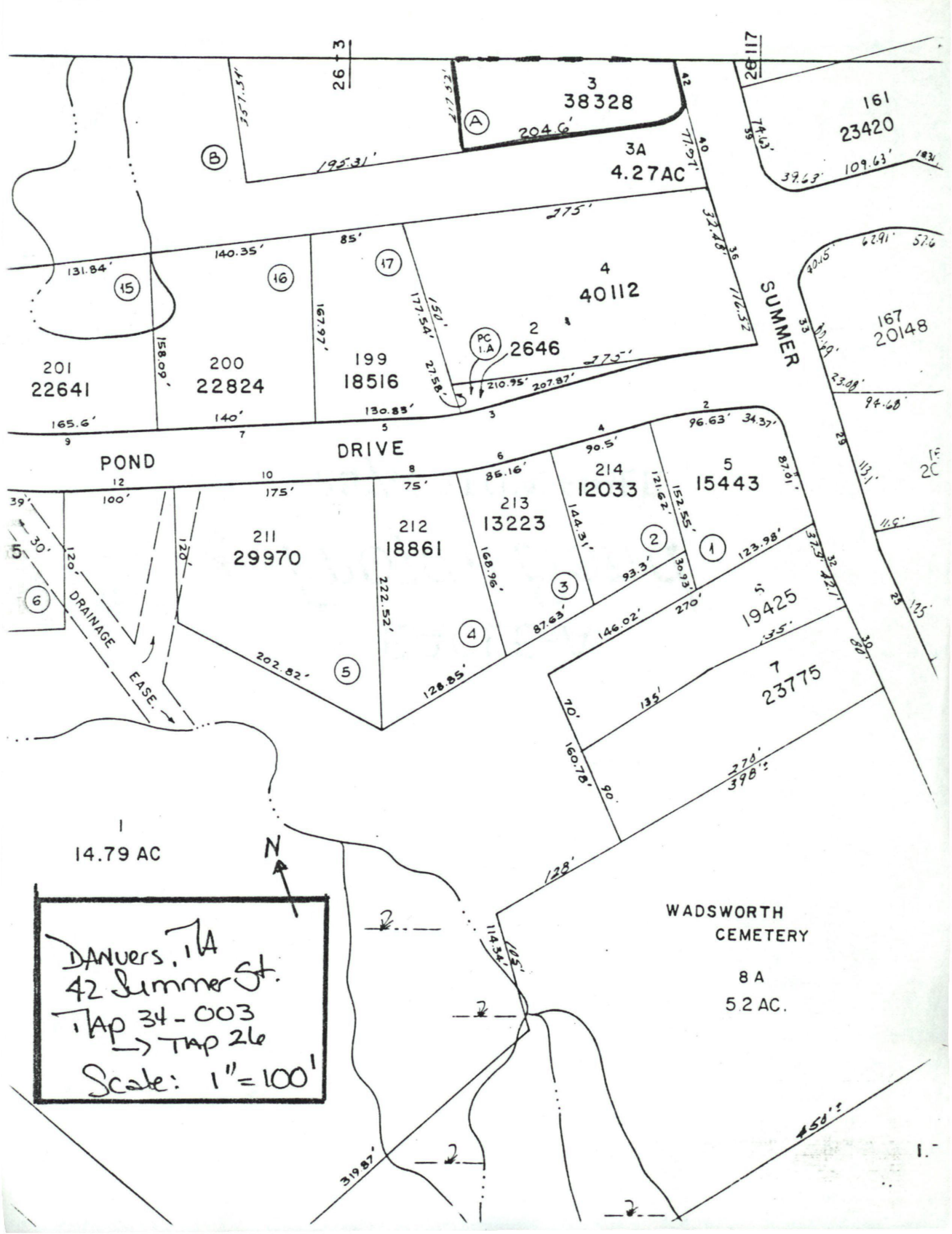
42 Summer Street

Main View of House

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mass, TR

29:26



DANVERS, IA
 42 Summer St.
 Tap 34-003
 → Tap 26
 Scale: 1" = 100'

14.79 AC



WADSWORTH CEMETERY

8 A
5.2 AC.

POND

DRIVE

SUMMER

201
22641

200
22824

199
18516

2
2646

4
40112

3
38328

3A
4.27 AC

161
23420

167
20148

214
12033

5
15443

211
29970

212
18861

213
13223

5
19425

7
23775

15

16

17

PC
1.A

40

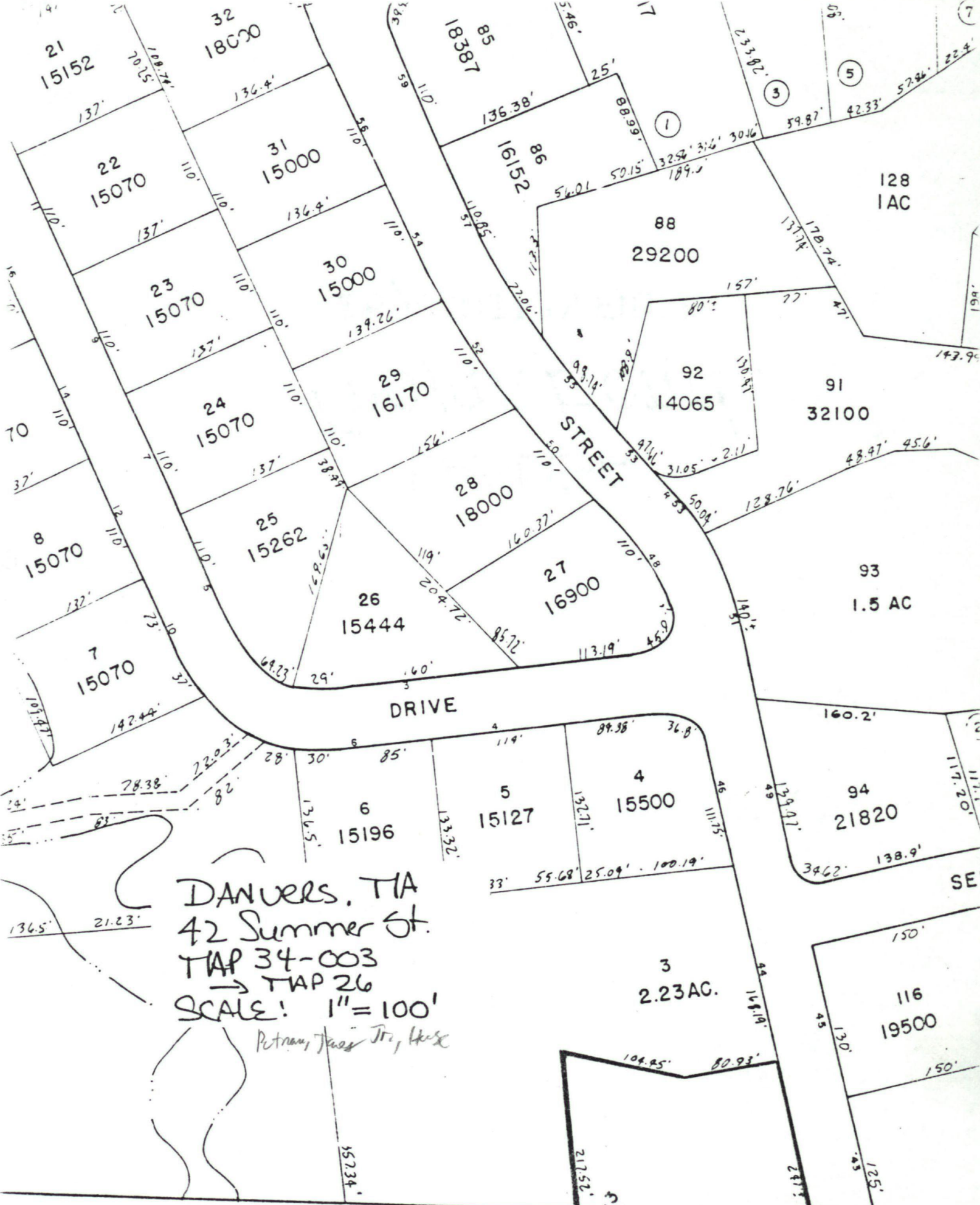
55

576

20

135

1.



DANVERS, TIA
 42 Summer St.
 TAP 34-003
 → TAP 26
 SCALE: 1" = 100'

Peterson, James Jr., House

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281