

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	ABI.181
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Browne, Lt. Samuel House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	303 Washington St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Abington
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Abington Center
<b>Local No:</b>	36.5
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1790
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Industry
<b>Area(s):</b>	ABI.B: Washington Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle



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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: Friday, September 17, 2021 at 10:59 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Section A

AB1,181

PL-AB1 Carter

Area <u>B</u>	Form no. <u>36.5</u> <u>181</u>
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Abington, MA

303 Washington St.

Name Lt. Samuel Browne House

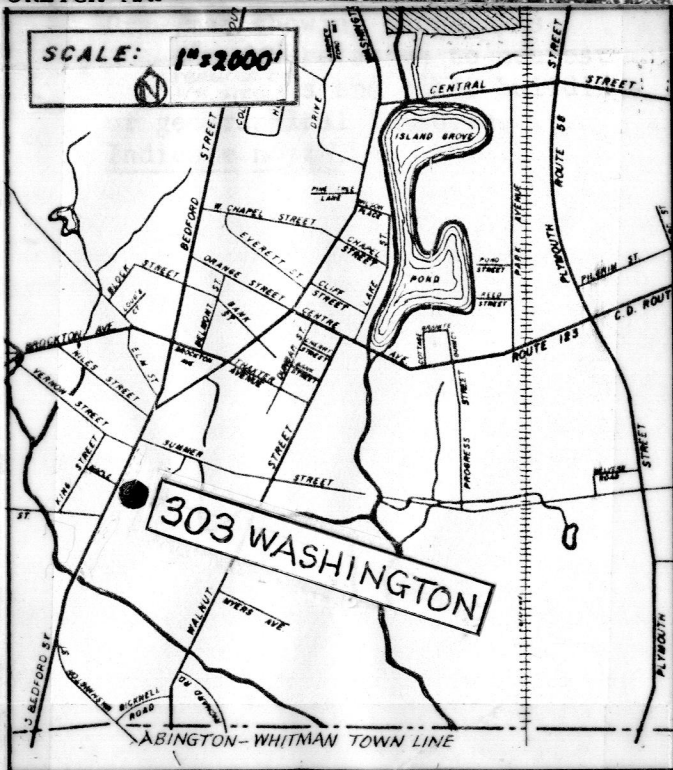
Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership: ☒ Private individual  
Private organization

Public

Original owner Lt. Samuel Browne



DESCRIPTION:

Date Early 1790's

Source see Historical Significance

Style Early Cape

Architect ---

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

addition at back, probably 1824-25

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage .42 acre

Setting High on a ledge, the south end of the house being 3-story with a floor on lower level

Recorded by Margha G. Campbell, Researchist  
Louise F. Chandler, Chm.  
Organization Abington Historical Commission

Date AUG 7 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This typical Early Cape now has one slender central chimney rather than its original squatty one. The southern part of the back end has also been extended to give it a semi-saltbox appearance.

Ventilator windows now appear under the eaves of the gable ends and a simple portico has been added for weather protection over the front door.

Sitting high on the edge of a ledge has allowed this house to have one end of the cellar level above ground (which does not show in the picture).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Samuel<sup>6</sup> Browne, great-grandson of the town's first minister (Rev. Samuel Browne), erected this house in the early 1790's, after his father, Lt. Samuel<sup>5</sup> Browne, died in 1787. At this time, what had been the original estate of the first minister was divided and this half fell to Lt. Samuel's younger son, Samuel<sup>6</sup>.

Samuel<sup>6</sup> married, in 1792, Miss Susannah Dyer, daughter of James and Martha (Harden) Dyer, and may have erected this house at about that time.

This section of Washington Street was included in the "South" ward of the old township in the early days and unfortunately the first tax records that are available for that ward are in 1795. At that time this house was valued at \$170. Additions to this house may date from 1824-25 when the valuation jumped from about \$260 to \$550.

Samuel<sup>6</sup> Browne operated a brickyard on the back end of his property, utilizing the clay from the ancient claypits in the vicinity (see form #38, "Behind" 112 Nash Memorial Rd. in this inventory). Evidences of the outdoor kilns are still to be found.

This house remained in the Browne family until after the turn of the 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Abington Lists of Persons compiled by Registrars of Voters (annual "Poll Books"). In Dyer Memorial library, 30 Centre Avenue, Abington  
ABINGTON, TOWN OF, Tax Assessors Old Records. In custody of Secretary to the Selectmen, Town Hall, 33 Randolph Street, Abington  
 Genealogical studies by Researchist of the Abington Historical Commission

# MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2013

MACRIS No. AB1.181

