

Dustin Garrison House  
Haverhill, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-273

HABS  
MASS.  
5-HAV  
8

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM TO:  
DUSTON GARRISON HOUSE  
Hilldale Avenue  
Haverhill  
Essex County  
Massachusetts

HABS MA-273  
MASS,5-HAV,8-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

**DUSTON GARRISON HOUSE**

**HABS No. MA-273**

Location: Hilldale Avenue, Haverhill, Essex County, Massachusetts

Materials: Field notes include a questionnaire (historical data gathered at the site), building and site measurements, and a brick rubbing, completed by field members Francis H. Brown, James V. Dooley, and David Buller on March 1, 1939. The field notes also include a one-page typescript history for the house produced by Haverhill Historical Society around the time of the documentation. "Duston" and "Dustin" are used interchangeably in the field notes and both spellings seem to have been both used historically.

Questionnaire (transcribed from the handwritten field notes)

Date: March 1, 1939

Name: Francis H. Brown, James V. Dooley, David Buller

Address: 3 Underwood St. Belmont

Name of the Bldg: "The Duston Garrison House"

Location of the Bldg: Hilldale Ave. Haverhill

Date Built: 1696-1697

Architect: Unknown

Builder: "U[nknown?]"

Subsequent owners:

Present owner: "Valley"

Address:

Transcription of one-page typescript history by the Haverhill Historical Society:

Duston Garrison House  
Haverhill

The Duston Garrison House was located on Hilldale Avenue about two miles from the center of the city of Haverhill. It was built in 1696-7 by Thomas Duston, a brickmaker who had clay pits nearby and made the bricks of which the house is built.

In the early records of the town is the following: 'April 1697, the brick house of Thomas Duston, that had been partly finished the year previous, but not occupied, was ordered to be garrisoned, and Thomas Duston was ordered to the command'. He was required to see that a good watch was kept both by night and by day. Six men were under his command in the garrison.

When this house was built there were two very large fireplaces with ovens opening on the outside of the house. There were no stairs leading to the attic. It could be reached only by a ladder through a trap door through which one entered, then the ladder could be pulled up and the trap door closed for the [*sic*] protection in case of attack. There was but one small window in the attic, this was to the one side of the center near the eaves, this had a wooden shutter as a further protection from the Indians. It is said there were four or five separate compartments in the cellar.

After the home of Thomas Duston had been destroyed by fire by the Indians and his wife, Hannah, their infant child and the nurse had been carried away captive by [the] Indians, he came to this house with his seven children. It was to this house that Hannah Duston returned after her captivity. Here they lived together until after his death.

In the more than two hundred years since the death of Thomas Duston the house has changed owners many times and has been altered in many ways, but the walls and the openings remain practically the same as when built.

Haverhill Historical Society

Original chimneys were removed, and the ["existing" written in here by hand] building was burned in November of 1938.