

GENERAL GLOVER FARMHOUSE SWAMPSCOTT



The General John Glover Farmhouse (1750) is most historically significant for its association with American Revolutionary War general John Glover (1732-1797). He is famous for his role in helping found what would become the United States Navy, along with his regiment rowing Washington across the Delaware and leading one of the first integrated regiments in the American Revolution.

The main house has a hand-hewn timber frame and raised overmantel

panels, with two- and four-paneled doors with wrought-iron hardware typical of the mid-1700s. The rear ell was built as an independent structure and likely built or moved up against the rear of the main house sometime between 1760 and 1780. Glover owned the large farm property from 1781 until his death in 1797. It was apparently he who enlarged the 18th-century dwelling, where he is thought to have resided with his second wife.

Resource at Risk

Located on a busy corner in strip-mall-and-retail-saturated Vinnin Square in Swampscott, the Glover Farmhouse is part of a complex of buildings that has been vacant since 1996. It is at risk due to demolition by neglect and a demolition application filed by the current owners who would like to sell the property for residential development.

Clapboards dangle on the front of the main building, exposing its inner cladding to the elements. A fallen tree lay on the roof for more than a year and ancient landscaping, untended for decades, crawls over the buildings. The property has been graffitied, and the windows are broken. Due to its high-visibility and absence of security, there is a good chance that the building might be destroyed by vandals or fall prey to arson.

What's Happening Now

The Swampscott Historical Commission is actively endeavoring to engage a potential preservation-minded developer. In July 2025, the current owner applied for a demolition permit for the farmhouse and its 20th-century additions. As recently as October 21, 2025 the Historical Commission voted unanimously on a final determination to designate the General Glover Farmhouse as a historically significant site, with another nine-month demolition delay enacted. It expires in July 2026.