256 South Street

The Lieutenant Jeremiah Lincoln House dates to the late 1760s, replacing an earlier dwelling destroyed by fire. Jeremiah Lincoln, a blacksmith and provincial military officer, built the house with his wife, Sarah Hersey Lincoln. The earlier building had been erected by Elijah Hersey in 1752.

Lincoln's military service included a harrowing episode during the French and Indian War. Captured near Fort William Henry in 1756, he was taken to Montreal and escaped after nine months in captivity. He later returned to Hingham and served as town constable from 1777 to 1782. In 1799, Jeremiah and Sarah sold the property to Dr. Levi Lincoln.

The house is a substantial example of Colonial Georgian architecture, with a two-story, five-window façade, a ridge roof, and an original central-chimney plan. A piazza formerly extended around the front; a Colonial Revival portico replaced it in the 1920s. Evidence of a former doorway discovered during exterior restoration suggests a connection between the living room and the piazza.

The living room retains fireplace paneling believed to be original. The age of its Delft tile remains unconfirmed. Restoration of the south parlor windows preserved historic glass and rebuilt the frames to match earlier work. Dining-room shutters and leaded-glass cabinets reflect additional layers of alteration.

The butler's pantry retains sliding cabinet doors and a deep copper sink thought to date from the Victorian period. A 2017 kitchen expansion preserved the brick fireplace and connecting doors while enlarging the footprint. Pottery and clay-pipe fragments found during patio construction provide further evidence of the property's long domestic history, possibly associated with a former privy or refuse pit.