

Stratton-Cozzens Mill Site

Brush Hill Road at Course Brook



Form	913
Town	Sherborn
Area	
USGS Quad	Framingham
Assessor's Sheets	
Ownership	Private
Type Of Structure	Dam
Constructed	ca. 1771
Source	1771 Tax Assessment
Materials	Stone, concrete
Alterations	
Condition	Ruin
Acreage	
Setting	Rural
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, 3/99
Photographs	Roll 11
Organization	Sherborn Historical Commission

DESIGN ASSESSMENT

The former Stratton-Cozzens Mill is a ruin visible south of Brush Hill Road at the crossing of Course Brook. A small pond is retained by a low mortared stone dam located 75 yards from the road. A narrow gap in the dam forms a raceway for the brook. No buildings remain on the site.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Nathan Stratton was taxed in 1771 for ownership of a mill while he lived at [60 Brush Hill Road**](#).

Isaac Cozzens is described as a subsequent owner of the mill in Biglow's 1830 History of Sherburne, Mass. Mr. Cozzens continued as the miller on this site through 1856 according to the Walling map of that year and to the 1856 Morse history of the town. While censuses from 1855 and 1865 describe Mr. Cozzens as a farmer, he was in fact taxed for ownership of a sawmill during the period. He also owned 150 acres of farm land, livestock and an orchard indicating he performed both occupations. The mill remained in service until sometime before 1890, when Hurd notes in his county history that the Leland Mill on Mill Street** is the sole surviving sawmill in town.

An earlier saw mill on Course Brook was in operation as early as 1679 by the settler Thomas Sawin on his 24 acre parcel. This mill site is located across (north of) Brush Hill Road but no evidence of it remains visible on the surface. The dam was still visible in 1830. Mr. Sawin built the house at **60 Brush Hill Road**** around 1679 and cut lumber at his mill across the road on what was then called Chestnut Brook. Some of his product was used in construction of the initial First Parish Church in Sherborn, of which he was the builder. He remained here until around 1686 when he moved to Natick to build a grist mill for the Indians at Indian Brook at what is now Broadmore Audubon Sanctuary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1856 Walling map; 1874 Beers map; 1889 Walker map; 1939 WPA map of Sherborn
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98
- Tax valuations
- The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, Anne C. Shaughnessy
- History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Hamilton Hurd
- A Genealogical Register of the Inhabitants and History of the towns of Sherborn and Holliston, Abner Morse
- History of Sherburne, Mass. 1830, Wm Biglow.

Sketch Map:

