

52 Brush Hill Road



Bullen-Stratton-Cozzen House

Form No.	1
Town	Sherborn
Address	52 Brush Hill Road
Historic Name	Bullen-Stratton-Cozzen House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Fletcher Chamberlin
" Original	Ephraim Bullen
Constructed	ca. 1680 enlarged ca. 1760 modified ca. 1840
Source	Morse's History of Sherborn & Holliston
Style/Form	Georgian with Greek revival and colonial revival elements
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard-asbestos shingle roof
Outbuildings	Guest cottage
Alterations	House enlarged ca. 1760; Greek revival entrance added ca. 1840 Colonial rev. porch dates to ca. 1910
Moved	No
Acreage	2.4 acres
Setting:	Situated on high land overlooking rolling meadows & wooded hills. Faces South. Surroundings retain pre 20th century rural charm.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mark O'Brien's recent structural analysis of this house suggests that the nucleus dates to 1680. Originally a small saltbox, this house has been greatly enlarged. A room to the rear of its eastern portion has a slanted ceiling and thick walls which are insulated with birch bark. The western portion of the house probably dates to the Stratton ownership during the mid 18th century. Dramatically contrasting with the scale of the narrow 10/6 sash windows is a heavy ca. 1840 Greek Revival entrance. Its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights. The entrance's Doric pilasters exhibit a variation on the Greek Key motif similar to that of the Oliver Everett house at 1 No. Main St. (Capt. Bowen Adams built Everett's house and may be responsible also for the mid 19th century modifications of 52 and 60 Brush Hill Rd. Both 52 and 60 Brush Hill Rd. display heavy Greek Revival entablatures above the front door.) A Colonial Revival porch projects from the east wall at 52 Brush Hill Rd.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Deacon Samuel Bullen, an early settler and proprietor of Dedham, married Mary Morse (daughter of Samuel) in 1641. Like Moses Adams in the Sewell-Ware house at 100 So. Main St., Deacon Bullen was a tenant on Capt. Hull's farm. He probably lived at either 60 or 70 Washington St. both of which were included in Richard Sanger 3rd's purchase of half the Hull property in 1734. In any case, Samuel Bullen was assigned land west of the common and Morse says he "probably built opposite Brush Hill Road before returning to Medfield."

Ephraim Bullen, 5th child of Deacon Samuel and Mary Bullen, was born in 1653 at Medfield. He married in 1680 and settled in Sherborn "opposite the E. end of Brush Hill Road." Brush Hill Road at that time went eastward from Western Avenue only as far as the site of Sawin's saw mill at 60 Brush Hill Rd. so that places 52 opposite the E. end.

Ephraim's granddaughter, Mary (seventh child of Ephraim Jr. and Ruth Morse Bullen), inherited the Brush Hill property. She married Col. Nathan Stratton in 1760 and their first child was born May 1, 1761. The main block of 52 Brush Hill Rd. probably assumed its present form ca. 1760. Morse refers to Mary Bullen Stratton as "the last witch in Sherborn accused of miraculous powers derived from Satan." Nathan Stratton died Feb. 7, 1805 and Mary lived until Apr. 24, 1810

By the mid 19th century Isaac Cozzens owned this house (His name appears on the 1857 Middlesex County Map). He operated a saw mill on Course Brook near the site of Thomas Sawin's 17th century mill. By 1889 an A. Fay is listed as this property's owner. He was an undertaker who came to Sherborn only in the summers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's File
- Susan Ware's Genealogical work, 1981
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Interview with Edith V. Philbrook and Florence M. {Philbrook} Wentworth

NOTE: THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY BUILDING IN SHERBORN WITH A 'BEVERLY JOG'.