

3 Coolidge Street



The Joseph Dowse III House

Form No.	7
Town	Sherborn
Address	3 Coolidge Street
Historic Name	Joseph Dowse III House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Seymour Carter
" Original	Joseph Dowse III
Constructed	1846
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Cedar shingles
Outbuildings	Barn painted white
Alterations	Colonial Revival porch added in the early 20th century.
Moved	No
Acreage	4.00 acres
Setting:	One of six Greek Revival dwellings situated around and near Dowse's Corner.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house's plan represents a departure from the typical Dowse's Corner Greek Revival house. Its front door is located on a side wall rather than on a 3 bay gable end wall. Its gable wall is wider than those of its neighbors. Crowned by a fully enframed attic, a Colonial Revival porch wraps around its northeast corner (added ca. 1900). This house is one of eight Dowse family houses built between 1783 and 1907 in the vicinity of Dowse's Corner.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in 1846 for Joseph Dowse III and Elizabeth Bullard whom he married on Nov. 11, 1845. Shaughnessy says that it was built on "family-owned land" which leads to the deduction that either Joseph Dowse Sr. bought this property from Nathaniel Perry, the brother of Moses Perry 3rd, or that Joseph Dowse Jr. purchased it from Nathaniel Perry, the son of Moses Perry 3rd. Nathaniel, the brother, was born in 1757, married and moved to South Carolina. Nathaniel, the son, was born in 1787, married in 1808, and according to his gravestone in the Plain Cemetery "resided in Boston". Either one, it seems, would have been willing to sell. There had been an earlier house on this site, probably inhabited by Perrys. In any case, Joseph III and Elizabeth "took rooms" with the Widow Rice at 14 Coolidge St. while their house was being built.

Like his father and grandfather, Joseph Dowse III was a whip maker. The whip business was at its height in Sherborn during the 1850's. It declined with the passing of the stage coach but the Dowses braided whips in Sherborn as late as 1876.

Joseph III grew up in his father's house at 106 North Main St. and lived to within 5 months of his 100th birthday (1822-1921).

Carl I. Drew owned this house in the mid 20th century and in 1973 "traded" houses with Seymour Carter who then lived in his father's homestead at 168 Maple Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Dowse Genealogy
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - [A Guide to Sherborn](#) , 1974
- "Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924" compiled by the Sherborn Historical Society