

84 Coolidge Street



Undetermined, possibly Thompson House

Form No.	10
Town	Sherborn
Address	84 Coolidge Street
Historic Name	Undetermined, possibly Thompson House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	William C. Daisley, Jr.
" Original	Possibly a Mr. Thompson
Constructed	ca. 1880
Source	Visual, first appears on map of 1889.
Style/Form	Late 19th century frame vernacular.
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	2.00 acres
Setting:	Situated close to the road on a well maintained lot, partially hidden by fir trees.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, September 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is a simple ca. 1880 cottage. It rests on a rubble stone foundation and rises 1 1/2 stories to a gable roof with return eaves. Enlivening an otherwise routine 3 bay main facade, side hall plan structure is a charming front porch. Between the saw-cut porch posts are railings which display lacey punched-out gingerbread decoration (diamond shapes) and trellises. The main facade's second floor double windows exhibit surrounds which are Italianate in sensibility.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house has significant historical associations with Jedediah Phipps. During the Revolutionary War he played an important role in state and local civic and military affairs. He is also associated with the manufacture of saltpeter, a commodity which was used for ammunition by the Massachusetts Colony's army. The Phipps homestead was located on or near the site of the present 84 Coolidge Street.

Phipps' have lived in Sherborn since 1720. John Phipps (1696-1746), son of John Phipps of Wrentham, Ma., settled in Sherborn, Ma. in 1720. He was the grand nephew of Sir William Phipps, the first Royal Governor of Massachusetts. He married Hannah Bullen, daughter of Elisha and Hannah Metcalf Bullen. They settled on the farm inherited from Hannah's father which was "1/2 mile S.W. of the Common on the road to Holliston Washington St. " Their house was located "at the foot of the hill where David Sanger resides." John and Hannah's first son, William (born 1720) moved the family to Douglas when his father died. William's brother Jedediah (born March 11, 1725) came back to Sherborn from Douglas in 1768. He married Sarah Learned (born 1731 or 1732), died 1810), the daughter of Captain Edward Learned of Sherborn.

Jedediah and Sarah settled "on the W. side of Peter's Hill and on the E. side of the N. road to Framingham" (Coolidge St.). Morse observes that "in middle life he had a good landed estate." Phipps, along with Hon. Daniel Whitney, Benjamin Bullard and Rev. Samuel Locke, figure prominently in the annals of Sherborn during the Revolutionary War. Morse notes that Phipps "became a zealous Whig of '76." He was moderator of the town meetings of 1778 and 1779 and was a selectman in 1773 and 1780. He served on a standing committee of correspondence in 1774 and 1775. He was a member of the Continental Convention held at Concord in 1779. In addition he was a member "on committees to instruct the representatives of Sherborn, in '77, and to hire soldiers, and one of a committee of Safety, in 1780."

Jedediah Phipps is perhaps best remembered in Sherborn for his discovery of Saltpeter across the road from 84 Coolidge Street. His discovery was made at the beginning of the Revolutionary War when ammunition supplies were low. His ability to locate and manufacture saltpeter came to the attention of the General Court and he was employed to manufacture this commodity in Newburyport, Ma. He was paid for his services out of the public treasury.

Jedediah's son, John, married Hannah Coolidge who lived further to the northwest on Coolidge St. His seventh child, Anna, married the Hon. Calvin Sanger who was Sherborn's most prominent lawyer/politician/businessman - they lived at 8 Washington St. (1819).

The old Phipps house may be the dwelling Rowena Butler refers to as the Kimball place in her "Reminiscences of Sherborn in the 1840's". The present house was built ca. 1880. It does not appear on the 1875 map and may be the house labeled Thompson on the 1889 map. Architecturally, its size and plan bear a resemblance to 86 Hunting Lane, one of Sherborn's first summer cottages.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Maps of 1875 and 1889
- Morse's History of Sherborn and Holliston (1856)
- Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 14, 1969. Massachusetts History p. 1029
- Susan Ware's Genealogical work, 1981