

121 Coolidge Street



Coolidge-Hand House

Form Nos.	11 house, 200 barn, 201 shop
Area	
Town	Sherborn
Address	121 Coolidge Street
Assessor's Map	5/45
USGS Map	Framingham
Historic Name	Coolidge-Hand House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Roy G. Mitchell, Jr.
" Original	Possibly Daniel Coolidge
Constructed	House, barn and shop ca. 1790
Source	Deduced from Morse's <u>History Of Sherborn and Holliston</u>
Style/Form	Federal
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	Southwest ell added in 1915, second floor added above "U" in 1920's.
Moved	No
Acreage	1.33 acres

Setting: Fields and wooded area to south, ca. 1734 Russell House diagonally across road to northeast. Adjacent to mound which contains aqueduct line.

Recorded June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon

Updated 1999, by Sanford Johnson

Film Roll/Negative Roll 5

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

A study of this house's interior revealed that an early 1700's dwelling was not encased in this structure. The present house was built about 1790. Resting on a brick basement it rises 2 stories to a hip roof. Its 5 bay main facade features a front door which is crowned by a semicircular fan- light. The S. P. Hands apparently added the bracketed doorhood ca. 1870 in an effort to "update" the house. Its multi-pane windows have been replaced by 2/2 sash. An 1877 plan of the house and property shows an L shaped configuration - an ell projected from the southeastern portion of the rear wall.

By 1915 the house had become U-shaped in plan. The curious alcove which is recessed into the rear wall was created after 1915.

This house and the 18th century Russell House across the street provided a glimpse of life in pre 20th century rural, isolated northwest Sherborn. The Coolidge House retains much of its original paneling and wide floorboards. In addition, a mortise and tenon barn with boards more than two feet wide is located to the rear of this property.

1999 Update

The house at 121 Coolidge Street (**#11**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

The Federal style hip-roofed Coolidge-Hand House at 121 Coolidge Street was built around 1790. The original barn burned in 1871 and a new one, (**#200**), was constructed in October 1871. The two-story gable front form is sited at the southwest corner of the house and perpendicular to the road with sliding doors in the gable end. Three windows divide the south side elevation. Roofing material is asphalt shingle; walls are clad in wood clapboard and the foundation is constructed of a combination of wood and granite piers. A 6/6 double-hung sash and paired 6-pane barn- sash in the facade are flanked by shutters and simple trim. Below the sash are paired sliding doors, mounted to the exterior of the wall and protected from ice build-up by a simple hood. The barn is in good condition.

A second, smaller outbuilding (**#201**) is located northwest of the house and has the dimensions and scale of a workshop (approximately 10'x15') very similar to the one at 43 Goulding Street**. The one-story, front-gabled building is accessed by a roll-up door in the facade and is probably in use as a garage. The most distinguishing feature of the unornamented building is the steeply pitched roof. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the walls in wood clapboard and the foundation is an undetermined material.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

The Coolidge family originated in Cambridgeshire, England. Morse notes that "John Coolidge, a soldier in Phillips War and by trade a carpenter, came from Watertown about 1680-5 and was rated for the Indian Title in 1686 and drew land in 1696." This land was adjacent to the "Road to Eames", later Coolidge St. The Eames place was located in what is now South Framingham.

A structural analysis shows that the present house is closer to a construction date of 1800 than 1700. A Daniel Coolidge married Beulah Smith in 1780 and "inherited the ancient homestead". A town selectman for five years he was remembered as "an ornament to religion". It was almost certainly Daniel who built this house. On the 1788 map a Coolidge house is shown opposite 126 Coolidge St. (Russell House). The present house was built to the south of "the ancient homestead" about 1790. Deacon Aaron Coolidge had 14 children, one of whom was the Rev. Amos H. Coolidge. A Daniel C. Coolidge lived here in the 1850's while the S. P. Hand family owned this property in the 1870's and 1880's.

1999 Update

The current Coolidge barn was built after fire claimed its predecessor in 1871 according to a Framingham Gazette news article.

Daniel Coolidge, a farmer, was the builder of the house around 1790 and he may also have been responsible for building a barn at that time. The 1865 property valuations indicate that, in addition to his house and barn, the subsequent owner, Daniel Coolidge, also maintained a shop of an undetermined use. This may be the small outbuilding north of the house. Other members of this Coolidge family were shoemakers at the nearby intersection of Coolidge and Main Streets which indicates the possibility of some connection in that business. Mr. Coolidge kept a carriage, 2 horses and 6 cows on his 8 acre property. Subsequent owners were the Hands who kept one cow and one horse on the small farm. The 1885 valuations indicate a hat house which may have been a cottage industry carried out in the shop building. By 1939, the land surrounding the Coolidge Farm was planted in hay, some of which was surely stored in the barn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Mitchell
- "Historical Sketches - Sherborn Tercentenary 1652-1952" compiled by Francis Bardwell

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Sherborn Vital Records to 1850
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses
- Framingham Gazette news article, August 2, 1871 and October 25, 1871