

126 Coolidge Street



Russell - Hill House

Form No.	12
Town	Sherborn
Address	126 Coolidge Street
Historic Name	Russell - Hill House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Robert and Marion A. Gray
" Original	Thomas Russell
Constructed	ca. 1734, main block ca. 1790
Source	Visual and genealogical.
Style/Form	Federal with earlier portion.
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Concrete block barn
Alterations	House enlarged ca. 1790, Colonial Revival porch added ca. 1900.
Moved	No
Acreage	4.95 acres
Setting:	Located near new houses of Meadowbrook Road in extreme northern section of town.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Part of this house is said to date to ca. 1730-1735. It was probably enlarged ca. 1790-1810. Of a rectangular plan (with a center hall) it rises 2 stories to a hip roof. Its front door is flanked by narrow-side lights and Doric pilasters. A heavy Greek Revival entablature appears above the front door. These doorway treatments probably date to the Amos Hill occupancy in the 1830's.

Projecting from the east wall is a Colonial Revival porch of ca. 1900. Its Tuscan Revival columns support a gable porch roof. In the center of the porch pediment is molded swag and shield decoration. This house's edges and windows are defined by narrow horizontal and vertical boards.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Approximately two thirds of this house's rear ell dates to ca. 1734. In that year Thomas and Hannah Coolidge Russell's first child was born. Russell was originally from Woburn. His wife grew up across the street in the ancient Coolidge homestead which is no longer extant. The present Coolidge House at 121 Coolidge Street dates to the late 18th century.

Thomas and Hannah Russell's younger son, Isaac (born 1750), inherited this property. He married Hannah Fairbank in 1778. Lt. Isaac Russell and his family apparently left Sherborn about 1788 and he sold this farm to a John Hill who probably built the main block about 1790. Mr. Hill's daughter, Cate, (born 15 May 1794) married Deacon Aaron Coolidge in 1819. He lived diagonally across the street in the "new" Coolidge house built by his father Daniel Coolidge about 1790.

When the Coolidges and Hills farmed these acres during the early 19th century there were extensive barns attached to this house. After they were destroyed by fire the current barn/garage was constructed of cinder blocks.

Amos Hill lived here in the 1830's and is listed as owning a horse shed at the First Parish Church.. It was probably Amos who "updated" the house with a Greek Revival entrance and corner boards.

During the 1870's a W. Haynes lived in this house. On the 1889 map this dwelling is labeled Crane - during the early 1900's two road commissioners, Harry Crane and Clarence Gray were among its occupants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - [A Guide to Sherborn](#) , 1974
- maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Mark O'Brien's interior inspection of house
- Susan Ware's genealogical research