

93 North Main Street



Lowell Coolidge House

Form Nos.	109 house, 294 barn
Area	B,G
Town	Sherborn
Address	93 North Main Street
Assessor's Map	10/21
USGS Map	Framingham
Historic Name	Lowell Coolidge House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Dr. William H. Tausch, Jr.
" Original	Deacon Lowell Coolidge
Constructed	House ca. 1848, barn ca. 1860
Source	William Lowell Coolidge
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Cupola on the barn/garage bears the date 1850
Alterations	Both main block and north wing built at the Same time
Moved	No
Acreage	1.00 acres
Setting:	Situated on a slight rise, adjacent to this house's northern wall is a charming Italianate barn with a distinctive cupola.

Recorded June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon
Updated 1999, by Sanford Johnson

Film Roll/Negative Roll 5

X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. NRDIS/MRA 1/3/86

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

Built all at once rather than in stages, this L-shaped Greek Revival dwelling is a copy of 100 North Main Street. (The front porch was removed in the mid 1900's.) It is a solid example of a temple form, 3 bay Greek Revival house, possessing wide corner boards and a fully enframed attic. Its doors and windows are simply enframed, lacking the pedimented lintels which frequently appear on 1850's Sherborn Greek Revival houses.

1999 Update

The house at 93 North Main Street (**#109**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time. The barn, however, has undergone a rehabilitation since that time. Some of its windows have been altered and siding material may have been replaced. The form remains unchanged.

The barn at 93 North Main Street is a Victorian Eclectic style wood-framed building constructed on an uncut stone foundation. The three by one-bay plan rises two stories and is oriented parallel to the street. Ornament on the barn includes the ogee form cupola with paired brackets at the eaves, corner boards, gable returns and a molded cornice. The cupola is lit by 8-pane fixed sash on six sides. A variety of windows types exists including grouped 6/6 double-hung sash in the left side of the facade, fixed 6-pane sash at the eaves and an octagonal sash in the north (right) gable peak. A roll-up door fills the vehicle opening on the right and a pass door with transom is adjacent to the left. Walls are clad in wood clapboards and the roof is asphalt shingles. Between 1981 and 1998, the grouped sash were installed, a second story sash was removed and the cupola was glazed. New wood clapboard siding was installed and a two-story porch was added to the rear elevation during the period. The barn and house, sited fifty feet west of busy North Main Street, are well-maintained.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

Lowell Coolidge built this house in 1847 on land he bought from Benjamin Dowse of 91 North Main St. Coolidge owned Sherborn's second largest shoe factory which stood on an open lot to the right of the house. Deacon Lowell learned the shoe-making trade from his first cousin, Curtis Coolidge of 91 South Main St. Lowell was in company with Nathaniel Dowse from 1849 until 1854 when he built his own shop at 93 North Main St. Coolidge's Shoe Shop employed 12 workers. The last shoes were made there by his son William in 1908. The shop was moved to Holliston and converted into a house.

William Lowell Coolidge, grandson of Deacon Lowell, remembers that the present red barn was originally painted white, that the ell had a door, that the front yard once had a picket fence and that the maple tree in the front yard was planted the day he was born in 1901.

This house is one of a half dozen houses built at Dowse's Corner in the 1840's and 1850's. At that time a

number of small manufacturing concerns prospered in this neighborhood, including makers of whips, shoes, tools, boots, cider and coffins. Like Coolidge, many of the homeowners had shops on their property.

1999 Update

The barn in the southwest yard of 93 North Main Street may have been built as early as 1850, the date it bears in the 1981 survey form photo. A barn worth \$300 is listed in the 1865 tax valuation of the property of Lowell Coolidge, an amount that corresponds generally to the size of the current building. The form of the outbuilding also supports the mid 19th century date. Mr. Coolidge was a shoe manufacturer and kept only one cow, probably for the use of the immediate family. By 1875, he also had a horse and carriage which may have been stored in the barn. Mr. Coolidge was involved in the same business as his neighbors at 100 North Main Street**, the Dowses, who were also shoe manufacturers. In 1905, Lowell's son William had inherited the house and barn and built a hen house, as was typical of Sherborn residents after 1900. The hen houses were no longer apparent by 1945, but the barn survived, probably in use as a garage by that time. It was renovated sometime after 1981 and now functions as a single-bay garage, possibly with some living or office space.

A two-story, front-gabled shoe factory existed on the property north of the house. This was moved to 171 Washington Street, Holliston, where it remains today as a residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924 published by the Sherborn Historical Society
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's card file
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Interview with Kate Taeusch, current owner, who had talked with William Lowell Coolidge

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
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses