

2 Snow Street



Leland-Coolidge House

Form Nos.	124 house, 331 barn
Area	
Town	Sherborn
Address	2 Snow Street
Assessor's Map	12/97
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	Coolidge House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Franklin King
" Original	Joseph Coolidge
Constructed	House in 1780, barn ca. 1870
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Georgian
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Aluminum
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	Old Leland house on property dismantled ca. 1932
Moved	No
Acreage	4.90 acres
Setting:	Western portion adjacent to busy South Main St., large late 19th century barn is of interest on property.

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

Film Roll/Negative Roll 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

Although denatured by aluminum siding this house retains its integrity of form, if not fabric. It is composed of a 2 story main block (crowned by a hip roof and massive brick central chimney) and a two story ell. Like many 17th and 18th century New England homesteads this house's principal facade faces west. Its fenestration has been altered - a mid 20th century "Colonial" bay window appears to the left of the entrance. The main entrance is flanked by multi-pane sidelights and an understated classicized entablature.

1999 Update

The house at 2 Snow Street (**#124**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

The large two-story, gable-front barn (**#218**) to the east of the house is a well preserved Victorian Eclectic style example. The three-bay facade is divided by the large central rolling door with transom lights above and flanking 6/6 double-hung sash. Two 6/6 double hung sash light the gable peak and a pass door gives access to the right side of the facade. Four high, small fixed sash mark the north side elevation, possibly indicating horse stalls within. The exterior of the barn is clad in wood shingles, the roof is asphalt shingles and the foundation is built of uncut stone. Decorative elements include the gable returns, molded cornice and hooded center entry.

A modern stockade fence separates the house and barn from the road. Several post and rail fences are also in evidence to divide horse pastures and paddocks in the back of the house. A low stone wall marks the front edge of the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This house's land was part of the Leland family's extensive holdings. Henry Leland settled in south Sherborn in 1654. His grandson, Col. Joshua Leland (born 1741) built a small house on this property in 1761. When Joseph and Martha Daniels Coolidge inherited this land in 1780 they moved the old Leland house into the dooryard during the construction of their new home. Martha was the granddaughter of Joshua Leland. The old Leland house stood next to the Coolidge House until about 1890. Joseph Coolidge was born in 1757 and his first child was born in 1782. Assessors' records of 1798 list Joseph Coolidge as this house's owner. This house passed to a member of his wife's family, Timothy Daniels, about 1820. It remained in the Daniels family for four generations. Both Coolidges and Daniels were related to Lelands. In many respects the Lelands are the Sherborn Founding Family. In 1850, Henry Leland, son of Hopestill, was referred to as "our ancient ancestor" by 9,624 descendants.

Note: The corner of Snow St. and South Main St. is part of the oldest road in Sherborn. It began at Sewell's Brook, near which Nicholas Wood built his house, went west through Snow St., turned south at Main St. and followed on to the Charles River.

D. Webster Daniels lived in this house until his death ca. 1920 at which time his son, David, and his family moved back to the homestead from Zion's Lane. They remained here until the late 1930s when they moved to 9 North Main St. - the Pratt-Onion House.

1999 Update

Timothy Daniels bought the house and barn at 2 Snow Street from a former owner named Horatio Coolidge in 1832. The farmer David Daniels owned the property and its 130 acres according to the 1856 Walling map and to property valuations of 1865. He kept a 2 1/2 acre orchard whose crop may have filled four storehouses once located on this property. A horse, 4 oxen (2 more than most other farmers), 13 cows, 2 swine and one of Sherborn's very few sheep were also taxed in that year. Mr. Daniels' house was valued at \$550 and his barn at \$125 at this time. By 1875, however, his house was worth \$600 and his barn \$1500, strongly indicating the construction of a new barn in the intervening ten years.

David's son Daniel Webster Daniels was the owner by 1885 and continued the trends in farming established by his father. He maintained a similar number of cows, acres of orchard, mowed land, tillage and pasture. By 1915, however, three changes in the Daniels property took place. The value of the house increased from \$800 to \$1200 which indicates some updating or remodeling; Mr. Daniels was taxed on 50 fowls, a type of livestock that gained immediate popularity in Sherborn after 1900; and he built a hen house, pump house and water works. (not currently visible) The son David Daniels maintained the farmland, buildings and its 23 cow dairy herd until 1938. The tall fence and hedge render the house difficult to analyze for these ca. 1915 changes. Most surrounding land was considered plowable pasture by W.P.A. cartographers in 1939, although an orchard and hay fields are depicted as well.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1874 and 1889
- 1798 Assessors Records
- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map; 1939 W.P.A. Map
- 1932 County Commissioners Map of Main Street in Registry of Deeds
- 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