

Daniel P. Bardwell House  
On the east side of Bardwell's Ferry Road,  
2-3/4 miles south of Shelburne Center  
Shelburne  
Franklin County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-657

HABS  
MASS  
6-SHELB  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## DANIEL P. BARDWELL HOUSE

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Location: Shelburne, Franklin County, Massachusetts.  
(On the east side of Bardwell's Ferry Road,  
2-3/4 miles south of Shelburne Center).

Present Owner: Miss Leila S. Bardwell, Shelburne, Mass.

Present Occupant: Miss Bardwell.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: Representative of mid-19th C. farm life in Western Mass.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Daniel P. Bardwell. The house has remained in the Bardwell family to the present time.
2. Date of Erection: 1842 or 1843. (Note: some use was made of an earlier house on the site, of undetermined date, thought to be between 1780 and 1805).
3. Architect: unknown.
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: unknown.
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known to be in existence.
6. Notes on alterations and additions: Apparently only superficial changes have been made since the time of the original erection.

- B. Sources of information: History and Tradition of Shelburne, Mass., 1958, page 158. Interview with Miss Bardwell, July 1959; she was one of the authors of the book cited above, and the present owner of the house.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service - August 25, 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A commodious farmhouse of the mid-19th century, making use of some Greek Revival details, with some original accessory features. L-shaped.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. Oldest portion in fair condition, (east wing).
3. Over-all dimensions: Two-story main section, with two one-story wings.

## B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Stone.
2. Wall construction: Wood frame, clapboards. Heavy pilasters at corners of main section.
3. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Porch of three low elliptical arches on east side of south wing. Similar small porch with one arch on south side of east wing. Both porches are incorporated within the mass of the wings -- under the roof.
4. Chimneys: Brick. Two on ridge of main section, two on ridge of south wing, one on ridge of east wing.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance has antae-type pilasters, surmounted by a full entablature, Greek Doric in character but without triglyphs. Pilasters are paneled, with fret-like motives. Side lights. Double door, each leaf 3-paneled.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung; a few sash are divided 12/12, but most appear to have been replaced by undivided sash. A few windows have louvred shutters remaining, but most are now without them.
6. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, slate shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Main section of house has a cornice corresponding to cornice portion of Greek Doric entablature; crowning mouldings are carried along rake of gables, with lower mouldings returned at corners. South wing has simpler cornice, and east wing none.

- c. Dormers, cupolas: One gabled dormer on rear slope of south wing, near main section of house.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans: First Floor - central stair hall extending through front half of main section of the house. Four principal rooms in this section. One principal room in end of south wing, adjoining main section of house. East wing contains several service rooms in a line, terminating in sheds. This east wing is partially the remains of an older house of undetermined date, containing a fireplace, well developed for cooking purposes. The south wing contains an open storage portion in the middle, and a small independent living apartment at the south end, now unused.
2. Stairway: Straight flight, with simple turned newel post, simple rail and plain square balusters.
3. Flooring: Wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, papered.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-paneled, in main section of house.
6. Trim: In main section of house, heavy moulded trim at doors and windows, some with corner blocks. Base has wide plinth with several mouldings above. No chair rail or wainscot. Rather heavy mantels in some rooms.
7. Hardware: Latches on doors in east wing. Main section of house has doors hung on butts. Front doors, and some other principal doors, have special offset lower hinge, so that door is raised as it is swung open (see detail photographs).
8. Heating (fireplaces, stoves, central, etc.): Original heating by fireplaces in both wings. In main section of house imitation fireplaces were built originally, in front of which stoves were placed -- the flues were built for stove heating.

D. Site

1. Orientation and general setting: House faces west toward the road; a sort of informal court at the rear is formed by the two wings.
2. Enclosures: Not enclosed.

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3. Outbuildings: Original ash house of brick, and original well curb and shelter.
4. Walks, driveways, etc.: Gravel.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal.

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*Harley J. McKee*