

Joseph Stebbins House
On west side of Old Deerfield Street,
near center, on Lot 10
Deerfield Village
Franklin County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-652

HABS
MASS
6-DEER
1-

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

JOSEPH STEBBINS HOUSE

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1-

Location: Deerfield Village, Franklin County, Massachusetts (On west side of Old Deerfield Street, near center, on Lot 10).

Present Owner: The Deerfield Academy.

Present Occupant: One of the Masters of the Deerfield Academy.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: The home of a distinguished patriot and soldier of the Revolutionary War.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Joseph Stebbins. It was owned by his descendants and heirs until the 1890's or later.
2. Date of Erection: About 1772.
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: The old ell was replaced by a new one late in the 19th century.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The original owner was a Lieutenant of the Minute Men, a Captain at the battle of Bunker Hill, and later a Colonel of Militia.

C. Sources of Information: George Sheldon, History of Deerfield, Mass., 1636-1886; E. A. Hall & Co., Greenfield, Mass., 1896; Volume 1, page 600. History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Volume VII, pages 175-177; Copy in Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass. Chamberlain & Flynt, Frontier of Freedom, Hastings House, New York, 1957, pp 64-65. White Pine Monographs,

Vol. VI, No. 5, pp 12-14.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A fine mansion of the late 18th century, well proportioned, with refined details. The front and side doorways are good examples of the Connecticut Valley type. Two-and-a-half story main block, rectangular in shape, with one-story rear wing.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Stone; very low. Projecting wooden water table.
2. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, clapboards. Wooden quoins at the corners.
3. Chimneys: Brick. Two on the ridge of main section. One in center of ell, which is a late 19th century addition.
4. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance on east front:- two tapered and fluted Ionic pilasters, on pedestals; entablature with pulvinated frieze, dentils and modillions; segmental pediment. "Keystone" at center of entablature. Eight-panel door, 5-light transom over, lights having arched heads. Entrance on south front is similar, but without pediment and "keystone"; nine-paneled door, hinged at $\frac{2}{3}$ of its width.
 - b. Windows & shutters: Double hung sash, 6/6. Small cornices. Louvred shutters.
5. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gambrel roof on main section,

gable roof on ell at rear. Slate shingles.

- b. Cornice, Eaves: Cornice with modillions along front and rear of main section, returned at corners; upper mouldings carry along rakes of gambrel.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans: Central hall plan; two principal rooms each side.
2. Flooring: Wide boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exterior walls generally plastered, interior partitions paneled. Ceilings plastered.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on village street.
2. Enclosures: Not enclosed.
3. Outbuildings: Shed continues line of ell at rear. Brick ash house.
4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal planting.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service - August 26, 1960

Harley J. McKee