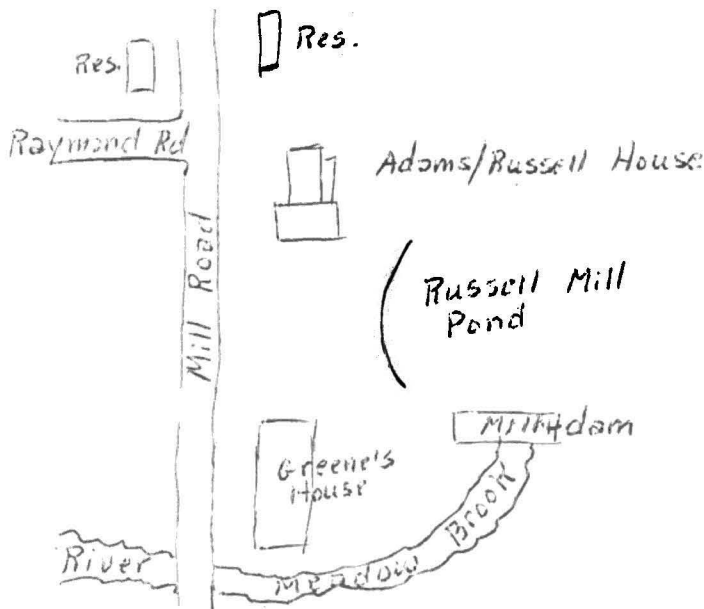


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

6

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number # 6-10A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

1. Town Chelmsford
Address 101 Mill Road
Name Adams/Russell House
Present use Educational center

Present owner Lloyd Greene

3. Description:

Date probably 1816
Source Water's History + Adams family papers
Style Federal

Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric brick ends + clapboard - covered on 3 sides with aluminum siding
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features _____

Altered kitchen added + expanded Date 1968
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre 1.93
Approximate frontage 100 feet
Approximate distance of building from street 60 feet

6. Recorded by Jane Lombard + Jane Dwyer
Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission
Date 7/1/1974

7. Original owner (if known) Joseph Adams (b. 1758, d. 1842-3)
 Original use residence (mill + farm)
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates since 1968 Massachusetts Valley Education Center

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation |
| Agricultural | Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Religion |
| Architectural | Exploration/
settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/
invention |
| The Arts | Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Social/
humanitarian |
| Commerce | Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Transportation |
| Communication | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Community development | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

see attached sheet

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- 1831 map; 1856 Walling's map; 1875 Beers Atlas
 Lowell Courier-Citizen
 1955 Chelmsford "Newsweekly"
 Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
 Charles W. Spalding, "The Spalding Memorial"
 Herbert Cathoun Adams - family data
 William Cutter, "Historic Homes + Places", Vol. IV
 Deeds: Middlesex North District Registry
 Book 7, p. 536 12/31/1789 Joseph Adams from Joseph Adams
 Book 19, p. 57 5/22/1852 Abbott Russell from Otis Adams, Asst + Elbridge Spalding 3/73
 Book 328, p. 331 4/5/1901 Jennie Schultz from E. Lincoln Russell Estate
 Book 1808, p. 164 8/10/1967 Lloyd Greene Jr. from D. + B. Home Builders

Historical Significance

In 1656 Samuel Adams was granted 450 acres of land on condition that he erect the first sawmill in town. He was later granted 100 acres more in consideration for erecting a gristmill. His total holdings were about 600 acres. He was granted "Liberty to sett Flood gates for the advantage of his Mill Pond," and this liberty continues to the present owner, Mr. Lloyd Greene.

These mills were maintained there for five successive generations of the Adams family. The present house is said to have been built in 1816 by Joseph Adams (b. 1758, d. 1842-3), great-great grandson of Samuel, replacing the old and smaller house, which was later torn down. He was the last Adams to run the mill. Joseph was a Revolutionary soldier, a private in Capt. John Ford's Co., Col. Jonathan Reed's Regt., which reinforced the Northern Army in 1777.

Joseph's son, Deacon Otis Adams, was born in this house, but when he married in 1822 he moved to Pine Hill Road and later to the Winn House on Academy Street (#37). He became very influential in town affairs; town officer, treasurer of the Chelmsford Monument Association which erected the Revolutionary Monument on the Common (Adams family papers state that he was the author at this time of the town motto "Let the Children Guard What Their Sires Have Won"), church deacon, and member of the Chelmsford Cavalry. In his early years he was both a farmer and teacher, but ten years after his father's death he sold the mill, farm, and house (#6) to Abbott Russell.

The mill, farm, and house remained in the Russell family until the death of E. Lincoln Russell, and in 1901 his estate sold the holdings. The pond continued for several more years to be a major source of Chelmsford's ice supply. The mill buildings were eventually destroyed.

In 1967 the present owner, Mr. Lloyd Greene, Jr., purchased the property, saving the house from being demolished, and one year later rented the house to the Merrimack Valley Education Center. He has also built a new house for himself and a small new mill beside the pond, below the old big house.

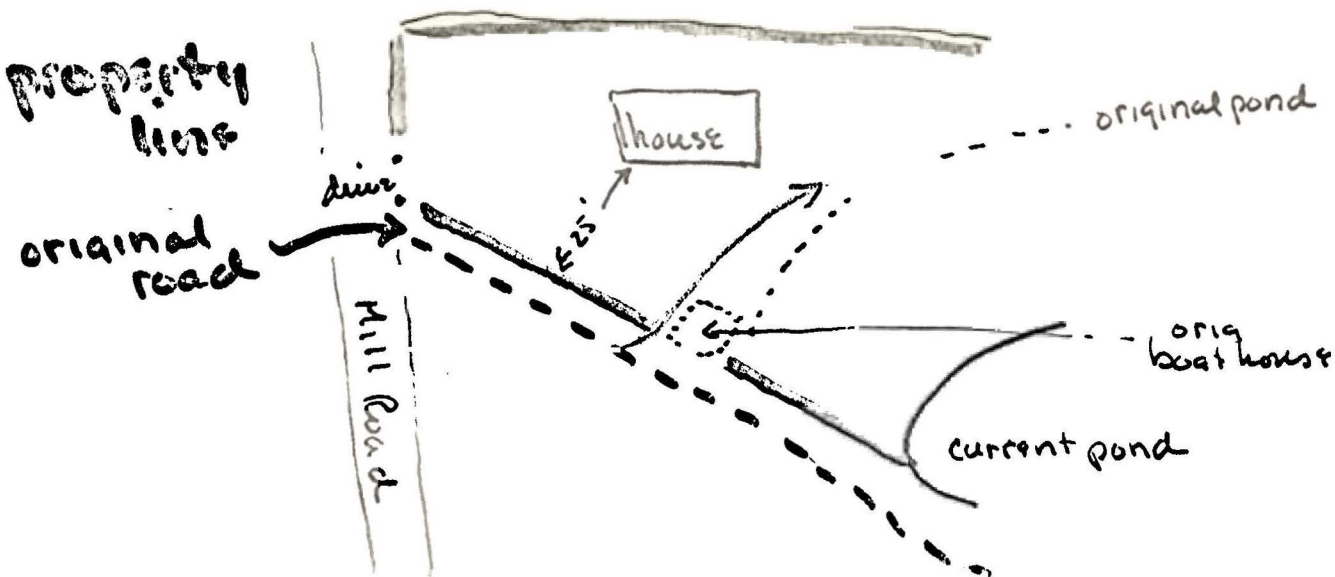
The shape of the original house remains but very little else. There have been extensive changes made both externally and internally as one can see by comparing the present house to the photo in the Newsweekly Tercentenary edition. A kitchen ell was added, then in 1968 another addition to the back of the ell. The clapboards on the front and ~~left~~ ^{right} side * were covered with aluminum siding by the Rochettes who also took down the [^]chimneys and capped them off under the roof so that they now end in the attic. The two windows on the left of the front door have been combined into a single picture window, and one of the windows on the first floor of the main house facing the pond has been bricked in.

* and east brick wall

The brick end facing away from the road was not covered by siding according to Mr. Greene, as the reason for covering the brick was to avoid pointing it up and "the back didn't show".

The spiral staircase mentioned by Margaret Mills is no longer there and has been replaced by a staircase leading straight up opposite the front door and one directly above it leading to the attic. The Rochettes also installed hideous looking hung ceilings which are a little saggy but which were left in place in the right front room and the hall. The fireplaces were also left in place in the two front room both upstairs and down although they do not work, of course.

The original house was four rooms over four rooms with four chimneys in the four corners. A road led from Mill Road along in front of the house where the wall stands. It went beside the pond and then out onto Boston Road. Mr Greene changed the shape of the pond and the slope of the yard when he bought the property and removed a boat house which stood down by the pond where there is now a clump of trees and rocks. That was then the edge of the pond before Mr Greene did his filling. The back lawn of the house sloped off steeply into the pond but is now terraced more gradually.



Cont.

North:

Book 19, pg. 2

12/24/1851

Otis Adams

South:

Book 624, pg. 133

from
Ephraim Adams
230 acres

North:

Book 19, pg. 5

South:

Book 624, pg. 135

12/24/1851

Asa Spalding & Elbridge Spalding
from
Ephraim Adams

North:

Book 8, pg. 592

South:

Book 237, pg. 163

3/21/1821

Ephraim Adams
from
Joseph Adams

North:

Book 7, pg. 536

South:

Book 124, pg. 247

12/31/1789

Joseph Adams Jr.
from
Joseph Adams

North:

Book 5, pg. 35

South:

Book 59, pg. 183

11/5/1747

Joseph Adams
from
Joseph Adams (Father

North:

Book 3, pg. 101

South:

Book 34, pg. 380

4/26/1733

Joseph Adams
from
The estate of Joseph Adams (Capt.)

Samuel Adams Family
Source: Herbert Calhoun Adams

Samuel Adams, 4th son of Henry of Braintree was born in England in 1616 or 1617 according to different records. He came to New England with his parents in 1638 and with his brothers Thomas and John settled in Concord in 1646. His first wife was Mary Eglesfield, probably of Charlestown, whom he married in 1646 presumably before moving to Concord. She died in 1650 and the one son by the marriage died in infancy.

It appears that he returned from Concord to Charlestown as there is an official record that....."on Augustze, 1654 Samuel Adams, Charlestown, conveyed a tract of land in Concord to Richard Temple" and that soon after that date he joined his brother Thomas in Chelmsford" which definitely indicates that he went to Chelmsford in the latter part of 1654.

In 1651 he took for his second wife Rebecca Graves of Charlestown, born about 1631, an own cousin to his first wife. By this union there were 9 or 11 children, according to different authorities. She died Sept. 8, 1664, Samuel is mentioned as 1 of 32 petitioners including his brother Thomas in Braintree concerning a land grant in 1645 already referred to in connection with his brother Thomas.

His third wife was Esther Sparhawk of Cambridge, born 1636, whom he married May 7, 1668. She died in 1692. There were 4 children, the second of which was Joseph (Capt. Joseph), ancestor of the writer. Samuel died Jan. 24, 1688-9, aged 72 years "according to his gravestone in Charlestown and his third wife in nearby Cambridge, it is probable that all three wives were interred from in the cemetery where he rests.

We have seen that Samuel went to Chelmsford soon after Aug. 3, 1654 so we have to accept 1654 as his appearance in the new town. If we wonder why he was not an original signer to the petition along with his brother Thomas we may assume that it was because family affairs prevented his taking part in the movement or it may have been because he was not in favor of it. The fact remains that he went to Chelmsford in 1654 and was a leading man in town affairs for over 30 years.

In 1656 he was granted 450 acres of land on condition that he erect a sawmill and sell boards at 3 shillings per hundred and later he was granted an additional 100 acres on condition that he erect and maintain a gristmill. This probably was an addition to the sawmill already built.

The mill was on River Meadow brook in the southeast part of the town and the property remained in the Adams name in unbroken line until 1842 when it passed to Abbott Russell and from that time on has been known as Russell's Mills. The present house (1939) is said to have been built in 1816 and if so was built by Joseph (6), the last of the name to own the property and who died in 1842. (Note by Drury - he was the father of Dea. Otis Adams).

Samuel Adams was Commissioner to the General Court (legislature) and was Captain of Militia in which his brother Thomas served as Lt. He was ~~then~~ town clerk for 20 years or more and his name occurs repeatedly in the History of Chelmsford in connection with town affairs.

It has always been a marked characteristic of the New Englanders from the very first, that they manage to provide for themselves comfortable and substantial dwellings.

There being no saw mill nearer than Concord or Woburn, and neither roads nor bridges between those places and Chelmsford, the first who came must have been compelled to erect log houses for their shelter, although there is a tradition that William Fletcher had a frame house in 1654. There is a tradition also that Josiah Richardson's first shelter was partly formed by digging into the bank.

The people were not long content to occupy such rude structures, and very soon negotiated with the enterprising Samuel Adams to erect a saw mill, and also a mill for the grinding of corn.

Mr. Adams was a person of somewhat varied accomplishments. Rev. Wilkes Allen, in some notes, states, upon the authority of some old deeds and other papers in the Adams family, that he was a millwright. "He was also somewhat skilled in medicine & exercised his skill to ye advantage & benefit of this infant settlement while they were destitute of a physician better informed."

He was a Captain in the military, Clerk of the Writs, and for twenty years town clerk. The records in his handwriting are still mostly quite legible.

The Town was quite liberal with Mr. Adams, giving him 100 acres of land in consideration of his "erecting & Maintaining a Corn Mill for the Towns suply," and he was given 450 acres in consideration of his erecting a saw mill.

These and other grants made his holdings "by estimation about 600 acres." * * *

The following is the vote of the Town in reference to the saw mill as it appears in the town records (Transcript, p. 32):

"1656, July Day ye third. At a Public meeting of the whole town, it is Granted to Mr. Samuel Adams in Consideration of Setting up a Saw-mill: and thereby supling the Town with Boards at three Shillings the hundred, or the Sawing og one Board log for the providing and bringing of another to be Redy to work by the next March exsuing. In consideration Whereof it is hereby Granted to the Sd. Mr. Adams to have the Sum of Four hundred and fifty acres of Land upon the South Side of the meadow belonging to the Said Mr. Adams, called brook meadow; Farther that the Sd Mr. Adams Shall have Liberty to make use of the Pinns upon the Common. And to hold the fore Sd Land to him and his heirs for ever."

And "Mr. Adams is granted Libberty to sett Flood gates for the advantage of his Mill pond at the Mouth of Hart pond this was granted by the Town for the use of his Mill to him and his heirs forever." (Town Records, Transcript, p. 34).

This mill was upon Great, or River Meadow brook, about two miles, a little east of south, from the center of the town. A saw and gristmill was maintained there by five successive generations of the Adams family. It was then passed by purchase to Mr. Abbot Russell, who was followed by his son, the late Lincoln H. Russell, since whose death in 1899, the mill has not been used.

The Adams mills on Great Brook, later known as Russell's mills, is still used to some extent as a sawmill. The present dwelling house on the property was built in 1816, and, with about 100 acres, is owned by H.P. Swift.

Waters, "History of Chelmsford":

pg. 301 Adams, Joseph, Chelmsford. Capt. John Ford's (Volunteer) Co., Col. Jonathan Reed's Regt.; enlisted Sept. 27, 1777; discharged Nov. 8, 1777; service, 1 mo., 13 days; marched to reinforce Northern Army.

Russell Mill House
101 Mill Road

Chelmsford "Newsweekly" (1955):

.....Following these (full 2 - storied central chimney houses) came the 2- and 4- chimney houses in wood, brick, or a combination of both wood and brick. The Trooper Jock Parker house, 134 Boston Road, was built in 1756 and illustrates the brick-end type and does the Russell's Mills house, 101 Mill Road, and the Pearson house, 8 Mill Road."

Picture:

brick gable ends, wooden front (and back probably)

5 by 2 bays

windows identical, 2/2 panes.

front facade:

doorway - single door (with glass window in upper half)

4 lights above door, cornice above that.

Can't see clearly, but perhaps a full length pilaster each side of the door.

1 granite step

chimneys - 4, tall

2 on each side, coming up out of the roof

large tree in front of the house, left of door.

Jane Drury, 1/30/74

Margaret Mills (3/13/72):

"There have been many changes in the house. My parents said that there was a very beautiful spiral staircase, but I have never been inside the house to see it. There was a fire sometime, which explains some of the changes. When the Rochets owned it, they put in picture windows, aluminum siding, etc. Lloyd Greene next door bought it and saved it from being smashed by D & B. Mr. Greene still owns it, but it is now used by the Merrimack Education Center."

300-year-old edict gives Chelmsford man control of dam

By CAROL KOPP
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — Lloyd Greene believes he is "standing in the shoes of Captain Samuel Adams" and, when it comes to Mill Pond, the edict of a long-dead King of England supercedes the authority of the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen.

Somewhere in a vault in the Chelmsford town hall is a document, never handled because of its age, that grants by authority of the king 450 acres of land and the rights to the waters of the brook that now lies under Mill Pond to a Captain Samuel Adams. The date is July 3, 1656.

Adams, a member of one of Chelmsford's most important colonial families, built the dam that created Mill Pond and began the lumber mill that was the town's first industry.

Three hundred years later, the lumber mill is long gone and Greene manufactures record players for schools and libraries on the site.

Mill Pond is the lakefront home of the residents of a housing development. It is the site of a camp for exceptional children and of an extensive tract of conservation land.

But Greene, the successor to part of the Adams land grant, is still exercising his ancient right to raise and lower the water level of the dam. "I can raise the level of the water and flood people's property, and they have to put up with it," he says. "And I can lower the level of the water and they still have to put up with it."

MOST OF THE time he keeps the water to a level about one-third as high as the dam, to

prevent deterioration of the structure. He is tired of the responsibility of keeping the dam in good repair that goes with his rights. He has offered to sell the dam to the town.

That's where the matter stood until recently, when some of the kids who regularly cut through his land to get to the pond broke one of the lamps in his yard with a hockey stick.

Greene, a confirmed bachelor who is not fond of children who trespass on his property, lowered the level of the water to thwart their ice-skating plans, the reason they were cutting through his land to get to the pond.

He told the police he would keep it that way until he was given better protection from the kids. The kids still went ice-skating, but on ice that was poised well above the water line.

One of the residents of the development on the pond is Selectman Chairman Philip Currier. He wants "a long-range solution to this raising and lowering of the pond at Mr. Greene's whim."

The opinion of town counsel, sought more than a year ago in an earlier instance of the periodic dilemma, is being requested again.

GREENE CLAIMS his rights still stand, by virtue of a Supreme Court decision in favor of a man who claimed a large portion of Arizona on the basis of a Spanish king's grant.

Like the man who became "the baron of Arizona" with that decision, Greene believes this ultimate grandfather clause would hold up in the courts. "If they'll uphold a Spanish king, they'll sure as heck uphold the English," he said.



Ice Cutting at 101 Mill Road (date unknown)



Ice cutting at Russell Mill Pond, next to 101 Mill Road



Ice cutting at Russell Mill Pond, next to 101 Mill Road



Russell Mill Pond

8/11/2002 F. Merriam



Russell Mil Pond

8/11/2002 F. Merriam





