

The Solomon Howard Farm: "Solomon's Temple" *by Jonathan W. Stevens*

Howard Hill located in the southern part of Andover, is named after the family that first settled there in the 1780s. The road of the same name runs through the 3rd Range of Lots from Rte. 11 across the town and county line to intersect with Popple Dungeon Road in Windham. In the 19th Century, the area consisted of School District No. 1, though ironically the Howard Hill School was not on Howard Hill Road, but at the intersection of Stigers and Boone Roads. The first member of the Howard family to move to Andover was Capt. Solomon Howard. Hiland H. Gutterson in his "The General History of the Town" featured in Abby Maria Hemenway's *The Local History of Andover, Vt.* (1886), published separately from, but part of the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, gave the following description of Solomon Howard: "The Captain was always a generous man, and was very public-spirited. It was the custom for all the young men in the neighborhood, after planting, to meet at his home for a holy day, playing ball, wrestling, shooting at a mark, and other athletic sports, and at night, Mr. Howard would always give them supper in his house. And in the winter evenings, the young people would often gather there for a dance and social enjoyments, and were always welcome and free to the best his home afforded." Capt. Solomon Howard would eventually build a large brick house, which became the neighborhood gathering place that Gutterson mentioned, and was later referred to as "Solomon's Temple," a Biblical reference to King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon Howard was soon followed his brothers Joseph Howard (1760-1804), David Howard (1747-1818), Antipas Howard (1766-1826) and brother in-law John French (1760-1847), who was married to their sister Rebecca Howard(Hayward) (1758-1829). The surname started out as Hayward, an English occupational name derived from an official who was responsible for protecting land or enclosed forest from damage by animals, poachers, or vandals, from Middle English hay "enclosure" plus ward "guardian." However, within just a few years of arriving in Andover, the spelling was altered to Howard.

Capt. Solomon⁶ Howard, was son of James⁵ (*Jonathan*,⁴ *Jonathan*,³ *William*,² *William*¹) and Lois (Parmenter) Hayward, who was born in Mendon, Mass., on December 6, 1756. The family would move to neighboring Douglas, Mass., in the 1760s. Both parents died in the late 1770s. In December 1775, Solomon at the age of 19 years, enlisted from Douglas, as private in the Massachusetts Line of the Continental Army for a year's service. Solomon entered the army on January 1, 1776, and marched to Cambridge, Mass., thence to New London, Connecticut, thence to New York City, thence up Hudson River and North River to Fort Ann, thence to Montreal, thence returned to Ticonderoga where he was stationed until November 25, 1776. He then went to Newton, Pennsylvania, and crossed the Delaware on about December 26, 1776, thence to Trenton, New Jersey and was in the Battle of Trenton and after the battle returned to Newton. He then returned to Trenton about January 1, 1777, when his term expired. On January 2, 1777, he re-enlisted for the term of 6 weeks, and the night following marched to Princeton and was in the Battle of Princeton. He then marched to Morristown with the same officers under whom he served the year service, that he served said term of 6 weeks and was taken sick with the yellow fever and his elder brother David brought him home to Douglas, in the latter part of March 1777. He was again called out on an alarm and entered service on August 17, 1777 and marched through Hadley, Mass. and North Hampton, Mass. to Bennington, Vt., then to Sheensboro (now Whitehall, N.Y.), thence to Manchester, Vt., and thence to Saratoga, N.Y. He was there at the surrender of General Burgoyne, thence to White Plains, was there dismissed and returned home on December 5, 1777, having served 3 ½ months. He was again called out in the month of August 1778 and served in the Water Craft, was stationed at Tiverton, R.I. in the Boat Service. He served 6 weeks and was then discharged. He served 18 ½ months in all. There are two important things to note. First, Solomon traveled through this area of Vermont during the war before settling here and because of his wartime service, he later served as a Captain in Andover's militia.

"Solomon Hayward" first appears in Andover's records as a witness to a deed between Silas Spaulding of Londonderry, Vt., and Jonas Kidder of Lyndeborough, N.H., dated December 26, 1781, for Lot 16 in the 1st Range. Spaulding had resided in Andover 1779-1780, but had moved Londonderry by this point. Solomon first purchased land in Andover Lot 2 in the 3rd Range in 1782, probably from John Simons Jr. of Andover, who had purchased the lot from John Buck of Worthington, Mass., on August 17, 1781. Unfortunately, the deed to Solomon was not recorded in the Andover Land Records. "Solomon Hayward" first appears on the Grand List in Andover 1783, with the assessed value of £7. On March 15, 1784, he sold the south half of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range in Andover to his brother in-law John French, who was then residing in Dummerston, Vt. On October 31, 1797, John French sold all the land east of the road which "leads from Solomon Howard's direct to Thomas French's" to his brother in-law Joseph Howard and on February 5, 1798, he sold the remaining 28 acres, west of the road to his brother Reuben French. John French had moved slightly east, as on October 31, 1797, his brother in-law Jonathan Howard (1749-1816) of Upton, Mass., sold him 82½ acres off of the west end of Lot 1 in the 2nd Range, which Jonathan had purchased from Francis Boon.

On June 26, 1784, Daniel Warner of Pittstown, Albany (now Rensselaer) Co., N.Y., sold to Solomon the entire right of original right of original proprietor Peter Morse. Though this deed does not specify the particular lots, the right of Peter Morse consisted of: Lot 3 in the 3rd Range in the 1st Division; Lot 9 in the 8th Range in the 2nd Division; Lot 11 in the 12th Range in the 3rd Division; and the south half of Lot 9 in the 13th Range in the 4th Division. Both the 3rd and 4th Division lots would be located in

what is now Weston, after the legislative division of the town in 1799. On October 28, 1784, Solomon sold the north half of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range to his younger brother "Joseph Hayward," who was then residing in Dummerston, Vt. Joseph married John French's sister Sarah French.

On April 9, 1785, Solomon purchased a tract of land in Londonderry from Silas Spaulding, who by this point had left Londonderry and moved to Granville, Washington Co., N.Y., described as "being part of a lot known by the mill lot, said lot or part of a lot lying between George McMurphy and Jonathan Aiken, all the remaining part of said lot that is not sold before this, be it the same more or less." This description did not provide much detail, but it was about 40 acres lying west of the Great Pond now known as Lowell Lake. Solomon sold this property to Silas Faulkner of Acton, Mass., on December 12, 1797, with a more defined as "being part of the old mill lot joining southerly on the land that Silas Spaulding sold George McMurphy, then westerly on Nehemiah Howe, northerly on Jonathan Aiken's land and easterly on the Great Pond, thence south 68^o west to a stake and stones standing on the east line of Nehemiah Howe's land thence north 21^o east 66 rods to a spruce tree marked being said Howe's north east corner, thence north 69^o west 88 rods to birch tree, thence north 10^o east 46 rods to stake and stones, thence south 56^o east 150 rods to the Great Pond, thence south 10^o easterly by said pond to the first mentioned bounds."

On June 25, 1785, Amos Babcock of Ashford, Conn., a prominent figure in Andover's proprietorship sold Solomon Lot 18 in the 12th Range. This lot is located in present day Weston. In October 1785, Solomon sold Lot 9 in the 8th Range to Joseph Simons of Putney. On July 25, 1787, Daniel Foster of Andover sold Solomon Lot 3 in the 1st Range. This deed contains an interesting note: "N.B. I had a Deed of the Same peace [*sic*] of Land which is Lost of Daniel Foster of Andover which I Say is Lost for which I have this Deed Solomon Howard." From this note we know that an earlier deed for this property existed, but was lost. So perhaps a similar fate befell the deed from John Simons, Jr., and a second copy was simply not recorded.

Solomon married Cynthia Peters in Orange, Mass., on March 7, 1787, by Rev. Emerson Foster. Cynthia, daughter of Timothy and Hannah (Aldrich) Peters, was born in Richmond, N.H., on March 12, 1770. Cynthia's mother Hannah, was a sister of Rebecca (Aldrich) Howard, wife of Solomon older brother James Howard. The Peters family became some of the early settlers in South Hero, Vt. Cynthia younger brother Cyrus Peters, who married Priscilla Howard, daughter of David and Priscilla (Holland) Howard, lived on Howard Hill, for a short time before moving north to South Hero.

Solomon and Cynthia had seven sons all born in Andover: **Solomon Howard, Jr.**, born on July 19, 1788 and died in Andover, on March 12, 1870. He married Mary "Polly" Stoodley in Andover, on August 14, 1805; **Dolphia Howard**, born on December 17, 1790 and died in Hillsboro, Oregon, on 12 September 12, 1865. He married Chloe Rhoades in Windham, on August 20, 1815; **Timothy Howard**, born on July 10, 1792 and died in Cavendish, on February 2, 1873. He married Sarah "Sally" Stoodley in Andover, on 27 October 1814; **Morris Howard**, born on April 27, 1795 and Racine, Wisconsin, on 22 February 1862. He married first Hannah Smith in Chester, on February 5, 1817 and second Jane Scott in Racine, Wis., on December 17, 1858; **Joel Howard**, born on May 3, 1797 and died Wallingford, on May 15, 1872. He married first Lucy Marsh in Andover, on June 17, 1818 and second Dulcena Bixby Rhoades in Andover, on February 12, 1834; **Hiram Howard**, born on September 18, 1799 and died in Lowell, Mass., on April 5, 1865. He married Nancy Stoodley in Grafton, on 12 January 1819; and **Jonathan Howard**, born on January 9, 1804 and died in Andover, on April 19, 1827. He married Silence French in Windham, on October 22, 1826. After Jonathan's death she married Alpheus Marsh, Jr. in Andover, on April 14, 1831.

A survey of the Andover portion of Howard Hill Road, was laid out in two parts, and the southern section was surveyed on September 26, 1787, described as "beginning on the Londonderry (now Windham) line near Thomas French's and running thence north 35^o east 53 rods, thence north 3^o west 43 rods, then north 23^o east 32 rods, thence north 14^o west 62 rods, thence north 0^o 88 rods to a dry beach [*sic*] tree to the south line of Solomon Howard's lot. This survey went through the 40-rod gore, and Lots 1 and 2 in the 3rd Range, terminating on the south line of Lot 3 in the 3rd Range.

On January 17, 1788, Solomon purchased 50 acres in the area of Gilsum, N.H., that is now part of Sullivan, N.H., from John Chappell of Gilsum, N.H. A deed out of Solomon has not been found, the property seems to eventually reverted back to Chappell. On March 19, 1788, he sold Lot 11 in the 12th Range to John Chappell, now described as of Andover.

On March 3, 1788, Solomon was elected a lister, fence viewer, and surveyor of highways, and on March 2, 1789, he was elected fence viewer. On February 6, 1789, Solomon sold to John Simons of Andover the south half of Lot 9 in the 13th Range. On March 5, 1792, Solomon was elected a selectman and on December 22, 1792, he sold Lot 18 in the 12th Range to Eldad Spafford of Temple, N.H. On March 2, 1795, Solomon was elected a lister. On June 30, 1796, Solomon sold Lot 3 in the 1st Range to Ebenezer Hutchinson of Andover, and on May 22, 1797, he sold to Josiah Brown of Andover, the south half of Lot 21 in the 11th Range.

On March 4, 1799. Solomon was chosen constable and collector of rates and around this time his cattle mark was recorded as a "Swallow Tale in Right Ear." On March 1, 1802, he was elected a trustee of schools and grand juror. On March 15, 1802, Reuben French, now residing in Salisbury, Vt., sold to Solomon 25 acres in the southwest corner of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range. On 12 April 1816, Solomon Howard sold this parcel to his eldest son Solomon Howard Jr., who would eventually add additional land to his farm, which was located directly south of his father's.

Joseph Howard died Andover, on October 31, 1804 and was buried in North Windham Cemetery. His property in Lot 2 in the 3rd Range, was divided between his children: Polly Howard, Susannah Howard, and Joseph Howard, Jr. and his widow Sarah. On February 28, 1810, John and Polly (Howard) Wellington, sold to Solomon Howard, two lots in the northwest corner of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range. The consisting of 5 acres set off to Susannah (Howard) Holden, but had been deeded to the Wellingtons. The second of 15 ½ acres was set off to Polly Wellington and both were described as “lying west of the road leading from Capt. Howard to the meeting house in Windham and north of the road to mills formerly owned by Samuel Wellington.”

Solomon Howard died in Andover, on June 23, 1840 and was buried in the North Windham Cemetery. On July 10, 1840, Solomon Howard, Jr. petitioned the Windsor District Probate Court, with Rufus Bruce of Chester acting as surety, to be the administrator of his father’s estate. The inventory dated August 14, 1840 presented to the probate court by Rufus Bruce and William Howard appraisers, consisted of the “Homestead Lot 3 in the 3rd Range, also 18 acres of Lot 2 in the same range containing 165 acres and 28 square rods appraised at \$2,300.” The personal property consisted of: 10 sheep marked C.H. \$12.50, 73 sheep \$65, 2 oxen \$70, 1 black cow \$17, 1 yellow cow \$17, 1 large red cow \$18, 1 small red cow \$15, 1 brindle cow \$17, 2 two years old steers \$34, 1 two years old heifer \$11, 2 one year old heifers \$17, 1 horse \$30. 1 fanning mill \$3, 1 iron shovel .25¢, 1 dung fork \$1, 1 pitch fork .17¢, 1 half a straw cutter \$2, 1 single sleigh \$2.75, 1 ox yoke staple ring & bows \$1.10, 1 cart & all pertaining \$14, 1 flax break .50¢, 1 pitchfork .06¢, 1 ax .25¢, 1 ox chain .50¢, 1 chain (broken) .75¢, 1 beetle and 3 iron wedges \$1, 1 pr. Tress chains .50¢, 9 old harrow teeth \$1.41, 1 harrow 13 teeth \$2.50, 1 corn harrow .75¢, 1 scraper \$2, 1 cast iron plow .75¢, 1 side hill plow \$3.50, 1 double whippetree .33¢, 1 single wagon \$7, 1 wagon harness \$1, 1 grind stone \$2, 1 long pitch fork .20¢, 1 cheese press .50¢, 1 iron bar .50¢, 1 iron bar .40¢, 1 hand saw .20¢, 1 shave .13¢, 1 inch auger .10¢, 1 froe .10¢, 98 wooden bound sap buckets \$5.88, 68 iron bound sap buckets \$6.80, 1 saddle \$1, 1 spade shovel .50¢, 1 grain cradle .20¢, 3 measures .75¢, 2 best meal bags .80¢, 4 meal bags .60¢, 1 pr. snow shoes .25¢, 1 loom \$1, 1 caldron kettle \$6, 1 cooler kettle \$2.75, 1 land roller \$1, 1 box old iron \$1.15, 1 pr. large steelyards \$1, 1 bushel basket .20¢, 1 old iron pot .87¢, 1 grain chest .50¢, 4 cider barrels .50¢, 8 flower barrels .18¢, 1 linen wheel .50¢, 77 pounds of wool \$25.67, 2 grain chests \$2, 1 meal chest \$1.25, library \$2, 1 screw driver and rowel needle .13¢, 1 Thompson Truss \$1, 1 clock and case \$1, 1 looking glass .50¢, 1 large jug .50¢, 1 quart jug .10¢, 9 tin milk pans \$1.53, 1 tin pail .20¢, other tin ware \$1.73, cupboard furniture \$3.91, knives, forks, and spoons .85¢, 4 earthen and stone pots .70¢, 2 stone jugs .25¢, 1 salt cask .13¢, 1 pail and dish tub .50¢, wooden ware .75¢, 2 iron barons and 1 spider .70¢, 1 dish kettle .50¢, 1 iron pot .75¢, 1 bake kettle .33¢, 1 tea kettle .13¢, 1 grind iron and toaster .25¢, 1 old dish kettle .15¢, 1 vinegar cask .50¢, shovel and tongs .20¢, 1 brass kettle \$2, 1 brass kettle \$2, candle sticks and hatchet .20¢, 1 low chest .75¢, 1 table .75¢, 11 chairs \$2, 1 flat iron .13¢, 1 small bucket .20¢, 1 bed, bedding, bedstead and cord \$8, 1 bed, bedding, bedstead and cord \$4, 4 tow sheets \$1.70, 1 bed, bedding, bedstead and cord \$14, 7 woolen sheets \$8.15, 4 cotton sheets \$1.20, 1 chest with drawers .50¢, 1 bedstead cord under tick and quilt \$2, sole leather .50¢, 1 corn basket .45¢, 1 brass skimmer .25¢, 1 cheese tub .40¢, 1 hand kettle .25¢, 1 meat barrel .50¢, 2 butter tubs .25¢, 1 wooden scoop shovel .13¢, 1 chopping knife .13¢, 1 weaver’s reed .45¢, 1 ox sled .50¢, a measure of old nails .30¢, timber framed for hog house \$18. The total value of the estate was \$2,824.76

On March 2, 1841, Solomon Howard’s estate was divided amongst the heirs into seven shares. There were five rectangular lots east of the road, carved out of Lot 3 in the 3rd Range. Running in south to north in the following order, they were as following: Solomon Howard, Jr. No. 1 consisting of 22 acres; Dolpha Howard No. 2 consisting of 17.5 acres; Morris Howard No. 3 consisting of 18.25 acres; Timothy Howard No. 4 consisting of 18 acres and 109 rods; and Hiram Howard No.5 consisting of 18 acres and 109 rods. Joel Howard No. 6 consisting of 5 acres of in the northwest corner of Lot 3 in the 3rd Range and 10.5 acres in the north west corner of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range and Jonathan Howard No. 7 of 5 acres of in the northwest corner of Lot 3 in the 3rd Range and 8.5 acres in the north west corner of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range, both lying south of Joel’s lots. The widow thirds or dower was set off to the widow Cynthia Howard consisted of 43 acres and 96 rods in Lot 3 in the 3rd Range.

Solomon Howard’s widow Cynthia married William Stoodley in Andover, on April 15, 1841, by Rev. Rufus Bruce. William’s first wife Sarah (Fuller) Stoodley, died in Chester, on November 6, 1840, and he knew Cynthia, as he was the father in-law of three of her sons. Cynthia (Peters) (Howard) Stoodley died in Andover, on July 20, 1854 and was buried in North Windham Cemetery. William Stoodley, son of Jonathan and Sarah (Cullam) Stoodley, was born in Boston, Mass., on 14 July 14, 1765 and died in Chester, on March 4, 1857 and was buried with his first wife in the Simsbury Cemetery in Chester.

On October 16, 1841, both Hiram Howard and Timothy Howard sold their shares to William Marsh of Shrewsbury, who on March 25, 1842, sold the two shares to William Stoodley. On November 17, 1846, Stoodley sold them to Joshua Durant. On June 10, 1850, Durant sold to Priest Wilbur, and April 8, 1853, Wilbur sold to Jesse Andrews, who on the same day sold to Bishop F. Howard. On June 8, 1842, Hiram Howard sold to his brother Joel Howard his share in the buildings in their father’s estate described as “being all the right set to me in the square chamber, the shop room, south end of [the] woodshed and the chamber over [it], subject to use of the stairs to the middle chamber and widow’s thirds at the north end thereof. Also No. 6 share in the cellar east end going to widows thirds and No.7 with the privilege in the dooryard and of passing to and from said chamber, cellar and shop room.” On May 8, 1843 Morris Howard sold his share to Bishop. On August 11, 1843, Joel sold to Bishop F. Howard “the whole of my share of my father’s real estate together with the share of the buildings set off to my brother Hiram Howard in said

division," this was followed by the statement "the said Joel Howard to have the crops now on said premises and the use of the buildings to January 1, 1844. On 9 July 1845, Joanathan Howard sold her father Jonathan Howard's share "as set off in the division of Solomon Howard's estate" to Bishop F. Howard. On July 10, 1846, Dolpha Howard of Franklin, Erie Co., Pennsylvania sold to Bishop F. Howard "the whole of my share in my father's estate, being lot No. 2 of the division of said estate." In the end Bishop F. Howard acquired all of the shares except that of his father Solomon Howard Jr.

In addition to their shares in the estate, the heirs, deeded their interest in the widow Cynthia's thirds. On March 23, 1847, William Stoodley quit-claimed unto "Cynthia my now present wife," any interest that he would inherit in her thirds. On May 12, 1843, Morris Howard deeded his interest in the thirds to Hiram Howard, who on March 21, 1856 deeded both interests to Bishop F. Howard. On December 14, 1850, Joel Howard of Wallingford deeded his interest in the thirds to his cousin Amaziah Howard of Windham, who on April 3, 1854, deeded Joel's interest to Timothy Howard, who on March 21, 1856 deeded both his and Joel's interests to Bishop F. Howard. On January 13, 1854, Dolpha Howard of Clayton Co., Iowa deeded his interest in the thirds to Solomon Howard, Jr. and on June 13, 1856, Solomon Howard Jr., deeded his and Dolpha's interests in the thirds to Bishop. On March 3, 1856, Joanathan Howard of Brandon deeded all her right to her grandmother's thirds to Bishop. On March 21, 1856, Hiram and Nancy Howard of Brandon deeded their interest in the thirds to Bishop. In the end, Bishop F. Howard acquired all of the shares in his grandfather's estate, except that of his father, and all of the interest in the widow's thirds.

On March 13, 1867, Bishop F. and Calista F. Howard, sold the property to Ira French described as "being all and the same farm which was conveyed to me said Bishop by the heirs of Solomon Howard, deceased, and is the farm formerly owned and occupied by me including the lane to the pasture, and the southeast corner room by Solomon Howard (Jr.) living, and is bounded south by lands of Solomon Howard (Jr.), east by land of Lawson Baldwin, north by the Francis P. Fuller farm, and west by lands of Sylvanus L. Marsh and Philo Fuller. It contained all of Lot 3 in the 3rd Range, except Solomon Howard Jr., share and about 20 acres in the north west corner of Lot 2 in the 3rd Range. On March 6, 1865, Bishop had purchased the Tavern Stand (Rowell's Inn since 1910) in Simonsville from Sally Barnes. During his ownership it was known as Howard's Hotel. On September 24, 1867, Solomon Howard Jr., and Polly Howard sold all of their property to their grandson Rosalvo A. Howard, the son of their daughter Polly Howard, excepting the lane to the pasture, and the southeast corner room, which were mentioned in Bishop F. Howard's deed to Ira French.

On March 26, 1868, Ira French sold an undivided half interest in the property to his father Thomas French, who was then living in Weston. The 1870 census indicates there were two separate households residing in the brick house. One consisting of Ira, his wife Lucinda (Sawyer) French and their children. The other of Thomas and his third wife Harriet M. (Fales) (Bennett) French. Thomas French's first wife, Ira's mother, was Betsey (Howard) French the grand-daughter of David Howard, Solomon Howard's older brother. The January 11, 1873 issue of the *Vermont Journal*, noted that: "The farm known as the Solomon Howard farm, was recently sold at auction. Messrs. Pierce & Dodge of Chester, bidding it off at a little over \$1,500. On this farm Capt. Solomon Howard first settled." This referred to William Pierce and his son in-law William P. Dodge, and on March 7, 1873, Alonzo French the administrator of the estate of Thomas French late of Andover, deeded one half interest to William Pierce. This followed by a deed for the other half interest on March 17, 1873, from Ira French now described as Colfax Co., Nebraska. On September 19, 1874, William Pierce, sold 80 acres lying west of the road, including the house and buildings to Jerome W. West. The house, barns and outbuildings were destroyed by fire on June 15, 1887. An account was found in June 23, 1887 issue of *The Londonderry Sifter*, under the North Windham column: "Miss Adella Stannard from Andover was through our burgh Monday soliciting aid for Jerome West who was burned out, saving scarcely anything." Under the Simonsville Column "Last Wednesday night about 10:30, Mrs. Jerome West woke and found their house a complete mass of fire. Arousing her husband, they had barely time to escape with their lives, leaving everything which was quickly consumed. In a very few moments their barns and all their out buildings were a mass of ruins. Their dogs, hens and two hogs were burned. Insured for \$500 on the buildings and \$250 on personal property." On June 30, 1887, West purchased the former Solomon Howard Jr. farm, lying adjacent to and directly south of brick house property from Josiah G. and Lucinda B. White, who had purchased it from Rosalvo A. Howard, on October 2, 1879, was also destroyed by fire on October 19, 1891.

The Pioneer Memorial Society's marble marker for Solomon's Temple was dedicated with great pomp and circumstance on July 20, 1941, with 70 people in attendance, many of whom were direct descendants of Solomon Howard. The event consisted of a picnic basket dinner, followed by the business meeting, the historical program and the dedication, of the marker, which was unveiled by Solomon Howard's great-grandson Willis Howard Craigue, who at the time was oldest living descendant, and was born at a time when the brick house was still owned by the Howard family.