

THE COFFIN HOUSE

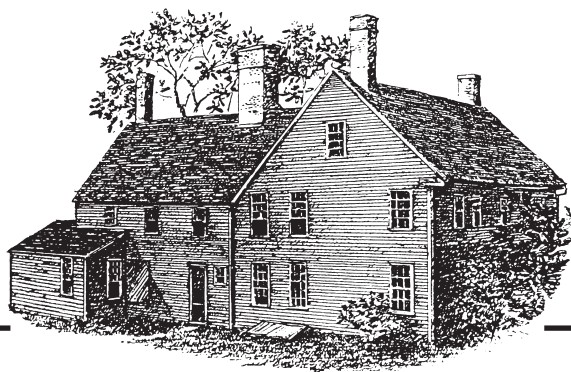
~ 14 High Road, Newbury, Mass. ~
c. 1678

Open the first & third Saturdays of the month, June 1 through October 15,
from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (last tour at 4 p.m.); tours are approximately one hour.

Admission \$5, seniors \$4, students & children 6-12 \$2.50;

Historic New England members free.

Directions: Take I-95 to Rte. 113, Newburyport. Rte. 113 turns into Rte. 1A (High Rd.)
Follow Rte. 1A for 3.3 miles. The Coffin House is on the right, just before the church.



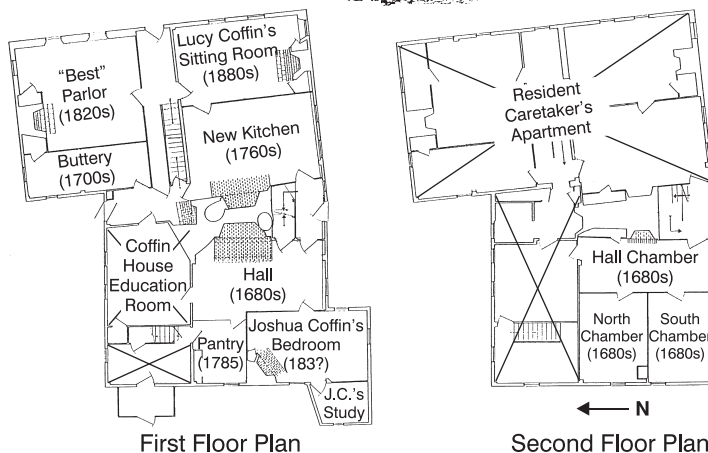
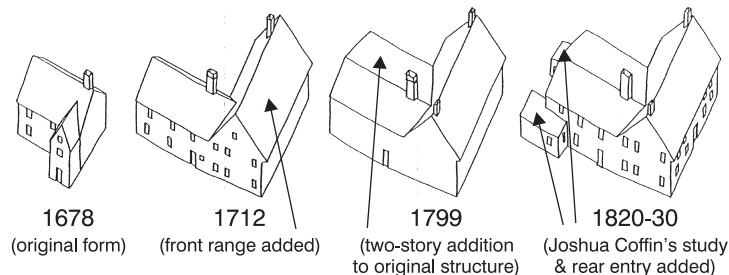
The Coffin House chronicles the evolution of domestic life in rural New England over three centuries. The structure, which contains the family's furnishings, began as a simple dwelling built in 1678 in the post-medieval style. Tristram Coffin and his family lived, cooked, and slept in two or three rooms; their possessions were few.

In 1712, the house was more than doubled in size to provide living space for a married son and his family. As the family grew, partitions were added and lean-tos built so that different generations could continue to live together under one roof.

In 1785, two Coffin brothers legally divided the structure into two separate dwellings, each with its own kitchen and living spaces. With rooms from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, the Coffin House depicts the impact of an expanding economy and new concepts, such as the notion of privacy, on architecture and modes of living. **For more details about the Coffin House**, including history and photos, visit www.historicnewengland.org/historic-properties/homes/coffin-house.

While in Newbury, visit the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm less than a mile away. Other Historic New England properties are nearby: the Swett-Ilsey House (Newbury) and Rocky Hill Meeting House (Amesbury). Visit HistoricNewEngland.org for more information about museum visits.

Architectural evolution . . .



Visitors want to know . . .

How do we know when the house was built? For many years the house was thought to have been built in 1654. In 2002 sample borings of timbers in the original structure and front range were analyzed by the Oxford University Dendrochronology Laboratory in England. Study of the growth rings determined the original structure was built in 1678 and the front range in 1712.

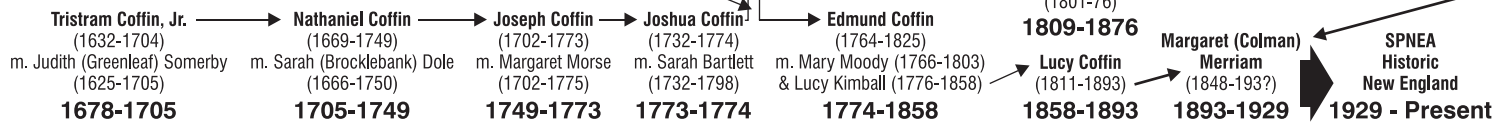
Was Tristram Coffin, Jr. related to the Coffin family of Nantucket? Yes. Tristram Coffin, Sr. and family (except sons Tristram, Jr. and Peter) moved to Nantucket in 1659.

How and when did Historic New England acquire the Coffin House? The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA, now known as Historic New England) was founded in 1910 to preserve examples of early New England architecture. Coffin family descendants knew they had a historic treasure worthy of preservation, and they gave the house to SPNEA in 1929.

Did any Coffin family occupants ever have indoor plumbing? No. The reconstructed privy behind the house is in the same location as in 1929.

A Coffin House Time Line . . .

A Time Line of Ownership . . .



A Time Line of Newbury and beyond . . .



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For membership categories & benefits, please visit our web site.

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www.HistoricNewEngland.org