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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Corse-Shippee House  
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 11 Dorr Fitch Road  
not for publication n/a  
city or town Dover vicinity n/a  
state Vermont code VT county Windham code 025  
zip code 05356

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Stephanne C. Daniels, National Register Specialist 3-27-08  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*For Edson H. Beall* 5.7.08  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>processing</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>animal facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
roof metal  
walls asbestos  
other weatherboard

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Agriculture

Period of Significance 1860-1957

Significant Dates 1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 43.36 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		
1	18	675418	4756002	3	18	676366	4755487
2	18	676325	4756080	4	18	675566	4755427

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Paula Sagerman, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization n/a date December 19, 2007

street & number 7 Winter Haven Dr. telephone (802) 464-5179

city or town Wilmington state VT zip code 05363

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Roscoe and Sarah Shippee

street & number P.O. Box 993 telephone (802) 464-0715

city or town West Dover state VT zip code 05356

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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**Description**

The c. 1860 Corse-Shippee House is located near the north end of Dorr Fitch Road in the historic village of West Dover, Vermont. It overlooks the village from the knoll of a steep hill, and has a commanding presence in the village. This two and a half story wood frame Greek Revival style building is an intact and good example of a mid nineteenth-century farmhouse. It displays Greek Revival features such as heavily molded entablatures and gable pediments, corner pilasters, and doorways enframed with pilasters, sidelights and entablatures. The property was constructed for Orville Corse, a successful farmer, and for the past one hundred years has been owned and occupied by members of the Shippee family. The exterior of the house retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling and association, and except for the asbestos siding, its integrity of materials (however, the clapboard siding is preserved beneath the asbestos). There are no threats to its integrity. An addition replaced some of the historic wing after a fire in 1999, but the main block of the house retains its identity. The house sits within a 43-acre parcel in a preserved rural setting that includes the remains of the foundations of one barn, two fields, the remains of an apple orchard, a c. 1950 detached garage (A), a 1999 detached shed (B), and a c. 1930 cider house (C). The current owners intend to preserve the historic integrity of the house and property, and eventually create a conservation easement protecting the property.

**Setting**

West Dover is a rural village located in central western Windham County. It is located in the town of Dover, which also includes the villages of Dover and East Dover. Vermont Route 100, which follows the Green Mountains from the Massachusetts border to the Canadian border, passes through the village, and the north branch of the Deerfield River runs parallel to Route 100. The village sits within a valley created by ridgelines of the Green Mountains. The rural village setting is fairly intact, although outside the village, particularly along Route 100, there is substantial commercial and residential development due to the proximity of the Mt. Snow vacation resort, which is located a few miles north of the village.

West Dover village is a linear historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Corse-Shippee House overlooks the south end of the village from a hillside that sits above Route 100 near its intersection with Dorr Fitch Road. The Corse-Shippee property is a contributing resource located at the south end of the historic district. It is the tallest house in the historic district, as well as being at the highest elevation, making it highly visible.

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**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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The Corse-Shippee House is located on a 43-acre lot that extends east of Dorr Fitch Road and has a .86 acre piece across the road, and has a 650 foot road frontage. This property was part of an 86 acre lot that extended north to the "Parsonage Road," which was until the 1830s was the principal thoroughfare between Dover Common (the town's first village) and West Dover village. The owners of this now-separate lot intend to preserve it undeveloped. (The Parsonage Road is now mostly abandoned except for a short dead end off the center of the village.) The 86-acre parcel was probably the same size that the farmstead was 100 years ago.

Most of the Corse-Shippee parcel is hilly woodland. The parcel rises sharply to the east, and is bisected by a north-south ridge with steep sides. The house has a small setback from Dorr Fitch Road and is accessed from a driveway south of the house. North of the house, along Dorr Fitch Road and visible from the village, is an open field with a few scattered apple trees. Behind (south of) the house is a detached c. 1950 garage (A) and a detached 1999 shed (B). An old farm road leads northerly from the east end of the house to the Parsonage Road. Between this road and the field, there are the remains of the foundation of a large dairy barn. In the northeast corner of this foundation is a c. 1930s cider house (C). Across Dorr Fitch Road, there was once a horse barn; there are no above-ground remains of this. There is also a haymow at the top of the ridge that runs through the property. On the other side of the ridge, in the woods, are the remains of the foundation of a c. 1930s sugar house.

Exterior

The Corse-Shippee House consists of a 2-1/2 story wood frame Greek Revival main block, a one-story wing, and a 1-1/2 story modern addition projecting from the wing. The five bay by two bay main block has a rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the street (east-west). The wing has a rectangular footprint and projects east from the east gable wall of the main block. It is contiguous with the north elevation of the main block and is set back from the south elevation of the main block. A recessed porch spans the south elevation of the wing/addition. The addition has a rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the wing. Its south gable wall is contiguous with the south elevation of the wing. The addition projects north from the north elevation of the wing. At the east side of the addition, there is a small lean-to.

The main block has a cut granite underpinning over a rubble stone foundation, asbestos siding over clapboard siding (except for the east gable wall, which has clapboard siding only), and a standing-seam metal roof with boxed cornices. Two small brick chimneys emerge from the roof

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**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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ridge on either side of the central hallway. The symmetrical front and rear elevations reveal a Georgian Plan interior.

Both eaves-elevations have a central doorway and regularly-spaced window openings occupying the rest of the bays of these elevations. The west gable wall has regularly-spaced window openings. Both gables also contain a window opening. All the windows are double hung and most contain six-over-six wood units (two of the south window openings contain six-over-two windows). Architectural trim includes heavily molded cornices and gable pediments, large corner pilasters, and flat-stock window casings. The two "front" entries have  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sidelights and pilasters surmounted by entablatures. Both entries contain a six-panel wood door with molded panels. The north entry has been boarded over, but this is reversible and the doorway is visible from the interior.

An unusual feature of the main block is that it has two primary, matching facades (north and south). One entry faces the driveway and was probably the main entry to the house. The other faces the village, and its original purpose was probably for appearance-sake only. It is also possible that when the house was a tavern in the nineteenth century, one door was for guests and the other for the family.

The wing has clapboard siding at the north elevation, and board-and-batten siding at the south elevation. The porch has modern square posts with historic jigsaw-cut brackets. The addition has board-and-batten siding. Both sections have asphalt-shingle roofing. The addition has overhanging open eaves. Slightly off center on the wing/addition shared south elevation is a modern entry with a hollow-core paneled door. Flanking the entry are modern one-over-one wood windows. The addition has regularly-spaced modern one-over-one wood windows. The lean-to projects east of the addition and has a rectangular footprint oriented parallel to the addition, rough vertical siding, and a shed roof.

The house is a good example of a two-story Greek Revival house. Greek Revival features include the symmetry, heavily molded cornices and gable pediments, large corner pilasters, entryway sidelights, pilasters, and entablature, the six-over-six regularly-spaced windows, and the six-panel entry doors. The house is in very good condition, and the current owners intend to preserve its historic integrity.

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**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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Interior

The main block has a Georgian Plan that has been somewhat modified. The basic plan of a central passageway with a room in each corner and a straight-run staircase has been preserved on both floors, except for the addition of a bathroom next to the staircase at the first story (in order to provide a first-story bathroom), and the removal of the wall between the front and rear rooms at the west side of the first story (in order to create a family-sized living room). Entry vestibules at each front entry have been preserved, as well as the original staircase, which faces the north entry. The second story plan has not been altered, including the open stairhall.

Interior finishes include random-width painted pine flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, flat-stock window and door casings, and beaded casings over projecting corner posts. The living room has wall-to-wall carpeting over the wood floor. The staircase includes turned newel posts, and at the second story, a historic rounded railing with square balusters. The plaster finishes and wood casings in the northeast rooms of the house were replaced with gypsum-board and matching wood casings due to a fire. All of the rooms have four-panel wood doors with Suffolk latches. The basement and attic are unfinished, revealing the structure of the house, including hand-hewn wall plates, sawn posts, unfinished log rafters, and a pentagonal ridge pole. The attic also has unfinished random-width wood flooring. At the west end of the attic, a room has been created, with natural-finish random-width wood flooring and plaster walls and ceilings.

The wing and addition have all modern finishes. The wing was renovated due to damage caused by the 1999 fire, and has narrow-board wood flooring, beadboard wainscoting, flat-stock window and door casings, and gypsum-board walls and ceilings. There is also a historic wood panel door off the kitchen. The addition contains a mudroom with a slate floor, and a workshop with plywood flooring and gypsum-board walls and ceilings.

Construction Chronology

The house was constructed about 1860. All of the exterior features of the main block are original except for the asbestos siding, which was added over the clapboards in the 1950s, and the standing seam metal roof, which dates to 2000. The original roof was wood shingle; it is preserved beneath the additional layers of roofing.

The wing may be original, and its porch dates to the 1930s. The wing originally had a doorway in the current location, flanked by a six-by-six window to the left and two six-by-six windows to

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**Corse-Shippee House  
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the right. A small 1930s shed projected east from the east gable wall of the wing, and a 1902 wagon shed stood north of the shed, and was attached to the shed via a breezeway. The wagon shed had a rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the house, clapboard siding, and an overhanging open-eave roof with molded trim. The wagon shed was removed in 1983.

The 1999 fire damaged the rooms at the northeast corner of the main block, as well as in the wing. This required new interior finishes in the wing, northeast corner of the main block, and the new windows and siding at the wing. The addition was constructed shortly after the fire.

There are also the remains of the foundation of a large dairy barn about fifty yards northeast of the house, and it is known that a horse barn once stood across the road from the house. The dairy barn was removed by the 1920s, and the horse barn was removed at an unknown time; probably during the first half of the twentieth century. The remains of a sugar house also lie in the woods in the southeast quadrant of the property.

The interior features of the house are all probably original, except for the first story bathroom built in the central hallway, which was constructed in the 1950s. The wall between the southeast and northeast corner rooms of the first story was removed in the mid twentieth century or earlier. There is no evidence that the house ever had fireplaces.

**A. Automobile Garage, c. 1950, contributing**

This one-story detached wood frame garage sits across the driveway and south of the house. It has a rectangular footprint oriented parallel to the street and perpendicular to the house, concrete support blocks, asbestos siding, a front-gable open-eave overhanging asphalt shingle roof, a pair of hinged vertical-board doors, a pair of six-pane sash on the west elevation and one on the east elevation, and flat-stock door and window casings, cornerboards, and roof trim. The garage was constructed about 1950 and is a good example of a mid twentieth-century garage. It is in good condition.

**B. Shed, 1999, non-contributing**

This one-story detached small wood-frame shed sits across the driveway and southeast of the house, just east of the garage (A). It has a rectangular footprint oriented parallel to the street and perpendicular to the house, unfinished board-and-batten siding, a front-gable open-eave overhanging asphalt-shingle roof, a vertical-board door at the front gable wall, six-pane side

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**Corse-Shippee House  
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windows, and flat-stock window and door casings. It was constructed in 1999 and is non-contributing due to its age.

C. Cider House, c. 1930, contributing

This small structure was built in the northeast corner of the remains of the foundation of a barn, about fifty yards northeast of the house. It has a main section that is oriented west-east and a lean-to that projects south. It is constructed of recycled lumber, and has unfinished rough vertical siding and rolled roofing. The lean-to section is open. The cider house was constructed about 1930, in order to help provide income to the Shippee family during the Depression. It is unused and in fair condition, and is maintained in order to preserve its integrity.

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Section 8 Page 1

**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Corse-Shippee House is significant as an intact example of a Greek Revival farmhouse, as an important part of the development of the historic West Dover village, and as the longtime home of the Corse and Shippee families. It is also the only two-story side-gable Greek Revival building in the town of Dover, and the only high-style Greek Revival dwelling in the village. Few buildings in Dover rival its commanding presence and high-style Greek Revival details. It is also one of only a handful of farmsteads in Dover that has not been subdivided for development. The house was constructed about 1860 by local farmer Orville Corse, who lived there until his death in 1907. Early on, it probably also served as a tavern. Since 1907, it has been owned and occupied as a primary residence by members of the Barrett-Shippee family. The building and its setting retain most of their historic integrity. The Corse-Shippee House meets National Register Criterion A for its contribution to Dover's and Vermont's history of community development and agriculture and National Register Criterion C for its architectural merit. The building relates to the statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development, and Agriculture. The period of significance of the Corse-Shippee House is 1860-1957, which spans the years between the approximate construction date of the house and the fifty-year limit for National Register eligibility.

The Corse-Shippee House is located in West Dover, a densely settled rural village listed on the National Register of Historic Places. West Dover village is part of the Town of Dover, which was originally the southern section of the Town of Wardsborough (now Wardsboro), which was chartered in 1780. The mountain range in between the north and south sections made travel difficult and in 1788, the Town was separated into the North and South Districts. The South District, now Dover, held its first town meeting in 1789, and officially became a separate Town in 1810.

The first settlers in what is now Dover arrived from Massachusetts and Connecticut about 1780, and like in many of Vermont's early towns, they created a village atop one of the highest hills in the town. The village was located between West Dover and the Town of Newfane, and is known as Dover Common. It now only retains a handful of buildings. Most of the other early settlers lived on scattered farms on Dover's hills. Despite the steep hills that roll across the town, the settlers managed to cultivate the soil, and the hillsides were conducive for grazing. The population of Dover grew from 270 in 1791 to 894 in 1810. Until the 1980s, the 1810 population was the highest that Dover attained.

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**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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By the end of the eighteenth century, the waterpower of the Deerfield River, which runs north-south through West Dover, encouraged entrepreneurs to establish industrial concerns such as saw and grist mills. Like in many other Vermont towns, this was a common occurrence during this time period. One of the first buildings in what is now West Dover village was a 1796 saw and grist mill. Other mills soon followed, and by the early nineteenth century there was also a potash manufactory, chair and wagon shop, and a fulling mill. The first house in the village was constructed about 1805, the first store was constructed in 1826, the first hotel was constructed in 1846, and the first post office in the village was established in 1848. The 1856 McClellan map of Dover shows that West Dover had become a thriving village. (Despite this, the first meeting house in the village was not erected until 1857.) The decrease in population from 894 in 1810 to 651 in 1860 reveals the extent of the migration from isolated farmsteads to Dover's villages such as East Dover, which is on the Rock River, and West Dover.

What was probably one of the first roads in West Dover village ran east from the village to Dover Common, and is now abandoned. A short section of its west end survives in the village and is known as Parsonage Road. (It is located just north of the Corse-Shippee property.) Another early road ran north-south from Wilmington to West Dover, in between what are now Handle Road and Route 100. Orville Corse's father Luther, who had moved to West Dover from the nearby town of Halifax in 1821, first lived on this now long-abandoned road. About 1835, the location of this road was changed to what is now known as Vermont Route 100. It runs north-south through West Dover village and connects West Dover to Wilmington, the town to the south. (Route 100 and West Dover village are visible from the Corse-Shippee House.) Both roads traversed Luther Corse's land. When he learned of the plans for the new road, Luther Corse built a farmhouse where he thought the road would be constructed, in order to operate a tavern. However, the road was actually laid out farther to the east, and the house was consequently located about 100 yards up a steep hill from the road. This house is still standing.

At some point before the 1856 McClellan map of Dover was produced, a new road was constructed from West Dover village to Dover Common, beginning about 100 yards north of the Parsonage Road. It ran east from the north end of the village to Dover Common. This road has been altered but generally follows what is now known as Valley View Road. The 1856 map shows that 27-year old Orville Corse (1829-1907) was living on Valley View Road just up the hill from the village, possibly where the Deerhill Inn is now located, or just north of it on land that was sold off the subject property in the mid twentieth century. (This map also shows that the Corse-Shippee house had not yet been constructed.) Corse probably acquired this Valley View Road property as a result of his 1850 marriage to Calista Dean, whose family settled in

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**Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont**

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West Dover at the end of the eighteenth century, before there was even a village. Deeds suggest that Orville Corse acquired the Valley View Road property in 1853, just a few years before Calista's death at a young age around 1857. This property abuts the original 90 acres of the subject property, and during the nineteenth century, could have been one large parcel.

About 1860, Orville Corse built his second house, the subject house, for his new bride, Sarah. It is possible that he was able to build this large house due to an inheritance from the death of his first wife. This second house, the subject house, was located on the third road to be constructed between West Dover and Dover Common, which is now known as Dorr Fitch Road. This road dates to 1837, and runs east from the south end of the village. Information passed down through the generations indicates that the house was also a tavern, and that guests stayed on the west side of the house. This is logical as Dorr Fitch Road was an important transportation route, leading to Newfane, Windham County's shire town, and Brattleboro, the location of the closest railroad station (which opened in 1848) and Windham County's economic center.

It is possible that Orville Corse followed his father's lead, and built his second house on a single piece of property (abutting both Valley View Road and Dorr Fitch Road) in order to open a tavern on a major stagecoach route. The 1853 deeds mentioned above are the only records of Corse's property acquisition in West Dover village before the subject house was constructed; this supports the theory that he built a second home on one piece of property. One account of West Dover's history notes that Orville's father Luther Corse was the first owner of the subject property, but there is no deed supporting this theory. Corse's younger brother Edwin acquired their father's farm.

The first agricultural census that includes Orville Corse's farm dates to 1860. At this point he owned 100 acres, which is just 14 acres larger than the subject property. Half of the parcel was "improved" and the other half "unimproved," which is unusual for a farm of this date, since most farms were 75-80% "improved" due to the clearing of land for sheep grazing. (This could also be an indication that the house had recently been constructed, or that the Corses were focusing on the tavern business.) In 1860, Corse was a typical Dover farmer, having one horse, five milk cows, two oxen, and fifteen sheep. He grew oats and potatoes, and produced wool and butter. The wool was probably processed at West Dover's fulling mill and clothier's works.

By 1870, Orville Corse's farm had grown to 133 acres, 83 of them being "improved." During the ten years since the 1860 census, Corse had divested of his sheep (as about half of Dover's other farmers had done), and had ten "other" cattle, a large number compared to other local

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farmers. He also continued to grow oats and potatoes and produce butter, and had started growing corn and producing maple sugar.

In 1871, Corse acquired a 100-acre parcel of farmland just north of the village, possibly adjacent to the subject property. The 1880 agricultural census shows that he owned 227 acres, and that the property was worth more than average compared to other local farms. Corse continued to own milk cows and cattle, and also raised two pigs and fifteen poultry. He grew oats, peas and beans, potatoes, apples, and produced maple syrup. At this point, only about half the local farmers were growing apples, and most farmers were producing maple sugar, not syrup. Corse could have had the syrup bottled at the maple syrup plant in the village, and probably sold apples to the cider mill and jelly manufactory that had been established in 1868 just outside the village. In 1881, Corse acquired a 70 acre property, probably on Handle Road, which runs north-south at the west edge of Dover. He was a one-time Dover selectman in 1885.

Corse continued to farm into the twentieth century, and built a barn/wagon shed in 1902 next to the house. This barn remained standing until 1983. At some point, probably in the late nineteenth century, a dairy barn was constructed about a hundred yards northeast of the house. This barn was removed in the 1920s. A nineteenth-century horse barn also stood across the street from the house; it was removed in the mid-late twentieth century.

Orville Corse did not have any sons, and upon his death in 1907, his 90-acre homestead property was sold to Edwin J. Bartlett of West Dover. Corse's wife Sarah continued to live elsewhere in Dover until her death in 1919 at the age of 92. Edwin and Caroline "Carrie" Bartlett lived on Handle Road with their daughter Flora Amanda Bartlett (1887-1976). In 1905, Flora married Leon Benjamin Shippee (1879-1920), who was born in Searsburg, Vermont (just west of Wilmington), but was probably living in West Dover before they were married. After buying the Corse property, the Bartletts remained living on Handle Road, and Flora and Leon Shippee lived in the subject house. In 1909, Corse's Handle Road parcel was sold to Leon Shippee. The 1910 census shows that Leon Shippee's parents, William and Eliza Shippee, were living nearby.

By 1920, Leon and Flora had acquired the subject property from Flora's parents. At this point they had nine children: Eliza, Hazel, William, Gladys, Nelson, Cora, Myrtle, Ethel and Rebecca. Leon Shippee died shortly after the census was taken, in 1920. Flora acquired the subject property and the Handle Road property (which was used for timber harvesting), and the family were all still living in the house in 1930.

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**Corse-Shippee House  
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Hamilton Child reported in 1883 that West Dover village “has one church (Congregational), a school-house, a good hotel, a store, saw-mill and chair-stock factory, carriage and blacksmith shop, shoe shop, etc. and about twenty-five dwellings. West Dover’s commercial and agricultural prosperity lasted until the early twentieth century, and since then, the farms and industrial activities gradually disappeared. In 1940, Dover’s population hit rock bottom at 244. Today, the industrial resources and farms of West Dover are now long gone, but in the village, the church, schoolhouse, hotel and store are intact, as well as most of the dwellings.

Farming activities on the Shippee property in the 1920s and 1930s included dairying, maple syrup production, and timber harvesting. The maple syrup was produced in a sugar house on the east side of the property, on the other side of the hill from the house (the remains of the foundation survive). The property still includes a pasture (now a haymow) that was used by the herd of twenty cattle on the farm. This herd was killed by lightning in the 1930s, and not replaced due to financial constraints during the Depression. To make ends meet during this time, the family also poached on their land, and produced cider in a building constructed on the corner of the foundation of the dairy barn (C). Cider production continued until at least the 1940s, and maple syrup is still produced, but all other agricultural activities ceased by the 1940s.

In the 1930s, the widow Flora Shippee married Lester Fairbanks. He died in 1966, and Flora died in 1976. At this point, her son William Edmund Shippee and his wife Phyllis and children were occupying the house, including the current owner Roscoe Shippee. William Shippee died in 1993.

The ski resort Mt. Snow was established in 1954 at the north end of West Dover, and is within view of the Corse-Shippee property. Since then, the area has become increasingly developed, with large subdivisions of single family homes and condominium complexes. By 2000, population of Dover had increased to 1,410.

Roscoe and Sarah Shippee now live in the house with their two sons. Roscoe acquired the 43 acre south parcel, and his brother acquired the 43 acre north parcel. The north parcel was recently sold to an abutting landowner that acquired it in order to preserve it as an undeveloped parcel next to their homestead on Parsonage Road. The Shippees also intend to preserve the structures and landscape of their property.

The Corse-Shippee house is a good example of a Greek Revival style, Georgian Plan house, with its heavily molded cornice and gable trim; pedimented gables; corner pilasters; center doorways

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with entablatures, pilasters, sidelights, and six-panel doors; the original regularly-spaced six-over-six windows, and center-hall plan. The property still depicts to a degree its agricultural and logging history, with the remains of an apple orchard, a farm road that leads to a historic pasture, the remains of the foundation of a dairy barn, the remains of the foundation of a sugar house, and a historic cider house.

The Corse-Shippee House is unusual in that there are two high-style "front doors." The reason for the two doors is probably twofold: one door could have been used by tavern guests, and the other, by the family. The guests could have entered from the north, into the end of the central passageway that leads directly to the staircase. The family could have entered from the south, where the driveway is now located. Design-wise, it was also important for the house to provide a proper exterior presentation, and since both eaves-elevations are highly visible (one facing West Dover village and the other facing Dorr Fitch Road), it was important to have high-style entryways on both facades.

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**Corse-Shippee House  
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**Oral History**

Roscoe Shippee, June 2006

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**Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Corse-Shippee House property is the border of the Town of Dover Tax Parcel DO-032. (There is no Map # assigned to this map.)

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is the legal property boundary of the Corse-Shippee House property. This boundary is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the property.

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**Section Photograph Labels Page 1**

**Corse-Shippee House  
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The following is the same for all photographs:

Corse-Shippee House

Dover, Windham County, Vermont

Photographs by Paula Sagerman, May 2006 except where noted

CD with digital images on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph #1

Facing SE toward House & Setting

Photograph #2

Facing NE toward House

Photograph #3

Facing SE toward House

Photograph #4

Facing north toward House

Photograph #5

Facing north toward north doorway

December 2007

Photograph #6

Facing north toward 2<sup>nd</sup> story hallway

December 2007

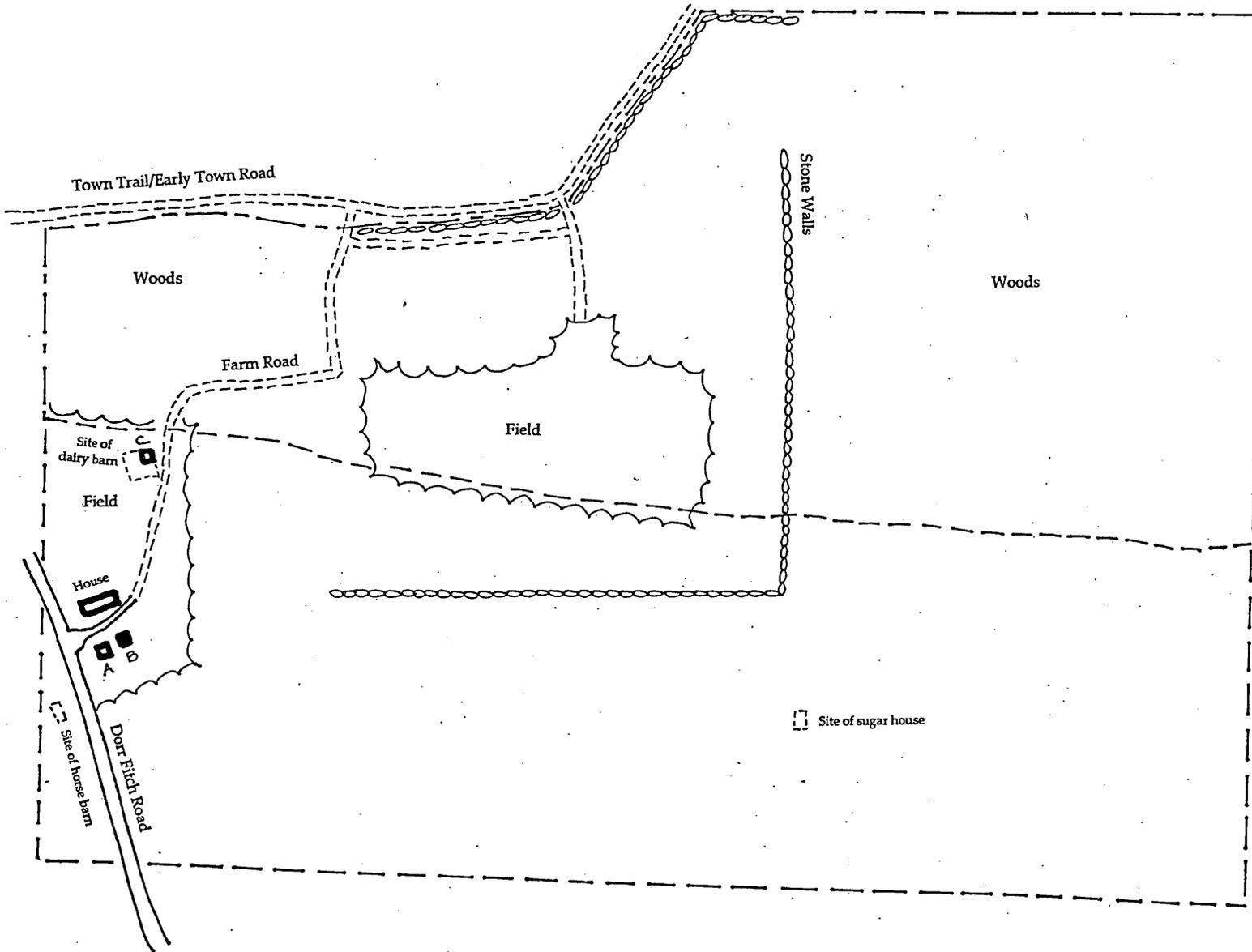
Photograph #7

Facing SW toward Garage

Photograph #8

Facing north toward Cider House

Corse-Shippee House  
Dover, Windham County, Vermont



Property Boundary

Subdivided section of original parcel

Contributing Resource 

Non-contributing Resource 

