

Miner-Tuttle Homestead (Fort Hill Farm)

14 Gray Street (formerly of Bank Street, Ware; 415 South East Street, Amherst)

David Worthington Miner (1820-1895) came to the town of Ware in 1846 and practiced as an apothecary for fifty years, eventually owning a home lot, a drug store and other property in the township. The homestead lot has been traced back to 1846; it had a house on it when sold in 1859; Miner acquired it in 1860. It has not been ascertained what parts of the house later moved to Amherst were on the Miner lot in 1860, or whether any were earlier moved from elsewhere. David Miner's son, Worthington Warner Miner, (1847-1920), a physician, also practiced in Ware; two of David's daughters became married to Amherst College professors, Affa to Charles A. Tuttle and Eliza to Charles E. Garman; the Garmans lived at 10 Gray St. (now 62). Another daughter, Jean, remained single and reclusive, but she outlived the rest of her siblings and inherited both the family home at Bank and Pleasant Street in Ware and the Garman house in Amherst, which she left empty. Upon her death, her nephew Miner Tuttle inherited both properties, bought several farms and a school house on South East Street in Amherst in 1940, sold the Gray St. house and had the house from Ware moved to Fort Hill overlooking South East Street in 1941. The house, (possibly more than one) was moved in pieces by Bill Gass, and reconstructed with new interiors, but keeping the style of the old house. It included a room for the contents of the old drug store. During Miner Tuttle's life the house was occupied seasonally and the farm (cattle and dairy) was operated by local farmers. After his death, his older son, Miner Jr. and his widow, Margaret Palisser Tuttle moved to family properties across South East Street, while his younger son George inherited the house on the hill. He sold it to Amherst College in July 1964 after the removal of the drug store memorabilia. Miner Tuttle Jr. and his wife Polly still live on South East Street.

For several years the college housed academic families at Fort Hill: Haskell Coplin's family was there by 1965 and stayed until 1990, sometimes with others in residence, including students. By the mid-nineties the house was apparently left empty. It was sold and the two major parts of it were moved to its present location on Gray Street in April 2008.