

Century Farm Estates

Ward Lane, Jackson Road, Parks Drive

Town	Sherborn
Area	M
USGS Quad	Medfield
Assessor's Sheets	4, 8
Form #s in Area	Jackson Road: 236 - 243 Parks Drive: 299 - 316 Ward Lane: 345 - 353
Photographs	Roll 12
Current Use	Residential
Construction Dates	1959-1984
Overall Condition	Excellent
Alterations	20 Parks Drive has been altered with vinyl siding
Acreage	Approximately 40
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, April 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Century Farm Subdivision is located south of Hollis Street in the southern part of Sherborn. It occupies approximately 40 acres of what used to be an orchard and other farmland. Terrain slopes down to the southwest, is partially wooded with several large open areas that serve as domestic yards and lawn. In one case, open space is in use as a horse paddock. Thirty five homes were built in the area between 1959 and 1984. All have attached garages of at least two bays. Some homes built since 1980 have three car garages. Later homes also tend to be larger than the early members of the neighborhood.

Architectural styles include the Cape Cod house, Garrison, Neo-Colonial Revival and some others with no identifiable style. Capes are smaller than other designs. They are one and one half stories at the maximum, side-gabled with clear architectural references to Colonial and Colonial Revival design motifs such as oversized center chimneys and segmental arched garage openings. Houses at 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 16** Parks Drive are examples of this style. This is also the oldest section of the area. A single side-gambrel form exists at 30 Parks Drive. It is set 150 off the road in a wooded parcel.

Garrisons are two or two and one-half stories. The side-gabled forms are distinguished from Neo-Colonial Revival style homes (for the purposes of this area form) by the presence of a jetty or overhang across the facade between the first and second stories. Examples of this type are found at 22 Ward Lane, 25 Jackson Road and 26 Parks Drive.

Neo-Colonial Revival style homes are similar to the garrison in their rhythmic sash placement and two and one-half-story, side-gabled forms, but lack the Garrison's jetty. Neo-Colonial Revival style homes are the most common in the area and are found on all three streets. At least one hipped example is present at 20 Jackson Road.

Other designs exist that do not fit into traditional architectural style categories. 21 Ward Lane makes no reference to historic design precedents but distinguishes itself by virtue of its size. Nineteen Parks Drive has an integrated front porch supported by six colossal piers that resemble columns. This design refers to southern plantation construction from before the Civil War. A ranch at 20 Parks Drive has been altered by the addition of glass blocks and vinyl siding to the facade. A second Ranch exists at 16 Ward Lane. Horse paddocks that belong to 20 Jackson Road are located northwest of the intersection of those two roads. Post and rail fences

and two small sheds indicate the equestrian uses here.

The homes in the area are well-maintained. Many of the Cape Cod houses on Parks Drive have not been altered from their original designs for almost 40 years. The large yards, present in every parcel, are all well tended. Subdivision streetscapes are visible down Jackson Road from Parks Drive and from Jackson Road up toward Hollis Street along Ward Lane. It is the oldest subdivision in the town and exhibits some of the smaller examples of modern residential architecture.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Construction on the subdivision began at the northern end of Parks Drive in 1959. Houses at 2 and 3 Parks Drive were first to be built and occupied in 1959 according to assessor's information. Homes further down (south on) Parks were sold by 1960 including 14, **16****, 19 and 26. Houses at 9, 30 and 25 Parks were built next but then an interruption in construction occurred until 1967.

At that time, several new homes were built, both on Parks Drive and on the northern end of Ward Lane. Construction progressed down (south on) Ward Lane until 1970. By that time, Jackson Road had been laid out and prepared for construction of a house at the corner of Jackson and Ward. Things slowed again until 1973 when 9 homes were built on Parks and Jackson between 1973-77. Sporadic infill on Parks and Ward continued until 1984 when the modern house at 21 Ward Lane was built, the last house added to the area.

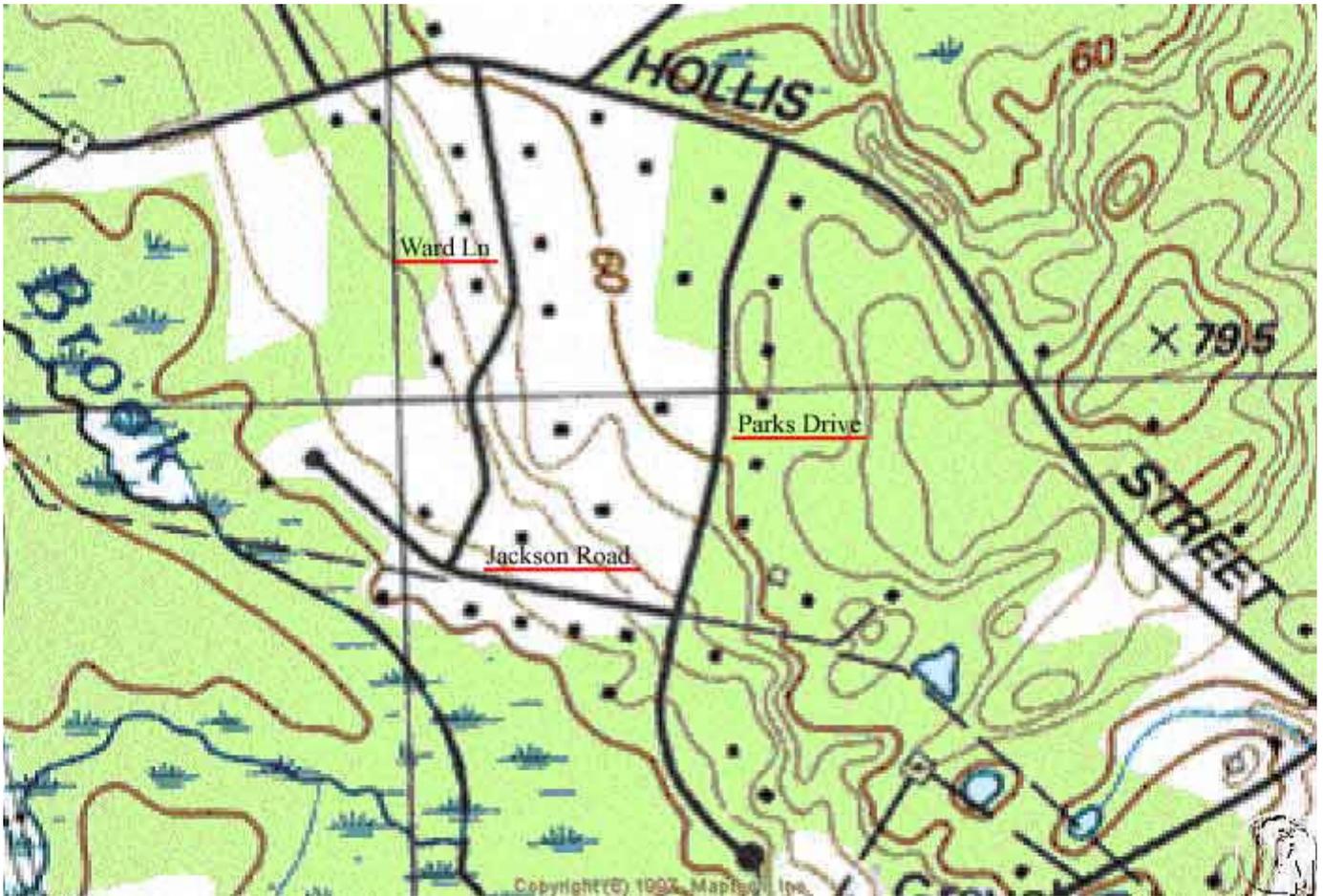
All or part of this land was Judge Samuel Sewall's property in the late 17th century. The house associated with the land at that time is at 128 Hollis Street, Ward J. Parks former home. Addington Gardner and his family were subsequent 18th and 19th century owners and cleared the fields that are now the suburban residential yards. The stone walls they built remain in existence throughout the subdivision.

Developers were the former land owner, Ward Parks, his daughter and son in law Joan and Frank Mott. Builders were Guile Wood and Mario Onorato, owner of **190 Maple Street****. Land for the subdivision was previously owned and the streets named for Ward J. Parks. The name Century Farm Estates was derived from the name of Mr. Parks' own farm. He was active in planning efforts in the town, served on the WW II rationing board and served as selectman from 1945-1959. Mr. Parks bought 120 acres on Hollis Street in 1915 near his home at 128 Hollis Street which he occupied until his death in 1964. Before building the subdivision, he kept horses, 20 cows and up to 2000 chickens on his property. His dairy herd was of sufficient size to require a silo. His orchard contained approximately 500 trees. Evidence of Mr. Parks' use of his land remains in the form of occasional stone walls and apple trees in the yards of some of the homes in the area. He had an orchard and stored the crop in his apple cellar according to tax valuations. Apple trees are visible at 19 Parks Drive, 15 and 21 Ward Lane.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Tax valuations
- Assessor information
- Research by Betsy Johnson

Sketch Map:



Area Data Sheet

MHC	Street	Property Name	Date	Style	Type / Status	NR Elig
236	1 Jackson Road		1974	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
237	2 Jackson Road		1967	Garrison	Area form	
238	5 Jackson Road		1974	Garrison	Area form	
239	11 Jackson Road		1974	Garrison	Area form	
240	15 Jackson Road		1973	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
241	19 Jackson Road		1973	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
242	20 Jackson Road		1971	Garrison	Area form	
243	25 Jackson Road		1974	Garrison	Area form	
299	2 Parks Drive		1959	Cape Cod	Area form	
300	3 Parks Drive		1959	Cape Cod	Area form	
301	8 Parks Drive		1971	Cape Cod	Area form	
302	9 Parks Drive		1962	Cape Cod	Area form	
303	14 Parks Drive		1960	Cape Cod	Area form	
304	16 Parks Drive	Dykens House	1960	Cape Cod	Area form	
305	19 Parks Drive		1960	No style	Area form	
306	20 Parks Drive		1967	Ranch	Area form	
307	25 Parks Drive		1962	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
308	26 Parks Drive		1960	Garrison	Area form	
309	27 Parks Drive		1982	No style	Area form	
310	30 Parks Drive		1961	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
311	32 Parks Drive		1979	No style	Area form	
312	36 Parks Drive		1976	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
313	41 Parks Drive		1976	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
314	42 Parks Drive		1978	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
315	48 Parks Drive		1977	Garrison	Area form	
316	51 Parks Drive		1981	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
345	2 Ward Lane		1968	Garrison	Area form	
346	3 Ward Lane		1967	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
347	9 Ward Lane		1967	Garrison	Area form	
348	10 Ward Lane		1970	Garrison	Area form	
349	15 Ward Lane		1968	Colonial Rev.	Area form	
350	16 Ward Lane		1968	Ranch	Area form	
351	21 Ward Lane		1984	No style	Area form	
352	22 Ward Lane		1970	Garrison	Area form	
353	25 Ward Lane		1970	No style	Area form	

