

# 60 Brush Hill Road



*Sawin-Bullen-Bullard House*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	2 house, 190 coop, 191 barn, 192 shop, 924 stone walls
<b>Area</b>	
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	60 Brush Hill Road
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	1/13
<b>USGS Map</b>	Framingham
<b>Historic Name</b>	Sawin-Bullen-Bullard House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Stephen and Catherine Petty
<b>" Original</b>	Possibly Thomas Sawin
<b>Constructed</b>	House ca. 1680-1712, Chicken coop ca. 1910, barn ca. 1850, shop ca. 1850, stone walls ca. 1900
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
<b>Style/Form</b>	Saltbox with Greek Revival entrance treatments
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	3 outbuildings
<b>Alterations</b>	Greek Revival entrance enframements added ca. 1840
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	34.00 acres (1981), 21 acres (1999)
<b>Setting</b>	Situated on well maintained lots, surrounded by fields and woods, adjacent to Course Brook

**Recorded** June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon  
**Updated** 1999, by Sanford Johnson

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 8

**X** Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. NRIND/MRA 1/3/86

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### 1981 Survey

While several Sherborn Salt Boxes have had their lean-to's encased in later additions (e.g. 52 Brush Hill Rd.), This house retains its distinctive profile and overall integrity of form. Possessing a center hall plan it retains narrow, simply enframed windows and a massive center chimney characteristic of First Period houses. A rather startling modification in terms of scale when compared with the narrow windows is the heavy ca. 1840 Greek Revival entrance. (Similar to 52 Brush Hill's entrance but lacks its Greek key motif on its pilasters.) Several outbuildings constructed of stone, brick and wood are of interest on this property.

### 1999 Update

The house at 60 Brush Hill Road was documented during the 1981 survey project and remains unaltered. It has undergone no major changes to its form, materials, design or location.

Outbuildings at the saltbox form Sawin-Bullen-Bullard House survive from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and lend a great deal of character to the property. The largest is the 1930s barn (#191), a two-story, front-gabled form with one and two-story additions made in the 1950s to the south elevation. The main block of the barn is perpendicular to the house, set 150' north of Brush Hill Road. The additions are clad in wood shingles. A one-story chicken coop, built around 1910, (#190) is east of the barn and also clad in wood shingles.

A building formerly used as a garage is attached to the north end of the house. It was constructed as a separate building around 1920 of uncut stone with wood trim and a gabled roof. This was attached in the 1930s to the north side of the house by a former barn moved to that location.

A building used at one time as a shop (#192) occupies a site south of the house immediately adjacent to the road. The diminutive banked, wood-shingled building has a slate roof and a high stone foundation. A center chimney of brick marks the roofline. Fixed 12 and 6-pane sash light the interior and a large vehicle door at the level of the road gives access to the ground story. Signs of blacksmithing activities such as nails recovered from the surrounding area may indicate a former use of the building. This is a well-preserved and rare example of a shop building in the town. Stone walls exist in various parts of the property. (#924)

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### 1981 Survey

This venerable Saltbox may have been built by Thomas Sawin (hence an early date of 1680). Morse notes that "Sawin was a millwright, settled on Chestnut Brook (now Course Brook) where he had 24 acres assigned to him. He built his first mill in 1679." He provided wood for the first First Parish Church building. His first child was born in Sherborn in 1686 and he later moved to South Natick.

On the other hand the Bullen family who settled on this property in the early 1700's may have erected this dwelling.

By the early 1800's Galem Bullard, a stone mason, lived here. He was widely known for erecting the "W Stone". In May 1822 he decided to remove the decaying remains of the so called W tree. This large black oak tree had a W carved upon it and was a landmark on the nearby Sherborn-Framingham town line. The W may stand for the 17th century Wayte Land Grant. Bullard hauled a 7 foot granite stone from his property, cut a large W with a date of May 29, 1822, and set it upon the boundary line. (He also added his name.) The W Stone's dedication party ended in a drunken melee, greatly strengthening Sherborn's nascent Temperance Movement.

During the late 19th century an A. B. Fay lived in this house.

Note: Galem Bullard was a farmer and dealer in mortgages. In 1852 his fortune was listed in the Rich Men of Massachusetts as \$50,000. It was said of him "that there is one thing which he esteems less than money, to wit, fine dress. He is one of the few immortal names, that was born to mind his own business."

### 1999 Update

The 1856 Walling map indicates H. Bullard to be the occupant of the house and associated buildings, among which the existing shop is specifically labeled as such. This is probably Hiram Bullard, a farmer with a wife and son, who sold the property to Albert Fay, also a farmer, around 1870. A sawmill\*\*, depicted across the road from the house on the Beers map of 1874, was associated with the property at the time.

Mr. Fay was the owner of 3 storehouses, 5 cows, 2 horses and a pig as well as his house and barn, all on 60 acres. It is likely that the shop (#192) is one of the above storehouses but no particular use is described in tax valuations. Mr. Fay's son, also named Albert, assumed ownership around 1880 and continued to farm the property and raise dairy stock. The 1889 Walker map notes the continued existence of the sawmill which may indicate ongoing lumbering or carpentry activities in the shop as a sideline to the farming operation.

Mr. Fay added chickens to the operation around 1910, the time when a hen house appears in the tax record. The former chicken coop is now the garage north of the barn. A garage is noted in tax valuations at this time as well, indicating the presence by 1915 of an automobile. The current owner indicates the former garage may be the stone building attached to the north end of the house in the 1930s. A single storehouse remained by this time, probably referring to the former shop building, the use of which was not fully described. The Fays remained in residence until at least 1935 when Alice Fay is noted in tax valuations as the owner of the house, barn, shed, storehouse, hen house and garage. The shed and storehouse are no longer standing.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

#### 1981 Survey

- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's File
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, and A Guide To Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- The Rich Men of Massachusetts - 1852

### 1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- 1928 Plan in Registry of Deeds, Vol. I, p. 147
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Sherborn Vital Records to 1850
- Town tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses
- Interview with Steve Geremia, owner, 6/99