

# 86 Brush Hill Road



*86 Brush Hill Road, May 1999*

**Form No.** 193, 194-barn; 195-coop; 196-shed

**Town** Sherborn

**Address** 86 Brush Hill Road  
**Assessor's #** 1/12  
**USGS Quad** Framingham

**Historic Name**

**Uses: Present** Residence  
**Original** Residence/agricultural

**Constructed** ca. 1900

**Source** Assessor information  
**Style/Form** Victorian Eclectic

**Architect/Builder**

**Exterior Material:**  
**Foundation** Uncut stone; concrete  
**Wall/Trim** Wood clapboard  
**Roof** Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings** Barn; chicken coop; shed

**Alterations** Some windows replaced

**Condition** Good  
**Moved** No

**Acreage** 3 acres  
**Setting** Rural  
**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 5  
**Recorded by** Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Eighty-six Brush Hill Road is a front-gabled, one and one-half-story Victorian Eclectic style residence, formerly used as a farm. The three by two bay plan is expanded by an enclosed hipped front porch and one-story bay window at the right (east) side. A gabled dormer and central crick chimney mark the roofline. Decorative elements include the gable returns, corner boards and molded cornice. Windows are modern, single pane double hung units with simple trim, probably installed during the recent rehabilitation with the door in the side-hall porch entry. The house at 86 Brush Hill road has undergone rehabilitation within the last two years and is in excellent condition. The barns are in good condition. The barn bears a strong resemblance to the barn at **46 Western Avenue** \*\*. The lot is wooded and appears to have a view to the north.

A wood-shingled, side-gabled barn (#290) with a low, shingled chicken coop attached to the left (west) side is in the back yard. The barn is two stories high with a central wall gable and a ventilator on the ridge of the roof. Ornament consists of gable returns at the gable, molded cornices and frieze windows. Sash in the gable are paired 12 pane casements with double-hung units below flanking the center entry. The principal opening is below the center gable and accessed by two swinging door. The low building at the west side and behind the barn appears to have been built in the early 20th century, judging by its exposed rafter ends. Large 12 pane fixed sash give this the appearance of a chicken coop. It is also clad in wood shingles. The shed is built partly of stone and partly of shingles. Large multiple-paned fixed sash light the interior of the one-story, side-gabled building.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The house and barn at 86 Brush Hill Road were constructed around 1900 according to assessor's information. Original owners of the property have not been determined but information about existing buildings indicates that a pump house and barn with attached hen house survive from before the mid-20th century. The house and barn were owned at that time by Robert and Hannah Lowe who may have been involved in raising chickens and other livestock. The lean-to and pump house are not visible or have been demolished, but the barn with the hen house attached to the northwest corner remains visible from the road. A garage which is no longer in evidence was also present by 1945. A semi-agricultural residence is depicted at this site on the W.P.A. map of Sherborn, 1939. A family named Huff owned the property in the 1950s. Subsequently, the Life Experience School, now on North Main Street, occupied the buildings until the 1980s.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Resident directories, 1898, 1915, 1917, 1930-31.
- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98;
- Tax valuations;