

8 Farm Road



Elbridge Bickford House

Form No.	19
Town	Sherborn
Address	8 Farm Road
Historic Name	Elbridge Bickford House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	George F. Hill
" Original	Elbridge Bickford
Constructed	1859 with 1870's wing
Source	Stylistic and Margaret Dowse Buntin
Style/Form	Greek Revival with Mansard addition
Housewright	Palemon Bickford
Ext. Wall Fabric	Vinyl (1980)
Outbuildings	Cinderblock garage
Alterations	Mansard east ell added c.1870
Moved	No
Acreage	1.00 acre
Setting:	Built on the slope of hill, adjacent to a well maintained lawn and a vegetable garden.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built into the side of a hill, this 2 1/2 story dwelling is composed of a Greek Revival cottage and a Mansard style east wing. Its 3 bay main facade exhibits a Greek Revival entrance unusual in the delicacy of its proportions--its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights, attenuated pilasters and is crowned by an entablature. Its east wing culminates in a straight sided Mansard roof. Mansard roofs are rare in Sherborn.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Palemon Bickford built this dwelling for his brother Elbridge Bickford in 1859. Elbridge Bickford was a Civil War veteran and owned a blacksmith shop on the site of the present town parking area (1 South Main Street). Elbridge Bickford added the Mansard style east wing ca. 1870. At one time the former "town lock-up" stood on the knoll in the southwest corner of this property.

This house along with: several other Greek Revival and Cape dwellings to the east were part of an overall Sherborn building 'boom' between 1830 and 1860. Farm Road is one of the town's oldest thoroughfares. It linked Sherborn Center with the Morse farm. Morses settled in Sherborn as early as the 1650s. Over the years Farm Road has been called 'The Road to the Farm'. 'The Village Road to Dover' and 'Trinity Street' the latter because of its proximity to the Pilgrim Church. In the early 1900's it officially became known as Farm Road. Note; The Town Lockup was on the grounds of 'The Poor Farm (Rockwood St.) and was moved to #8 Farm Road in 1898. In that year the Poor Farm was moved to #33 South Main Street (later St. Theresa's.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaugnessy - A Guide to Sherborn
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889