

156 Farm Road



W. E. Fowle House

Form No.	29
Town	Sherborn
Address	156 Farm Road
Historic Name	W. E. Fowle House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	David and Carol Hansen
" Original	Undetermined. Land was part of Converse Bigelow farm in 1798.
Constructed	ca. 1840-50
Source	Stylistic, maps
Style/Form	Greek Revival with Colonial revival alterations
Architect	
Ext Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage, shed
Alterations	Two wings added in 1920's.
Moved	No
Acreage	6.00 acres
Setting:	Located north of Farm Pond in area which retains much of its pre-20th century rural charm.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Judging by the massing and surface treatment of this rambling house's main block, it was probably built ca. 1840-50. Its temple form, fully enframed and pedimented windows and Doric corner and fascia boards place this house squarely within the Greek revival style. Projecting from its northern and southern walls are 2 1/2 story wings which were added in the 1920's, and feature colonial Revival Chinese fret-work balconies, bay windows, etc. Also dating from [he 1920's is the Greek revival main block's projecting porch (enclosed) which features a handsome Georgian Revival doorway complete with pilasters, pediment and quoins. The interior contains a number of noteworthy features including a 1920's ballroom wing which possesses a classicized black marble fireplace. Many of the interior doorways and windows of the eight room main block are surrounded by pedimented moldings. Still extant are several handsome Greek Revival fireplaces. This house is an interesting example of a mid 19th century farm house transformed into a more formal residence via extensive 1920's Colonial Revival additions.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Deed Research beyond the scope of this inventory is needed to determine this house's original owner. During the late 18th century it was part of Converse Bigelow's farm. The first record of this house is the 1875 map when it was owned by W. E. Fowle. He was from Auburndale, Mass. and also owned #157 Farm Road (across the street). An A. Morse owned this house in 1889. It was greatly enlarged in the 1920's.

Note: This house appears on the 1857 Middlesex County Map and is labeled A. Bigelow. This indicates that Fowle bought this house in the 1860's. The house across the street is labeled "Vineger Manufactory" on the 1857 Map.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaugnessy's - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- 1798 assessors records
- 1857 Map of Middlesex County