

210 Farm Road



Daniel Morse III House

Form Nos.	33 house, 222 barn
Area	H
Town	Sherborn
Address	210 Farm Road
Assessor's Map	16/14
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	Daniel Morse III House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Stephen O'Brien
" Original	Probably Daniel Morse III
Constructed	House ca. 1710, barn ca. 1900
Source	Max Ferro
Style/Form	Saltbox
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Wood shingles
Outbuildings	Barn and coop
Alterations	Original house a half-house enlarged at unknown date
Moved	No
Acreage	10.00 acres
Setting:	Surrounded by fields, forest, north of Farm Cemetery in one of Sherborn's most scenic areas.
Recorded	July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon
Updated	1999, by Sanford Johnson

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

This venerable dwelling was originally a half house. The earliest part being the eastern half, nearer Farm Road, its main block's end wall's exhibit the distinctive salt box profile. Its main facade features 4 bays on the ground floor and 3 bays on the second floor. The front door lacks pilasters but is crowned by a multi-pane transom and a Georgian pediment. A massive brick chimney projects from the roof's center. A curious 20th century modification is the metal ducts which project from the eastern gable's attic window. This house is one of a half-dozen ca. 1680-1720 salt boxes in Sherborn. Despite the fact that wood shingles cover its clapboards and an ell projects from its rear wall this house retains its integrity of form.

1999 Update

The house at 210 Farm Road survives as it is described on the survey form #33 completed in 1981 except that the rear ell roof was raised to add a second story.

The barn east of the Daniel Morse III House at 210 Farm Road (#222) is a Shingle style example built on a front-gabled, two and one-half-story, three by four- bay plan. A cross-gable, built flush with the wall, elevates the roof at its eastern slope and adds complexity to the massing in a way that is typical of the style. Decorative elements consist of the wood shingle cladding, exposed rafter ends, beltcourses of shingles across the gable peaks and the louvered ventilator at the roofline. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with simple trim. Access to the interior is through the vehicle opening in the middle of the west-facing facade. A second-story hay-mow door and a third door in the peak with hay track above also pierce the facade. A slim brick chimney rises from the roof peak of the gable, possibly for heating living space or work space inside. The well-maintained barn is flanked by post and rail fences and a low stone wall at the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This house has significant historical associations with the Morse family who were among Sherborn's first English settlers. Its land was part of the Bradstreet Grant of 800 acres purchased by Daniel Morse Sr. in 1656. This grant extended from the Charles River to the foot of Meeting House Hill and was known and has ever since been called "The Farm". Daniel Morse Sr.'s garrison house was located near the present 177 Farm Road, to the north of 210 Farm Road. Daniel Sr.'s grandson Daniel 3rd built the "old saltbox" at 210 Farm Road ca. 1710. As is so often the case with pre 1720 New England houses structural analysis points to one date of construction and local historians support another. Francis Bardwell in Sherborn's Tercentenary publication (1952) Says the house was built ca. 1670, while preservationists and architect Max Ferro maintains, after a study of its interior, that the house can be no earlier than 1710. Thus, the first owner was probably Daniel Morse 3rd, (1672-1719) rather than Daniel Morse Jr. (born 1642). In 1719 this house was inherited by Noah Morse, - the ninth child of Daniel Jr. During the late 18th century members of the Clark family lived here. By the late 19th century J. W. Barber owned "the old saltbox". He also owned another "ancient" Sherborn dwelling - the Capt. Joseph Morse House (1671) at 46 Forest Street.

Note. A board with a date of 1653 was discovered in this house after a fire gutted a portion of its interior ca. 1920s or 30s.

1999 Update

The barn at 210 Farm Road was built by Oliver N. Barber, the owner in 1900, according to tax valuations which record a dramatic increase in the value of his barn around that time. While Mr. Barber also owned the house at 46 Forest Street **, this residence is distinguished in the valuations by its being listed with the "Pond Lot", a reference to nearby Farm Pond. The property was the site of an orchard in the 1860s and a cranberry lot in the 1870s. A small dairy herd of between one and 8 cows existed from 1875 until 1910 and was probably housed in the barn. Also, Mr. Barber had as many as two carriages at one time which would have been sheltered here as well.

The owners by 1935 were Gelston and Mary King, clients of the Realtor Henry Channing. Mr. Channing was responsible for subdividing and marketing land and houses in this area of Sherborn to wealthy homebuyers from 1920-1950. The Kings constructed a water works, swimming pool, boathouse, hen houses and a new barn by 1945, creating a working gentleman's farm comparable to others in the Farm Estate Pond Area (Area H). The water works were constructed around 1930. A water supply building from the water works survives according to current assessor information but it is not visible from the street. A chicken coop is also indicated in assessor records but is not visible. Other homes in Sherborn with pump houses are located at 46 Forest Street** and 137 Western Avenue**. Hay was being grown on the farm in 1939 according to the W.P.A. map of that year, although the house is not depicted as a farm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Max Ferro
- "Historical Sketches, Sherborn Tercentenary 1652-1952 " Frances Bardwell
- "Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924" Sherborn historical Society

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map; 1939 Channing map; 1939 W.P.A. Map
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945