

# 43 Goulding Street



*Joseph Ware House*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	40 house, 231 garage, 232 shop
<b>Area</b>	
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	43 Goulding Street
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	12/119
<b>USGS Map</b>	Medfield
<b>Historic Name</b>	Joseph Ware House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Jeanne O'Brien
<b>" Original</b>	Joseph Ware
<b>Constructed</b>	House ca. 1710, shop ca. 1850, garage ca. 1920
<b>Source</b>	Visual analysis and owner's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Early 18th century frame vernacular
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Wood shingle
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn of considerable age, may date to early 18th. century.
<b>Alterations</b>	Rear wing added ca. 1920 by Margaret Burke Devitt.
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	18.00 acres 1981, 18.29 acres 1999
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated on a rise overlooking Goulding St. and Sewall's Brook to the north.

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

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 3

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### 1981 Survey

One of the few old houses in Sherborn which face north, the front part of 43 Goulding St. may date to ca. 1712. An examination of its interior revealed that the house was originally one room deep and probably had a small square stair hall. The cellars ceiling has log "stringers" of considerable age.

The original ridge roof with cedar shingles is still intact and is encased within a 19th century attic. This house's fenestration has been greatly altered over the years and its clapboards are presently covered with wood shingles. A front porch was added ca. 1920's along with a two story ell to the rear of the house.

### 1999 Update

The house at 43 Goulding Street (#40) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

In addition to the ca. 1710 residence at 43 Goulding Street, there are two outbuildings on the property. The larger is a three-bay, side-gabled garage, built around the advent of the automobile age (#231). It is a wood-framed building clad in novelty board siding with simple trim at the corners and eaves. Sliding doors and a roll-up door give access to the interior from the east elevation.

The smaller of the two outbuildings has the appearance of a shop building (#232), very similar to the one at 121 Coolidge Street\*\*. It rises one and one-half stories from a narrow plan, clad in wood shingles. A four-pane fixed sash in peak of the gable and the solid uncut stone foundation lend it the appearance of a building for human use instead of storage or animal habitation.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### 1981 Survey

This house has significant historical associations with Sherborn's Ware family. Capt. Joseph Ware and Capt. Joseph Morse formed Sherborn's first business partnership when they built a grist mill on Sewell's Brook at Goulding St. in 1710. 43 Goulding St. was probably built at the time of the grist mill's construction. By the early 1800's the Captain's great grandson, Eleazer Ware, had converted the grist mill into a sawmill. Eleazer's son, the wheelwright Vorestus Ware, was born in this house in 1822.

Tom Burke bought the old Ware House in 1868. It is still owned by his grandchildren. Margaret Burke Devitt bought this house in 1915 for \$3,000 and enlarged the house ca. 1920. Joanne O'Brien, her granddaughter is the current owner.

The foundation stone of the grist/sawmill can be found across the street from 43 Goulding St. on Sewell Brook. In addition a venerable barn on the property may date to the early 1700's and is said to have been part of the old sawmill.

## 1999 Update

The use of novelty board siding and the 1925 tax valuations indicate that the garage at 43 Goulding Street (#231) was built around 1920. Tax valuations refer to the three-bay building as a garage but it may also have served as a machinery shed judging by its size. The current doors appear to have been added in the last fifteen years.

The form of the second outbuilding, east of the garage, suggests a shop (#232) but all references in tax records indicate it to be a barn. It may have been built as a workspace for the wheelwright and carriage manufacturer Vorestus Ware. While he lived across the street, Mr. Ware may have moved the building. A historic photo exists of his wheelwright operation at 52 Goulding Street\*\* which may include an image of the current building sited among several others now gone from that property. Tradition states that the building was Joseph Ware's houses while first setting up his grist mill formerly located across the street.

The farmer Benjamin Ware is depicted on the 1856 Walling map as the property owner and was taxed in 1865 for owning a horse, a cow and a pig in addition to his house, barn and storehouse. The subsequent owners, Thomas and Catherine Burke, one of Sherborn's first Catholic families according to Shaughnessy, doubled the size of the operation to two horses and cows but eliminated the swine population. The farm continued to operate at this scale until ca. 1945 when Catherine Burke Devitt occupied the house with no resident animals. Tax valuations from 1925 reflect a large increase in value of the house, which was likely the time of construction of the rear addition and front porch. Owners in 1949 were Newman and Margaret (Devitt) Death. Current assessor's information describes the outbuildings as garage and barn.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

### 1981 Survey

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn and The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875, 1889

### 1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- 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
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses
- Visser, Thomas. Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings