

# 52 Goulding Street



*Branagan House, November, 1998*

**Form No.** 233, 234-barn

**Town** Sherborn  
**Address** 52 Goulding Street  
**Assessor's #** 12/116  
**USGS Quad** Medfield

**Historic Name** Branagan House

**Uses: Present** Residence  
**Original** Residence

**Constructed** ca. 1917

**Source** Tax valuations  
**Style/Form** Victorian Eclectic

**Architect/Builder**

**Exterior Material:**  
**Foundation** Uncut stone-main block; concrete- addition  
**Wall/Trim** Wood shingle; clapboard  
**Roof** Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings** Garage; octagonal outbuilding

**Alterations** Two-story addition at left of main block,  
1993, David Dunn, owner-designer of addition

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

**Acreage** 2.17 acres  
**Setting** Rural

**Film Roll/Negative** n/a  
**Recorded by** Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Victorian Eclectic style residence at 52 Goulding Street is a side-gabled, one and one-half-story, four by two-bay form with a two-bay modern addition at the left (west ) elevation. The addition, distinguished by a lower roofline, enlarges the plan by approximately 1/3. Other secondary masses include the gabled dormer on the front slope of the roof, a one-story, three-sided bay window on the right elevation and the hipped hood with jigsaw brackets over the off-center entry. Walls are clad in wood shingles on the main block and wood clapboards on the addition. Decorative elements consist of the gable returns on the principal mass, the addition and on the dormer, the Victorian Eclectic style entry hood and the beaded trim at the 6/1 double-hung sash.

A historic garage is located behind the house. The front-gabled form has a steeply pitched roof and a shed ell at the right side. Accordion doors with six fixed panes in each leaf march across the two-bay facade giving light and access to the interior. A single fixed pane lights the gable-peak. Novelty board clads the exterior walls. An octagonal barn was built in 1993-4 west of the garage. All buildings are in good condition and are set on a narrow secondary wooded road.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Edward and Agnes Branagan were the occupants of this house and its accompanying two and one quarter acres in 1925. Mr. Branagan worked as an insurance agent in 1930-31 and by 1935, they had built the two car garage in the back yard. While Mr. Branagan continued to live here until after 1945, it was with his second wife Helena. Land around the house was used in 1939 for pasture according to WPA maps from that year.

The site of 52 Goulding Street belonged to Vorestus Ware in the mid-late 19th century. He worked as a wheelwright, operating a very busy shop depicted in photos from the period, but fire claimed the house and wheel shops in the 1910s.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Resident directories, 1898, 1915, 1917, 1930-31
- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/18/98.
- Town valuations.
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Comments of owner, Mary Dunn.