

86 Hunting Lane



Emily J. Lewis Cottage

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| Form No. | 49 |
| Town | Sherborn |
| Address | 86 Hunting Lane |
| Historic Name | Emily J. Lewis Cottage |
| Uses: Original | Summer cottage |
| Present | Residence |
| Ownership, 1981 | Joel Herskowitz |
| " Original | Emily J. Lewis |
| Constructed | 1880 |
| Source | Deduced from Deed - Book 158, Plan No. 31 |
| Style/Form | Late 19th century frame vernacular with elements of Stick and Queen Anne. |
| Architect | |
| Ext. Wall Fabric | Clapboard, wood shingle |
| Outbuildings | Garage |
| Alterations | |
| Moved | No |
| Acreage | 2.50 acres |
| Setting: | Located in wooded, rocky, hill area, close to road, several trees of considerable age on property. |
| Recorded by | Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981 |

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Originally built as a summer cottage about 1880, this small dwelling is essentially rectangular in plan. It is composed of a 1 1/2 story main block and 1 story rear ell. It rests on a brick foundation and is crowned by a gable roof. Projecting from its main facade is an open porch which displays turned porch posts and a railing composed of closely spaced vertical boards and horizontal boards decorated with punched-out circular forms. A pedimented section of the porch roof indicates the entrance. Wide horizontal boards interspersed between narrow clapboards appear above and below the 2nd floor windows. Above these windows are rows of staggered butt shingles. The gables' collar beam, king post and braces strike picturesque Stick style note.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This cottage was built about 1880 for Emily J. Lewis. According to Margaret Dowse Buntin, she was a relative of the Boston family that owned Lewis Wharf. In November 1879 Emily J. Lewis bought 1.96 acres of land adjacent to Hunting Lane, between Paul and Brush Hills. At that time a plan of the property was drawn up entitled "Prospect Farm".

For many years this land had been owned by Perry's - a family that settled on nearby Edwards Plain (North Main St.) in the late 17th century. A Perry homestead was located at the intersection of Hunting Lane and Green Lane on the site of the present Dawood Yassa house (81 Hunting Lane). A structure appears on this lot on the 1788 map. In 1857 it was owned by W. H. Perry. By 1875 a J. Gray was its owner. Hunting Lane was not officially laid out until the 1850's.

Emily Lewis apparently built 86 Hunting Lane shortly after her purchase of "Prospect Farm" and used it as a summer cottage. It became a caretakers' house in the early 1900's after the Charles D. Lewis house was built. (The old Perry house was apparently dismantled.) Lewis' Hunting Lane estate was called "a gentleman's farm" - here he raised cattle and "was a familiar face at cattle auctions". A Kathleen Lewis lived in the main Lewis house until 1955 when it was sold to James D. and Rita P. Abbott. This cottage is of interest as one of the first dwellings in Sherborn built primarily as a summer place. Charles D. Lewis lived in Framingham during the winter months.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- "The Century Turns" - published by the Sherborn Historical Society, 1966
- Interview with Margaret Dowse Buntin
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Registry of Deeds - Book 158-Plan No. 31 and Book 8577-Page 229, Sept. 30, 1955