

36 Kendall Avenue

(no photo)

Benjamin Kendall House

Form No.	51
Town	Sherborn
Address	36 Kendall Avenue
Historic Name	Benjamin Kendall House or Sunshine Farm
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Mr. and Mrs. James D. Geoghegan
" Original	Possibly Benjamin Kendall
Constructed	Portion may date to 1734, enlarged ca. 1830
Source	Owner and Morse's History of Sherborn
Style/Form	Federal
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Old barn burned in 1971
Alterations	Rear segment which housed farm hands removed in 1939
Moved	Back from road, 1939
Acreage	21.96 acres
Setting:	Situated on a rise, Sunshine Dairy is located diagonally across the street, stables directly across street.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Part of an 18th century dwelling may be encased in this structure. Its owner says there is evidence that this house was completed one room at a time. The house was enlarged to its present size in 1870. It is composed of a 2 1/2 story main block and one story east ell. Its chimneys were moved to their present locations near the gable ends in 1939. Its 5 bay main facade features 6/6 sash windows and a handsome entrance. Its front door is flanked by narrow multipane skylights and panels. It is crowned by an entablature and projecting cornice which is much lighter than the heavy Greek Revival entablatures popular in the 1840's and 1850's.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Kendall Avenue was originally part of "The Road to Eames". The Eames family settled in north-west Sherborn, later South Framingham, in 1701. The Eames, Coolidges and Kendalls who settled along this road came from Watertown, Ma. "Sunshine Farm" may incorporate part of the dwelling which Morse says Benjamin Kendall and his wife Kesiah Leland (who were married 24 Jan. 1733) built in 1734. The present main block was enlarged to its present size ca. 1810. A Jonathan Leland is said to have lived in

this house in 1830. Between 1840 and 1860 Kendalls and Wares owned this property. In 1860 a Dr. G. W. Dennett and his mother bought the old Kendall Place. Dr. Dennett served as head of the Sherborn Musical Association. Walter Leach, a farmer, bought the house at auction in the early 1900's. He housed farm hands in a rear ell. The present owners, the Geoghegans, bought this house in 1939. In that year they moved the house back and removed its farm hands' ell to a site just north of Sunshine Dairy across the road. (This ell was originally one of the School houses of Sherborn's North District from the 1860's until 1924 when this part of Sherborn was annexed to Framingham. When it was moved to this house it returned to Sherborn, however, its present location is back in Framingham where it is the home of Lawrence Geoghegan, James' son.) Since 1942 the Geoghegans have operated the Sunshine Dairy. It is one of the few dairy farms left within Sherborn's borders and their ice cream stand is a popular local attraction.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Interview with Mrs. James Geoghegan
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Maps of 1788, 1874 and 1889