

# 13 Lake Street



*William Chamberlain Dowse House or "White Oaks Farm"*

<b>Form No.</b>	54
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	13 Lake Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	William Chamberlain Dowse House or "White Oaks Farm"
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	W. C. Price
<b>" Original</b>	W. C. Dowse
<b>Constructed</b>	1856
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin
<b>Style/Form</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Remodeled summer cottage built c 1897
<b>Alterations</b>	Ell extended and its roof raised in the 1930's
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	19.70 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated on a tree-shaded rise with a picturesque summer cottage on knoll to the rear of house.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

#13 Lake Street is part of the inventory of solid Greek Revival Houses built in the Dowse's Corner area between the 1830's and the 1860's. A side hall plan house, its 3 bay south gable faces Lake Street. Its handsome classicized front-door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights, Doric pilasters, and is crowned by a heavy entablature. Its edges are defined by wide fascia and corner boards. To the rear of the main block is an ell which was enlarged in the 1930's. Its tin roof was added in 1907 at the time of a fire which destroyed a barn. To the rear of this property is a summer cottage which was built in 1897 for "Boston dwelling relatives."



**Summer Cottage**

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Lake Street was laid out in 1852 through swampy land between Dowse's Corner and Eliot Street. # 13 Lake Street was the first house on this thoroughfare. It was built in 1856 by William Chamberlain Dowse on land given to him by his father Benjamin. W. C. Dowse's son Aaron inherited this property. He was a journalist and editor of the "New England Grocer." He was active in state and town politics, serving as Representative to the Massachusetts legislature and as a selectman and assessor.

During the 1930's Joseph Lavash ran a chicken farm on this property. It was during his occupancy that lightning blew a hole in the cellar wall enabling him to fashion an outside cellar entrance.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

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