

# 177 Lake Street



*Esther Parker House, November 1998*

<b>Form No.</b>	251
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>address</b>	177 Lake Street
<b>Assessor's #</b>	11/67
<b>USGS Quad</b>	Medfield
<b>Historic Name</b>	Esther Parker House
<b>Uses: Present</b>	Residence
<b>Original</b>	Residence
<b>Constructed</b>	1964
<b>Source</b>	Assessor information
<b>Style/Form</b>	Ranch
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Jack Pierce, architect
<b>Exterior Material:</b>	
<b>Foundation</b>	Concrete
<b>Wall/Trim</b>	Brick
<b>Roof</b>	Wood shingles
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Vertical board fence; attached greenhouse; shed
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	3.04 acres
<b>Setting</b>	Rural
<b>Film Roll/Negative</b>	Roll 5
<b>Recorded by</b>	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Ranch style house at 177 Lake Street was built of brick with design elements made popular on the west coast by Sunset Magazine and other design publications. The L-shaped plan and very low pitched gabled roof are distinguishing features of the house. It is sheathed in wood shingles, has deep eaves to cover the casement windows and large fixed glass walls that light the interior. An attached two-bay garage is located at the west end of the plan and is integrated into the overall design by its matching gabled roof. A shed-form greenhouse is at the south elevation, facing Farm Pond and a brick chimney rises from the center of the plan. Decorative elements consist of patterns of openings left by bricks absented from the walls and by narrow vertical boards that serve to interrupt the large planes of glass near the primary entry. A tall vertical board fence and a stone wall separate the house from the road. A woodshed not visible from the road was built in 1975.

The house is well preserved and represents a building type popular in the mid to late 20th century. Another well preserved Ranch is located at **46 Prospect Street\*\***.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Esther Parker has been the sole owner of this modern Ranch style residence since its construction in 1964 according to assessor's information. Mrs. Parker was an accomplished gardener and raised camellias in the greenhouse attached to the residence. The house was built to the design of architect Jack Pierce and fronts on Farm Pond. This property was originally part of the estate bought by Esther and Tony Parker in 1937. They lived in the large Oliver Pomeroy house (see Form 27) at 112 Farm Road until 1963, when they sold it and divided the property into three parcels. Sherborn had implemented zoning by-laws in the 1930s, a time when people were beginning to realize the value of semi-rural land for housing that was located within easy driving distance of employment centers. From Sherborn, residents could drive quickly to work in Boston, Medfield, Ashland and Framingham, among many other semi-urban communities.

As rural small towns and farming in general became less viable, commuting became more common, and emphasized the issues of real estate location, social status based on modernity and low-cost, low-maintenance housing. The ranch was promoted across the country as a convenient, efficient residence requiring less interior cleaning and less exterior refinishing.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98.
- Town valuations.
- Comments of owner, Esther Parker.