

16 Maple Street



John Fleming House

Form No.	61
Town	Sherborn
Address	16 Maple Street
Historic Name	John Fleming House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	A. Pittman
" Original	John Fleming
Constructed	ca. 1850
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	3 acres
Setting:	Situated on a rise, its front yard features a low rubble stone retaining wall.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout Sherborn, but particularly in the vicinity of Sherborn Center are Greek Revival houses with 3 bay gable end facades built between 1840 and 1870. 16 Maple Street boasts fully enframed windows whose lintels resemble miniature pediments. Its handsome doorway features narrow multipane sidelights and a heavy entablature. Several windows of its east wing display similar treatments. Much of this house's appeal lies in its color scheme - clapboards are gray, trim is white and shutters are black. The photo was taken before the house was repainted.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built for John Fleming, one of four brothers who came from England to Sherborn in the 1840's. Rev. John Fleming came to Sherborn from a church in Boston and served the First Parish from 1850 - 1853. With his brothers who were willow workers in England, they founded a successful willow business, making baskets, hampers and even carriage work. The willow which they brought rootstock from England was grown in a damp area behind this house. John Fleming moved to 58 Maple St. in 1857.

Baskets of all sizes, from small trinket boxes to large shipping hampers, were the Flemings main stock and trade.

Note: Maple Street is one of the older street's in town. Prior to the early 1900s it was known as "the road to Ashland" and "Dirty Meadow Road". In the late 19th century Emerson Holden of #39 Maple St. planted Vermont Maple trees along this hilly thoroughfare.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's card file
- Maps of 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974