

18 Maple Street



Thomas Fleming House

Form No.	62
Town	Sherborn
Address	18 Maple Street
Historic Name	Thomas Fleming House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Craig Rafter
" Original	Thomas Fleming
Constructed	ca. 1850
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	West and rear wings added in late 19th c.
Moved	No
Acreage	2.57 acres
Setting:	This house is astride a brook. Its driveway is flanked by a low rubblestone wall.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Apparently the same builder constructed 18 and 16 Maple St. Both Greek Revival houses exhibit similar pedimented window entramementi. 1 1/2 stories tall, its main facade gable is three bays wide.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in the 1850's for Thomas Fleming, one of four Fleming brothers engaged in the willow weaving business. It was built astride a stream because water was needed to soften the shoots to make them pliable enough to weave. Thomas Fleming is listed as this house's owner on the 1875 map.

Note: The Fleming's had learned their trade in England. They brought with them a special type of tree called 'osier' which grew best in a damp place. Their principle crop came from behind the shopping center on North Main St. Their main products were baskets of all sizes, from small trinket boxes to large shipping hampers. Maple Street is one of the older streets in town. Over time it has been called the Road to Ashland and Dirty Meadow Road (late 19thc.) This hilly thoroughfare retains much of its pre 20th century rural charm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

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