

90 Maple Street



"The Button balls" or Samuel Clark, Jr. House

Form No.	69
Town	Sherborn
Address	90 Maple Street
Historic Name	"The Button balls" or Samuel Clark, Jr. House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Marian Phipps Gray
" Original	Undetermined
Constructed	ca. 1720's
Source	"Historical Sketches of Sherborn Tercentenary 1652-1952"
Style/Form	Saltbox
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Shingle
Outbuildings	Stable
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	70.00 acres
Setting:	Located close to road behind fieldstone wall, surrounded by pasture and woods.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, August 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This venerable center chimney saltbox may well date to the 1720's. There are fireplaces, brick ovens, hand hewn oak timbers, and hand wrought nails that place this house's date of construction to ca. 1720-1750. Additions to the rear of the house probably date to the late 19th Century. In many ways, 90 Maple Street resembles another Sherborn saltbox - 60 Washington Street.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

No record of the building of this house has yet been found. Traditionally a date of 1722 has been assigned to this house--perhaps with the thought that Samuel Clark, Sr., was born here. He was born in 1722, but at "the old Clark place near Farm Pond." It is certain that his son, Samuel, Jr., brought his bride, Elizabeth Learned to lived here in April, 1778. Apparently a Whitney Hill of Holliston owned this land in the 1720's and probably built this house. There is a tradition that the house was moved from Medfield, but built as it is, with a large central chimney, that would hardly seem probable.

Reverend Amos Clark , only son of Samuel Jr. was born here in 1779. He graduated with the Harvard class of 1804 and became the seventh minister of the First Parrish in Sherborn. He recalled his father planting button ball trees in front of the house about 1789. Six generations of the Clark family lived here. By the late 19th century, it was owned by a Mrs. Boyce.

The present owner, Marian Phipps Gray recalls that her parents bought this house about 1916,from a minister. They subsequently purchased the Northrup House across the street to accommodate their family. Maple Street is one of the older streets in town. For many years it was called the Road to Ashland and on late 19th century deeds is referred to as Dirty Meadow Road. At some point in the late 19th century Emerson Holden of 39 Maple planted Vermont Maple trees along this street. This hilly thoroughfare retains much of its pre 20th century rural charm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Telephone interview with Marian Phipps Gray
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- "Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924 by the Sherborn Historical Society
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856