

# 93 Maple Street



*Clark - Northrup House*

<b>Form No.</b>	70
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	93 Maple Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Clark - Northrup House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Marion Phipps Gray
<b>" Original</b>	Nathaniel Fry Clark
<b>Constructed</b>	ca. 1855
<b>Source</b>	Deduced from maps
<b>Style/Form</b>	Mid 19th century frame vernacular with Italianate and Greek Revival elements.
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	5.10 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	In area which retains much of its pre 20th century rural character, lot displays mid 19th century landscape elements e.g. semi circular drive, arrangement of trees etc.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Hidden behind a screen of trees and facing a semi-circular driveway on the south side of Maple St. is the Clark-Northrup House. This 2 1/2 story frame structure is of a rectangular plan. It rests on a granite block foundation and is crowned by a gable roof. Stylistically, it displays elements of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles. Projecting from the center of its 5 bay main facade is an open entrance porch. Porch posts which might be loosely called Doric support a heavy entablature and overhanging cornice. The front door is flanked by narrow multipane sidelights. This house's windows are fully enframed - the first floor windows are culminate in slightly projecting caps. This dwelling's edges are defined by wide Doric corner and fascia boards. Its round arch windows are Italianate in character. Narrow brick chimneys project from its gable roof. This structure's form, orientation and Italianate elements represent a rare departure from the 3 bay Temple form Greek Revival dwelling which was built throughout Sherborn and elsewhere in New England between ca. 1835 and 1870. It was built just ahead of the town's building boom which occurred along North and South Main Streets during the 1840's and 1850's.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This house first appears on a ca. 1855-1860 map in the collection of the Sherborn Historical Society. It is labeled N. Clark. Nathaniel Fry Clark was the son of the Rev. Amos Clark who lived across the street in the "Button-balls". Nathaniel was born Jan. 8, 1815 and married Eleanor Leland in 1844. He sold this house to Isaiah M. Northrup in the 1860s or early 1870's.

The Rev. Abner Morse does not provide biographical information on Northrup in The History Of Sherborn and Holliston (1856). He was undoubtedly a farmer. The earliest mention of the house in deeds is April 23, 1890. At that time the house passed from a Charles S. Northrup (presumably Isaiah's son) to a John L. L. Claflin et. al. Trustees.

By the early 1920's the parents of the present owner, Marian Phipps Gray, purchased this structure to house family members. The Phipps also owned the saltbox across the street, "Buttonballs". Maple Street is one of Sherborn's older streets. For many years it was known as "The Road to Ashland" or "Dirty Meadow Road". This hilly thoroughfare's Maple trees were laid out at some point in the late 19th century by Emerson Holden of 39 Maple St.

NOTE: Northrup may have been among the cranberry pickers who gathered the harvest in the lowlands to the rear of the house.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Untitled map of ca. 1855-1860 in the collection of the Sherborn Historical Society
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Registry of Deeds (Middlesex County) Book 1968 p. 208