

190 Maple Street



John Whitney House

Form No.	75
Town	Sherborn
Address	190 Maple Street
Historic Name	John Whitney House
Ownership, 1981	Mario Onorato
Original Owner	John Whitney
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Constructed	1800
Source	Shaughnessev - <u>A Guide to Sherborn</u> , 1974
Style/Form	Early 19th c. frame vernacular
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Brick barn
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	21.55 acres
Setting:	Situated on high ground overlooking a man-made pond. The town's only brick barn is located on this property
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This commodious frame farm house is composed of a main block and west wing. 2 1/2 stories tall the Maple St. facade has been altered by the addition of a bay and a c. 1870 door hood. In addition this structure's fenestration Shows other signs of alterations - double windows appear on its Maple Street facade. Despite changes in appearance over time this house possesses an integrity of form and provides a glimpse of life on a 19th c. farm.

Particularly noteworthy is the large brick barn to the northeast of this house it was erected in the early 1900's by George Dexter. It is one of the very few, if not the only brick barn in Sherborn.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

John Whitney and his son James built this house in 1800. At that time Maple Street was the principal route west to Ashland from Sherborn. The Whitney's operated a farm on their property until the late 19th c. Lyman Whitney and G. L. Whitney are listed as this ouse's owners in 1875 and 1889, respectively.

George Dexter, a wealthy Bostonian, built the brick barns on this farm in the early 1900's. He used the old Whitney House as a summer home for the first part of this century. In 1929 the first airplane to land in Sherborn came down in the meadow behind Dexters house. It was a charter plane flying the U.S. MAIL and was forced down by a combination of fog and the strange actions of the pilot's compass. Just 100 years before this, the historian Biglow had spoken of a section of the Whitney property called City Hill. He noted that this area was "little more than a pyramid of rocks, piled up by the rude hand of nature. When the magnetic needle is brought near this, there is a local attraction which causes it to vary. George L. Whitney lived here until about 1912, when he bought #5 Washington Street from George Fleming. The old barn burned down after George Dexter bought it and had the brick barn erected.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Anne Carr Shaughnessey - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's card file
- Maps of 1875, 1889
- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences.
- 1857 Middlesex County Atlas