

71 Nason Hill Road



Harold Cranshaw House, November 1998

Form No.	277
Town	Sherborn
Address	71 Nason Hill Road
Assessor's #	8/135
USGS Quad	Medfield
Historic Name	Harold Cranshaw House
Uses: Present	Residence
Original	Residence
Constructed	1950
Source	Assessor information
Style/Form	Ranch
Architect/Builder	Ralph Prescott Heard architect
Exterior Material:	
Foundation	Concrete block and stone
Wall/Trim	Stucco
Roof	Asphalt shingles
Outbuildings	
Alterations	Addition to west elevation, ca. 1962
Condition	Good
Moved	No
Acreage	3.77 acres
Setting	Rural
Film Roll/Negative	Roll 3
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Ranch style residence at 71 Nason Hill Road is a banked, ridge-hipped building either constructed of concrete or clad in stucco. The rectangular plan is banked into the earth at its northwest corner, providing the southern elevation with a two-story facade and the other elevations with one. Six bays, lit at the second story with single, paired or tripartite double-hung sash, march across the facade. The principal entry is in the southeast (right) corner and the chimney rises from the east wall. A greenhouse has been attached to the southwest corner of the first story, to the left of the garage which is in the center of the main floor of the facade.

Dry-laid fieldstone walls retain the banked earth at the southern corners of the well-maintained house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 71 Nason Hill Road was constructed in 1950 for Richard Olney who sold to Harold Cranshaw in 1955. Mr. Cranshaw taught at the Faye School in Southborough and also operated MacArthur's Market in Sherborn. Florence Cranshaw worked at the Dover Sherborn High School Guidance Department from 1970-1988. The house was built near the site of an 18th and 19th century house and barn that burned around 1915. An ancient roadway once connected Hollis to Bullard along the north side of the house.

The 1950s were a period of rapid suburbanization in the town and entire region. Sherborn had implemented zoning by-laws in the 1930s, a time when people were beginning to realize the value of semi-rural land for housing that was located within easy driving distance of employment centers. The town's multiple-acre zoning reduced the likelihood of being bothered by very closely-built neighboring houses. From Sherborn, middle through upper class residents could drive quickly to work in Boston, Medfield, Ashland and Framingham, among many other semi-urban communities, and return to a pastoral, quiet house each evening. As rural small towns and farming in general became less viable, commuting became more common, and emphasized the issues of real estate location, social status based on modernity and low-cost, low-maintenance housing. The ranch was promoted across the country as a convenient, efficient residence requiring less interior cleaning and less exterior refinishing, all with the advantage of built-in, easy-to-use features like appliances and furniture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/18/98.
- Tax valuations.
- Comments of Florence Cranshaw;