

3 and 5 North Main Street



Mrs S. E. Sanford house

Form No.	81
Town	Sherborn
Address	3 and 5 North Main St.
Historic Name	Mrs S. E. Sanford house
Uses: Original	Residence, site of Sanger Tavern
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Allen L. Smith
" Original	Sanford Leland
Constructed	ca. 1870
Source	Maps.
Style/Form	Late 19th century frame vernacular
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Aluminum siding
Outbuildings	
Alterations	Synthetic siding added in the 1970's
Moved	No
Acreage	.50 acre
Setting:	Situated across the street from the Dowse Memorial Building, located in one of the most densely settled sections of town.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Unfortunately this residence has been denatured by the application of aluminum siding to its walls. Essentially L-shaped in plan, it culminates in steeply pitched intersecting gable roofs. Projecting from its North Main Street facade are covered entrance porches and a polygonal 2 story bay. Still intact is the original multi-paneled front door. In terms of scale, if not fabric, this house is integral to its densely settled linear neighborhood, which includes houses along South Main Street and Zions and Linden Lanes.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

At some point between 1857 and 1875 this house's land passed from the heirs of Joseph Sanger to a Mrs. S. E. Sanford. Built about 1870, the present houses configuration first appears on the map of 1875. Its lot was once occupied by Samuel Sanger's tavern. The Sanger's were one of Sherborn's most prominent families during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Samuel inherited the tavern /store/residence from his father Richard, who made a small fortune in Maine and Massachusetts land speculation. The old tavern was described as a "long, low structure.....only one of its eleven doors was utilized as an entrance." It was here that Washington stopped on his last trip through New England (1789). By the early 1800's Samuels son Joseph owned this property. His handsome Federal house was located across the street on the site of the Dowse Memorial Building. His brother, Col. Calvin Sanger lived a short walk to the south at 8 Washington St. His daughter, Maria and her husband, Dr. Oliver Everett, built the house next door at 1 North Main St. The tavern last appears on the map of 1857.

By the 1890's Jennie and Sanford Leland lived here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889