

# 26 North Main Street



*Devitt's Garage, November 1998*

**Form No.** 281

**Town** Sherborn  
**Place** Sherborn Center  
**Address** 26 North Main Street  
**Assessor's #** 11/29  
**USGS Quad** Medfield

**Historic Name** Devitt's Garage

**Uses: Present** Auto repair  
**Original** Auto repair

**Constructed** ca. 1926

**Source** Tax valuations  
**Style/Form** No style

**Architect/Builder**

**Exterior Material:**  
**Foundation** Undetermined  
**Wall/Trim** Cast block; cinderblock; wood shingles  
**Roof** Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings**

**Alterations** Shed roofed additions in both sides, ca. 1961

**Condition** Good  
**Moved** No

**Acreage** 1.38 acres  
**Setting** Town center

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 5  
**Recorded by** Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Devitt's Garage at 26 North Main Street is one of only a few commercial establishments in Sherborn Center and one of even fewer number engaged in light industry. The automotive repair building is a front-gabled form of one and one-half-story that has been enlarged by the construction of shed-roofed additions to both side elevations. The original mass of the garage has rock-faced cast concrete block walls supporting a wood-shingled gable. A roll-up door covers the vehicle opening while a pass door and multiple pane fixed sash provide light and access. A double-hung sash lights the gable peak. A secondary roll-up door, pass door and multiple pane sash pierce the side additions. The building looks onto its parking lot where cars await repair work and beyond toward busy Main Street.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Devitt's Garage at 26 North Main Street was opened by two brothers who grew up on Goulding Street, John and Thomas D. Devitt, around 1926. They paid tax in 1935 on a house, a garage and two gas tanks on Main Street but it is John Devitt, the town's first firechief, who is noted as the owner of the garage in 1930-31 resident directories. Thomas Devitt owned the house on Goulding Street where they both lived in that year. Thomas D. Devitt owned the Chevrolet Dealership on the property, owned and drove school buses for many years. The brothers may later have co-owned the house at **28 North Main Street\*\*** according to tax records. They sold Shell Gasoline and completed repairs with such major, built-in equipment as an air compressor and automobile lift. The Devitt Family was among the founding members of the Sherborn's Catholic Parish, Saint Theresa's, in the 1920s.

The current business is solely involved in auto repair, the gas pumps having been removed. Shed-roofed additions to both sidewalls of the building were made in the 1950s, enlarging the work-space by approximately double. The garage remains under Devitt ownership.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Resident directories, 1915, 1917, 1930-31.
- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn, 1939.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/18/98.
- Town valuations;

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Devitt's Garage was sold sometime prior to 1994 and is now known as Rose's Automotive