

30 North Main Street



Dowse-Mann House

Form No.	90
Town	Sherborn
Address	30 North Main Street
Historic Name	Dowse-Mann House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Mrs. Charles W. Taylor
" Original	Eleazer Dowse, Jr.
Constructed	Portion said to date to 1782
Source	Dowse Family Papers
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	If 1782 date is correct, then house was remodeled, rather than built, in the Greek Revival Style ca. 1840-1860.
Moved	No
Acreage	Less than one acre
Setting:	Situated opposite the Powder House Lane, North Main Street intersection. It is on the edge of a commercial district.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Greek Revival modifications belie this house's ca. 1782 date of construction. Its edges are defined by wide corner and fascia boards. Rigidly rectangular in plan, it is surmounted by a gable roof with return eaves. Its main entrance is located on the 3 bay south facade rather than on the gable end which faces North Main Street. Its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights and is crowned by a triangular pediment.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house has significant historical associations with Sherborn's Dowse family. It was built for Eleazer Dowse, Jr.⁺ He was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, September 1, 1750, and came to Sherborn with his parents on the eve of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Dowse's Charlestown home was burned by the British the day after they fled. Eleazer Dowse, Jr., was one of 13 children. He married Mary Bullard on May 16, 1792. She had lived across the street at 33 North Main Street. Their daughter, Polly, was born here in 1787 and married Capt. Ebenezar Mann*, who was Sherborn's most prominent builder. Polly spent her 95 years in this house. By 1889, an M. B. Douglas lived in this dwelling.

⁺ Eleazar Dowse Jr., like his father and brothers, was a leather dresser and wool puller. His first Sherborn home was that of his parents on Everett St. (No longer extant.) The Dowses used the boggy low land to the east of Everett St. for the digging of pits in which to soak hides.

* Ebenezar Mann was responsible for the Col. Calvin-Sanger House (8 Washington St., built 1819). He also built the Eleazar Goulding House - a well crafted late Federal farm house at 137 Western Ave. (built 1825). Morse notes in the Adenda of his History of Sherborn and Holliston that Ebenezar was the son of Moses Mann and the grandson of Capt. James Mann of Natick and Newton, respectively. He was only the third generation to use the name Mann. His grandfather escaped from a British man-of-war at Boston and 'who in declaration of his resolve to be a man and not a slave, took the name of Mann and completed his minority with his protector at Newton.'

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Dowse Family Papers
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856