

# 32 North Main Street



*Ben Bullard House (4/12/2006 photo)*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	91 house, 284 barn
<b>Area</b>	B,G
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	32 North Main Street
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	11/30, 11/31
<b>USGS Map</b>	Medfield
<b>Historic Name</b>	Ben Bullard House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Roger Osterling
<b>" Original</b>	Ben Bullard
<b>Constructed</b>	House ca. 1840, barn ca. 1850
<b>Source</b>	Margaret D. Buntin
<b>Style/Form</b>	Elements of Federal and Greek Revival
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboards
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	Main block ca. 1795, rear ell ca. 1830-1840. Built as two family.
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	Less than one acre 1981, 1.25 acres 1999
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated in one of Sherborn's more densely settled areas - surrounded by mid 18th to mid 19th century residences, commercial district diagonally to South.
<b>Recorded</b>	June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon

**Updated** 1999, by Sanford Johnson

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 5

**X** Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. NRDIS/MRA 1/3/86; LHD 8/18/83

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### 1981 Survey

This homestead's ca. 1830-1840's main block is one of very few structures in Sherborn which feature symmetrical recessed entrance porches at the corner of a gable end wall. This house's gable is extremely wide, having four bays on its first and second levels. 28 Everett St. and 147 Western Ave. houses which repeat this unusual form have much narrower and more steeply pitched Gables. Form no. 32 and 34 North Main Street's porches possess Tuscan columns which support a wide entablature beneath the roof's eaves. Its entrances display narrow multi pane sidelights and molded surrounds which are Greek Revival in character. The main block's windows are simply enframed. The rear ell probably dates to ca. 1798-1800. A tall brick chimney projects from its gable roof. This is one of Sherborn's most attractive pre Civil War cottages and a welcome variation on the usual Greek Revival Temple Form 3 bay formula.

### 1999 Update

The Benjamin Bullard House at 32 North Main Street (#91) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

The barn on the property of 32 North Main Street is built on a one and one-half- story, L-shaped plan southeast of the house. The front-gabled form, gable returns and frieze are similar to those found on the Greek Revival style Benjamin Bullard House. The one by-four bay building is clad in wood clapboards on the sides and wood flushboard on the facade. A one-story ell is attached to the right (south) elevation, also clad in wood clapboards. The main entry is covered by swinging doors of the type used in the mid 19th century, prior to the advent of the rolling or sliding type. Windows are fixed sash with either four or six panes and no trim. Three hay mow doors give access to the upper floors through the facade.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### 1981 Survey

Local historians Anne C. Shaughnessy and Margaret Dowse Buntin maintain this two family residence was built ca. 1798 by "old Ben Bullard". It would seem more likely that the rear ell and perhaps another house on the site of the present main block were built around 1800. The current main block's massing is more of a "spin-off" of the Greek Revival vernacular and probably dates to the third or fourth decades of the 19th century This house does not appear on the 1788 map but a structure on this site is mentioned on a 1798 list of Sherborn homeowners. During the 1870's and 1880's a Mrs. S. L. Gilmore lived here.

### 1999 Update

L. Bullard owned this property according to the 1856 Walling map. This person may be Leonard Bullard who also owned the house 15 North Main Street\*\*. Sarah L. Gilmore was the occupant of the house according to the 1875 Beers map of Sherborn Center and to tax valuations from that year. According to property valuations, she owned the house, barn and storehouse through 1885. The values of the buildings remain consistent in relation to each other, indicating the likelihood that this barn and house

were both present before 1875. The form and detail of the barn suggest a construction date around 1850. A nurse named Grace Auringer lived here from ca. 1925-1945 and probably used the barn as a garage. The storehouse ceases to appear in current assessor records but may be the secondary mass attached to the south elevation of the barn. The house is in use as a duplex and the barn as a garage.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

### 1981 Survey

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Rowena Butler's Reminiscences
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889

### 1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- 1931 County Commissioners Map of Main and Washington Streets in Registry of Deeds
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Tax for the town of Sherborn 1865-1945
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Sherborn Vital Records to 1850
- 1855, 1865 state censuses