

46 North Main Street



Dr. Tapley Wyeth house

Form No.	96
Town	Sherborn
Address	46 North Main Street
Historic Name	Dr. Tapley Wyeth house
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	William Van Blarcom
" Original	Dr. Tapley Wyeth
Constructed	Est. 1790-1798, midsection possibly 1680-1720
Source	Morse - <u>History of Sherborn and Holliston</u> , 1856
Style/Form	Federal
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	1 acre plus
Setting:	Village - opposite Hunting Lane and adjacent to Victorian Holbrook mansion
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This handsome residence was built for a Sherborn physician, Dr. Wyeth. It is composed of a main block whose scale, form, hip roof and window treatments are Federalist in character. The doorway appears to be an early 20th century replacement. A late 19th century stereopticon view shows a late Georgian pediment above the front door. The current entrance has a shallow hood above an entablature. Once level with the road, the house was raised in the late 19th century but not moved. The two rooms of the center hall plan main block retain original paneling and interior shutters. This house is an integral part of the 18th and 19th century character of its area.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house has locally significant historical associations with Dr. Tapley Wyeth, one of the most prominent citizens of Sherborn in the late 18th and early 19th century. The middle segment of the present house may have been built ca. 1680-1720 by Benoni Learned. His son Edward (born 1705) inherited the property. The present main block was built ca. 1790-1798 for Dr. Wyeth. He graduated from Harvard College in 1786. Francis Bardwell notes that "The name Tapley brands him of Essex County, for the family of Tapley is as much of Essex County as are Choate and Peabodys" He married Sally Fish who was related to the Sherborn Hills family. Their first child, Eliza, was born in 1799. Her gravestone was re-discovered in the basement by the present owners. Dr. Wyeth represented Sherborn in the General Court of 1813, and served the town as selectman for six years. A second daughter, Lucy Coolidge Wyeth, never married but was a dressmaker and lived here until her death in 1881. Dr. Wyeth died in 1819. During the early 1900's Dr Paul lived here along with school teachers who boarded in their home - J. M. Dowse among them. During the 1940s and 1950s a family named Richardson lived here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- "Historical Sketches, Sherborn Tercentary, 1652-1952", Francis Bardwell