

# 47/49 North Main Street



*Bigelow Cider Mill*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	97 house
<b>Area</b>	B,G
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	47/49 North Main Street
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	11/40
<b>USGS Map</b>	Framingham
<b>Historic Name</b>	Bigelow Cider Mill
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Cider mill
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Gary Skrinar
<b>" Original</b>	James Bigelow
<b>Constructed</b>	Before 1875 (ca. 1850?)
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Mid 19th century frame vernacular
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Wood shingle
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Garage
<b>Alterations</b>	Converted from cider mill to residences 1875. - 2 story bays and wings probably added at that time.
<b>Moved</b>	From behind #51, ca. 1875
<b>Acreage</b>	1.00 acres 1981, 1.73 acres 1999
<b>Setting:</b>	Faces curved driveway, front lawn slopes down to rubble stone retaining wall and street. Situated at corner of Hunting Lane and North Main Street.
<b>Recorded</b>	July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon

**Updated** 1999, by Sanford Johnson

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 9

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### 1981 Survey

This structure was originally used as a cider mill. It is composed of a 2 1/2 story main block and one story wings (north and south). Polygonal, 2 story bays were added to its main facade ca. 1875. Its wide gables face east and west. Its clapboards are covered by wood shingles.

### 1999 Update

The house at 47-49 North Main Street (**#97**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time. In an effort to update the 1981 inventory form, owners submitted the following additional information:

- Correct address is 47-49 North Main Street (not just 49)
- Dormers were added in 1987
- Side additions, or "wings", have upstairs bedrooms, making them one and one-half stories
- This may be the only surviving wooden cider mill building in the town

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### 1981 Survey

#47/49 North Main Street was originally a cider mill located behind #51. James Bigelow owned this mill until ca. 1875, when he sold it to George Clement. Clement had a large truck farm in West Sherborn. He moved the building to its present site and remodeled it into a two family dwelling. George Clement is listed as the property owner in 1889. This house has significant historical associations with the light manufacturing -actually cottage - industries which were located in shops and houses along North Main Street during the 19th century. In addition to this cider mill, there was an edge tool factory, a blacksmith shop, coffin maker, etc.

Note: Sherborn supported more than 20 cider mills and in the 1800's produced enough to be taxed - most successful of all was Jonathan Holbrook's cider mills on Forest St. It became the largest refined cider business in the world. Bigelows cider mill was a small time neighborhood operation in comparison to Holbrook's mills.

1999 Update [no update]

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

### 1981 Survey

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

1999 Update [no additional references]