

51 North Main Street



Captain Henry Partridge House

Form Nos.	98 house, 289 barn
Area	B,G
Town	Sherborn
Address	51 North Main Street
Assessor's Map	10/26A
USGS Map	Framingham
Historic Name	Captain Henry Partridge House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Alvin C. Tyson
" Original	Captain Henry Partridge
Constructed	Ell ca. 1800, main block ca. 1820 [ca. 1840?], barn ca. 1875.
Source	Visual, Buntin's research and Anne C. Shaughnessy - <u>A Guide to Sherborn</u>
Style/Form	Federal
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Wood shingle
Outbuildings	Barn, garage
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	2.00 acres 1981, 1.24 acres 1999

Setting: Situated on edge of gentle rise. Northern edge of property adjacent to 1796 Stone House, front lawn attractively landscaped with low shrubs.

Recorded June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon
Updated 1999, by Sanford Johnson

Film Roll/Negative Roll 9

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

This house was apparently built in stages - its 2 story rear ell appears to date to ca. 1800, while its 2 1/2 story main block was constructed ca. 1820. Originally covered with clapboard, it is presently swathed in wood shingles. Its highly symmetrical 5 bay main facade exhibits an elegant Federal style entrance. Crowned by an elongated elliptical arch, its front door is flanked by narrow multi-paned side lights. Architecturally this house is integral to the late 18th century - mid 19th century character of Sherborn's old "manufacturing district" - that is, the area along North Main Street from Hunting Lane to Dowse's Corner.

1999 Update

The house at 51 North Main Street (**#98**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time. The barn (**#289**) at 51 North Main Street is a two-story, front-gabled form clad in board and batten siding. The steeply pitched roof and board and batten siding suggest a Gothic Revival influence on the design. A rolling vehicle door pierces the right (south) side of the first story of the facade and smaller hay mow door is above that. The peak of the front gable is lit by a 2/2 double-hung sash. Openings and eaves on the facade have wide, simple trim.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This house has significant historical associations with Captain Henry Partridge. He operated an edge tool factory in the Stone House to the north. His pitchforks, cranberry rakes, adzes, knives, etc. were used throughout New England during the 19th century. Captain Partridge perfected a process to obtain high quality steel. James Bigelow operated a cider mill in a building behind the house which was later moved to 49 North Main Street.

Descendants of Captain Partridge lived in the house until 1939, when the property was sold and divided.

1999 Update

Prior research indicates this to be the home of Captain Henry Partridge, an edge tool maker with a factory located in the stone building at **53-55 North Main Street****. Also, James Bigelow operated a cider mill in the back yard, a building now at **47-49 North Main Street****. By 1856, the house is depicted on the Walling Map as the residence of Mrs. Bigelow. In 1865, it was in the hands of the owners for the next 35 years, George F. Clement, from Woodstock, Vermont, and his wife Abbie from Hiram, Maine. The Clements occupied the house and operated James Bigelow's former cider mill from 1865 until around the turn of the 20th century. The cider mill was valued at \$150 in 1865. This amount increased to \$3300 in 1895 and is mentioned in conjunction with machinery, possibly a steam engine as was used to grind apples at **102 Washington Street****. Throughout the period, Mr. Clement owned what

tax valuations called the "stone dwelling" which refers to the former edge tool shop at **53-55 North Main Street****, Captain Partridge's former establishment. In addition, the Clements kept horses, cows, swine and oxen on the property.

A barn of moderate size is described in 1865 tax valuations. However, a dramatic increase in value in 1875 may indicate the construction of a new barn. This is the approximate construction date for the existing building. It was here that the horses, cows and oxen would be kept. Alvin and Harriet Tyson had become the owners by 1945 and remained here into the 1980s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

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

1999 Update

- 1856 Walling map; 1874 Beers map; 1889 Walker map; 1939 W.P.A. Map
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/18/98
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- Vital Records of Sherborn, Massachusetts to 1850.