

# 53/55 North Main Street



*Stone House*

<b>Form No.</b>	99
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	53/55 North Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Stone House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Edge tool manufacturing
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Joseph Mozdiez
<b>" Original</b>	Capt. Harvey Partridge
<b>Constructed</b>	1796
<b>Source</b>	Shaughnessy - <u>A Guide to Sherborn</u> , 1974
<b>Style/Form</b>	Utilitarian stone vernacular
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Stone
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Shed and green house
<b>Alterations</b>	Rear ell added ca. 1812
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	0.60 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated close to the road southern wall adjacent to slope of hill. It is located in one of the more thickly settled areas of Sherborn.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This solid 2 1/2 story structure is constructed of locally quarried granite. Its rear ell, added ca. 1812, does not exhibit the high degree of craftsmanship evident in the ca. 1796 main block. Its walls are 12"-15" thick. Fenestration is accented by long rectangular granite blocks which serve as sills and lintels. Its 3 bay wide east gable faces North Main Street. Access is gained to the main entrance via steps and an open porch on its south side.

This is one of the towns very few stone structures built before the 20th century. Two stone water towers are still extant (late 19thc.). While many 18th and 19th century dwellings had small shops on their lots in the vicinity of Dowses Corner, this substantial structure was built as a manufacturing 'plant'. Most of this neighborhoods non residential structures have been moved or dismantled.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Stone House at 55/53 North Main Street housed Captain Harvey Partridge's edge tool factory. Together with his brother-in-law Malachi Babcock, who had his blacksmith shop next door (no longer extant), he perfected a process to obtain a high quality steel in the 1800's. Captain Partridge's products included pitchforks (the Partridge Pitchfork is featured in many New England Tool museums), cranberry rakes, adzes, knives, and broad axes.

It was converted for use as a private residence in the 1860's. This structure is integral to the late 18th - mid 19th century character of the old "manufacturing district" located between Hunting Lane and Dowse's Corner.

By 1875 an E. Leland lived in this house.

This house dates to the first phase of the Edwards Plain areas development as a manufacturing district. (late 18th century.)

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- "Historical Sketches Sherborn Tercentenary" (1952) by the Sherborn Historical Society
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889