

59 North Main Street



Charles Dort Dowse House

Form No.	102
Town	Sherborn
Address	59 North Main Street
Historic Name	Charles Dort Dowse House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Robert Della Selva and Denise Ray
" Original	Charles Dort Dowse
Constructed	ca. 1890-1895
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Carpenter Gothic
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Large barn behind house dismantled, summer 1981
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	6.80 acres
Setting:	Situated in one of Sherborn's more densely settled areas, near Dowse's Corner (intersection of Coolidge, North Main and Lake Sts.)
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1890-1895, this house is a late manifestation of the Carpenter Gothic and the only representative of this style in Sherborn. Its irregular plan, steeply pitched gables, ecclesiastical trefoil or shamrock decoration (porch and attic gables) represent the last gasp of a type of domestic architecture promoted by A. J. Davis and A. J. Downing in the 1830's and 1840's. This house's windows are fully enframed and narrow - a vaguely Italianate touch. The barn to the rear of the house, parts of which are said to date to the 18th century, is currently being dismantled (summer 1981). Architecturally this house greatly contributes to the 18th and 19th century charm of this area.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

An 18th century dwelling built by Andrew Newall in 1767 originally occupied this house's lot. Newall's place apparently burned in the 1880's. The present house was constructed by Charles Dort Dowse ca. 1890-1895 - the eighth house in the Dowse Corner area to be built for a member of the Dowse family. Charles D. Dowse had built North 112 North Main St. and then moved here. A Mr. Stoddard lived here for a while, presumably in the 1890's, and a Whipple family lived here in the early 1900's. School teachers boarded with the Whipple family including J. M. Dowse.

Note: During the 1870s and 1880s Charles Dort and Emily Dowse lived in San Jose, California. It is interesting to note the similarities of style and form between this house and the old C. D. Dowse house at 112 North Main St. Both display Gothicized detail and are of an irregular plan. Undoubtedly this late use of the Carpenter Gothic was for nostalgic reasons on the part of the returning C. D. Dowses.

Note: House and barns undergoing expert restoration/preservation 1981/1982.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Dowse Genealogy
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889