

60 North Main Street



Plain School

Form No.	103
Town	Sherborn
Address	60 North Main Street
Historic Name	Plain School
Uses: Original	School
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Richard Bemis
" Original	Town of Sherborn
Constructed	1834
Source	Paper presented to Sherborn Historical Society by Charles Dowse, 1931
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	Hiram Jones of Dover
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	Bay window, rear addition, wall dormer added in early 1900's and 1950s.
Moved	1. A few feet to rear of property - 1866 2. Back to roadside - 1901
Acreage	Less than one acre
Setting:	Located diagonally across North Main Street (to northeast) from the 1796 Stone House.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built as a schoolhouse in 1834, this 1 1/2 story Greek Revival Structure was considerably altered in the early 1900's when it was converted into a residence.* Constructed of wood, it is of a rectangular plan and rests on a brick foundation. Originally its west gable had two entrances - one for boys and one for girls. Above these doors was a bracketed door hood (added ca. 1870). Old photographs show round arched attic windows rather than a pair of windows. Still intact, however, are handsome corner boards. Fascia boards run the length of its side walls although an early 20th century wall dormer interrupts their flow on the south wall. A bay window has been added to the west facade gable.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Hiram Jones of Dover, who was also one of the builders of the First Parish Church, the Plain School was remodeled as a house by Charles Olsen in 1900. With the exception of the Town Hall, the Plain School is the only 19th century school structure still extant in Sherborn. By the mid 19th century there were 7 school districts in Sherborn - the Plain School was located in district 2. In 1866 it was moved back many yards to create a play area. An iron bucket with a pump in it was placed near the roadside portion of the school property. This structure was moved closer to the street when it was converted to residential use.

* Sherborn's district schools were gradually phased out between 1890 and 1910. With the completion of the Center School in 1910, Sherborn's 8 grades could be conducted under one roof.

Note: This school's name is derived from Edwards Plain - the densely settled area between Sherborn Center and Everett St. This part of Sherborn was encompassed within Edward West's large land grant. In 1694 he was appointed schoolmaster of the town.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Photographs from the Sherborn Historical Society
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889