

86 North Main Street



Sparhawk House

Form No.	107
Town	Sherborn
Address	86 North Main Street
Historic Name	Sparhawk House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence and antique shop
Ownership, 1981	R. Wickson
" Original	Emlyn Sparhawk
Constructed	1833
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
Style/Form	Cape
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage and a two story structure to rear of house.
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	2.37 acres
Setting:	Situated on roadside, a large gnarled tree of considerable age is located to the south of the house.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is a simple 2 1/2 story Cape Cottage. Covered with clapboard, it culminates in a wide ridge roof. A pair of brick chimneys project from the roof's center. Its main entrance is flanked by narrow multi-pane side lights, attenuated pilasters, and is crowned by a covered elliptical fan. To the rear of this property is a barn and a 2 story structure which are both covered in weathered wood shingles.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1833, this house was owned for many years by the Sparrowhawk or Sparhawk family. It was built for Emlyn Sparhawk, grandson of Timothy Sparhawk, who came to Sherborn in 1775. The Sparhawks first settled at Timothy Sparhawk Corner (Farm Road and South Main Street). Emlyn Sparhawk had a boot shop on this property in 1875. While excavating a basement for his home, he discovered the site of a 17th century stockade defense against the Nipmuck Indians. He found the remains of posts set together on the ground as well as a quantity of arrowheads.

Note: According to Charles H. Dowse the fortification on this lot dates to the Revolution and not to the 17th century. He notes that "At the commencement of the Revolution, a building was erected near the residence of Deacon Fisk for the storage of provisions for the army and a guard placed over it. When Mr. Emlyn Sparhawk dug the cellar to this house, posts were found close together which was undoubtedly part of the stockade around the guardhouse. In 1777 Sherborn men were drafted for six months and stationed to guard military stores in Sherborn and Mystic, Mass."

Sparhawk's great granddaughter Sara lived here until she retired from teaching at the Central School in the 1950s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - [A Guide to Sherborn](#), 1974
- Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924 - "Sherborn Soldiers of the American Revolution by Charles H. Dowse