

102 North Main Street



Nathaniel Henry Dowse House

Form No.	111
Town	Sherborn
Address	102 North Main Street
Historic Name	Nathaniel Henry Dowse House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Peter J. Tarkoy
" Original	Nathaniel Henry Dowse
Constructed	1854
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's files
Style/Form	Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Aluminum siding
Outbuildings	Garage and shed
Alterations	Interior alterations - 1942, exterior altered 1976
Moved	No
Acreage	1.50 acres
Setting:	Located in one of Sherborn's few densely settled areas. One of several Greek Revivals adjacent to key intersection of Coolidge, North Main and Lake Sts.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Greek Revival dwellings were popular in Sherborn and in Dowse's corner in particular during the 1840's and 1850's. The Nathaniel Henry Dowse House features a wide variety of Greek Revival surface treatments. Built in 1854 its freely enframed and pedimented windows reflect the growing penchant for more plastic surfaces. Composed of a main block and north and south ells its main entrance is recessed and crowned by a heavy entablature and triangular cornice. Its south ell displays an open porch with columns which might be loosely called Doric. Its edges are crisply defined by wide corner and fascia boards. The fenestration of its north wing was greatly altered in a 1970's remodeling.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house is one of eight houses around the intersection of Lake, Coolidge and North Main Streets built by members of Sherborn's leather dressing Dowse family. Nathaniel Henry Dowse's father, Nathaniel, had a whip shop in the ell of 100 North Main St. (next door). Beginning in 1850 his father had a shoe shop across the street. 102 North Main St. may be said to reflect the initial prosperity of the Dowse's enterprise which made heavy plough shoes or brogans for the southern market (mostly for plantation slaves). Nathaniel Henry and his wife, Annie Phipps Sanger (granddaughter of statesman, real estate tycoon and factory owner Col. Calvin Sanger) occupied this house shortly after their wedding on August 23, 1854. After the Civil War he was sent as an official of the U. S. Government "to supervise the sacking of the plantations" - he returned valuables looted during the war to their southern owners. Nathaniel Henry Dowse lived here into the 1890's. By the 1940's it was owned by a Mrs. Morton, retired warden of the Women's Reformatory in Framingham.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Maps of 1857, 1875 and 1888
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide To Sherborn, 1974