

# 106 North Main Street



*Joseph Dowse House*

<b>Form No.</b>	112
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	106 North Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Joseph Dowse House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Stephen H. and Charlene M. Bishop
<b>" Original</b>	Joseph Dowse Jr.
<b>Constructed</b>	1819
<b>Source</b>	Dowse Genealogy
<b>Style/Form</b>	Federal
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Wood shingle
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	Clapboard covered with shingles probably in early 1900's.
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	2.5 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated in northern portion of Dowse's area in one of the town's most densely settled areas - part of linear settlement pattern along North Main St. (Route 16)

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The pleasing symmetry, compact form, and well crafted entrance suggest this house is the product of one of the town's master builders - either Ebenezer Mann or Bowen Adams. Dowses were related by marriage to these housewrights. Rising 2 1/2 stories to a fully pedimented, gable roof, this house's clapboards have been covered with natural wood shingles. The 5 bay main facade's entrance represents a fusion of the Federal and the then nascent Greek Revival style - delicate attenuated pilasters support a relatively heavy Greek Revival entablature. This house was to have been crowned by a hip roof but Dowse changed his mind mid way through construction. A one story addition projects from the rear of the house. 2/2 sash have replaced the original multi-pane windows.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This is one of eight dwellings around the intersection of Lake, Coolidge and North Main Streets built by members of the Dowse family. This family of leather dressers was known beyond Sherborn's borders as master whip makers and later shoe makers. Joseph Dowse Jr.'s grandfather, Eleazer, fled Charlestown, Ma. on the eve of the Battle of Bunker Hill and settled in Sherborn on Everett St. Later generations of Dowses built homesteads on North Main and Lake Streets. This area became known as Dowse Corner. Joseph Dowse Jr. of 106 North Main St. had a whip shop which stood close to the south of the house. In his shop 20 foot whips were made entirely by hand. His brothers Benjamin (91 North Main) and Nathaniel (100 North Main) also had whip shops. The last Dowse Brothers whips were made in 1876 and were shipped to Minnesota where stagecoaches were still being used. Joseph Jr.'s daughter, Emily, married Bowen Adams Jr., son of the master builder. They lived here in the 1870's while another daughter, Rebecca Maynard, lived here as a widow in the 1880's. It was owned by different families until in 1925 the Edmund C. Dowse family purchased it causing the Framingham News to write, "So in the process of time the Dowses come back to the old time home".

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1874 and 1889
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn and The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Dowse Genealogy