

112 North Main Street



Charles Dort Dowse House

Form No.	113
Town	Sherborn
Address	112 North Main Street
Historic Name	Charles Dort Dowse House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Robert A. and Stephanie Doucette
" Original	Charles Dort Dowse
Constructed	1859
Source	Dowse Genealogy
Style/Form	Elements of Gothic Revival and Italianate
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	2.50 acres
Setting:	Northern boundary line adjacent to Plain Cemetery. Well maintained front yard features a gazebo-like "wishing well"
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Stylistically this dwelling exhibits Gothic Revival and Italianate elements. Its irregular plan, wide, steeply pitched gables, and front porch place it squarely within the mid 19th century romantic cottage tradition - a frame vernacular manifestation of the cottages of A. J. Davis and A. J. Downing. Particularly noteworthy is the Gothicized front porch with its wide pointed arches, the triple round head window of the second floor, and the quatrefoil, or four-leaf clover, attic windows set in diamond-shaped frames.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

For many years the Charles Dort Dowse family resided in this house. Dowse and his bride, the former Emily Adams, moved here shortly after their marriage on February 24, 1859. Their daughter, Mabel Dowse, was editor of children's books for the Silver Burdett Company in New York City. She died in the 1960's. The C. D. Dowses lived in San Jose, California, in the 1880's and returned to Sherborn in the 1890's. Their son, Robert, died of a fever in the Spanish American War. By 1889 a G. Aucy owned this house.

Upon their return to Sherborn in the early 19th century, the C. D. Dowses built 59 North Main St. which echoes 112 in terms of Gothicized detail and irregular massing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Dowse Genealogy
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Interview with Margaret Dowse Buntin