

# 115 North Main Street



*Perry Dowse House*

<b>Form No.</b>	114
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	115 North Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Perry Dowse House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	John Plimpton
<b>" Original</b>	Possibly a member of the Dowse family
<b>Constructed</b>	ca. 1885
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Elements of Colonial Revival
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Garage, shed
<b>Alterations</b>	Wings and porches probably added in 1890's or early 1900's
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	13.60 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated at the end of a winding, tree shaded drive. Between the house and barn (west) is a circular driveway.

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This rambling house is difficult to "read" because of modifications which include projecting screened and enclosed porches, Colonial Revival treatments of undetermined vintage, and a massive tree which obscures a large portion of the building. Neo Colonial Federal elements include large multi-pane windows, fanlights, and a crisp red and white color scheme.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is not shown on the 1875 map and appears unlabeled on the map of 1889. Further research is needed to determine its original owner. Perry Dowse lived here from the early 1900's until his death in the 1920's.

Joseph Perry Dowse, a farmer, was born November 12, 1849. He was the son of William Chamberlain and Eliza Coolidge Dowse who lived at 13 Lake Street. (His uncle, Edmund Dowse was the minister of the Pilgrim Church from 1837-1905.) 115 North Main St. was probably built in 1888, the year that J. Perry Dowse married Mary S. Read who was born the daughter of Asa and Hannah Read in 1840. In 1893, Perry Dowse married again Charlotte L. Adams, the daughter of Alden H. and Charlotte A. (Fales) Adams. Perry Dowse died of burns he received while burning leaves on this property in 1919 or 1920.

G. Farrington Fiske of 27 Hollis St. (Old Red House) recalls that his father bought this house about 1920. In 1949 the Fiskes sold to the current owners, the Plimptons who enlarged the house.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Maps of 1875 and 1889
- Interview with G. Farrington Fiske