

3 Prospect Street



Davis Farm, November 1998

Form No.	326, 327-barn
Town	Sherborn
Address	3 Prospect Street
Assessor's #	5/61
USGS Quad	Framingham
Historic Name	Davis Farm
Uses: Present	Residence
Original	Residence/agriculture
Constructed	ca. 1870
Source	1874 Beers map; tax valuations
Style/Form	No style
Architect/Builder	
Exterior Material:	
Foundation	Uncut stone
Wall/Trim	Asbestos; wood shingle
Roof	Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings	Cast block barn
Alterations	Partially re-sided with asbestos; addition to rear of house
Condition	Fair
Moved	No
Acreage	2.76 acres
Setting	Wooded
Film Roll/Negative	Roll 6
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Three Prospect Street is a two-story, four by two-bay, side-gabled house set back from the road. A full-width shed dormer occupies the front slope of the roof; a shed-roofed porch is attached to the facade and a one-story addition has been made to the rear of the house. The exterior is clad in asbestos clapboards and wood shingles, the foundation is uncut stone and the roof is asphalt shingles.

East of the house is a large barn constructed of quarry-faced cast block. The front-gabled form is two stories in height with two vehicle doors piercing the facade at the groundstory. Smaller openings light the gable peak and provide access to the upper floor. Although the building is some distance from the street and the lot is wooded, it appears that the roof of the barn may be clad in slate shingles, a rarity in Sherborn.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The owners of 3 Prospect Street in 1875 were probably Fanny and George Davis, who owned 40 acres of land, a cider mill, a shed and a barn according to tax valuations. The barn in the valuations is not the extant cinderblock example. The Davis' kept a horse and 8 cows on the property in 1885 and continued to make cider. Some portion of their 40 acres may have been under cultivation as orchard as their cider operation grew in value every ten years until 1925, after which it does not appear on tax lists. Values for the barn indicate that it was probably built after 1935. Like many other Sherborn residents, the Davises began raising chickens around 1905 in addition to their cider and small dairy operation. WPA maps from 1939 indicate a hay field surrounding the house. No evidence of the shed, hen houses or former cider mill is visible from Prospect Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- 1874 Beers map; 1889 Walker map; 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Resident directories, 1898, 1915, 1917, 1930-31.
- Tax valuations;