

127 Prospect Street



Rev. Howard N. Brown House

Form No.	122
Town	Sherborn
Address	127 Prospect Street
Historic Name	Rev. Howard N. Brown House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	James Geoghegan
" Original	Undetermined
Constructed	ca. 1835-1850
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Mid 19th century frame vernacular
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	
Alterations	House was probably enlarged ca. early 1900's. 137 Prospect St. was originally an ell on this house.
Moved	1940's
Acreage	9.00 acres
Setting:	Located at bend in Prospect St. Hidden from view by screen of trees.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house appears to have been greatly enlarged - it may have been built as a 1 1/2 story Cape. Its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights and is in the center of the 5 bay main facade. Colonial Revival porches with Tuscan columns project from the front and rear walls (probably early 1900's addition). A double shed dormer projects from the center of the roof's northern slope.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Some confusion exists concerning the labeling of this house on the 1875 and 1889 maps. The "Otis Adams" which appears in this vicinity may be associated with either this house or a property across the street.

The Rev. Howard N. Brown, minister of Kings Chapel owned it in the early 1900's and kept a large herd here. "The milk was so rich and pure it was sold to Children's Hospital". In the 1940's an ell was moved off and became 137 Prospect St.

Anne C. Shaughnessy notes that "The George Abbot's who acquired it in 1930, arrived from Beacon Hill with the intention of covering the farm with shamrock and raising sheep to produce Irish wool".

Mrs. Geoghegan, current owner, notes that the Browns were among the first in the area to heed Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) and pasteurize their milk.

Note: A 1925 obituary says that Mrs. Brown, wife of Rev. Howard N. Brown, had lived on Prospect St. in Sherborn for 28 Years before moving to Prospect St. in Framingham - i.e. 1892-1920.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntings research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1875 and 1889