

# 5 South Main Street



*James Salisbury House (no longer extant)*

<b>Form No.</b>	126
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	5 South Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Possibly James Salisbury House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	John Wentworth Merrill
<b>" Original</b>	Samuel Sanger
<b>Constructed</b>	ca. 1840
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Cape
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard and shingle
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	Less than one acre
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated near Memory statue and Central burying ground, also near intersection of town's two major roads.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This charming cape's five bay main facade displays a handsome late Federal/Greek Revival entrance. Its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane sidelights and attenuated pilasters, It is crowned by a solid transom and cornice. Its edges are defined by narrow corner and fascia boards. Projecting from its steeply pitched roof are two dormers which were probably added in the early 20th century. The gables' small triangle of shingles and small square windows were probably added in the 1890's or early 1900's. This house greatly contributes to the small-town charm of Sherborn Center.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Built in ca. 1840, this dwelling had the first telephone exchange in Sherborn. It may have been built for James Salisbury, who owned a cider mill, a paint shop, and a canning factory. These structures were located to the north of this property near the memory statue and the town parking lot. He is reputed to have had one of the earliest food canneries and to have canned food for Civil War troops. In 1875 a Mrs. J. Pratt owned this property. By 1889 Joshua Holbrook owned the house. He took over Elbridge Bickford's blacksmith shop which stood to the south of the house. His daughter Celia operated Sherborn's first telephone exchange from this house's kitchen. She also ran her father's blacksmith shop until after her marriage to Albert Barber in 1907.

Note: The street from the junction of Farm Road to the present junction of Main and Washington Streets was not laid out until about 1850.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889