

27 South Main Street



Bowen Adams House

Form No.	128
Town	Sherborn
Address	27 South Main Street
Historic Name	Bowen Adams House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Julia Driscoll Rooney
" Original	Bowen Adams
Constructed	ca. 1815
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
Style/Form	Federal
Builder	Bowen Adams
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	4.00 acres
Setting:	Situated on a knoll above Farm and South Main St. intersection. To the north of this property is the Pilgrim Church.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This stately 2 story Federal style residence possesses a center hall plan, highly symmetrical 5 bay facade, and a hip roof. The main facade's projecting enclosed entrance porch appears to be a ca. 1850's modification (note the bracketed triangular pediment). The Bowen Adams House is one of three well crafted Federal style houses which contribute to the Architectural distinction of Sherborn Center (see 8 Washington Street and 1 North Main Street)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In the 18th century this property was the site of the Timothy Sparhawk house and was for many years called "Sparhawk Corner." By ca. 1815 Bowen Adams, one of Sherborn's master builders, had constructed this house. He also built Dr. Everett's house at 1 North Main Street. A Captain Bowen Adams is listed at this address in 1875. By 1900 the Driscoll family had bought the house and the current owner is one of the Driscoll daughters.

It is interesting to note that South Main Street, between Farm Road and the Central Cemetery was not laid out until about 1850. Farm Road originally continued up a hill along the path of present day Sanger Street.

Note: Prior to 1860 (the year a public library was established in the Town Hall) there existed two collections of books in town. Bowen Adams maintained 'The Agricultural' or 'Farmer's Library' in his home. 'The Social Library' or 'Proprietors Library' was founded in 1808 and kept in George Clarks store on North Main Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

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