

31 South Main Street



Leland-Hawes House

Form No.	129
Town	Sherborn
Address	31 South Main Street
Historic Name	Leland-Hawes House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Frederick Tompkins
" Original	Frederick Leland
Constructed	ca. 1835-1840
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
Style/Form	Greek Revival with later gingerbread or Carpenter Gothic treatments.
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	Gingerbread and polygonal bay probably added in late 19th century.
Moved	No
Acreage	Less than one acre
Setting:	Situated on well maintained corner lot. Property enclosed by wooden fence and low brick retaining wall. To the north are the architectural and historical buildings of Sherborn Center.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Relieving the rigidly rectangular temple-like form of this ca. 1835-1840 dwelling are certain late 19th century modifications. Its main facade gable has been extended out over porches which display tuscan columns. The pedimented attic above the porches is enlivened by lacy carpenter Gothic decoration which decorates the eaves and the wide central arch. Both eaves and arch exhibit scalloped edges and a punched out trefoil or shamrock motif. The eaves of the southern wall's gable are similarly treated. The two story south bay was probably added ca. 1870. The main entrance feature Greek Revival molding and sidelights. In a town whose dwellings generally display restrained surface treatments this house is a welcome anomaly.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1835-40 by Frederick Leland (born August, 1818), this house was sold to Sam Hawes. He was the father of Jeremiah* or "Old Chilly" Hawes (born 1808). Old Chilly had a son, Alfred**, who, with Frank Salisbury, went to Africa in 1873 to seek diamonds. Salisbury was lost, never to return, but Hawes traveled with Dr. Livingstone. He brought back Dr. Livingstone's navigational instruments. Mr. Hawes married in South Africa and had a son, Alfred Arthur, who returned to Sherborn with him. Hawes and his brother-in-law, Mr. Tidmarsh, served as scientists assigned to a party led by Sir Randolph Churchill, father of Winston. In 1875 a J. Hawes owned this property, and in 1889 the J. R. Hawes estate is listed as the house's owner.

* Jeremiah Hawes bought Joseph Sangers store about 1850. It was located to the south of the present Dowse Memorial Building next to the Central Burial Ground. Jeremiah was appointed Postmaster in 1855 and his store became an important town gathering place.

** Alfred Hawes, along with Amory Leland Babcock and Albert P. Morse was one of the towns respected 19th century naturalists. An accomplished taxidermist his collection of stuffed beasts birds and insects was put on display at the Peabody Museum, and museums at Harvard and Wellesley Colleges. In 1892 he was awarded a gold medal at the South African and International Exhibition in Kimberly for his collection and identification of insects of the region. His collection of native weapons and utensils is unsurpassed and his photographic views of native tribes proved ethnologically valuable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

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