

35 South Main Street



*Sherborn Almshouse later St. Theresa Church
(no longer extant)*

Form No.	130
Town	Sherborn
Address	35 South Main Street
Historic Name	Sherborn Almshouse later St. Theresa Church
Uses: Original	Almshouse
Present	Catholic Church
Ownership, 1981	Archdiocese of Boston
" Original	Town of Sherborn
Constructed	1898
Source	Anne C. Shaughnessy - <u>A Guide to Sherborn</u>
Style/Form	Elements of Colonial Revival
Architect	William Collett of Boston
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	
Alterations	Interior alterations during summer of 1925
Moved	No
Acreage	Less than one acre
Setting:	Set back from South Main Street in front of semi-circular driveway.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally Sherborn's first Catholic Church building is a structure whose simple T-shaped form and lack of surface decoration reflect its original use as a shelter for the town's poor. Constructed of wood, it rises 2 1/2 stories to a steeply pitched hip roof. Projecting from the rectangular main block is a 2 bay gable which might be loosely termed a central pavilion. Flanking the central pavilion are Colonial Revival porches and entrances which are Greek Revival in feeling. (Its front doors are enframed by sidelights and rectangular transoms - rather conservative for the late 1890's, even in the country.) The only purely decorative note is the attics oval window which is accented by four "keystones."

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This structure was built to serve as an almshouse by the town in 1898. Its architect was William Collett of Boston. During the late 19th century the almshouse had been located in North Sherborn on Rockwood Street. Shortly after the South Main Street almshouse was built, the need for such a facility had diminished to such an extent that it was closed. It was used for a time as a parsonage for the Pilgrim Church, and then left vacant. Fortunately the wish of the town to divest itself of an unused building came at the time of the Catholic Community's search for a house of worship. By the 1920's some 25 to 30 Catholic families lived in Sherborn. They had to journey all the way to Holliston or Natick to attend church services. On September 9, 1923, William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, permitted the formation of the Chapel of St. Theresa or the Little Flower as a mission of St. Patrick's Church, Natick. The transfer of the almshouse to St. Theresa's occurred on August 8, 1924, and the first service was held there the following autumn. Father Michael Delaney of Natick said the first Mass. The first resident priest, Rev. Edward J. Riley,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn and A History of Sherborn, 1974

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

In 1991 the chapel was demolished to make way for the the new Saint Theresa Church building, consecrated in 1993 - Ref.: Sherborn, Images of the past, Sherborn Historical Society, 1999.