

96 South Main Street



John Ware House

Form No.	135
Town	Sherborn
Address	96 South Main Street
Historic Name	John Ware House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Howard J. Barnet
" Original	John Ware
Constructed	ca. 1760-1770
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Originally a salt box, greatly enlarged and "colonialized"
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Shed
Alterations	Original salt box enlarged ca. 1850, later additions date to 1945 and 1962.
Moved	25 ft. west, 100 ft. south in 1945
Acreage	3.29 acres
Setting:	Hidden from busy South Main St. by a screen of trees and shrubs, lot is well maintained.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Originally a 1 1/2 story salt box, this house has been enlarged several times and moved a short distance from its original site (facing south). The main block rises 2 1/2 stories to a gable roof with short eaves. Its handsome 5 bay main facade features a Federal-Greek Revival transitional doorway. Although drastically altered it retains its original door and huge central chimney.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Although this house traditionally has been dated to the 1760's, Sherborn resident Susan Ware's recent genealogical work points to an earlier date ca. 1743. Its first owner John Ware (born 1717) married Martha Prentice in 1743. He inherited from his father, Joseph Ware, the northern portion of the farm while his mother, Hannah Wood Ware (daughter of Eleazer and Dorothy Wood and granddaughter of Nicholas Wood), inherited the southern half and lived at the Joseph Ware homestead at 102 South Main. It is more likely that the John Wares built the house at 96 South Main St. at the time of their marriage than in the 1760's when they were in their 50's. John Ware served as Selectman in 1752 and 1758 and died in 1779.

John and Martha Ware's son, John, was born in 1753. He was a Selectman (1782-1786 and 1788-1790) and Town Clerk and Treasurer (1784-1786 and 1788-1790). His wife, Hannah Leland (daughter of Caleb, 320 Western Ave.), died in childbirth in 1790 and was the first to be buried in the New South burial ground with her infant. John then left Sherborn and died in Deerfield, Ma. in 1833.

By the late 1780's this house was owned by James Bickford. He raised the roof of the old saltbox and added a central hall. This house remained in the Bickford family at least into the 1890's. In 1945 Charles Channing moved the house several hundred feet south and a little further back from the road. Howard Barnett added a wing to the main block in 1962.

It is interesting to note that South Main Street has always been the only direct road from Sherborn to Medfield, and as a result, boasts several early houses (e.g. the Sewell-Ware House ca. 1692-1703 and the Ezra Holbrook House, 1738 at 102 and 67 South Main St., respectively).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- Susan Ware's Genealogical Study on the Ware Family - 1980-1981