

113 South Main Street



Ware Tavern

Form No.	138
Town	Sherborn
Address	113 South Main Street
Historic Name	Ware Tavern
Uses: Original	Residence/tavern
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Daniel Sortwell
" Original	Benjamin Ware
Constructed	ca. 1780
Source	Susan Ware's genealogical work
Style/Form	Elements of Georgian and Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	Main building enlarged ca. 1840, ell moved to 109 South Main before 1875, current ell enlarged in 1958.
Moved	No
Acreage	2.60 acres
Setting:	Adjacent to heavily traveled South Main St. (Rte. 27), grounds are well maintained.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Several late 18th and early 19th century Sherborn structures housed taverns or "halfway houses" which contained special use rooms such as ballrooms and stores. (e.g. The Tucker Tavern, 20 Prospect St. in North Sherborn and The Paul Tavern, 41 North Main St., near the Town Center). The oldest portion of the Ware Tavern (ca. 1780) rests on a granite block foundation and is the section closest to the street. The eastern half of the building rests on a brick basement. The main facade faces south and is 5 bays wide. Its main entrance may be a Colonial Revival replacement. Its front door is flanked by tapered Doric pilasters which are surmounted by a dentillated cornice. This structure was enlarged ca. 1840. At that time the eastern section and the pedimented attic were added. The attic windows feature 12/12 lights. In the center of the roof is a massive brick chimney.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Just as the Stannocks in Southwest Sherborn is traditionally associated with the Fiske family, the area around the intersection of Goulding and South Main Streets has historical associations with Sherborn's Ware family. As early as 1710 Capt. Joseph Ware had a grist mill on Sewell's Brook, opposite 43 Goulding St. (the old Ware homestead). He bought the Sewell-Ware House (100 South Main St.) in 1734. His grandson, Benjamin Ware, built the oldest portion of 113 So Main St. about 1780. He married Mehitable Leland in 1778. Their son, Eleazer, established a tavern in this residence which had a ballroom on the second floor. By the 1830's Ware's Tavern or "halfway" house was one of at least three places of lodging in town. While the first Meeting House was being built in 1830 this tavern's ballroom served as the town's meeting room. In 1830 Brayton Bullard Sr. purchased this property. At some point in the mid 19th century Bullard's son sold this house's ell to John Goulding and it was moved across the street to the north (109 South Main St.). By 1889 John Jackson owned this property. Around 1900 he and several of his neighbors raked and sold cranberries which grew in nearby bogs. For many years Mr. Jackson and his wife operated a small variety shop on the site of the present Chevron Station (South Main St., north of the Pilgrim Church). It was called The Cash Store and later Jackson's Store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Susan Ware's Genealogical Work - 1981
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's File
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Assessors Records - 1798

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Ware Tavern, rear view (date unknown)