

# 137 South Main Street



*Charles Holbrook House*

<b>Form No.</b>	139
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	137 South Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Charles Holbrook House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	J. Malcolm Gillis
<b>" Original</b>	Charles Holbrook
<b>Constructed</b>	1870-1875
<b>Source</b>	Visual, Margaret Dowse Buntin's files
<b>Style/Form</b>	Second Empire or Mansard style
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard, slate roof
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn and garage
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	6.20 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated on a knoll - mature trees and manicured shrubs, a broad front lawn, and a semi-circular drive form a dramatic setting.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is the finest Second Empire or Mansard style house in Sherborn. Although little more than a cottage in terms of scale, certain high style elements lend a mansion-like quality to the house - e.g. bracketed porches, polygonal bay, ornate dormer enframements, and a slate shingle covered mansard roof. Of interest is the original multi-paneled front door and granite steps.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This house was built ca. 1870-1875 for Charles Holbrook, one of the sons of Jonathan Holbrook, the cider maker. Holbrook's cider mill was located in South Sherborn on Forest Street. It operated from 1853 until 1897 and was known as the "world's largest cider mill." It was, at any rate, the largest cider mill in the United States. The prosperity of their enterprise is reflected in the exterior and interior finishes on their house - it has built in tapestry and superb woodwork throughout. Charles's brother John built an even more elaborate house at 44 North Main Street (still extant). It is interesting to note that #5 Washington Street was almost a carbon copy of 137 South Main Street until a fire destroyed its Mansard roof in the 1940's.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

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