

# 156 South Main Street



*James Holbrook's blacksmith shop?*

<b>Form No.</b>	141
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	156 South Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Possibly James Holbrook's blacksmith shop
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Poss. a blacksmith shop
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Mrs. P. J. Ham
<b>" Original</b>	James Holbrook
<b>Constructed</b>	ca. 1785
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Cape
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Wood shingles
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Garage
<b>Alterations</b>	Small ca. 17?? blacksmith shop supposedly enlarged to cape ca. 1820's. It has been "Colonialized" within the last 50 years.
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	Less than one acre
<b>Setting:</b>	Situated near intersection of Woodland Street and South Main Street - key north-south, east-west crossroads.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This simple 1 1/2 story cape has been greatly remodeled. Its clapboards are hidden beneath wood cut shingles. Its steeply pitched roof's dormers were probably added in the early 19th century. Its 3 bay main facade exhibits a replacement "Colonial" door constructed of vertical planks. Narrow sidelights flank the front door. A generously proportioned chimney projects from the roof's center. This house is said to have been remodeled and enlarged from a small 1780's blacksmith shop to a cape in ca. 1820. If this is the case, #156 South Main Street is one of the oldest capes in Sherborn.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Part of this residence may have been constructed to serve as a blacksmith shop ca. 1785 by James Holbrook. It was apparently converted to a residence ca. 1820. By the late 19th century an Elnathan Hammond owned this property. Martin Nelson, a Swedish immigrant, lived here from 1900-1945. He had a successful farm and had one of the last "farm horses" in town.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- 1798 Assessors list