

# 220 South Main Street



*Joshua Leland House*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	143 house, 342 barn
<b>Area</b>	
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	220 South Main Street
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	13/17
<b>USGS Map</b>	Medfield
<b>Historic Name</b>	Joshua Leland House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Jon and Monica Sellew
<b>" Original</b>	Joshua Leland
<b>Constructed</b>	House ca. 1800, barn ca. 1900
<b>Source</b>	Owner and Margaret Dowse Buntin's files
<b>Style/Form</b>	Cape (in its original form)
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	Covered front entrance ca. 1945, house enlarged in late. 1960s, 1970s.
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	Less than one acre

**Setting:** Located close to road, field and lowlands to the west, several foundations of earlier structures located on this property.

**Recorded** June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon  
**Updated** 1999, by Sanford Johnson

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 3

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### 1981 Survey

Greatly enlarged in recent years this house was Originally a 1 1/2 story cape, (center hall plan, one room deep). A covered entrance porch which projects from the main facade was added ca. 1945. Its interior boasts country Federal mantle piece and paneling.

### 1999 Update

The house at 220 South Main Street (#143) has been slightly altered since the existing inventory form was completed in 1981. The rear, two-story shed roofed addition has been raised to a side-gabled form with a new chimney attached at the north side. The porch enclosed with multiple pane sash has been completely enclosed and sheathed in wood clapboards.

The one and one-half-story, gable-front barn (#342) to the north of the house is two by four bays, clad in wood clapboards and asphalt shingles. Built on an uncut stone foundation, the barn is perpendicular to the road with two vehicle doors in the principal elevation. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with simple trim. A pass door with raised panels and central sash occupies the eastern bay of the south elevation. Little ornament exists on the building except for the louvred ventilator at the center of the ridgeline. A skylight, metal chimney and vent pipe in the roof indicate that there is living space inside.

The house and barn are separated from the road by a picket fence.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### 1981 Survey

"This house stands upon land which belonged to Henry Leland and near the place where he first dwelt in Sherborn, Ma. and where he died." (Leland Magazine). Henry Leland was born in England in 1625, settled in Sherborn ca. 1654 with his wife Margaret Badcock, and died here in 1680.

Henry's son, Hopestill, inherited this property upon the deaths of his mother and brother in 1703, and from him it passed to his son, Joshua, who married Ruth Morse, granddaughter of Capt. Joseph Morse (46 Forest St.) and daughter of James Morse (266 Western Ave.) Joshua and Ruth are said to have built a saltbox close to the road just south of this house in the 1730's which was dismantled and moved to Boxford or Boxborough in 1945. Their son, Col. Joshua Leland, Born 1741, built on the site of 2 Snow St., a distance to the north, and their other son, Joseph, born 1744, inherited the saltbox.

The house which stands at 220 South Main Street today was built ca. 1800 by Joseph's son, Joshua Leland, born 1777, while the saltbox went to Joshua's son, Jedediah P. Leland b. 1806 and finally to his son, Jason, b. 1840, who was apparently the last Leland to live there.

The present house at 220 South Main Street was owned by a Mrs. Badger in the late 19th century. It was part of a working farm until the Depression and once encompassed many acres. The barn burned and the house itself was a shell in 1967. It has been greatly enlarged and modified in recent years.

#### 1999 Update

By the mid 19th century, Jedediah Leland owned this property and kept a horse, 2 oxen and 6 cows on his 47 acres of land. He owned only 2/3 of his barn, valued at \$200. The owner by 1865 was Jedediah's son Jason Howard Leland. His name remains associated with the house through 1905, a time when a new barn was built on the property. By then, the barn was worth \$700, held 3 horses, 11 cows and a bull, all kept on 95 acres. The 1874 and 1889 atlases indicate Mrs. Badger was the occupant, although she may have rented the house and barn. Tax lists reflect evidence of involvement in the poultry branch of agriculture as the owner was taxed for ownership of a hen house in 1905.

In 1939, the W.P.A. depicted the property as orchards and cropland. The bulk of the land was plowable pasture. Owners at that time may have been named MacDougall. The upper floor of the barn has been in use as office space since 1983.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

#### 1981 Survey

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Jon Sellew., owner's information
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences

#### 1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map; 1939 W.P.A. Map
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses