

8 Washington Street



Col. Calvin Sanger House

Form No.	147
Town	Sherborn
Address	8 Washington Street
Historic Name	Col. Calvin Sanger House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Arthur Babson
" Original	Col. Calvin Sanger
Constructed	1819
Source	Morse - <u>History of Sherborn and Holliston</u> , 1856
Style/Form	Federal
Architect	Capt. Ebenezer Mann
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn and Garage
Alterations	Rear ells removed, polygonal side, bays added in late 19th century.
Moved	No
Acreage	11.00 acres
Setting:	Situated across from the First Parish Church and old Town Hall adjacent to Colonel Sanger law office and post office (now 12 Washington Street).
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, June - July 1981

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Calvin Sanger House is the most architecturally sophisticated residence constructed by Sherborn's master builder, Capt. Ebenezer Mann. Composed of a rectangle main block and crowned by a hip roof, this house was originally much larger - two great wings were moved from the house during the late 19th century. The South ell, which had been built ca. 1775 for another home on the site, was moved to 12 Maple St. The North ell was moved to 5 Zion's Lane. The Sanger house 5 bay main facade features the town's most elegant Federal entrance. The leaded glass of its sidelights and fan light form diamond and circular shapes. The attenuated Tuscan columns of its open front porch support a dentillated entablature and shingle covered roof. Above the second floor window is a dentillated cornice. Late 19th century polygonal bays have been added to its side wall. Situated opposite the First Parish Church and old Town Hall, the house is a key ingredient in the 19th century country village charm of Sherborn center. The House's sophisticated late Federal surface treatment demonstrate that the New England country housewright could provide wealthy patrons with more than restrained country farmhouse fare.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house has significant historical association with Col. Calvin Sanger, one of Sherborn's most prominent early 19th century citizens. The land upon which the house stands is a portion of that tract set apart by the proprietor in 1684 'for the ministry' An earlier house near the Home's site housed the (second, third, and fourth ministers of the First Parish. The present house is Capt. Mann's opus, exhibiting the finest Federal entrance treatment in Sherborn. Mann boasted that "You can fill the wainscoted southeast room on the ground floor with water up to the window sash and I'll guarantee it won't leak a drop."

The interior also reflected the wealthy position of its owner - Col. Sanger imported the Southeast parlor's Dufour wallpaper from Paris. It was a sepia scenic paper of the Bay of Naples. Morse, who devotes less than two pages to the life of Col. Sanger in his History of Sherborn notes that he was colonel of the first company raised in the vicinity, served as representative to the General Court for 30 years and later as a State Senator and held various town offices for more than 40 years. In addition, he conducted a local store and various businesses. Early in 1800 he bought a township in Maine where he built a saw and grist mill, sending Sherborn's Walter Leland and the Knowltons to take charge of it. The town was later incorporated as Sangerville. Sanger, in partnership with Hopestill Leland started the first cotton manufacturing enterprise in Framingham. He was also interested in horticulture - the Porter apple, named for a minister of the First Parish was developed on his estate. Upon his death the house went to his son, Calvin Phipps Sanger, a successful New York merchant, who used it as a summer home. Calvin was the founder of Sherborn's Widows and Orphans Benevolent Society. Since his death this house has been owned by Lelands, Bardwells, Princes, Hynsons, and Smiths.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne Shaughnessy - [A Guide To Sherborn](#), 1974
- Francis Bardwell's "Historical Sketches, Sherborn Tercentenary, 1652-1952
- "Sherborn Past and Present, 1674-1924" Sherborn Historical Society
- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889