

23 Washington Street



Richard Smart House, (demolished ca. 2010)

Form Nos.	176 house, 181 house, 355 barn
Area	A,G
Town	Sherborn
Address	23 Washington Street
Assessor's Map	11/24
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	Richard Smart House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1985	Mr. John A. Kostick
" Original	Richard B. Smart
Constructed	House ca. 1895, barn ca. 1900
Source	On 1893 tax lists. 1892 tax list assesses Smart for poll and livestock only.
Style/Form	
Architect	n/a
Ext. Wall Fabric	Shingles/clapboards
Outbuildings	Small Barn
Alterations	1960's - Front bay and piazzas removed in 1960s
Moved	No
Acreage	2.5 acres 1985, 2 acres 1999
Setting:	Situated close to Washington St. between Center School Town offices and Albert Blanchard House, across from Flagg House.
Recorded	January 1985, by Elizabeth L. Johnson

Updated 1999, by Sanford Johnson

Film Roll/Negative Roll 2

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

The ell roof slopes like a Dutch-Colonial. The front of the building has been greatly changed when a vestibule with piazza on each side was removed in the 1960's and the front "Colonialized". Originally the house was painted green on the lower part and red on the upper part.

1999 Update

The Richard Smart House at 23 Washington Street (**#181**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1984 or 1985. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

The Victorian Eclectic style barn (**#355**) at 23 Washington Street has been converted for use as a two-car garage but retains many historic aspects of its design. The front-gambrel, two-story form is built on a two by four-bay plan. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the walls in wood shingles and the foundation is undetermined. Side elevations have wood clapboards at the first story and shingles above. Ornament consists of the band of stagger-butt shingles on the facade, wide but plain trim around the openings and the jetty in the peak m no. of the gable. A hay-mow door is just below the jetty. Garage-type roll-up doors fill the two principal openings in the facade. Historic photos indicate the original entrance was in a side wall, not the gambrel-front facade as is now the case.

Two types of fence are present on the property. Picket fencing divides the yard from the street; a post and rail gate encloses the front yard and the back yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

Richard Smart was a Civil war veteran and a carpenter. Before Smart built the house there, the lot had been owned by the Flaggs across the street and divided into three lots by stonewalls (Joe Blanchard's father rented the lot nearest to his house - 27 Washington St.). Richard Smart had three children: Althea (daughter) who married ? Durgin and lived at 66 South Main St. She was widowed very young and later married Arthur Wright and lived in his family's house at 67 So. Main St. Jasper, a D.V.M., married Fannie Coolidge and after retiring as inspector at the Brighton Slaughter Yards lived at her family house at 80 Maple Street. Irving served as Selectman 1913-14 and as Town Treasurer for many years.

1999 Update

The first owner of this house was Richard Smart, a carpenter and Civil War veteran who was taxed in 1895 for an unfinished dwelling, two horses and two cows. By 1905, the barn now extant behind the house had been constructed and valued at \$500. A single horse remained to occupy the barn. A hen house had been built as well but no chickens are enumerated in the tax valuations. Gladys and Harold Waite were the subsequent occupants by 1925 and also kept hens on the property, as was common in the town. Their small lot was used to grow hay according to WPA maps from 1939. The Waites remained in residence until after 1945 when Albert Anderson assumed ownership. John and Lucinda Worthington and John Kostick were subsequent owners. The hen house no longer appears on the current assessor's list.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Town Tax Records 1892, 1893
- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences
- Anne C. Shaughnessy, History of Sherborn, 1974, (p.129)

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1931 County Commissioners Map of Main Street in Registry of Deeds
- The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, Anne C. Shaughnessy, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1939 W.P.A. Map
- Comments of owners, John and Ruth Kostick

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The Richard Smart property at 23 Washington Street was purchased by the Town of Sherborn as authorized by Article 10 "Acquisition of 23 Washington Street" at the Annual Town Meeting held on April 29, 2008. It was subsequently demolished and removed in accordance with Article 8, Item 3, of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 27, 2010.