

# 27 Washington Street



*Bickford-Blanchard House*

<b>Form No.</b>	152
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	27 Washington Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Bickford-Blanchard House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence/Doctor's Office
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Joseph Blanchard
<b>" Original</b>	Palemon Bickford
<b>Constructed</b>	1849
<b>Source</b>	Joseph Blanchard
<b>Style/Form</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Architect</b>	Palemon Bickford
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn
<b>Alterations</b>	"Ell" added in 1861, 2 story bay added in late 19th century
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	Less than one acre

**Setting:** Situated close to Washington Street. Driveway along southern wall leads to barn.

**Recorded by** Edward W. Gordon, July 1981

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This is a solid example of a temple-like side hall plan Greek Revival house. Its 3 bay main facade features a recessed entrance which is enframed by Doric Pilasters and a triangular pediment. Its front door is flanked by narrow multi-pane side lights. Its first floor windows are surmounted by pediments. Doric corner boards and wide fascia boards define its edges. This structure culminates in pedimented attics. A rear ell was added in 1861 and the southern wall's late 19th century two story bay relieves the rigidity of the main block's rectangular plan. Paneling on the bay displays Eastlavian circular forms.

Sherborn experienced a "building boom" in the 1840's and 1850's. Most of its Greek Revival homes are located along North Main St.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

#27 Washington Street was built in 1849 by Palemon Bickford. It was purchased six years later by Dr. Albert Henry Blanchard, one of Sherborn's leading late 19th century citizens. A. H. Blanchard graduated from Harvard in 1852. After a year as House physician at Massachusetts General Hospital, he settled in Sherborn. He initially assisted the town's physician, Dr. Oliver Everett. Margaret Dowse Buntin notes that "Dr. Everett was his first patient and died shortly after Blanchard's arrival." Dr. Blanchard added an office ell to the rear of the house in 1861. He left Sherborn during the Civil War to serve two years as surgeon of the Third Massachusetts Calvary. Upon his return he served 30 years on the Sherborn School Committee and was one of the library's first trustees. A historian of note, his "History of Sherborn" was published in the History of Middlesex County (1890). The third generation of Blanchards resides in the homestead at 27 Washington Street.

Note: Dr. Blanchard was part of the Banks expedition which originated in New Orleans. Led by Generals N. P. Banks and U. S. Grant, Union troops opened up the Mississippi River by capturing Port Hudson in July 1863. Dr. Blanchard became seriously ill and was forced to resign his commission. Honorably discharged from the service in February 1864, he performed temporary duties in the army in Virginia until his return to Sherborn in August.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974