

102 Washington Street



Jonas Greenwood Sr. house, Russett Hill Farm

Form Nos.	156 house, 357 studio, 358 barn, 934 fence/wall
Area	
Town	Sherborn
Address	102 Washington Street
Assessor's Map	7/98
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	Jonas Greenwood Sr. house, Russett Hill Farm
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Kevit Cook
" Original	Jonas Greenwood Sr.
Constructed	House in 1760-1765, barn ca. 1880, studio and fence/wall ca. 1900.
Source	Research of Margaret Dowse Buntin
Style/Form	Georgian
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Shingle
Outbuildings	Barn and two sheds
Alterations	Rear wing added, probably in late 19th century
Moved	No
Acreage	3.31 acres 1981, 3.32 acres 1999
Setting:	Hidden from view by rubblestone wall and high picket fence, red barn with cupola located to west.
Recorded	June-July 1981, by Edward W. Gordon

Updated 1999, by Sanford Johnson

Film Roll/Negative Roll 11

X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

This property encompasses a country Georgian farmhouse with late 19th and early 20th century additions and modifications; and a large, red, cupola crowned barn built ca. 1850-1870. The central hall plan main block possesses a symmetrical 5 bay main facade and a rather curious entrance - the door is surrounded by Greek Revival moldings which in turn are surrounded by boric pilasters and an entablature. Its clapboards are covered with wood shingles. In addition to the large barn, several smaller structures of undetermined age and use complete this attractive compound.

1999 Update

The house at 102 Washington Street (**#156**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

Several historic outbuildings survive on the property. The largest is the gable-front barn (**#358**), oriented parallel to the road. Walls are clad in wood clapboards and the roof in asphalt shingles. The foundation is undetermined. A vehicle door occupies the center of the west facade with a smaller door adjacent to the right (south) side. A 6/6 double-hung sash is in the gable-peak. Trim on the facade is slim and plain, however the roof peak is articulated by a cupola with a pyramidal hipped roof, weathervane, and Classically molded cornice.

Two additions have been made to the barn. A one-story wood clapboard shed is attached to the southwest corner. This is an unornamented gable-front building with simple trim similar to that on the barn. The shed is oriented north-south to form a door yard with the barn. Along the south wall of the barn is a shed-roofed addition with multiple 9/6 double-hung sash lighting the south elevation. The wood clapboard addition has a chimney at the south east corner.

A studio (**#357**) exists north of the barn. This is a one-story, two-by- three-bay building clad in wood clapboards. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash visible only in the west elevation. A one-by-one-bay shed-roofed addition is on the south elevation and has a chimney attached where the shed meets the building.

All buildings are well-maintained and are grouped behind a stockade fence and stone wall. (**#934**)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This house was built ca. 1760-1765 by Jonas Greenwood Sr. (1727-1802). The Greenwoods owned all the land from 22 Washington Street through 110 Washington Street except for the two Sanger houses. During the 19th century, several generations of Eames lived here and ran a successful apple orchard business. It was here that the engine from the Farm Pond Steamship, "Atlanta" was set up to grind apples for Jonathan Eames Jr. The large barn on the property was where the apples were sorted and stored when this was known as Russett Hill Farm.

1999 Update

During the 19th century, several developments occurred at the Jonas Greenwood House. By 1856, Mr. Greenwood had sold the property to the farmer Jonathan Eames Sr., a descendant of one of the town's first selectmen. Mr. Eames' wife Nancy and son Jonathan Jr. also lived here at that time. The farm appears in the tax valuations for 1865 under the sole ownership of Nancy Eames. The family owned the house, barn, shed, and storehouses. The barn is valued at \$450, a sum too small to represent the existing building. Tax amounts come into line with the scale of the existing building around 1885 when the value jumps to \$800. This is based on comparison to barns of similar size and known date of construction. By the 1880s, Jonathan Eames Jr. had assumed ownership of the farm and kept horses, cows, swine and a carriage on his farm. A carriage house had been constructed as well as an additional storehouse in 1885. His 86 acres included 4 1/2 acres of orchard and vineyard, a figure that increased to 18 by 1905. While orchards were quite common in the town since the Colonial Period, only a small number of vineyards appear in the historical record. Others were cultivated at 58 Maple Street**, and 15 North Main Street**.

As a way of processing the produce of the "Highland Fruit Farm", Mr. Eames constructed a cider mill using a second-hand steam engine recycled from a pleasure boat, the steam launch Atlanta that had recently cruised Farm Pond and sunk. In 1905, he was taxed for ownership of a "cider mill and machinery". The chimney in the shed-roofed addition to the barn may be a remnant of this light industrial operation. The shed attached to the barn is likely one of the storehouses described in tax records throughout the 19th century.

Owners after the Eames were Dr. Scudder in the 1920s and a lawyer named Stockton in the 1940s-60s. Cider was produced until the 1960s when land across the street was subdivided and developed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Research by Margaret Dowse Buntin
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide To Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1788, 1889 and 1895

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Tax valuations for the town of Sherborn 1865-1945
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- 1855, 1865 state censuses