

110 Washington Street



Jonas Greenwood Jr. House

Form Nos.	157 house, 359 barn, 930 wall
Area	
Town	Sherborn
Address	110 Washington Street
Assessor's Map	7/99
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	Jonas Greenwood Jr. House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Robert Cronin
" Original	Jonas Greenwood Jr.
Constructed	House ca. 1821, barn ca. 1850, stone wall ca. 1920
Source	Margaret Dowse Buntin's file
Style/Form	Federal with Colonial Revival modifications
Architect	Ebenezer Mann
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn
Alterations	Extensively remodeled ca. 1920
Moved	No
Acreage	2.54 acres 1981, 2.5 acres 1999
Setting:	Situated opposite Washington St. - Greenwood St. intersection, 1960's - 1970's houses along Russett Hill Road to south. North side of Washington St. retains pre 20th century rural charm.

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

Film Roll/Negative Roll 2

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

This commodious Late Federal house was "colonialized" and enlarged ca. 1920. It is composed of a clapboard covered main block and two 2 story porch wings. The main block's principle facade (south) is 5 bays wide. In its center is an elegant entrance. Its multi-paneled front door is flanked by attenuated pilasters and crowned by a fanlight and dentillated cornice. The 6/6 windows are simply enframed and are flanked by louvered shutters. This houses "colonialization" began in 1913 but the porches and pedimented dormers were added later - ca. 1920. Built by Sherborn master builder Ebenezer Mann, this house is closer in appearance to his Ebenezer Goulding House at 137 Western Ave. (1826), than to the more high style Col. Calvin Sanger House at 8 Washington St. (1819). In addition Mann is responsible for The Jonas' Greenwood Jr. Houses fine interior woodwork and mantle.

1999 Update

The house at 110 Washington Street (**#157**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time.

The large, two and one-half-story barn (**#359**) behind (northwest) of the Jonas Greenwood Jr. House is a front-gabled form constructed on a high uncut stone foundation. The principal elevation is divided into three bays by the large main rolling door, a 6/6 double-hung sash at the left (southeast) and smaller rolling door on the right. Side walls are divided into multiple bays by sporadically placed fixed six-pane sash with plain trim. Other windows, primarily 6/6 double-hung sash, are found in the pyramidal hipped cupola, the gable peak of the facade and in tall rows piercing the foundation. The roof and walls are clad in asphalt shingles. Wall shingles may cover underlying clapboards, examples of which survive on the walls of the cupola. The principal entry has an exterior-hung rolling door that is largely deteriorated.

A tall mortared stone wall (**#930**) separates the house and barn from Washington Street as in the style of an estate. The wall may have been built for the early 20th century owner and Colonial Revival architect Thomas James. At approximately six feet in height, the wall is a significant feature of the property and extends for several hundred feet in front of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This house was built 1821-1822, by Ebenezer Mann, for Jonas Greenwood Jr. Ebenezer Mann, along with Bowen Adams and Palemon Bickford was one of Sherborn's outstanding early 19th century master builders. Its first owner, Jonas Greenwood Jr., was the great grandson of Deacon William Greenwood. He settled in Sherborn ca. 1710-15 on land "one third m. S.W. Of the Common". His land stretched from 22 Washington St. to 110 Washington St. (with the exception of two Sanger properties). Dea. William, in addition to being a farmer, was also a selectman and representative. The original Greenwood homestead was located near the site of the present Grout House (42 Washington St.).

Jonas Jr. was born July 19, 1775 and was married to Polly Stratten ca. 1798. Their son Aaron (born 1799) inherited this property. He lived here into the 1880's. He bequeathed \$ 748.00, then a large sum of money, to the Widows and Orphans Society of Sherborn. By 1889 a G. Sanger owned this house. Thomas M. James, architect, bought the Greenwood place in 1913, from the Harthertz Estate. James initiated the house's "colonialization".

Note: Washington Street, prior to the 1850's terminated at this house - along with Greenwood Street, Ash Lane and Hollis Street it was part of the old Post Road.

1999 Update

The property valuations for the 1865 owner of 110 Washington Street, Aaron Greenwood, son of Jonas Jr., indicate that he owned a house as well as a barn worth \$650. This amount did not change drastically over the next 30 years and is appropriate for a barn of this size at the time, indicating it pre-dates the 1865 tax. The 1865 date of construction is consistent with the appearance of the barn. The farmer Greenwood occupied his barn with a horse, 2 oxen, 2 cows, a swine and a carriage. There were 2 acres of orchard, the produce of which may have been kept in the 4 storehouses on the property (not visible). Eighty-two acres under use for mowing, tillage and pasture were associated with the Greenwood Farm during the late 19th century. By 1895, George A. Sanger, who was born at 70 Washington Street, inherited the house, barn and surrounding property.

The architect Thomas James was responsible for the Colonial Revival remodeling around the turn of the century, when he added the dormers to the front slope of the roof. He may also have been responsible for constructing the tall stone wall separating the house from the busy street.

Bancroft Davis was a subsequent owner by 1931, by which time, great leaps in the values of the property had occurred. The house, barn and shed, garage, wagon shed, hen houses, a playhouse, a second dwelling and a water works had been taxed in 1935. These buildings and structures are not visible from the street. The increase in value may be due to the architectural improvements carried out by Thomas James. Mr. Davis resided most of the time on Devonshire Street in Boston but continued to occupy the house as a summer residence through the 1940s. The second dwelling may have been for a hired farmer to care for the animals and crops around his gentleman's farm.

1939 W.P.A. maps indicate orchards on both sides of the street in this location which may be the former property of the Greenwood family. Pasture and timberlands are also shown which is consistent with taxable uses of the property from 1875-95.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Maps of 1788, 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntins research
- Rev. Abner Morse - History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston, 1856
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- 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
- 1932 County Commissioners Map of Washington Street in Registry of Deeds
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses