

# 19 Western Avenue



*19 Western Avenue, November 1998*

<b>Form No.</b>	360
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	19 Western Avenue
<b>Assessor's #</b>	1/9
<b>USGS Quad</b>	Framingham
<b>Historic Name</b>	
<b>Uses: Present</b>	Residence
<b>Original</b>	Residence
<b>Constructed</b>	1954
<b>Source</b>	Assessor information
<b>Style/Form</b>	Ranch
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	
<b>Exterior Material:</b>	
<b>Foundation</b>	Concrete
<b>Wall/Trim</b>	Rubble stone veneer
<b>Roof</b>	Asphalt shingle
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Attached garage added after original construction
<b>Alterations</b>	Rear porch added 1973
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	2.8 acres
<b>Setting</b>	Semi industrial
<b>Film Roll/Negative</b>	Roll 7
<b>Recorded by</b>	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Ranch style house at 19 Western Avenue is a well-preserved example of mid-20th century residential architecture. The wide, low facade spreads the floorplan across three bays of living space and extends further to include the two-bay attached garage at the north (left) side. Uncoursed rubble stone clads the exterior of the facade which is divided into four bays consisting of the garage, breezeway, principal projecting gabled bay and right side ell. Windows are a combination of horizontally divided 2/2 double-hung sash with a tripartite picture window in the principal bay. The picture window has a lintel of ashlar above. The main entry is to the right of the principal bay and is lit with windows in the form of overlapping ovals. Secondary access is through sliding glass doors adjacent to the garage. Asymmetry of bays, a low-pitched gabled roof and novel window arrangements, as seen in this example, are typical elements of the Ranch style. A massive stone chimney marks the roofline over the principal bay.

A dense hedge separates the house from the road. Other Ranches in Sherborn are located at **2 Everett Street\*\*** and **46 Prospect Street\*\***.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Land for the house at 19 Western Avenue Street was in use as pasture in 1939. The house was built in 1954 according to assessor's records. Early owners of the house were African Americans, a rarity in Sherborn. The house at 19 Western Avenue was constructed during a period of rapid suburbanization in the town and entire region. Sherborn had implemented zoning by-laws in the 1930s, a time when people were beginning to realize the value of semi-rural land for housing that was located within easy driving distance of employment centers. From Sherborn, residents could drive quickly to work in Boston, Medfield, Ashland and Framingham, among many other semi-urban communities.

As rural small towns and farming in general became less viable, commuting became more common, and emphasized the issues of real estate location, social status based on modernity and low-cost, low-maintenance housing. The ranch was promoted across the country as a convenient, efficient residence requiring less interior cleaning and less exterior refinishing, all with the advantage of built-in, easy-to-use features like appliances and furniture.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Resident directories 1930-31.
- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Tax valuations.