

21 Western Ave



Historic Name Undetermined

Form No.	159
Town	Sherborn
Address	21 Western Ave
Historic Name	Undetermined
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	John Wicks
" Original	Undetermined
Constructed	ca. 1890-1900
Source	Owner
Style/Form	Victorian cottage with Eastlarkian door hood
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Garage
Alterations	
Moved	No
Acreage	3 acres
Setting:	Transitional area fields and woods of Sherborn give way to industrial buildings and parking lots of Framingham General Motors assembly plant, just to north of this house.
Recorded by	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This charming Victorian cottage rests on a brick foundation and rises one and one half stories to a gable roof. This diminutive structure is of a rectangular plan. Its west gable end exhibits a high degree of plasticity - a bracketed Eastlavian door hood and a polygonal bay project from this wall. A polygonal bay projects from its southern facade. Its clapboards are currently painted red and its roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Most of the houses on Western Ave, to the south of this house are rambling 5 bay farm houses built in the late 18th and early 19th century

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

During the 18th century Western Avenue was known as the way to the Sudbury River. By the mid 1820s it was called the road to the West. In the 18th and 19th century northwest Sherborn was an area of open fields and isolated farm houses. This house was built ca. 1890-1900, probably to house an employee of the Womens Reformatory. Founded in 1877, the Reformatory is located to the northeast of this house in Framingham. Sherborn originally extended several miles beyond the Present boundary. In 1890 575 acres was annexed from Sherborn to Framingham.

Note. According to the present owner this house was 60 or 70 years old when he bought it in 1959. It does not appear on the 1875 or 1889 atlases.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- Telephone interview with owner
- Maps of 1875 and 1889
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974