

# 137 Western Avenue



*Eleazer Goulding House*

<b>Form Nos.</b>	164 house, 367 barn (at 133 Western Ave.), 368 pump house, 369 1974 barn
<b>Area</b>	G
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	137 Western Avenue
<b>Assessor's Map</b>	2/78
<b>USGS Map</b>	Framingham
<b>Historic Name</b>	Eleazer Goulding House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Alan Kluckman
<b>" Original</b>	Eleazar Goulding
<b>Constructed</b>	House in 1825, barn (Form 369) ca. 1860 pump house ca. 1920, barn (Form 367) ca. 1900
<b>Source</b>	Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
<b>Style/Form</b>	Federal
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Capt. Ebenezer Mann
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Shed
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	2.00 acres

**Setting:** Situated in the heart of West Sherborn's farm country, house lot and surrounding area retain pre-20th c. rural charm.

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

**Film Roll/Negative** Roll 7

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

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### 1981 Survey

This handsome residence reflects the talents of Sherborn's early 19th century master builder, Ebenezer Mann. The main facade of this 2 1/2 story gable roof dwelling shows a good deal of simplicity and restraint. Its main entrance is much more understated than that of the Col. Sanger House which Mann built 6 years earlier on Washington Street. Its front door is flanked by attenuated Doric Pilasters and crowned by a shallow fan and dentillated cornice. Its windows are simply enframed and contain 6/6 lights. The difference between 137 Western Ave. and 8 Washington St is that of the farmhouse in the western hinterlands of a community to that of an "in-town" residence of one of the town's most prominent citizen's. These distinctions are reflected in the surface treatments for these dwellings.

### 1999 Update

The house at 137 Western Avenue (**#164**) survives in large part as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. Construction in the rear ell is currently underway. This appears to be a remodeling project focused on the secondary mass of the house.

A small, one-story pump house, (**#368**) built around 1900, with a pyramidal roof is in the north (left) side yard. The wood-shingled building has a pass door with plain trim and a window in the facade. Molded trim ornaments the eave. This is one of at least two historic pump houses that sheltered Sherborn's many private water works. Another is at 46 Forest Street\*\*.

The barn formerly belonging to the house at 137 Western Avenue is now part of the property at 133 Western Avenue, just to the north. The barn (**#367**) is a two- story, side gabled form clad in wood clapboards. The northern elevation has an attached wood silo with a decagonal form roof. It was remodeled as a house ca. 1970s.

The house retains its former agricultural appearance due in large part to the open yard and to the relatively new front gabled barn built in the back (east) of the property. Clad in vertical flushboard, the 1974 barn (**#369**) rises two and one-half stories and has a one-story ell at the north side wall.

Stone walls line the driveway and separate the well-maintained house and outbuildings from the road.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

### 1981 Survey

This house was built by Sherborn's master builder Ebenezer Mann in 1825. Mann constructed residences of high quality workmanship from ca. 1805-1840. His most notable structures included the Col. Calvin Sanger House at 8 Washington St.(1819) and the Lemuel Leland house, 61 North Main St. (1810). Upon

the completion of Col. Sanger's house Mann boasted that "You can fill the wainscoted southeast room on the ground floor with water up to the window sash and I'll guarantee it won't leak a drop."

He married Polly Dowse ca. 1807 and lived at 30 North Main St. He built 137 Western Ave. for Eleazar Goulding who survived the house's completion by little more than a year. The Gouldings owned this land as early as 1788. During the late 19th century an Ezra Hutchins lived here. He lost his life by being trapped in a folding bed.

Around the turn of the century the French family lived here. Mrs. French's parents, the Mauros, lived at 127 Western Ave. Both families belonged "to a religious sect of people from Framingham who stood on corners and preached."

### 1999 Update

The Eleazer Goulding House at 137 Western Avenue was the home of the successful farmer Curtis Goulding and his family in 1865. Mr. Goulding had \$1000 at interest for which he was taxed, as well as 2 horses, 4 oxen, 6 cows and 3 swine. The larger than average animal population was maintained on approximately 160 acres of land that was mowed, tilled, and used for pasture and an orchard. In addition to his house, Mr. Goulding was taxed on a barn and 3 storehouses. That barn was located south of the house, between the present barn and Western Ave. The present barn was built ca. 1970s by Alan Klutchman. Another dairy barn is now used as a residence and is associated with the property at 133 Western Avenue, the neighbor to the north. The 1874 Beers map and the 1889 Walker map indicate E. S. Hutchins was the occupant but tax valuations declare he paid only a poll tax and owned no land or buildings. It is possible that he rented the farm or was a caretaker or farmhand. Mr. Hutchins may have been responsible for constructing the barn between the house and the barn at 133 Western Avenue around 1870.

By 1925, Isabel and Charles French are listed as taxpayers living on the property. By that time, they had increased the herd of cows to 32, raised 600 fowls, built a silo, a wagon shed, four additional dwellings, probably located across the street and on Curve Str., a stable and water works. 1935 tax valuations show a similar amount of tax paid by the French family. None of the above buildings appear to have survived except the pump house for the water works and the barn at 133 Western Avenue.

The pump house is the pyramidal hipped outbuilding in the north side. This small building likely housed the water works, built before 1925. Private water works are common in Sherborn's property valuations during this period, owned mostly by more successful farmers such as Joseph Barber at 46 Forest Street \*\*. By 1939, one of Sherborn's biggest hay fields was located around this farm. Orchards were also present.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

### 1981 Survey

- Maps of 1788, 1875 and 1889
- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- "Historical Sketches of the Town of Sherborn in Mass. - Bardwell

## 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
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson, 1/99
- History of Middlesex County, Hurd
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses