

# 147 Western Avenue



*Joseph Cleale House*

<b>Form No.</b>	165
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Address</b>	147 Western Avenue
<b>Historic Name</b>	Joseph Cleale House
<b>Uses: Original</b>	Residence
<b>Present</b>	Residence
<b>Ownership, 1981</b>	Jack Farrell
<b>" Original</b>	Joseph Cleale
<b>Constructed</b>	ca. 1815-1820
<b>Source</b>	Morse - <u>History of Sherborn and Holliston</u> , 1856
<b>Style/Form</b>	Federal - Greek Revival
<b>Architect</b>	
<b>Ext. Wall Fabric</b>	Clapboard
<b>Outbuildings</b>	Barn, small cottage attached to rear ell
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	2.00 acres
<b>Setting:</b>	Surrounded by west Sherborn's farms - this area retains much of its pre-20th century charm.
<b>Recorded by</b>	Edward W. Gordon, July 1981.

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Joseph Cleale House is one of Sherborn's most stylish farmhouses. Its side and street facades exhibit unusual Gothicized Federal windows. In terms of form, its rectangular main block features symmetrical, recessed entrance porches at the corners of its western gable end. It rises 2 1/2 stories to a steeply pitched gable. Although its form is not unique in Sherborn, it is the oldest house of this type in town. Thirty-two and thirty-four North Main St and 28 Everett Street were built in the 1820's and 1830's. (see Forms 91 and 17). Neither of these houses possess windows surmounted by fans which culminate in pointed arches. This homestead's rear wing may be contemporary to the main block. The wing is crowned by a hip roof. Projecting from its south wall is a late 19th century porch with turned posts. Abutting the Wing's rear wall is a diminutive shingle covered cottage.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is located on Western Avenue, a north-south thoroughfare which was laid out in the early 18th century. Originally known as "the way to the Sudbury River" it was briefly called "the road to the west" (1822-1825). Joseph Cleale built the house shortly after he moved from Ipswich to Sherborn in 1816. Born in May 1794, he married Millie Mann of Walpole. His son Joseph A. Cleale was one of 82 Sherborn citizens who volunteered to fight in the Civil War. Joseph Sr's. ninth child Edwin (1836-1914) inherited the homestead. Edwin's sister, a Mrs. Prince and her son lived here into the 1930's. More recently the Town's winter "School barge" driver, Harold Stinson owned this house. Mr. Stinson started driving the School barge in 1910.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Margaret Dowse Buntin's research
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - A Guide to Sherborn and The History of Sherborn, 1974
- Maps of 1857, 1875 and 1889
- Joseph Blanchard's reminiscences