

238 Western Avenue



Wood House, March 1999

Form No.	376
Town	Sherborn
Address	238 Western Avenue
Assessor's #	3/29
USGS Quad	Medfield
Historic Name	Wood House
Uses: Present	Residence
Original	Residence
Constructed	1952
Source	Assessor information
Style/Form	Ranch
Architect/Builder	
Exterior Material:	
Foundation	Concrete
Wall/Trim	Vertical flushboard
Roof	Undetermined
Outbuildings	Stone wall
Alterations	North ell added 1959
Condition	Good
Moved	No
Acreage	1.03 acres
Setting	Rural
Film Roll/Negative	Roll 9
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The ranch style residence at 238 Western Avenue is a low, one-story form of four bays' width with an attached two-car garage at the south (left) side. The flat roof and deep eaves are distinguishing features of the 1952 design. The center entry is flanked by paired casement windows placed immediately below the eaves. Two brick piers mark the end of the approach to the front door and a low stone wall separates the property from the road. A one-story right side ell was added in 1959.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Ranch style residence at 238 Western Avenue was built around 1952 for G. Wood. The 1950s was 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

- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98.
- Tax valuations;