

42 Whitney Street



The Union Chapel, March, 1999

Form No.	379
Town	Sherborn
Place	Whitney Station
Address	42 Whitney Street
Assessor's #	2/136
USGS Quad	Medfield
Historic Name	The Union Chapel
Uses: Present	Residence
Original	Chapel
Constructed	ca. 1915
Source	Assessor information
Style/Form	Victorian Eclectic
Architect/Builder	
Exterior Material:	
Foundation	Concrete
Wall/Trim	Wood shingle
Roof	Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings	Detached garage/shop
Alterations	Some windows replaced, ca. 1990; remodeled from chapel to residence, 1931;
Condition	Good
Moved	No
Acreage	2 acres
Setting	Rural
Film Roll/Negative	Roll 2
Recorded by	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The house at 42 Whitney Street is a Victorian Eclectic style, side-gabled form of two stories. The three by two-bay plan is expanded at the north by a one-story enclosed porch. A 3/4 width shed dormer enlarges the interior of the second story. Windows are 6/1 double-hung sash in the dormer, a fixed 6-pane sash in the south gable peak and 1/1 replacement sash elsewhere. The center entry is covered by a triangular hood supported by simple brackets. Decorative elements include gable returns, molded cornice and a slim frieze below the eave. A brick chimney has been constructed against the left (south) side of the facade. The house is well maintained and occupies a wooded rural lot.

A building that serves as a garage and shop was built in the back yard of the house in 1961. The side-gabled one-story building houses one car and a one-room shop. The wood shingled exterior cladding matches the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 42 Whitney Street was constructed around 1915 as a chapel of unknown denomination. It had been reduced to use as hay storage by the late 1920s. Ku Klux Klan meetings are rumored to have taken place in the building after WW I. The Garvin family bought the building in 1931 from a Cambridge Sunday school teacher named Emma West. Old church paraphernalia such as hymnals and a pump organ remained at that time, according to the former owner. The building was remodeled into a residence which involved removing the double doors in the south gable end. WPA maps from 1939 indicate there were agricultural fields at this location surrounded by forests. Electric power lines were built across the land in 1941.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98.
- Tax valuations.
- Notes of former owner, James Garvin.