

144 Woodland Street



William Hodge House

Form Nos.	173 house, 386 barn
Area	A
Town	Sherborn
Address	144 Woodland Street
Assessor's Map	8/10
USGS Map	Medfield
Historic Name	William Hodge House
Uses: Original	Residence
Present	Residence
Ownership, 1981	Domenic Furino
" Original	Probably William Hodge
Constructed	House ca. 1860, barn ca. 1875
Source	Visual, appears on 1875 map
Style/Form	Elements of Greek Revival
Architect	
Ext. Wall Fabric	Clapboard
Outbuildings	Barn surmounted by Italianated cupola is of architectural interest.
Alterations	Front porches added in 20th century
Moved	No
Acreage	3.21 acres 1981, 3 acres 1999
Setting:	Situated on "island" bounded by Woodland, Greenwood, and Apple streets, its eastern facade is adjacent to low fieldstone wall and driveway. Picturesque barn on eastern portion of property.

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

Film Roll/Negative Roll 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

1981 Survey

This house, together with its picturesque barn, provide a glimpse of life on a mid 19th century Sherborn farm. This 2 story L-shaped structure features projecting and recessed front porches, intersecting rooflines, steeply pitched gables and both shed and wall dormers. Its southern gable exhibits a front door flanked by handsome Greek Revival pilasters, a pair of pedimented second floor windows, and a small triangular window near the gable's peak. The red barn on the eastern side of the driveway is architecturally noteworthy. Its surface treatments are more elaborate than most Sherborn residences. Essentially rectangular in plan, it rests on a high rubblestone basement. These stones contrast effectively with the shingles which cover the first and second floors. Rows of rectangular wood shingles alternate with rows of scalloped shingles. Its 6/6 sash windows are simply enframed. This structure is surmounted by a steeply pitched roof and Italianate or Bracketed Style cupola.

1999 Update

The house at 144 Woodland Street (**#173**) survives as it is described on the survey form completed in 1981. No major changes have been carried out since that time. The northerly (rear) section of the house, not described on the earlier form, is an attached gabled block with the scale and proportions of a 19th century shed or small barn. Corner boards, gable returns and a molded cornice ornament the wood clapboard, one and one-half-story building.

The barn at 144 Woodland Street (**#386**) is a two-story Victorian Eclectic style building constructed on an L-shaped plan, east of the house. The principal entry is an off-center rolling door built of vertical flushboard with a simple surround, a molded hood above and two oculus windows. The plan is three bays deep on the left (west) elevation, lit by simply trimmed double hung sash and a pass door. Two 6/6 double-hung sash pierce the facade, one of which has a low pedimented hood. The cross-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles, the majority of the walls in wood clapboard and the foundation is built, at least in part, of cobblestone. Other ornament consists of gable returns, molded cornice, corner boards and alternating courses of stagger-butt and square-butt wood shingles in the east side of the facade. A cupola, lit by 6/6 double-hung sash, with Italianate style brackets at the eaves, pyramidal hipped roof, weathervane and paneled pilasters occupies the center of the roof ridge. A brick chimney rises from the east side of the roof.

A stone wall lines the yard at the street and a post and rail fence encloses a paddock comprising much of the back yard. A stone in the wall is inscribed with a crudely cut face.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1981 Survey

This charming farm house and barn were apparently built by William Hodge ca. 1855- 1860. It first appears on the 1875 map. William Hodge's son and daughter-in-law, Isora Chamberlain, lived here with their son and daughter until at least the early 1900's. Edith Hodge Hunton, William Sr.'s granddaughter, died in 1973 and is remembered for her social services work in Natick.

1999 Update

The William Hodge House appears on the 1856 Walling map of Sherborn. 1865 census information indicates he was a vinegar manufacturer married to a woman named Cecilia with whom he had 5 children. The property valuations for 1865 reveal that he had \$1835 in casks and lumber as well as 2 horse, 2 pigs, 2 cows and a one-acre orchard.

The flock of animals increased steadily over the ensuing 50 years as Henry Hodge Jr. assumed ownership. The first reference to the existing carriage house in tax valuations was in 1875, a date that is consistent with the architectural details on the cupola and varied wood shingle siding.

By 1885, the orchard had grown to 5 ½ acres and a small cider mill had been built on the property. Swine constituted the largest portion of the animal population from 1870-1890, after which time, horses, cows and chickens were predominant. Orchard acreage increased again around 1890 to 18, although the cider mill never reappeared on the assessor's list. As on many other Sherborn farms, chickens became quite numerous here after 1900, totaling 125. Subsequent owners William and Isora Hodge retained ownership until after 1917. Mrs. Hodge worked as a teacher in Sherborn in 1915.

The rear section of the house has the appearance, by virtue of its scale and proportion, of a 19th century outbuilding that was attached to the house. In addition to the carriage house, the Hodges were taxed from 1875-1905 on a barn which might refer to this section of the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES

1981 Survey

- Maps of 1857, 1875 and 1889

1999 Update

- 1981 MHC B form from survey by Edward Gordon
- 1856 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Map; 1889 Walker Map
- Tax valuations, 1865-1945
- 1855, 1865 state censuses