

# Farm Pond Bath House/Kiosk



*Bath House, November 1998*



*Kiosk, November, 1998*

<b>Form No.</b>	247, 248-Kiosk
<b>Town</b>	Sherborn
<b>Place</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Lake Street
<b>Assessor's #</b>	
<b>USGS Quad</b>	Medfield
<b>Historic Name</b>	Farm Pond Bath House
<b>Uses: Present</b>	Bath House
<b>Original</b>	Bath House
<b>Constructed</b>	1934
<b>Source</b>	Local historian
<b>Style/Form</b>	Craftsman
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	WPA
<b>Exterior Material:</b>	
<b>Foundation</b>	Cobblestone
<b>Wall/Trim</b>	Uncut stone
<b>Roof</b>	Asphalt shingle

<b>Outbuildings</b>	Kiosk
<b>Alterations</b>	
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Moved</b>	No
<b>Acreage</b>	
<b>Setting</b>	Rural/Recreational site
<b>Film Roll/Negative</b>	Roll 6
<b>Recorded by</b>	Sanford Johnson, May 1999

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Farm Pond Bath House, located on a wooded lot on the western shore of that body of water, is a cobblestone building of one story with a low hipped roof and elements of Richardsonian Romanesque design. The center entry is covered by a gabled porch with heavy timber supports and a king-post truss. Other openings in the facade are paired sashless windows immediately beneath the deep eaves. Hipped porches with timber supports cover secondary entries on the east and west sides. Walls are built of large random laid cobblestone which lend an organic sensibility to connect the building with the nature-oriented site. The building was constructed by the W.P.A. in the early 1930s and reflects many of their design concepts for natural recreation areas.

A square kiosk (#248) with cobblestone knee walls and exposed rafters under a low pyramidal hipped roof is in the parking lot surrounding the bath house. This was constructed after the first parking lot was enlarged into that area and at its new entrance. Both buildings are in good condition.

## **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Works Progress Administration employees designed and built the Bath House on the pond in 1934. WPA workers also built a floating raft after use of the Pond for swimming was made legal once more. Intended as a recreational facility operated by the town, the project also gave employment to unemployed Depression period workers. Farm Pond had been under recreational use since the 1870s when steamboats plied the waters, picnickers frequented the beaches and anglers tried their luck. Indeed, authorities stocked the water with fish in 1873. In 1865, the sea captain Amariah Leland from Eden, Maine and his wife Martha lived at 138 Farm Road. Leland was taxed in 1865 for, among other items, three small boats, possibly kept on Farm Pond for recreational purposes. Similar recreational uses continue on Farm Pond today. Farm Pond was also used for commercial ice harvesting by local residents before the loss of the ice house in the Hurricane of 1938.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- 1939 W.P.A. map of Sherborn.
- Conversation with Betsy Johnson 12/98.
- Anne C. Shaughnessy - History of Sherborn and Guide to Sherborn, 1974
- Hurd, History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts;