

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

NOV 20 1985

JAN 3 1986

AREA	FORM NO.
	136

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Town Sherborn

Address 100 South Main Street

Historic Name Sewall-Ware House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1840, but said to contain fragments of a ca. 1703 house.

Source V/A

Style Mid 19th century vernacular

Architect N/A

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Garage (20th century)

Major alterations (with dates) Lean-to portion of saltbox removed in the early 1900s.

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting The Sewall-Ware House stands at a right angle to heavily travelled South Main Street. The building faces south, toward Sewall Brook.

UTM reference: 19 304650 4677650

(Staple additional sheets here)

scale 1:25,000 Medfield Quadrangle

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1985

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Although much altered, this house is a survivor from the wave of settlement that occurred along South Main Street and vicinity in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. It is believed by Abbott Lowell Cummings that this building may contain fragments of a First Period structure built ca. 1703. Over time, however, the dwelling has been greatly altered and now is a vernacular mid 19th century building, rising 2½ stories to a gable roof. Its main (south) facade is four bays wide. Its front door is flanked by narrow multipane sidelights and it is

(Cont'd)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Local tradition holds that the Sewall-Ware House has significant historical associations with the late 17th and early 18th century diarist and Massachusetts Bay Colony Chief Justice Samuel Sewall.

The Sewall-Ware house's land was part of a 500-acre grant secured by Captain John Hull in the 1660s. It included all of Sewall's Meadow and much of present-day Sherborn Center. Hull resided in Boston. He was a merchant and silversmith. Hull's only daughter, Hannah, married Samuel Sewall, who became Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Colony but is perhaps remembered most for serving as one of the judges of the Salem Witch Trials in the 1690s. The brook and meadow to the south of the nominated house still bear his name. The Sewalls inherited Hull's holdings. Visual analysis by Abbott Lowell Cummings and Harriet Forbes suggests that the core of the present house may date to the early 18th century, ca. 1703. Judge Sewall may have built the dwelling for his tenant, farmer Moses Adams. The first reference in Judge Sewall's famous diary to Adams' inhabitation occurs on April 14, 1703, when Sewall mentions "the farm Moses Adams lives on," for which he paid rent.

(Cont'd)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

"Sherborn Past and Present 1674-1924," Sherborn Historical Society.

"Historical Sketches, Sherborn Tercentenary, 1652-1952," compiled by Francis Bardwell.

Ware Genealogy, 1838-1898, compiled by Emma Forbes Ware.

Genealogical research by Susan Ware.

Research by Margaret Dowse Buntin.

Harriet Forbes, "Seventeenth Century Houses of Middlesex County," Old Time New England, Jan. 1939.

Anne C. Shaughnessy, A History of Sherborn and A Guide to Sherborn, 1974.

Maps of 1788, 1875, and 1889.

1798 Assessors list.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Sherborn	136
Property Name: Sewall-Ware House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

surmounted by a hood supported by small brackets. Its side walls are three bays wide. In the center of its gable roof is a wide brick chimney (which in turn probably replaced the original massive center chimney.) A rear lean-to was also removed in the early 20th century. The present house rests on a brick and rubble stone foundation, laid without mortar.

The interior contains early remnants as well, including a partially enclosed stairway that winds up the front of the chimney. The stairs are steep and narrow, with treads eight to nine inches high. Spanning the ceiling at the top of the stairs is a timber fourteen inches square.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

In 1734 the land, with house, barn, and about 200 acres of land, was deeded to Captain Joseph Ware by Judith Cooper, daughter of Judge Sewall and granddaughter of John Hull. The Wares lived in this house for 150 years, from 1734 until 1876. Members of the branch of the family born in this dwelling distinguished themselves in business, theology, education, medicine, and law. Born in this house were Joseph Ware and his brothers John and Benjamin. They distinguished themselves during the Revolutionary War. Another brother, the Rev. Henry Ware, graduated from Harvard in 1785 and began preaching at Hingham's First Church in 1787. In 1805 he was elected to the Chair of the Hollis Professorship of Divinity in Harvard College, a controversial appointment because of his liberal theological views. The discussions concerning his acceptability were among the first skirmishes of an intellectual and ecclesiastical debate that would divide New England's church and would result in a separating of liberal Unitarians from orthodox Congregationalists.

Rev. Ware's sons had distinguished careers in three different fields: Henry Jr. was a preacher associated with Harvard University. John was a physician in Boston, and William was an author. All spent their early years in this house.

Farmer Albert Penniman Ware (1811-1871) was the last of his family to reside in the nominated property. He harvested cranberries from nearby Sewall's Meadow.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

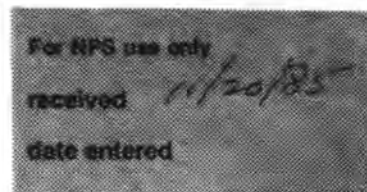
The Sewall-Ware House, a mid 19th century structure that contains fragments of a First Period dwelling house, retains integrity of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, and feeling, as well as associations with Sherborn's earliest period of European settlement. Its location on Sewalls Brook and along an early roadway in southeastern Sherborn is typical of this remote area's 17th and early 18th century development and thus qualifies the structure for Criterion A of the National Register. In its present form as a vernacular mid 19th century building with simple decorative detailing and an interior that retains fragments of an earlier structure, the Sewall-Ware House fulfils Criterion C of the National Register. The house is one of a number in Sherborn that may reveal information about building techniques in a peripheral area and thus fulfils Criterion D. Finally, the building holds associations with several prominent families in Sherborn, and meets Criterion B of the National Register of Historic Places. While the total acreage currently associated with the property is quite large (approximately 21 acres), only the area immediately surrounding the house and garage is being nominated.

MAP KEY

- A = House
- B = Garage (non-contributing)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 123

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Sherborn Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Cover Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Assington

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86
Determined Eligible

2. Buttonballs

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review for Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

3. Edwards Plain-Dowse's
Corner Historic
District

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

4. Morse-Barber House

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

5. Sewall-Ware House

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

6. Sherborn Center Historic
District

Substantive Review for Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

7. Stannox Farm

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review for Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrus 1/3/86

Attest Betty L. Savage 1-3-86

8. Sudbury Waste Weir A

Substantive Review for Keeper

RS

Attest

9. Bullen-Stratton-
Cozen House

Entered in for Keeper
National Register

Shelton Byers 1/3/86

Attest

10. Clark-Northrup House

Entered in for Keeper
National Register

Shelton Byers 1/3/86

Attest

86000494

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Sewall--Ware House (Sherborn MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 20 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 12/19/85 - 1/4/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-3-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Significant as a c.1840s vernacular house which may contain fragments of first period structure c.1703; however, the property can no longer convey significance from its possible earlier period. Also significant for associations with prominent Sherborn families and representative of Sherborn's early development patterns.

Recom./Criteria Accept A + C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 1-3-86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Sewall-Ware House

100 South Main St., Sherborn MA, Ma

Inv. # 136

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000293