

Maple Tree Farm/John B. Shepherd Farm – built ca.1850 by John B. Shepherd
Resource History
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In **1808**, John Stip Sr. sold 180 acres to James S. Lane for \$5,088 (JC DB 4/416). The tract adjoined George Stip on the north, Anthony Turner on the west, Joseph Turner on the south, and Boydston, Alder, and Chapline on the east.

In **1820**, Lane's 334 acres (including the 180 from Stip), adjoining now Matthias Stip's heirs, had a building value of \$300.

Marcus Alder sold 50 acres of his land adjoining Lane in 1823 for \$1,030. Alder had recently added a "new house" on a 10-acre parcel of the 50-acre tract sold to Lane. That smaller parcel was described in an 1822 Deed of Trust, the 10 acres "to be laid of... adjoining the land of James S. Lane, so as to include the house in which Rawliegh Ray now lives commonly called the new house... laid off as to run along said Lane's land across the said Alders entire tract" (JC DB 12/65, Deed of Trust, Alder to Jewett and Banks). However, despite the addition of the 50 acres including the Alder/Ray "new house" to James S. Lane's tract, the \$300 building value did not change.

In **1829**, the tax assessor listed three of Lane's heirs as the owners of 231 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres adjoining Isaac Chapline with a building value of \$300.

By **1832**, it was just Joseph E. Lane owned the tract, still with a \$300 building value.

In January **1835**, Joseph E. Lane sold the 231-acre farm "in the possession of John Bowers," to Henry Shepherd for \$9,000 (JC DB 20/184).

John Bowers was a neighboring land owner who had inherited 45 acres from his father. That acreage had no buildings so presumably Bowers lived on the Lane tract and likely remained there after the sale to Shepherd.

Shepherd's assessment in **1835** for the 232 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres [sic] was still only \$300 for buildings.

That assessment did not change until **1841** when the tract was listed with a building value of \$0 (perhaps a fire?), which again did not change as late as 1849.

The **1852** S. Howell Brown map does show a building at the location of the current Maple Tree Farm house. **This implies a ca.1850 date for the house, probably built by John B. Shepherd.**

When Henry Shepherd wrote his will in **1867**, he left his 300-acre farm, purchased from Selby, Wilson, and Joseph E. Lane (231 acres), to his sons John and Abraham, John to get "the eastern half including the buildings where he once lived" (JC Recorders Will Book, page 153).

As late as **1961** the farm was still referred to as the "John B. Shepherd Farm" in the deeds.