



c. 1982 Built Heritage Inventory

700 LaHave Street

This home, "quite intact architecturally" as late as the early 1980s, dates back over one hundred years to around the year 1883, when A. F. Church mapped Bridgewater. This and 704 LaHave were shown as being owned by "J. Broom", likely Jacob Bruhm, the brother of the William Bruhm who bought this property in 1889. It is therefore likely that the house predates William's acquisition of the property.

The home featured a unique touch with its extremely large three-window gable dormer which rose from the eaves, above the central front door. This allowed the walls to continue upwards, creating an imposing aspect of height and an aesthetically pleasing disruption to the otherwise plain roofline. If not for this large dormer, the house would have been easily identifiable as an original example of the Cape Cod architectural style, due to its tall, side-gabled roof, single story front façade, and top-heavy appearance. Also of note were the lovely original shingle siding, and the original, plain brick chimney. Adding a bit of decoration to the normally subdued Cape Cod style of house were exaggeratedly large window hoods forming cornices over each window, as well as a large cornice over the front door.



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Though probably a slight embellishment, assessment records as of 1985 dated this house to be over 150 years old, suggesting a construction date of 1835 or earlier. While one section could have been built as a simple house that early, and simply expanded over the years, it was not mentioned in the W. J. Gates newspaper article on Bridgewater from 1847, so it likely was only built between 1850 and 1860. Several architectural elements and forms compare favourably with homes in downtown Bridgewater thought to date from a similar period, further supporting that date. The site was originally owned by both Jacob and William Bruhm, and by 1883, the A. F. Church Map showed "J. Broom" as owning two buildings in this location, likely this house and its neighbour. Later in its life, the home was owned for over 40 years by accountant Stanley Charlton.

On a whole, the house was a cross-gable design, with two gabled Gothic dormers filling up the entire visible portion of the left-hand (north) side. The western one of these contained a six-over-six sash window, as did both windows under the main gable at the right side (south end) of the home. Both of these seemingly intact windows added to the relatively old character of the home. Also apparent were two gabled dormers, lacking walls, which projected from the side-gabled portion (north end) of the house. In the front, a sun porch composes the principal entrance. This would be a later

addition, as the small, narrow panes of glass used to top the continuous expanse of windows usually can be dated, via their style, to the 1910s and 1920s. With trees and shrubs adding landscaping to the atmosphere of the homes exterior, it would have added a nice, heritage touch to the relatively bland stretch of LaHave Street it once sat on.

Demolition permits were issued for these two homes in 2006, allowing the owners of neighbouring property, wholesalers Crouse & Choat, to obliterate both.