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Dating Old Houses in Amherst, N.H. : TOWN (outside of Village)

research and analysis by Katrina Holman, independent historical researcher of & for Amherst

This is the first-ever systematic methodical effort to determine the “year built” for most of the old houses outside the Village (dozens!) and first owner-occupant for each – **based on actual research of primary sources** (deeds all the way to the beginning and other sources such as tax invoices). The sources are listed!

These (below) are the **earliest plausible, defensible** dates for Amherst’s old houses – based on documentary evidence; nevertheless, the house now-standing **may be later, in whole or in part**.

Searchable Categories:

Date: 1660LandGrant; 18th-century; before1760; circa1800; 19th-century; 20th-century

Architecture: Brick; Cape; Condos (old house partitioned); GreekRevival; MotoristCabins; StoneCape

Use – Dwelling House: BoysHome; Commercial (house itself, other than hospitality); Eatery; Inn (20th c.); HouseofWorship; Parsonage (meaning home of locally-serving clergyman whether owned by church or by an individual); SchoolBoarding; Schoolhouse (public); SchoolPrivate; SummerBoardingHouse (not all are captured); SummerHome (not all are captured); Tavern (= 18th & 19th c. Inn)

Example – Taverns (3 operating in 18th c.; 3 in both 18th & 19th c.; 3 in 19th c.):
40 Boston Post Road (BPR); 226 BPR, 232 BPR (earliest), 244 BPR, 306 BPR; 344 BPR, 382 BPR, 107 Ponemah Rd, 302 Route 101 (all outside of Village)

Use – Dwelling House – Unique: AlmsHouse; GarrisonHouse; Jail; PauperFarm aka PoorFarm; RailroadPassengerDepot (also was Post Office in later years)

Use – Associated Buildings (location may no longer be on current reduced-size house lot):
AutomobileDealership; CiderMill; CornCrib; GasStation; Mill; MotoristCabins; Shop; Store

Note: CornCrib is only surviving example; search on “corn barn” to find a few documented examples that have since disappeared.

Types of Shop: Blacksmith’s Shop, Cooper’s Shop, Millinery Shop (none in this list, see Village houses), Shoemaker’s Shop, Tailor’s Shop, Wheelwright’s Shop

Owners/Occupants: Black/ColoredOwner; CivilWarVetOwner; CivilWarWidow; FirstSettler; IrishImmigrants; Life-lease; NarragansetSoldierHeir; Parsonage (indicates occupied by clergyman); RevolutionaryWarVet (not all captured); SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead; SonBuiltonLandfromFather; WomanOriginalOwner

Note: **Famous and Prominent Persons** (not a separate category, but included in text):
Robert Frost (summer visit as child); Horace Greeley (birth house in Amherst, historical marker);
Rev. Jeremiah Barnard (home); Rev. Nathan Lord (home)

Builder: Signifies either that the builder’s name is documented or that the first owner-occupant likely constructed with his own hands, having a documented skill such as carpenter/joiner/housewright or mason.

Geography: Monson; Moved; Quarry; SouheganRiverFarm

Sorted by Date – Old Houses in Amherst, N.H. : TOWN (outside of Village)

18th Century:

Before 1760 – all but one in Souhegan West (18 houses with 2 ‘perhaps’; 2 double-listed):

84 Amherst St; 232 Boston Post Rd; 233 Boston Post Rd (garrisoned house); 244 Boston Post Rd; 306 Boston Post Rd; 324 Boston Post Rd (perhaps); 328 Boston Post Rd; 382 Boston Post Rd (oldest part); 14 Green Rd (oldest part); 5 Old Manchester Rd (perhaps); 10 Old Manchester Rd; 302 Route 101; 1 Smith Lane; 44 Stearns Rd (in Monson); 34 Thornton Ferry Rd1; 2 Thornton Ferry Rd2; 16 Thornton Ferry Rd2 (perhaps); 20 Walnut Hill Rd.

After 1760 – in sections that are now Amherst (48-1=47 houses):

61 Austin Rd; 82 Baboosic Lake Rd; 100 Baboosic Lake Rd; 118 Baboosic Lake Rd; 226 Boston Post Rd; 250 Boston Post Rd; 344 Boston Post Rd; 369 Boston Post Rd; 377 Boston Post Rd; 423 Boston Post Rd; 54 Brook Rd; 46 Chestnut Hill Rd; 61 Christian Hill Rd; 17 Eaton Rd; 168 Hollis Rd; 78 Horace Greeley Rd; 23 Green Rd; 6 Dodge Rd; 106 Horace Greeley Rd; 114 Horace Greeley Rd; 4 Lynch Farm Rd; 23 Lyndeborough Rd; 31 Lyndeborough Rd; 65 Lyndeborough Rd; 23 Mack Hill Rd; 86 Mack Hill Rd; 146 Mack Hill Rd; 31 Mont Vernon Rd; 23 Old Manchester Rd; 16 Old Milford Rd; 25 Old Milford Rd; 6 Ponemah Rd; 102 Ponemah Rd; 107 Ponemah Rd (likely built as tavern); 117 Ponemah Rd; 1 Ponemah Hill Rd; 23 Ponemah Hill Rd; 348 Route 101; 57 Seaverns Bridge Rd; 92 Seaverns Bridge Rd; 94 Seaverns Bridge Rd (possibly in Monson); 86 Spring Rd; 116 Spring Rd; 6 Thornton Ferry Rd2; 2 Upham Rd (disappeared 2024/5); 27 Walnut Hill Rd; 40 Walnut Hill Rd; 61 Walnut Hill Rd.

Circa 1800 (3 houses): 54 Old Manchester Rd; 106 Ponemah Rd; 112 Ponemah Rd.

Note: If date is fairly certain, e.g., 1799 or 1802, then house is categorized with respective century.

Either 18th or 19th Century (1 house): 9 Eaton Road (*either* c.1795 *or* mid-19th century).

Both 18th & 19th Century (4 houses of which 2 are double-listed):

29 Austin Rd; 82 Baboosic Lake Rd; 382 Boston Post Rd (also bef. 1760); 14 Green Rd (also bef. 1760).

19th Century:

- **Built as Dwelling house** (48 houses of which 1 has no history write-up yet = 47):

77 Amherst St; 81 Amherst St; 130 Amherst St; 133 Amherst St; 16 Baboosic Lake Rd; 33 Border St; 35 Border St.; 48 Border St; 74 Boston Post Rd; 217 Boston Post Rd; 228 Boston Post Rd; 376 Boston Post Road; 481 Boston Post Rd; 4 Brook Rd; 18 Brook Rd; 43 Brook Rd; 25 Chestnut Hill Rd; 52 Chestnut Hill Rd; 82 Chestnut Hill Rd; 55 Christian Hill Rd (stone cape); 8 Craftsman Lane; 10 Craftsman Lane; 64 Dodge Rd; 5 Eaton Rd; 146 Hollis Rd; 6 Horace Greeley Rd; 27 Horace Greeley Rd; 40 Horace Greeley Rd; 46 Lyndeborough Rd; 70 Lyndeborough Rd; 73 Lyndeborough Rd; 75 Lyndeborough Rd; 158 Mack Hill Rd; 24 Merrimack Rd; 39 Mont Vernon Rd; 3 Old Mont Vernon Rd; 26 Old Mont Vernon Rd (no history yet); 54 Ponemah Rd; 76 Ponemah Rd; 7 Ponemah Hill Rd; 226(A) Route 101; 7 Saddle Hill Rd; 47 Spring Rd; 98 Spring Rd; 99 Spring Rd; 35 Thornton Ferry Rd1; 20 Thornton Ferry Rd2; 1 Walnut Hill Rd.

- **Built as Tavern/Inn** (2 houses, of which 1 double-listed):

40 Boston Post Rd. Also 382 Boston Post Rd (19th-century main part).

- **Built as one-room District Schoolhouse, converted to dwelling** (5):

361 Boston Post Rd, 97 Chestnut Hill Rd, 65 Christian Hill Rd, 118 Hollis Rd, 16 Schoolhouse Rd.

- **Built as Shop, or Used as Shop before converted to house** (1 house, which is double-listed in 20th c.):

313 Route 101 (two-room first floor of main part which is the oldest part).

20th Century:

- **Built as Dwelling house** (9 houses, of which 1 is double-listed):

40 Corduroy Rd (1911); 16 Eaton Rd (1913); 7 Lyndeborough Rd (1913); 92 Merrimack Rd (1915); 95 Merrimack Rd (1920); 96 Merrimack Rd (1912); 104 Ponemah Rd (1948); 108 Ponemah Rd (1904); 313 Route 101 (1948, except than 2 rooms on first floor that are likely 19th century).

- **Built as District Schoolhouse, converted to dwelling:** 21 Border St.

- **Built as Commercial building:**

Building 1 at 276 Route 101 (built as commercial bldg but upstairs utilized as home in mid-20th century).

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Nota Bene.: Indeed there are additional 18th & 19th-century houses still standing & occupied – but this document only includes those whose history has been verified (complete deed chain). Let's eschew guess-work.

Dating house at **77 Amherst Street** (tax lot 3/73; "Mrs. Robbins" on 1858 map):

House built 1849 by/for Henry Came (d. 1888 in Nebraska), whose wife was Ann M. Senter (1808-1901; married 1835 in NH), a farmer. Henry Came was first taxed as a resident (without property) in April 1848 and had already built house by Oct. 1849 when he purchased the newly-created 3/4 acre house lot for \$50 from Mark Lovejoy (1816-1893; wife Ann Patience Came) (deed 257:341). Henry enlarged his lot to about 3.75 acres by adding 3 acres adjoining on the south (deed 257:342). The family were here in 1850 census, enumerated with 5 children ranging in age from 14 down to an infant. But in April 1851, Came lost the property by lawsuit for debt, sold by Sheriff (deed 268:70); the Came family moved to Iowa.

More History: The next owner-occupant, 1854-1859, was Annette Rachel Robbins nee Colburn (1833-1895; married 1853; divorced 1859) of Milford, who bought the place "to her sole and separate use free from the interference and control of her husband" for \$350 (deeds 290:177 and 323:24). She remarried and was Rachel A. Abbott of Lyndeborough when she sold in 1859 (deed 323:24).

The recent Irish immigrant family of Jeremiah/"Jerry" Buckley, farm laborer, rented for several years since about 1869 (per 1869-1872 tax invoices of John L. Spring in District 2 and 1874 tax invoice of Gilbert Wadleigh in District 2) before his wife, Mary Buckley (d. 1909, age about 80, buried St. Patrick's cemetery) bought the house with 4 acres in 1878 for \$600 (deed 444:528). The Buckleys had immigrated with three children born in Ireland and two more sons were born in New Hampshire; plus Mrs. B. cared for a nephew since his childhood. In 1892 widow Mary Buckley sold the house to her eldest, daughter Catherine/ "Kate" Buckley (1860/62-1946, b. Ireland, d. Amherst, buried Meadowview), long-time domestic servant of Rev. & Mrs. J. G. Davis at 19 Main Street, who in 1897 became wife of John Pesterfield (1872-1947, b. England, d. Amherst), who also worked for Davis-Spalding family as well as did his own farming. Widow Mary Buckley lived here until her death in 1909. If the Pesterfield couple ever lived here, it was only briefly. (Kate owned 86 Mack Hill Road farm since 1908, and the P. couple moved there around 1925.) Sold by the estate of Catherine B. Pesterfield in 1948.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Irish immigrants *

Dating house at **81 Amherst Street** (tax lot 3/74; "R. Hutchinson" on 1858 map):

House built 1848 by/for Mark Lovejoy (1816-1893), husbandman, who owned & occupied with his wife Ann Patience nee Came (married 1842; d. 1898 aged 81), their children, and his elderly parents until Nov. 1851 (deed 270:313, \$975). Mark Lovejoy had bought 80-acre George Wiley-Joshua Lovejoy Jr.-Nathaniel Emerson Farm lying on both sides of road in 1846 (deed 243:324) and proceeded to carve it up, retaining 30 acres on which he built 81 Amherst Street house.

More History: From late 1852 until 1862, this was the home of Reuben Hutchinson Jr. (d. 1887 aged 72 at Milford), farmer whose wife was Judith nee Laws (d. 1883 aged 66), while it was owned by his father, nonresident Reuben Hutchinson (Sr., 1782-1861; wife Lucy nee Hutchinson) of Milford, who bought house on 30 acres in Dec. 1852 for \$1025 (deed 276:373) and owned until his death.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **84 Amherst Street** (tax lot 3/80; "I. Lovejoy" on 1858 map):

Cape house built 1758 or 1759 by/for George Wiley of Souhegan West, husbandman, who in April 1758 bought part of Third Division Lot 18 containing 30 acres plus adjoining 79-acre Second Division lot in Souhegan West (Hillsborough County deed 8:62, recorded 1779), and owned & occupied with wife Sarah nee Hartshorn (married 1761) until 1779 (deed 8:61).

More History: Property began as 109-acre farm lying on both sides of road; reduced in 1793, when bought by Nathaniel Emerson (Sr., d. 1829 aged 69; wife Mercy), a cooper, to 80 acres lying on both sides of road (deed 104:536); reduced in 1848, when bought by farmer Isaac Lovejoy (1804-1880;

married 1831 Jemima Colburn), to 15-acre parcel lying wholly on west side of road (deed 248:452); subdivided in 1983 to become Lot 3/80, reduced to 3.3 acres (deed 3102:419; plan #16183). Cape was re-sited, moved further back from the road 1983/84 by firm of Ann Colby-Hines (“Building Permits Filed in Amherst,” *Milford Cabinet*, 17 Nov. 1983, p. 20; “Not only people move in Amherst, houses have been relocated also” by Dorothy Davis, *Milford Cabinet*, 20 Dec. 1984, p. 33 near end of article).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * Moved *

Dating house at **130 Amherst Street** (tax lot 5/93; “N. Wheeler” on 1858 map):

Brick house built circa 1838 by Josiah Russell, mason; more specifically, after Oct. 1838 when Russell bought a newly-created one-acre lot split off from Dr. M. Spalding’s homestead [19 Main Street] for \$106.25 (deed 198:235), and before July 1842 (when “Russell’s house” is mentioned in deed 217:73). Russell expanded the lot with 2 additional small parcels in 1840 (deed 206:213, \$14.37) and in 1842 (deed 217:73, \$146, from a different abutter); Russell sold the property with buildings in 1845 for \$1000 (deed 234:2).

More History: In 1844, while still owned by nonresident Josiah Russell, the house was rented by Rev. Mason Ball, minister of the Baptist Church 1841-’44, who owned a horse but no other taxable property (1844 Amherst tax invoice).

From 1886-1906 this was the Congregational parsonage, owned by the Congregational Society (deeds 483:216, 645:208) while occupied by Rev. Alfred J. McGown (Jr., 1843-1916, born & buried Maine), who served as pastor of the Congregational church 1885-1905. He lived here with his (second) wife Delia nee Thomas (1844-1926, married 1883; died & buried China) and their daughter & son grew up here; the son was born shortly after they arrived in Amherst.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2021.]

(For more, see “The Old Brick House on Milford Hill” by Jimmy Ware in newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, June 1974. The beginning paragraphs are wrong because his sources were faulty but other stuff is good.)

Categories: 19th-century * Brick * Builder – Mason * Parsonage *

Dating house at **133 Amherst Street** (tax lot 5/19; “F. Peabody” on 1858 map):

Greek Revival 2-story house built 1855 by/for Francis Peabody (1793-1872), farmer and carpenter, who owned & occupied 135 Amherst Street until March 1855 (deed 292:350) when he sold the Samuel Bell House but retained 8 acres which thus became newly-created 133 Amherst Street lot. The valuation of Peabody’s buildings in tax invoices doubled from \$400 on 1 April 1855 to \$800 in 1856.

More History: It remained the home of three siblings in the next generation of the Peabody family, who ran it as a summer boarding house (1875-1885). The former barn was destroyed by fire in 1906 (*Milford Cabinet*, 25 Jan. 1906, p. 4). Again opened as summer boarding house in 1907-1911, run by Fred W. Barnes, brother-in-law of homeowner Daniel A. Peabody (1842-1925), a Civil War vet (*Milford Cabinet*, 30 May 1907, p. 2). Sold out of the Peabody family in 1912 (deed 703:329), and the new/next owner, George E. Holbrook (1854-1915) whose wife was Lestina nee Sawyer (1855-1938, m2. 1896), added a piazza and new windows (*Milford Cabinet*, 30 Jan. 1913; 20 March 1913, p. 5).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2021.]

(For more information, see newspaper article “Historic Amherst: Amherst’s Last Surviving Civil War Veteran” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, digital only, May 2020.)

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * Builder – Carpenter * SummerBoardingHouse * CivilWarVetOwner *

Dating house at **29 Austin Road** (tax lot 8/6; “T. B. Parker” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1770 and 1870. House – or the oldest part of it (perhaps the ell removed in 2015) – built circa 1770 by/for John Hartshorn (1744-1830), husbandman, who in 1768 had bought 60-acre First Division Lot 56 and two other parcels (Hillsborough Co. deed 2:369) from David Hartshorn, gentleman, probably his father (Sr., b. 1710), who dwelt on an adjoining lot. The individual taxpayer invoices, which commence 1801, show John Hartshorn in the northern third of town, assessed taxes on “wild land & buildings” of an amount to indicate a house; in 1817, when John made a life-lease agreement with his son

Timothy (1793-1868), the parents were entitled to use of half of the dwelling house for the rest of their lives (deed 115:4).

More History: The two-story 5-bay main house probably dates from 1870, because there is a rafter in attic dated 1870 and signed by Chas. S. Parker (1843-1926), who acquired 100-acre farm from his parents in 1869 in exchange for caring for them for the rest of their lives (life-lease deed 381:161), which lasted until 1883 for his mother, nee Mary Hildreth, and until 1892 for his father, Thomas, farmer and cooper. Charles S. Parker was married in 1880 to Harriet/Hattie M. Grater (1846-1896); only one child, a son b. 1883, survived. Charles carried on a substantial vinegar and cider-making business for about 30 years until 1889. The newspaper reported: "Among the points of interest to the many summer tourists of this place, not the least has been the establishment of Charles S. Parker (particularly his cellar,) a mile and a half from our village. Mr. Parker, as is well known, makes a specialty of the manufacture of cider and vinegar; but is also a picture frame and axe helve manufacturer, a cooper, a blacksmith, and in fact can turn his hand to almost anything. But it was of his cellar that we intended to speak. It is a spacious apartment, filled with rows of neat barrels, three tiers high, containing cider of every variety from one to five years of age – there being in all nearly three hundred barrels. There is also a stock of bottled cider of all varieties, including cider wines. An air of perfect neatness and order pervades the whole establishment, mill and surrounding." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 1 Sep. 1875, p. [2].) "Mr. C. S. Parker of this place [Amherst, N.H.] has manufactured at his mill, since the first of September [1878], 1470 barrels of cider, his last pressing being on Friday last. He now has in his cellar, of cider and vinegar, 638 barrels. Mr. Parker has a mill with all the improvements, and probably makes as nice an article as is possible to manufacture from apples." (*Cabinet*, 10 Dec. 1878, p. [2].) In 1899, Parker moved out of town (*Milford Cabinet*, 5 Jan. 1899) although he owned the property for several more years.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

(Note regarding Dating: In 'windshield survey' for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built "ca. 1860-80" (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, p. 38).)

Categories: 18th-century * 19th-century * Life-lease 1817 & 1869 * CiderMill *

Dating house at **61 Austin Road** (tax lot 7/53-1; "S. Austin" on 1858 map):

Cape house built unknown date, say circa 1775, probably by/for Cesar Freeman, husbandman, who was already a resident of Amherst in 1778 when he bought 30-acre western half of First Division Lot 104, bounded south by a highway, from Elizabeth Perwidy, illiterate unmarried "laboring woman" who was also a resident of Amherst then (deed 8:237). Perwidy had owned the full 60-acre Lot 104 in 1774 when she was a resident of Ipswich Hamlet in the Province of Massachusetts Bay (deed 3:311). Freeman sold in 1782, having moved to Lyndeborough. Both Freeman and Perwidy were likely black. (See "History of Blacks in Amherst, N.H." by Katrina Holman, on website of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.)

Road Name and More History: Austin Road is named for the family of farmer Saul Austin (1787-1881) who leased the farm for several years (here in 1830 census) prior to his purchase in 1836 of 50 acres with buildings for \$600 (deed 187:287), and lived here until his death as did his widow. In 1889 Charles E. Austin (1840-1925) of Lowell, a Civil War vet who had been manufacturer of musical instruments like his father Charles (1813-1884) in Concord, NH., then a machinist and then dealer in musical instruments in Lowell, acquired his late grandparents' homestead with about 40 acres by buying out the other heirs (deed 502:10). He and his wife, Laura A. Lovering (m. 1867; d. 1925), and their daughter, Susie (1873-1946; m. 1898 Abel P. Robertson) used it as their summer/ country home, which they called Elm Farm, until 1940 (*Milford Cabinet*, 19 Sep. 1940, p. 5), making 4 generations of Austin family ownership. The next owner also used as a summer home, until 1948 (*Milford Cabinet*, 13 May 1948, p. 8).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Black/ColoredOwner * SummerHome * CivilWarVetOwner *

Dating house at **16 Baboosic Lake Road** (tax lot 6/54; "G. Wheeler" on 1858 map):

Cape house with center chimney built unknown date, say circa 1800, by/for unknown owner.

In 1824, Thomas M. Benden (1791-1848), a tailor who lived with his milliner wife in Village (at SW corner of Main & Middle Streets), bought 26 acres "on north side of road leading from [David McG.] Means' saw mill to Merrimack" from 4 heirs/children of David Stewart (1757-1821), who had lived in

Village on corner opposite Benden, for total of \$237.48 (in 3 deeds, no mention of buildings: 149:513, 149:515, and 149:516). Benden advertised the house for sale three times, each time with a different amount of acreage: initially in 1837 as “a new [!!] house, barn and shed” with more land than just the Stewart tract; in 1839 with merely 3 acres; and finally in 1841 as a small farm of 41 acres (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 20 Jan. 1837; 11 Oct. 1839; 31 March 1841).

In 1842, Gardner G. Wheeler (1816-1855) bought “buildings” on 5 acres & 100 rods “on north side of road from Courthouse to Merrimack” for \$462.50 (deed 216:539). His widow, Tabitha (Brown) Wheeler (1805-1881) sold the house on 5 acres in 1878 for \$500 (deed 444:346).

More History: For 58 years starting in 1885 (deed 480:384), this house was owned by Charles A. Pettingale (1864-1943) known as Charlie Pett, a farmer or farm laborer who remained a single man and “lived alone in the weathered cottage with huge old lilacs completely covering the front” (*Milford Cabinet*, 26 May 1966, p. 3).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman. rev. Dec. 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape *

Dating house at **82 Baboosic Lake Road** (tax lot 6/30; “J. M. Parker” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1795 and c. 18xx. The original house was built by/for Samuel Truell (d. 1835 aged 64) who in 1792 bought 60 acres, lying on both sides of the road, from his father Amos Truel(l) for 30 pounds (deed 39:435) and in Nov. 1793 married Sally Abbot (d. 1808). The next owner, from 1805 to 1812, was Jacob McIntire (wife Lucy), formerly of Lyndeborough, yeoman, who paid \$800 for 60 acres with house (deed 63:434). He advertised the “small farm” in 1811 as “having a new house and barn” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 23 April 1811).

More History: Josiah Merrill Parker (1805-1885; married 1833 Maria A. Cash; 7 children), who owned this house on 60-acre farm from 1830-1858, advertised his homestead in 1847 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*) as including one-story house and shed, cooper's shop, barn 40 by 28, with a shed and “corn-house 61 by 14 near by adjoining the barn.” His orchards (by 1852, 1855) included young Baldwins, upwards of 200 grafted apple trees, also pear, plum and peach trees. Josiah put the farm up for sale in 1847, again in 1852 and 1855 (when the cooper's shop was being used as a shoemaker's shop), but didn't sell until 1858 (deed 316:265, for \$2000).

At some point, this became a two-story house. In 1865, Eben Converse (c.1834-1922) bought the 60-acre farm on the road from Amherst Village to Merrimack, for \$1050 (deed 355:99). Eben Converse is credited (by Howard Locke (1883-1959), not a reliable source but sometimes correct, in his notes for this house numbered Town 75) with having built the barn and rebuilt the house. In Dec. 1866 at Hudson, Eben Converse was married to Miss Betsey A. Hill of Litchfield, who died in Dec. 1871, aged 48 years. Eben was (re)married at Nashua in July 1873 to Mrs. Susan E. Parker of Milford; divorced in Oct. 1879. In 1880 (census), he was living as a boarder in another Amherst farmer's household and working as a farm laborer; although he didn't sell this house & farm until Oct. 1881 (deed 459:404, for \$1250).

[Research 2013 by Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

(Note regarding Dating: In ‘windshield survey’ for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built “ca. 1850-70s” (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, spreadsheet appendix, p. 1).)

Categories: 18th-century * 19th-century * CornCrib * Cooper & Shoemaker Shop *

Outbuilding on lot 6-28-1: Amherst's only remaining **Corn Crib**, standing on the opposite side of the road from house at 82 Baboosic Lake Road, originally was part of same farm as early as 1847 (see above, called “corn-house”). The Corn Crib has been owned since 2003 by the Town of Amherst as part of an open space easement (deed 6906:0780; *Annual Report of Town of Amherst N.H.*, 2004). As part of preservation by Heritage Commission, a new window was installed 2013. “The NBSS [North Bennet Street School of Boston] students reproduced the window based on the ones in the neighboring farm shed. Based on the muntin profiles, the window dates to the 19th century. The design is “double-hung sash” and there are 6 lites per sash. Each lite contains a sheet of 7" x 9" cylinder glass. (I believe NBSS used reclaimed glass instead of reproduction glass.)” (Email from William Veillette of Amherst to Katrina Holman, 1 June 2013).

[Research by Katrina Holman 2013; text by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2023.]

Categories: CornCrib *

Dating house at **100 Baboosic Lake Road** (tax lot 6/6; “J. T. Wright” on 1858 map):

House built possibly as early as 1762 by/for Andrew Shannon (died 1817) (wife Lydia), weaver & husbandman (farmer), who was a resident of Reading, Mass., in 1761 when he bought 40 acres in Amherst bounded easterly in part by Baboosic “pond” (Hillsborough County deed 51:8, recorded 1800). Shannon was a resident of Amherst by 1763 (Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, p. 62). Shannon expanded his farm in 1770 with additional 40 acres being First Division Lot 66 and westerly part of Lot 65 (deed 13:469, recorded 1785). In 1802, Shannon sold his “homestead farm” containing about 90 acres with buildings for \$1000 (deed 54:428).

More History: In 1876, this became the homestead of Joseph E. Fowle (1846-1918), farmer, who bought 60a & bldgs for \$1400 (deed 427:173). In 1878 he was married to Emma J. Hodgman (1851-1928). He became a longtime deacon of the Congregational Church. His son Edward P. Fowle (1884-1933, born & died in this house) inherited and was a farmer specializing in fruit especially apples. He was married in 1929 to Emily Russell Coumans (1891-1986, b. Nova Scotia); the bride, a former teacher, wore blue chiffon and lace. As widow, Emily inherited and called the place Nine Elms Farm. (Emily sold in 1946 & moved to Milford.)

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Aug. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Life-lease 1799 *

Dating house at **118 Baboosic Lake Road** (tax lot 6/12-1; “I. Parker” on 1858 map, near Merrimack townline):

House built circa 1775 by/for Ebenezer Hutchinson (b. 1753) (wife Hannah), husbandman=farmer and soon Revolutionary War soldier, who in 1773 bought 60 acres partly in Merrymack and partly in Amherst for 50 Pounds lawful money, from [his father] Solomon Hutchinson of Merrimack, husbandman (Hillsborough County deed 17:533, recorded late, in 1786).

More History: The second owner-occupant, from 1794-1800, was Ebenezer Stimson (wife Esther), who was a cordwainer and resident of Reading, Mass., when he bought 65 acres (partly in Merrimack & partly in Amherst, lying on both sides of the road) “with the buildings thereon standing” for 105 Pounds lawful money (deed 34:145). This probably was Ebenezer Stimson (1749-1829, b. Reading, d. Medford, Mass), who had been a minute man at the battle of Bunker Hill (per DAR lineage book) and had married Esther Hartshorn in 1780 at Reading.

More History: From 1800-1966, this house belonged to the Parker family, home to five successive generations of farmers. (1) Isaac Parker (Sr., 17xx-1827) who came from Reading, Mass., in 1800 bought 75a farm, partly in Amh & partly in Mmk, for \$1100 (deed 49:190). (2) In 1815, the year in which he married, Isaac Parker (Jr., 1784-1836; b. Reading; d. Amherst; buried Meadowview) bought undivided half of his father’s homestead farm together with half of the dwelling house and the whole of the barn for \$1000 (deed 107:434). A week later, Father wrote his Last Will & Testament in which he bequeathed the other half of the farm and house to this son as well as some personal estate but stipulated that Jr. “was to provide annually 8 bushels of grain, 60 barrels of pork fattened, 5 bushels of potatoes, 2 barrels of cider, one bushel of white beans, fire wood sufficient for one fire at the door for the fire” – things which Pa (not being Egyptian) surely would want *before* his decease, making this Last Will sound in part like a life-lease arrangement. In 1828, Junior did in fact inherit the other half of the homestead except his sister Eunice Parker, as long as she remained unmarried, was entitled to inhabit the east room and have use of well water & cellar. (And Auntie Eunice, still a spinster, did live out the rest of her life in this house, until her death at age 76 in 1863, as did her brother Amos until his death at age 76 in 1865; both of them enumerated here in 1850 & 1860 censuses.) The wife of Isaac Parker Jr. was Nancy nee Dowse (1788-1864; b. Billerica; died Amherst of consumption), with whom he had 4 or 5 children. (3) Isaac Parker (3d, 1822-1882; b. & d. Amherst), the younger son, succeeded his father. He was married July 1857 to Julia P. Hodgman (1834-1912; b. Bedford; d. Amherst), with whom he raised 2 sons. (4) George Edwin Parker (1858/9-1942; b. & d. & buried Amherst) in 1882 bought out his mother & brother’s share of 124a farm (still straddling Amherst-Merrimack town line), its north bound being [southern tip of] Baboosic Lake (deed 466:502). George E. was married Jan. 1886 to Mary Ann Atkinson (1866-1945; b. Penna.; d. Amherst), and they had 7 children. (In his final years, George & Mary lived on School Street in the

Village. Photo of this couple was printed in *Milford Cabinet*, 30 Jan. 1941, p. 4.) (5) The final successive generation of owner-occupant farmers was their son George Atkinson Parker (1886-1965), never married, who in 1930 census was employed as a laborer on town roads, and in 1940 & 1950 censuses is shown living alone in this house on “Merrimack road” working as a farmer; but he didn’t legally become sole owner until Nov. 1953 when the other 6 heirs (his siblings) conveyed their shares to him (deed 1373:433). He sold out in 1961 to relatives (deed 1664:123); and the place was sold out of the Parker family in 1966 (1909:64).

Genealogy Note: Caution – Secomb appears to have Isaac Parker Sr. mixed up with Hollis resident of same name. [Research Aug. 2023; & text & dating Feb. 2024, by Katrina Holman.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SonBultonLandfromFather * RevolutionaryWarVet * Life-lease 1815 *

Dating house at **21 Border Street** (tax lot 14/14; prior school building on same site labeled “S. H.” on 1892 map):

House built 1913 as schoolhouse for District 2 called The Acre, on half-acre land acquired 1868 (for \$70, deed 386:131) and adjoining half acre acquired 1913 (for \$150, deed 719:201), to replace the old schoolhouse moved to this site in 1867. Photo of new 1913 building published in 1913/4 annual town report of Amherst, N.H. It was/is the last one-room schoolhouse erected in Amherst. The school was closed in 1931. School Board sold with lot 1937 for \$600 (deed 963:360).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 20th-century * Schoolhouse * IrishImmigrants *

Dating house at **33 Border Street** (tax lot 15/7; houses on this block unlabeled on 1858 map so unclear if this was one of them):

House built 1858 by/for William Haley (wife Margaret), Irish immigrant, who bought newly-created lot for \$40 (deed 326:440) and was first taxed on real estate (one-acre and inferred-small building) in April 1859. Haley sold the house in 1868 for \$400 (deed 375:346).

More History: On 1892 map, house is labeled T. Sullivan for Timothy Sullivan (Sr., d. 1927), husband of owner Hannah M. Sullivan (1842-1900), who bought the place in 1882 (deed 462:362).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * IrishImmigrants *

Dating house at **35 Border Street** (tax lot 3/69; present but unlabeled on 1858 map):

House built 1852 by/for Martin Leyden (Sr., 1801-1879), Irish immigrant whose wife was Sarah nee Holloran (1818-1904), who in May 1852 bought newly-created 3/4 acre lot with 8 rods frontage on east side of a “highway recently laid out” for \$50 (deed 272:558), and was taxed on real estate in April 1853 as Leighton. In 1854 Leyden sold house that had ell and cellar for \$400 to Thomas Lewis (deed 289:52). His wife was taxpayer of record from the first year; Mrs. Catherine Lewis (c.1812-1875, b. Ireland, d. Amherst) subsequently owned & occupied the house until her death, raising 1 son and 5 daughters.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * IrishImmigrants *

Dating house at **48 Border Street** (tax lot 15/6):

House built circa 1860, before Sep. 1864 when John W. Hurlihy aka Herlihy (1838/40-1923) of Milford, an Irish immigrant and farmer, bought 7 acres with buildings for \$500 from Pliny Whitney (1787-1873) of Milford, wealthy merchant and real estate investor (deed 354:132). Herlihy, who had remained a non-resident, sold in 1870 for \$750 (deed 387:419) to Daniel Burns (Sr., c.1835-1912), an Irish immigrant and farmer and employee of French & Heald furniture company, whose name is on 1892 map. Daniel Burns and his wife Johanna nee Lewis (1845 -1927) lived here for the rest of their lives, raising 7 children.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * IrishImmigrants * GreekRevival *

Dating house at **40 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 5/159; “D. Burrough” [sic, Burroughs] on 1858 map):

Brick house purpose-built as tavern-inn in 1801 or 1802 by/for Eli Brown (1757-1820), retired sea captain from Marblehead, as the first brick house in Amherst and probably also the first house in Federal

style. Capt. Brown arrived in Amherst in 1799 (deed 48:371), buying his first farm (112a) near the future Mont Vernon line, and then after Jan. 1800 (deed 49:86) bought another, abutting farm (72a being mostly First Division Lot 47) with house, on the route of the new 2d N.H. Turnpike which would become the location for the new brick house, also located on the turnpike, used as a tavern-inn (see Eli Brown's notices dated 29 Dec. 1802 and 24 Dec. 1803 and 11 March 1815 in *Farmer's Cabinet* newspaper of Amherst, N.H.). (Eli Brown would be one of the directors of the first bank in the county, the Hillsborough Bank founded 1806 in Amherst Village, and would suffer great financial loss by its failure in 1809.)

1803 Jan. 27 *Farmer's Cabinet*: "To Sell or Let, One Farm in Amherst, about one and a half mile from Amherst Court-house, on the Turnpike Road leading to Claremont. Said Farm is for sale, **or to let for a Tavern** for the term of two or three years. For particulars, inquire of **Eli Brown, residing on the premises**. Amherst, **Dec. 29, 1802.**"

1804 Jan. 03 *Farmer's Cabinet*, Amherst, NH: "Notice. **The Stand, occupied last spring by Calvin Howe, as a public house, on the Turnpike** Road, between the house of James Ray, Esq. [Mont Vernon] and Amherst Plain, **is opened by the subscriber**, who wishes to give every requisite indulgence to travellers [by providing] accommodations ... for gentlemen, horses, and teams ... **ELI BROWN. December 24, 1803.**"

1815 March 18 *Farmers' Cabinet*: "Valuable Farm for Sale. That noted SEAT, in Amherst, N.H. situate on the second Turnpike road, precisely one mile from Amherst Plains, its now offered for sale on favorable terms. It is as handsome a site for a Gentleman's Seat, as any between Boston and Windsor, Vt. Containing about **ninety acres**, Mowing, Tillage, Orchard, Wood Land, and about **fifty acres** of excellent Pasturage for Sheep – **a handsome two-story Brick building on it, forty by thirty-six feet, square – the walls are sixteen inches thick, four rooms on the lower floor, and five on the second**, completely finished throughout; with Barns, Sheds and Out-Houses – it has a number of acres of **Clay Land, very valuable for brick, adjoining the turnpike**. For further particulars, inquire of the subscriber, on the premises, or at the Patriot counting-room, Concord. **ELI BROWN**. Provided the above farm is not sold by the 10 th of April next, it will be offered as a tavern stand. Amherst, N.H. March 11, **1815 .**"

Architecture: According to local historical researcher Katrina Holman, the Eli Brown House is architecturally significant both as first (and thus oldest) brick building in Amherst and as the first house in Federal style (with chimneys/fireplaces on exterior/side walls) in Amherst.

More History: In 1817, Rev. Nathan Lord (1793-1870), third minister of the Congregational Church of Amherst from 1816 to 1828, bought the brick mansion house with 71-acre farm (being lot 47 in the first division and part of lot 111 in the second division) for \$4000, paying \$2000 to Eli Brown (wife Sarah) plus \$2000 to co-owner Sarah Hopkins formerly of Providence, Rhode Island (deeds 117:114 and 117:116). Nathan Lord and his wife Elizabeth King Leland (1791-1870, married 1816) had twelve children, of whom the first eight (two daughters and six sons) were born in Amherst, probably in the brick house, but the eldest, a daughter, died at age two in March 1820. Rev. Lord developed a throat disease that made it difficult for him to preach, so he left Amherst to become president of Dartmouth College, of which he had been a trustee since 1821, selling this place in Nov. 1828 for \$1950 (deed 156:304). In 1850, Rev. David Burroughs (1810-1898), who left Tewksbury, Mass., to be pastor of Amherst's Baptist Church from Aug. 1849 to Dec. 1854, bought the farm with brick house for \$1800 (plus prior mortgage). Rev. Burroughs served on Amherst's Superintending School Committee. He also was a proper husbandman, that is a livestock farmer, with cows & horses. He was among a mere handful of men in Amherst raising horses, taxed in 1853 on 7 horses, more than a local teamster and more than the proprietor of the local hotel livery. (Rev. Burroughs and his wife Louisa D. Kingsley, to whom he was married in Vermont in 1843, moved to Chester, Vermont, before selling the farm with brick house on north/east side of former turnpike plus 4a piece of land on west side of turnpike road plus 3a woodlot on Dodge road in April 1858 for \$2000 (deed 317:94).)

[Research 2016 & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 19th-century * Brick * Tavern * Parsonage *

Dating house at **74 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 5/162; "F. Bills" on 1858 map):

House built 1851 by/for Jabez Frederick "Fred" Bills (1823-1899), teamster, who in Nov. 1845 bought the land for \$62 (deed 235:63) but was first taxed on buildings in 1852 (indicating that house was built between 1 April 1851 and 1 April 1852). In 1850 Fred was married to a very young Lucinda J. Wheeler (c.1836-1909) of Milford. Bills sold the house on what by then was a 3-cornered 4-acre lot in 1869 for \$1000 (deed 375:228). But from 1872 until his death, Fred Bills again owned but did not re-occupy this

house (purchase deed 375:520, \$1000) in addition to owning multiple other lots (including at least one other house in Amherst); his widow owned 74 BPR until 1908 (deed 662:415).

More History: In 1869 Rev. Eli P. Noyes (1835-1883), pastor of Amherst's Baptist Church from 1868-1870 and also member of School Committee, rented (per tax invoice) and lived here with his wife nee Marcia C. Spaulding, and their two young children. (They moved into Baptist parsonage at 204 Boston Post Road before leaving town in 1870, he having resigned due to feeble health.)
Called "Willow Bridge Farm" since 1995.

Barn: Local lore says that the barn was moved to this site in 1899 from 91 Boston Post Road lot, both house lots owned by Bills at that time.

[Research by Katrina Holman 2016; text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021. Date in assessor/tax database was/is 1850, unchanged as of 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * Parsonage * Moved – Barn * OldBarn *

Dating house at **217 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 16/2; "C. S. Wheeler" on 1858 map):

House built 1851 as his family home by Charles S. Wheeler (1820-1867), carpenter (his occupation was called "mechanick" in purchase deed), who bought 10a for \$250 in Jan. 1851 (deed 264:155).

The next owner-occupant was Timothy B. Hill who bought the place in 1867 for \$1000 (deed 366:449).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2021.]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * Builder – Carpenter *

Dating house at **226 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 4/14; "Mrs. Boutell" on 1858 map):

House built 1771 by/for Jerameel Cumings, blacksmith, who in April 1771 had bought one acre for 4 pounds 10 shillings (deed 2:528) from Robert Read, who owned & occupied house at 232 BPR as tavern-inn. Shortly after the purchase, Jerahmeel was married to Deborah Kendall at Dunstable, Mass.; two children were born to them at Amherst, probably in this very house, in March 1772 and June 1773. In July 1773 Cumings sold the property with buildings for 112 pounds 5 shillings (deed 2:44).

More History: The house served for a few years as tavern-inn when owned by Ephraim French (1755-1834, died at alms house), who bought it with 4 acres in Dec. 1801 for \$450 (deed 54:202), likely in anticipation of increased traffic from soon-to-open 2nd N.H. Turnpike. (Tavern licenses, valid for a year, granted by Selectmen March 1802, March 1803, and Oct 1806, recorded in *Amherst Town Records Vol.2*, p. 354, 357, 362, but this place was NOT tavern on 1806 map drawn by neighbor residing on same block.)

More History: In 1868, Samuel Harris Hill (1822-1877), iron founder, bought house with 4 acres (deed 375:405). The Hill family would own and occupy the house for 64 years. Harris and his wife, Julia Ann nee Cram (1825-1914; married 1845), had 6 children when they moved here. In 1872 Hill bought additional land on the opposite side of the road (deed 403:242) and thereafter was taxed on 26 acres. In 1909, widow Julia transferred ownership (deed 666:494) to her daughter Lizzie E. Hill (b. 1865) of Boston, an unmarried school teacher who started her career in the early 1880s teaching in Amherst. Lizzie's best friend was Helen M. Meade (d. 1925), another unmarried Boston schoolteacher who also had previously taught in Amherst. They would spend their vacations and holidays together in Amherst. From about 1915 to 1932, Miss Hill and Miss Mead together ran a summer boarding house here called Hill-Mead House, specializing in a clientele of Boston-area female schoolteachers. For example, in 1919 the local newspaper reported that "Miss Lizzie Hill has had a full house all summer" and in October "Miss Lizzie Hill and Miss Helen Meade with a house full of teachers were at their home over the weekend;" and in one late July weekend the following year, they had 24 guests (*Milford Cabinet*, 28 Aug. 1919; 16 Oct. 1919; 29 July 1920, p. 4). Around 1925, they added "a new screened piazza used for a dining room, another for a living room, and a bungalow or two" (*Cabinet*, 23 July 1925). Miss Hill sold in 1932 (deed 919:603); and retired in 1935 from teaching, since 1914 at the Burns School in Somerville, Mass.

In 1934, Rev. Herman Van Lunen (1893-1960, born Holland, died Boston) & wife Anna nee DeMol (1899/1900-1990; married 1921 in Michigan) of Chelmsford purchased the house (and lot as 3 tracts) as their summer home; they would own it for four decades.

[Research 2012 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; more added Feb. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Tavern * Blacksmith Shop * SummerBoardingHouse * SummerHome *

Dating house at **228 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 5/13; “C. Rhoads” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1845 by/for Charles W. Rhoads (1810-1872), laborer in his father’s brick-making business and small farmer, who in March 1846 for \$15 bought a newly-created small lot with about 5 rods of frontage (deed 236:515), split off from the north side of the 24-acre home lot (with Robert Read-Joshua Atherton House at 232 BPR) jointly owned since 1835 (deed 182:388) by his father, Eleazer Rhoads (d. 1855 aged 84), and brother Warren Rhoads (1808-1885). Charles was first taxed on buildings in April 1846. He lived here for the rest of his life, surviving two wives, and had no children, so his siblings inherited his house. Four years later they sold it to David H. Rhoads (1845-1917; m. 1879), a son of Warren, who owned it for the rest of his life, living here until shortly after the death of his wife Annie nee Crooker in 1902.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2023.]

Architecture: In ‘windshield survey’ (visual assessment of exteriors) for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant noted the “raised roof” (compared to Georgian style) and “some Greek Revival detailing added to its entry surround during the mid-19th century” (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, p. 24).

(For more history, see article entitled “The Four Houses of the Read-Atherton Complex” by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992), April 1991 newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H..)

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead (in this case, land formerly belonged jointly to father and brother) *

Dating House at **232 Boston Post Road** (tax map 5/10; “W. Rhoad[s]” on 1858 map):

House built 1751 or 1752 (at the earliest) by/for Robert Read (Sr., 1720-1803), more specifically after 3 May 1751 when said Read was still “of Litchfield” (selling 53a in Monson on south bank of Souhegan River by Provincial N.H. deed 51:226); probably in 1752 because Robert Read of Souhegan West, yeoman, bought this land or land in this vicinity from Samuel Lamson (famed first settler who resided on farm next east/south) in July 1752 (Prov. deed 72:123). Read was an innholder by 1759 (*N. H. Gazette of Portsmouth*, 18 May & 1 June), still operating the house as a tavern in 1771 when licensed by new county’s court. (Source for tavern license by first county court: *Historical Sketch of the Hillsborough County Congresses, Held at Amherst (N.H.) 1774 & 1775 with other Revolutionary Records*, compiled by Edward D. Boylston, 1884, p. 44.)

More History: In 1772 Joshua Atherton, Esquire (1737-1809), newly-appointed Register of Probate, bought this farm (Hillsborough County deed 2:528) and moved here from Merrimack in spring or summer 1773 (Secomb, p. 857) to be located in the new shiretown aka county seat, closer to the courthouse. Although Atherton was jailed as a Tory for misplaced loyalty during the town’s and state’s Revolutionary fervor, he never voluntarily fled town so his property was never confiscated. After the war his reputation was rehabilitated, and he owned & occupied the house with many acres until his death.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; more added Jan. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Tavern *

Dating house at **233 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 5/11; not on 1858 map as separate building):

Gambrel-roofed house built at different location (probably across the street) on unknown early date, say circa 1745 or c.1750 or c.1755 if it was indeed an original “garrisoned house” – and/or no later than say circa 1770 if it was indeed used as first county gaol in newly-designated shiretown of newly-created Hillsborough County (in 1771-1772). According to local lore, this building was an old garrison house and the first jail.

Regarding **garrison** houses: John Farmer, first town historian, wrote: “Near this period [after a paragraph on a 1753 event], there were seven garrisoned houses, which afforded places of security to the inhabitants in times of alarm and danger” (*Historical Sketch of Amherst ...*, 1820, p. 10), in other words, meant to provide protection against Indian attack. Historian Secomb repeated this, attributing it to “Tradition tells us” (p. 354, p. 357). The year 1747 appears to have been the period of greatest fear by the settlers of such attacks (see petitions to Governor in 1747, Secomb’s *History*, p. 356-357). However, neither historian indicated *where* (in today’s Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Milford) the garrisoned houses were located. The identification of *this* structure as one of those garrisoned houses appeared in a 1909 news item (*Milford Cabinet*, 21 Oct. 1909, p. 4) about the auction sale of the personal property of the last of four generations

of Rhoades [sic] [to live at 232 BPR]: “The ell part of this house is said to have been used as a garrison house in the reign of George the third, in the old town’s earlier days.”

Regarding use as **first jail**: This lore appears to have originated with Miss Elizabeth D. Nichols in 1896 when she authored and read a paper entitled “The Old Houses and Old Families” at an evening event called “Colonial Amherst: Interesting Reminiscences of the Historic Old Town, Told by Some of Amherst’s Daughters,” hosted by Amherst’s King’s Daughters in the home of Mrs. George W. Nichols [Robert Means Jr.-B. B. David House at 201 BPR] where guests dressed up in old-fashioned garb with powdered hair or wigs; Miss Nichols’s paper, in which she stated “the house of Mr. William Rhoads, which in the days of George III was the King’s prison,” was reprinted in the local newspaper (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 19 March 1896, p. 1 & 7). This was repeated by Emma (Boylston) Locke in her book *Colonial Amherst* (1916, p. 47); however, in the photo (p. 18), it is this structure – as it was when still ell of house at 232 BPR – that is captioned “The First Jail”. (Both sources omit the salient point of why and when a jail was first needed in this town.)

Prior Location: Before being moved to this site, this house was attached to the Robert Read House/Tavern across the street at 232 BPR and although no documentation has been found regarding its earliest location, that – or very close to it – is believed to have been its original site – which would have been part of the homestead of first settler Lamson in 1745-1750, and shortly thereafter split off to become homestead of Robert Read (Sr., 1720-1803). A family genealogy says that the Robert Reed who moved from Litchfield to Amherst “at an early date” was “for many years the jailer at Amherst” (Jacob Whittemore Reed, *History of the Reed Family in Europe and America*, Boston, 1861, p. 168) – well, “many” years is doubtful but nevertheless this statement may serve as corroboration that the structure attached as ell to the tavern was indeed used as a jail however briefly. (Who better to feed prisoners than someone whose occupation included preparing food for guests – but Read would be less suitable once a jail was purpose-built at the end of Old Jailhouse Road in Amherst Village in 1772.)

(Primary source for Robert Read as “under prison keeper”: “1771 Oct. 3: A List of Prisoners in his Majesty’s Goal [sic, gaol/jail] at Amherst, County of Hillsborough” in Hillsborough County Court Records, file 8098 at N.H. State Archives in Concord, N.H.; accessed by Katrina Holman, Sep. 2014. A similar list for 1773 in the same file names a different man in this position/role.)

More History: The old garrison house was moved across the street to this hillside location in the fall of 1924 by Charles “Tink” Pherson (1860-1951; b. Sweden, d. Amherst), a blacksmith and wheelwright whose house and shop were at 92 Boston Post Road in the Village, and it was converted into a dwelling house intended as a summer home for Miss Nellie B. Vinal of Boston, Mass. Prior to its move, the building belonged to Miss Helen M. Mead (died 1925) of Boston, a school teacher who spent her vacations in Amherst, and in Nov. 1924 had bought the Robert Read-Joshua Atherton house and lot at 232 BPR (deed 840:31). This hillside land across the street at that time belonged to Miss Mead’s best friend, Miss Lizzie E. Hill, also a school teacher in the Boston area who owned 226 BPR. Miss Hill sold the hillside land to Miss Vinal in Dec. 1924 (deed 855:59).

(Sources: For move across street and conversion to dwelling house, see *Milford Cabinet*, 9 Oct. 1924, p. 4; 13 Nov. 1924, p. 4; and 23 July 1925.)

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2023; sources added June 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * GarrisonHouse * Jail * Moved * SummerHome *

Dating house at **244 Boston Post Road** (tax map 3/60; “B. Melendy” on 1858 map):

House built unknown early date. Although this lot was part of 200-acre farm of the earliest settler, Samuel Lam(p)son (3d, 1701-1779) who arrived in 1734 or 1735, the earliest possible date for replacing log cabin that was his first abode (lore published by historian John Farmer 1820) with frame house depends on when local sawmill began operation: 1737? 1741? (The next owner of the homestead was Samuel Gray (1711-1769), a housewright who bought in 1758 from Lamson (Provincial N.H. deed 66:419). Lamson was “of Billerica” by Jan. 1762, per deed 1:313.)

More History: The house served as a tavern-inn from 1813-1836, leased by various innkeepers while owned until 1815 by Robert Means Sr. (1742-1823), merchant and richest man in town (who resided at 1 Pierce Lane), and owned subsequently until 1835 by his son, Robert Means Jr. (1786-1842) (who resided since 1825 at 201 BPR).

More History: From 1920-1942, the house served as Camp Collyer for city boys, owned & run by Ernest Henry Kirby (1881-1974; b. & m. England; son b. Canada; d. Los Angeles, Calif; buried Amherst, N.H.), a house carpenter, & wife Daisy Florence Kirby nee Collyer (1879-1943; b. India; married England; died Amherst, N.H.); the camp was continued for a few years longer (fully in 1943, closed in summer 1945, but open 1948) by next owner, Daniel E. Ford (*Milford Cabinet*, 24 June 1943, p. 1).

“Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Kirby, who live on the Bryant Melendy place [244 Boston Post Road], are entertaining 40 boys for two weeks. The boys come from Boston and vicinity and arrived Monday night. After they go there will be another lot of 40 lads, and then a third lot. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby have placed cots in their large house, and are providing meals for the boys.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 15 July 1920, p. 4.)

“... the old Melendy house, was bought by Mr. Kirby, and renovated till it houses one hundred boys besides the family. A new set comes once in two weeks, who seem to enjoy their outing immensely.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 23 July 1925.)

“Boys Camp in Amherst Ends Season. Last week Tuesday marked the close of Camp Collyer on the Amherst-Ponemah road. An interesting program was given with readings ... cornet solo by Master Frank Kirby... Diplomas were presented [to boys who had attended the camp for multiple years] ... This is the ninth year that Camp Collyer has been conducted by Mr and Mrs Ernest Kirby and it has proven its most successful. One hundred and thirty boys from Greater Boston, ranging from 5 to 12 years, Catholics, Jews and Protestants, have worked and played together in manly fellowship. In this work Mr and Mrs Kirby have had the able co-operation of Miss Theodora Luard of Cambridge, Miss Bertha Goldthwalte a social worker of Boston, the musical direction of Mrs May Burnham Tracy of Milford and the religious and moral instruction of both Father Lennon of Milford and Rev. George F. Sibley of Amherst. ...” (*Milford Cabinet*, 30 Aug. 1928.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2021.]

(Note regarding Dating: Town’s assessor/tax database has 1735 as circa date, which is when Lamson’s first abode, a log cabin per lore, was built.)

(See “Historic Amherst: The Oldest Houses in Amherst – Part 1: The Village” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, March 2020, p. 4-5. See “Historic Tavern Featured on 2020 Suncatcher” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, Oct. 2020 for details about innkeepers.)

(There is a wonderful article in the Historical Society of Amherst, N.H. newsletter of Oct. 1991, “Memories of Yesterday” by Frank E. Kirby, about rural life here during the Depression years and about Camp Collyer, the summer camp for poor Boston boys run by his parents, Ernest & Daisy Kirby, here from 1920 through 1943. In the early 1920s, trains would drop the boys off directly behind the house.)

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * FirstSettler * Tavern * BoysHome *

Dating house at **250 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 3/61; “L. Town” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, after Oct. 1780 and before 1795, say circa 1790, by/for Col. Daniel Warner (1745-1813), who first purchased the saw & grist mill(s) on Beaver Brook nearby (near “forge bridge”) in 1779 (deed 8:226) and in Oct. 1780, still a resident of Dunstable, bought 20 acres on the road from Amherst meetinghouse to Hollis, for \$200 Spanish milled dollars (deed 13:130). By 1795, Warner was a resident of Amherst with a house in this vicinity (deed 40:460). The tax inventories of 1801, 1804-1809, in which taxpayers are listed in geographical order (recorded in *Amherst Town Records*, Vol. 2), indicate that Daniel Warner occupied a dwelling south of Joshua Atherton [232 BPR] and north of Ebenezer Taylor [6 Ponemah Road].

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 18th-century * Mill *

Dating house at **306 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 4/2; “R. P. Hall” on 1858 map (2nd house south of intersection); also correctly “S. Webster” on 1892 map (1st house south of intersection); District 2 through 1863, later District 3):

Cape house built unknown date, likely as early as 1760 or even before, by/for Simeon Fletcher (b. 1722) (wife Mary Davis), who was a resident taxpayer in 1760 when Amherst was incorporated as a town, and already owned this land in 1762 as an abutter of 200-acre farm at 244 Boston Post Road (Provincial N.H. deed 68:248; now under Rockingham county). In June 1770 Fletcher sold Second Division Lot 9 in two parcels – 30 acres lying south of “the road that leads from the Forge to Merrimack” (which sure sounds like Boston Post Road, because there was a blacksmith forge by the stone bridge) and 35 acres lying north of the road – to Samuel Lamson “Junior” of Billerica, cooper (Hillsborough County deed 1:66). This Sam (b. 1724; married Nov. 1770 at Billerica) was son of famed first settler of Souhegan West; Sam “Jr.”

was a trader (storekeeper) and resident of Amherst when he sold less than a year later (deed 1:11; first mention of buildings).

More History: Ebenezer Rea (wife Lydia), formerly of Beverly, Mass., potter, owned from 1771 to 1778. In 1778, Ephraim French (1755-1834), housewright per the deed, bought 70 acres with buildings (deed 5:101). Ephraim French kept his house as a tavern-inn, first licensed Jan. 1796, through 1800 (*Amherst Town Records* vol. 2, p. 491, 494, 498, 500, 351); French sold in Dec. 1800. From 1803-1814, James C. Mace (d. Feb. 1824, aged 47), hatter, was owner-occupant, buying for \$1300 and selling for \$2000 (deeds 57:450 and 103:191; tax invoices in *Amherst Town Records* vol. 2, e.g., 1805 and 1813 when Mace is listed in southern third of town between Ephraim French [at 226 BPR] and Mavorick Smith [324 BPR]).

Challenge regarding Dating: To determine construction date of old house at 306 BPR (labeled “R. P. Hall” on 1858 map), it must be researched together with house next south labeled “? ? Barrett” on 1858 map, which used to stand at – or in vicinity of – 312 BPR until 1918 fire, because they were both on the same homestead farm. From 1800-1814, the homestead comprised 150 acres – and there was only one house. (In the deeds, there were no measurements nor landmarks.) From 1814-1837, the homestead comprised 210 acres. 1837 is when Henry R. Barrett (1793-1867) from Manchester arrived in town, having bought the farm with old house in Dec. 1836 (deed 189:353) – and he was a housewright [!] per his purchase deed, turned farmer with cows and sheep (tax invoices). By 1850, there were 2 houses (judging by the census which records Barrett and [his son-in-law] Hall as neighbors) and tax invoices support this supposition. The presumption is that the house still standing is/was the older one and that Barrett built the house that burned. Not until 1877 was the property divided: A separate farm was created with/for the cape when a 6-acre parcel on north side of “old road leading from Amherst Village to Nashua” was split off from the Barrett homestead, the new lot being purchased for \$600 by Sarah C. Webster nee Swan (1840-1912), wife since 1863 of James P. Webster (1830-1898), farmer (deed 443:277); Mrs. Webster sold as a widow in 1903 (deed 617:222).

More History: From 1934-1943 this was a summer home owned by Miss Lillian Gould (b. 1895), who was a resident of Medford, Mass., when she bought house on 6 acres (*Milford Cabinet*, 1 Feb. 1934, p. 4; deed 925:512) and a resident of Winchester, Mass., when she sold (deed 1054:424). She remodeled; the local newspaper reported that “Miss Gould of Winchester, Mass., spared no expense in making it one of the most attractive summer homes in the region.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 2 Dec. 1943, p. 1.) Her father, Arthur R. Gould, with whom she resided, was a carpenter.

Road: When this house was built, and when Ephraim French used it as his first tavern-inn, it was directly on the main thoroughfare: the original Boston post road left the Village along/on Courthouse Road and diverged at the junction by NW end of the stone bridge, with Ponemah Road heading southerly toward Hollis (and thus, later, to Amherst’s train station) and with the post road (the more direct route to Dunstable/ Nashua and further to Boston) crossing the stone bridge and heading southeasterly. After circa 1810, when Corduroy Road was purpose-built as a quasi-extension of the turnpike and intended by-pass of winding BPR, the road forked near the SE end of the stone bridge. Although the through-traffic took Corduroy Road, the original Boston post road continued to pass directly by this house throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century – until the new, partly-elevated highway (Route 101) tuned this section of the old road into a dead-end street.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 (likely) * Cape * Tavern * SummerHome *

Dating house at **324 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 4/106; “Mrs. Hesselton” on 1858 map):

Earliest plausible date for house is circa 1757. It was built by Timothy Smith (Sr., 1729-1798; m. 1751), housewright, who was a resident of Reading, Mass., in March 1754 when he first bought land in Souhegan West (1st Div. Lot No. 16, 2d Div. Lot No. 7 & 3d Div. Lot No. 50 – Provincial N.H. deed 94:33) and children of his were born in Reading in 1754 and 1756. Smith family had settled in Souhegan West by 1759 as evidenced by birth of daughter Rebecca in S.W. in Aug 1759 and by Dec. 1759 Masonian Proprietors’ mega-quitclaim deed in which Timothy Smith, resident, was granted “one share” (*N.H. State Papers* Vol. 27: Charters, p. 68). Tim’s will (drawn May 1788) mentioned his “new house” so maybe the two-story was built a bit later.

More History: This is the “Robert Frost Slept Here House”– in the summer of 1885 when Robbie was 11, while his recently widowed mother and her children were visiting his great-aunt Sarah (Frost) Messer & her husband (Robbie’s great-uncle) Benjamin Messer (1817-1910), who was renting the farm of 324 BPR, as evidenced by tax invoices.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2021.]

(For more history, see article by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, June 2011, p. 1,4,6, entitled “2011 Amherst Suncatcher Depicts “Robert Frost Slept Here” House”.)

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 (maybe) * Builder – Housewright *

Dating house at **328 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 4/108; “W. Melendy” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1755 or c. 1760 for oldest part (ell?), by/for William Melendy (Sr., 1702-1778) of Reading, Mass., cooper, who bought this land (2d Div. Lot 6) in June 1754 (Hillsborough County deed 2:449); he was a resident by Dec. 1759 (Masonian Proprietors’ mega-quitclaim deed, *New Hampshire State Papers*, Vol. 27). It’s likely that the large two-story main part was built later by the original homestead owner. Senior’s wife was Elizabeth nee Lamson (m. 1728), sister of famed first settler Samuel Lamson.

More History: The owner on the 1858 map was William Melendy (IV, 1781-1858), a cordwainer (shoemaker), who had acquired half of the buildings and the easterly half of the homestead from his grandfather in 1813 (deed 96:31). His son William Melendy (V, 1838-1910) was a farmer here to the end of his life, assisted by his only son, William Samuel Melendy (1873-1960), in farming 149 acres and raising livestock (7 cows and 14 sheep in 1900). During the period around 1880-1895, William Melendy opened the house to summer boarders, calling it Quoquinnapassakessananagnog [spelling? Supposed to be original/Native name for Beaver Brook] House, advertising capacity for 30 guests. The house was sold out of the Melendy family in 1913.

(Sources for summer boarders: Article about “our Summer Guests” in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 10 Aug. 1880. p. 2. Also “Immigration Report” listing Proprietor or Landlord / Name of House / P. O. Address / No. of Guests in *Annual Report of N.H. Board of Agriculture*, 21st annual report, Nov 1891-Nov. 1892, 1893, p. 407& 409; also “Summer Excursions to the White Mountains, Mt. Desert, Montreal and Quebec ...” by Boston & Maine Railroad Co., 1895.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, June 2021; rev. Aug. 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 (maybe) * SummerBoardingHouse *

Dating house at **344 Boston Post Road** at corner Cricket Corner Road (tax lot 4/111; “S. Carter Jr.” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1775. William Howard owned this house prior to Feb. 1779 – but for how long he owned it is unknown and it’s doubtful he ever occupied it, because Howard must have resided in Merrimack where wife Lucy gave birth to 8 children between 1762 and March 1777; and in April 1777 he purchased the farm of 377 Boston Post Road (deed 19:251) which was his homestead when he sold in 1790.

In Feb. 1779, John Eaton (1751-1827) of Litchfield, a blacksmith whose wife was Sibyl nee Spaulding (m. 1774 in Chelmsford, d. 1818 aged 65), bought dwelling house on 17 acres lying on north side of “highway leading from Merrymack to Amherst meetinghouse” and a barn on 1 acre on the opposite side of the street and 36 additional acres (deed 7:54). Lt. Eaton kept his house as a tavern from 1795 to 1812 (tavern licenses recorded in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*; tavern shown on 1806 Carrigain map). In the early days of the Second N.H. Turnpike from Claremont-Amherst, which opened in 1802, the post road that went right by this house was the continuation route south to Boston, so droves of livestock would have come right by the tavern. After the alternate “new” road (Corduoy) was built to straighten out the route, this location was no longer so advantageous. When John Eaton died, his 120-acre farm included two-story house, two good barns, stable and blacksmith’s shop (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 31 March 1827).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. July 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Tavern * Blacksmith Shop *

Dating house at **361 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 4/95; “S.H.” north of Cem. on 1858 map; District 3):

House built circa 1817 as Schoolhouse No. 3 aka Cricket Corner School (although already existed when record book of School District 3 was begun in Oct. 1817, woodshed and “necessary” were built in 1818,

suggesting the schoolhouse was new, having replaced an earlier structure). School closed 1935 (last rural one-room schoolhouse in use in town of Amherst). School District sold (building only) 1941 for \$75 (deed 1127:36) to landowner Mary O'Connell (who resided in farmhouse at 369 BPR).

Purchased 1946 on about 2 acres by Robert & Alta Lemery (deed 1132:85), who resided here until 1953. [Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2021.]

Categories: 19th-century * Schoolhouse *

Dating house at 369 Boston Post Road (tax lot 4/32; "S. Carter" on 1858 map):

Original house built circa 1761 by/for Hezekiah Dunckle(e) (c.1709-1772; wife Demaris) from Billerica, who in August 1761 bought 170 acres, including part of "land known by the name of the Farm land" (a portion of 1660 grant to Rev. John Wilson Sr. of Boston, later aka Gouge Farm) on the north bank of Souhegan River, from Samuel Lamson (Hillsborough County deeds 1:112, 1:113), and by Jan. 1762 (deed 2:511) Dunckle had settled in Amherst with his family. In his will written 1771 (Hillsborough County, N.H., Probate File #02449), he described his "home place" of 120 acres, bounded on the south by Souhegan River, "with buildings."

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

(For more history, see "The Simeon Carter Sr. House and Farm at 369 Boston Post Road, bounded by Souhegan River, in Cricket Corner District" by Katrina Holman in Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H., December 2011, p. 2-9.)

Categories: 18th-century * SouheganRiverFarm *

Dating house at 376 Boston Post Road (tax lot 4/43; "E. M. Holt" on 1858 map; District 3, Fletchers Corner):

Cape house built circa 1829 by/for Sewell Fletcher (1801-1855), who in 1829 bought newly-created 50-acre parcel/farm extending to Souhegan River, carved off 369 BPR farm owned by his brother-in-law James Sherman Mace (deed 159:229, \$250, "with buildings"). In 1826, as a widower with an infant daughter, Sewell had married Rheny Mace (c.1803-1845), daughter of James C. Mace (d. 1824), a hatter who was owner-occupant of house at 369 BPR until his death at age 47. (Just prior to his death, the elder Mace had been running the tavern next-door at 382 BPR, which next would be owned by Sewell's father and run for years by his brother, Daniel Fletcher. Sewell himself helped run the tavern the first year it was under Fletcher ownership.)

More History: In 1856 (which was early in his tenth and final year as superintendent of Amherst's town poor farm), Edwin M. Holt (1807-1893), whose wife was Susan nee Marden (1815-1892; married 1834), bought 376 BPR farm of 50-acre homestead + 4 acre lot for \$1605 total from Sewell Fletcher's heirs (4 separate deeds: 301:225, 301:226, 301:228, 301:228); Holt sold in 1889.

Housing Development: The land on the river, 30 acres, would become River Road development, sold off from 376 BPR farm in 1957.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, 2012, rev. Aug. 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * SouheganRiverFarm *

Dating house at 377 Boston Post Road (tax lot 4/65; "G. W. Fletcher" on 1858 map; District 3, Fletchers Corner):

Two-story house built unknown date, before 1790, say circa 1770. In 1765, James Gage (1736-1815) of Pelham, husbandman whose wife was Sarah nee Lamson (1739-1832), bought 90 acres bounding the north bank of Souhegan River and west side of Boston Post Road, from his father-in-law Samuel Lamson of Billerica [famed first settler of Souhegan West] for 200 pounds (deed 2:488); by May 1771, Gage had settled in Amherst (deed 1:129).

Next owner, William Howard (wife Lucy) of Merrymack, husbandman, bought the 90-acre farm for 386 pounds 13 shillings and 4 pence in April 1777 (deed 19:251, no mention of bldgs but increase in price). In 1790, Howard sold the 90-acre "farm on which I now dwell" together with all buildings and 6 other tracts for 561 pounds (deed 26:9).

More History: From 1825 until his death, Joseph Fletcher Sr. (1765-1843), owned & occupied 377 BPR as his homestead (purchase deed 145:2, \$5000), farming the land with his sons George and Merrill.

(From 1824 until his death, Joseph Sr. also owned the tavern across the street, which was managed by 2d son Daniel, who subsequently owned & occupied the inn until 1854; as well as the house & farm at 2 Thornton Ferry Rd 2, which after the patriarch's death was owned & occupied until 1877 by his three unmarried daughters with 3d son Merrill (1799-1877), unmarried farmer. Eldest son Joseph Fletcher Jr. (1793-1866) owned & occupied 30 Thornton Ferry Road 2 from 1825 until 1837. Sewell, 4th son, owned & occupied an abutting farm with house at 376 BPR until his death in 1855.)

George Washington Fletcher (1806-1882, 7th son), whose wife was Rebecca nee Roby (b. 1806; married 1835) next owned & occupied this 377 BPR farm, until 1867 (deed 373:229). George "was one of the most active and enterprising farmers in town, and a public-spirited citizen. He commanded the Lafayette rifle company in its palmiest days"; commissioned ensign March 1829, lieutenant Aug. 1830, and captain from 1834-1835 (Secomb, p. 886 and 429). At age 58, in Oct. 1864, George fell 15 feet out of an apple tree while gathering fruit, "and the remaining years of his life were passed in constant suffering, which was borne with wonderful patience." Both Daniel and George moved to the Village for their final years.

More History: From 1870-1877, Joel H. Fisher (1835-1907), formerly of Newbury & Washington, N.H., a farmer whose wife was Angeline nee Spa(u)lding (1835-1921; married 1857) and had two young daughters, owned & occupied 75-acre farm w bldgs + 52 acres further north on westerly side of Boston road (also called Folly bridge road) + 12 acres in southerly part of Amh + 7 acres 66 rods in southeasterly part of Amherst (bought by deed 388:8 & sold by deed 441:102, both for \$5500). Fisher was taxed on a couple horses, 17 cows, and 2 sheep. The Fishers took in summer boarders:

"Among the city boarders at the spacious farm house of J. H. Fisher, in this place [Amherst], during the past month [August 1875], was a Miss Ripley of Boston, a young lady of twenty, of culture and accomplishments. She had never before seen a mowing machine or a horse rake but from the first manifested a lively interest in these useful articles of husbandry. After watching the movement of the mower carefully, she one day surprised Mr. Fisher by asking permission to try the machine herself. He readily assented, and assisted her to the seat, when she started up the horses, but instead of stepping down and out at the end of the swath, as he supposed she would, she continued in her seat till she had done a good half day's mowing. This she repeated, one week mowing four forenoons, from 8 till 12 o'clock, in the hot sun, and in the afternoons mounted the horse rake and raked it together. She declared it "capital sport, the best of exercise, besides making herself useful." Occasionally a traveller passing, attracted by the novelty of a lady running a mower, would stop to see the operation, when she would bring the team to a halt and ask if they wanted to trade horses? She is accredited with having displayed much skill in the use of both mower and rake." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Sep 1875.)

Barn: In March 1886, the barn that is still standing at 377 BPRd, 40x80 feet with cellar making 3 stories, was completed, sized to accommodate 28 head of cattle and 4 horses, by/for S. Harrison Shattuck (1841-1918), who owned farm with house at 377 BPR from 1881-1890. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 2 April 1886; deeds 453:472 and 509:448.) Shattuck kept a mixed herd of Duchains, Holsteins, and Jerseys. His son drove a team (horse-drawn wagon) each morning to Nashua with the milk.

[Research 2011 & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

(For house history, see "The Eber Lawrence - George W. Fletcher House and Farm at 377 Boston Post Road, bounded by Souhegan River, in Cricket Corner District" by Katrina Holman in Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H., October 2011, p. 2-10. For more about barn, see "Historic Amherst: An Old Barn" by Katrina Holman, *The Amherst Citizen*, Oct. 2018, p. 4 & 10.)

Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * SouheganRiverFarm * SummerBoardingHouse * OldBarn *

Dating house at 382 Boston Post Road (tax lot 4/44; "L. Coggin" on 1858 map; District 3, Fletchers Corner):

House built c. 1755 and c. 1800. Oldest part of house built circa 1755 by/for Nathan Kendall (Jr., 1726-1791; wife Rebecca), whose father, Nathan Kendall "of Litchfield", taylor, bought the land (145a on north side of Souhegan River, part of 1660 grant to Rev. John Wilson Sr. of Boston) in 1750 (Provincial N.H. deed 68:327). No Kendall was among Souhegan West residents who signed petition in 1753, but the son was a resident in July 1756 when Pa bequeathed him 75a (Hillsborough County deed 2:382). Jr. kept a tavern (licensed 1771) here in the SE part of Amherst. However, the main part of the big house dates from circa 1800, purpose-built as a tavern-inn by/for Timothy Kendall (1770-1827; wife Esther), probably intending to take advantage of anticipated greater traffic continuing south once the 2nd N.H. turnpike

opened; he obtained his first tavern license in January 1802. Tim sold homestead farm of 75 acres (along with 2 other tracts) in 1810 for \$3000 (deed 83:365).

More History: This house has the distinction of having the greatest longevity as a place of public hospitality of any house in Amherst – from pre-revolutionary era through mid-20th century.

From 1824-1853, it was known as Fletcher's Tavern when Daniel Fletcher (1796-1873) – doubtless with the help of his newlywed wife, Charlotte nee Roby (1804-1882; married Dec. 1824) – ran the inn here from 1824/5 until about 1850 during the temperance era. His father Joseph Sr. (1765-1843) actually owned the place from 1824 until his death, and Daniel rented from Pa (per Pa's probate record); Daniel bought out joint heirs, namely his sisters and some of his brothers, to gain ownership. Daniel sold in 1853 when they removed to the Village. This area of Cricket Corner District was known as Fletcher's Corner (or better, Fletchers' Corner) after the family that arrived from Chelmsford in 1824 & 1825 and occupied five neighboring houses, including this tavern, for decades.

From 1853-1902 (purchase deed 277:457 \$5000; sale deed 620:9 \$3000), the house was owned & occupied by Luther Coggin Sr. (1801-1877), with wives Mary nee Harwood (1807-1859; married 1827) and Mrs. Martha Warriner nee Darrah (married 1860; died 1887 aged 68 at Amherst; buried Bedford), together with his son John H. Coggin (1838-1922; born in New Boston, died in Milford; buried Cricket Corner Cemetery, Amherst) with first wife Harriet nee Secomb (1838-1882; married 1866), who took in summer boarders from the city in the 1870s. The Coggin men were also primarily farmers, working together. John H. Coggin served as selectman 1882 through 1885 and as State representative 1891-'92.

“There are a large number of summer boarders in town, scattered among the farm houses, while a number of families in the village have houses full. ... Mr. J. H. Coggin, in the Fletcher District, has nearly a many [as 25].” (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 7 Aug. 1877, p. 2.) (See also article on “summer visitors and boarders”, *Farmers' Cabinet*, 3 Aug. 1880, p. [2]; and article on “Summer Guests”, 10 Aug. 1880, p. [2].)

From 1903-1957, the house was an inn for summer guests called Elmsmere Farm. Proprietors were:

- 1903: Fred & Minnie Kimball advertised as having 22 rooms. Their table was supplied by the farm with fresh milk from registered Ayrshires, eggs, vegetables, berries, etc. A four-seat mountain wagon picked up guests at Ponemah station. Train fare from Boston was 98 cents. Guests were conveyed in the mountain wagon to the Saturday night band concerts in Milford for a small fee. Room and board was “\$9.00 to \$10.00 per week, according to room.” (Per small promotional booklet.) A pedigreed horse named Amherst Boy, foaled 1907 of dam Elsmere Maid, was bred by Elsmere [sic] Farm in Amherst, N.H.
- 1920: Corliss & Julia Trombly. Barn across street burned 2 Dec. 1922; sold farm Dec. 1923.
- 1923/4: John & Annie Taylor ran as 117a farm and summer boarding house.
- 1935 Charles & Nettie Roby. Charles was son of Annie Taylor so the Robys worked on farm and inn before they had legal ownership.

(Source for tavern license granted 1771 by first county court: *Historical Sketch of the Hillsborough County Congresses, Held at Amherst (N.H.) 1774 & 1775 with other Revolutionary Records*, compiled by Edward D. Boylston, 1884, p. 44.)

Note: No Kendall is part of 1759 Masonian quitclaim, because this land was part of 1660 grant to John Wilson Sr. of Boston and therefore was never owned by Proprietors of Souhegan West even though geographically fell within bounds of Souhegan West when laid out in 1735. (*New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers*, Vol. 24, p. 8-13, original hand-drawn plan of town (from Massachusetts Maps and Plans, Vol. 6, p. 31) reproduced between pages 8 and 9; text transcribed.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020, expanded May 2023.]

Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * before1760 * 19th-century * SouheganRiverFarm * Tavern * SummerBoardingHouse *

Dating house at **423 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 2/138; “M. [sic? N.] Shepard” on 1858 map):

Cape house built 1778 by/for John Stearns (1728-1810). John did not sign the Association Test paper of 1776 but he was a resident of Amherst in Feb. 1779, when he bought Jonathan Sawyer's half share of 100a bounding south bank of Souhegan River (deed 5:202), which Sawyer had bought jointly in Feb. 1778 (deed 5:380) with John's father, Zachariah Stearns (Sr., 1702-1795), a resident of Merrimack since as early as 1746. In 1800, John's brothers Zachariah Jr. (who had built house nearby) and Daniel of Merrimack quitclaimed their right, title and interest (probably inheritance from father) in this parcel to

John Stearns (deed 52:329). In 1801, John Stearns, husbandman, sold 27 acres with half of his barn to his son James Stearns (deed 54:273) and the house with 36 acres to his son Reuben Stearns (deed 54:387). Challenge regarding Dating: To figure out construction date of this house, it is important to research house labeled “M. Shepard” together with neighboring houses labeled “Mrs. [sic, Miss Eunice] Stearns” (1 Cross Road) and “E. Jaquith” (at junction of Stearns Road and Boston Post Road).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SouheganRiverFarm * Shop * SummerHome *

Dating house at **481 Boston Post Road** (tax lot 2/169; “Mrs. Holden” on 1858 map; District 11): House built 1828 by/for Nathan T. Holden from Merrimack, a farmer, who in January 1828 bought 25 acres on the west side of the “great road” (identified in later deeds as highway leading from South Merrimack to Amherst Village) for \$175 (deed 153:234). Nathan died aged 36 in 1834, and some land was sold by the estate’s executor to pay debts, but his widow Elizabeth/Betsey (Baldwin) Holden (died 1883 aged 83) and son George W. Holden (1831-1901, likely born & died in this house) lived the remainder of their lives here farming their 12 or 13 acres (tax invoices, District 11; deeds 604:5 and 604:516).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **4 Brook Road** (tax lot 8/18; District 7; “S. Prince Jr.” on 1858 map):

Challenge regarding Dating: Is the house now standing the 1841 replacement for 18th-century house destroyed by fire of Feb. 1841?

It appears that: (a) Joseph Prince Jr. (actually 3d; d. 1800) was the first to occupy house at this site (on west side of road); which was then or had formerly been part of his father’s homestead, although Sr’s house stood on opposite side of the road (long gone, precise location unknown). And (b) Jr’s house was destroyed by fire in 1841, when occupied by the widow of Joseph Jr’s son George Prince (1785-1834), Mrs. Betsy (Howard) Prince (1785-1874; married 1811). According to Secomb’s *History*, 1883, p. 460: “The dwelling-house of Mrs. Betsey Prince, in the northeast part of town, was burnt, with most of the contents, 13 February, 1841.”

In 1850 census, widow Betsey was enumerated living here in household of her son David S. Prince, 24, and his young family with wife Caroline. In January 1852 (deed 272:478), David S. Prince quitclaimed to [his brother] Solomon Prince “Jr.” of Amherst, yeoman, for \$1000, “a certain farm in Amherst being the farm or portion of farm owned formerly by the late George Prince deceased and is the same deeded by Rufus Parkhurst, Louisa Parkhurst, Joseph Prince, George Prince, Fanny Prince, Darius L. Fox, Emeline Fox, Levi Saplding and Caroline P. Spalding to David S. Prince by a deed dated 8 March 1848” (recorded 249:98). (There is no further description, nor acreage in deed 272:478.) The new owner was Solomon Prince (1831-1914), son of George Wyatt Prince and husband of Harriet nee Fletcher (1833-1904; married 1852); this Solomon was called “Jr.” because there was an older man of the same name residing in Amherst at that time, his great-uncle. In 1861, Solomon Jr. was assessed taxes on 108 acres with buildings, 1 horse worth \$30, 8 bovines together worth \$228, and 5 sheep together worth \$14 (1861 tax invoice of District 7 residents). In 1910, Solomon Prince was taxed on homestead of 91 acres plus 30-acre woodlot, 1 horse and 2 cows.

Six farmers named Prince, being Lt. Joseph Prince Sr. and descendants of his, owned & occupied this land in succession (skipping one generation). The 6th and final one was Burton W. Prince (1873-c.1950), the grandson of Solomon Prince. In Sep. 1914, Burton returned from Illinois to N.H. with his wife, Annie nee Webster (1872-1955; married 1900 at Milford), and their three children (*Milford Cabinet*, 20 Aug. 1914, p. 5; & 1 Oct. 1914, p. 5). Burton thus was the 2nd, non-consecutive generation of Prince to own & occupy the house since the 1841 fire. In 1915, Burton Prince was taxed on 91-acre farm valued \$2000, 1 horse valued \$76, and 2 cows together valued \$80. This Prince family left town in 1920s, moving to Ashburnham, where they died.

More History – 1928-1940 Mink Farm: “A threesome of Buck, Holt and Kincaid bought the old Prince house at 4 Brook Road in 1928 and raised mink there until 1940. Their enterprise, which was not entirely successful, is reminiscent of the get-rich-quick chinchilla ranches of the same era.” (*Sleeping Town Awakens*, 1983, p. 107).

1929: "The other day I found the most interesting farm that I have seen for a long time. It was located just beyond the village of Amherst, on the road to the Greeley farm in Bedford. Here we found 27 well kept mink. The farm is up to the minute and the mink are wonderful animals. They are very tame and will climb up the side of the pen and are always ready to bite from the end of your finger. The owner told us that they were just now worth \$325 a pair and none for sale. There is only one other farm or ranch in New Hampshire and no stock for sale. This farm is well arranged and there is no danger of losing any mink as a very large German Shepherd dog, who gave us a dirty look as we went in, is turned loose at night in the boarded-in enclosure. The name of the ranch is "Chinpitouk." This is the combination of three men's nicknames joined together, the three partners." (*Milford Cabinet*, 3 Oct. 1929, The Sportsman Column by Proctor, front page)

1930: "Ran into the **mink farm at Amherst** the other day ... Here they now have **66 nice mink**. They also have a dog which they tied up when we went in. He has got a mean eye and will keep people on the outside of the fence. In the barn they have a Frigidaire plant which they made large enough to hold a ton of fresh meat at a time. They have a fine plant." (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 Dec. 1930, p. 3, Sportsman column.) In same column, quoting a local trapper: "Furs are very low and some kinds are hardly worth the labor of setting traps for."

1931: "AMHERST NORTH END. The **mink farm** at the Solomon Prince farm, run by three men, has now over **330 minks**. They have installed a freezer whereby they can keep meat frozen, and are continually making much improvement in their fittings for the place." (*Milford Cabinet*, 13 August 1931, p. 10)

1931: Inventory for the Town of Amherst includes Fur-bearing animals, 66 minks (total valuation \$330); Hens, 7188 (\$7115); 375 cows (\$24185) + 53 neat stock (\$2330); 119 horses (\$11200); 23 sheep (\$230). (1931/2 annual town report of Amherst, N.H.)

1933: "Clyde Holt and Ralph L Buck, proprietors of the mink farm on the Valley road In the Chestnut hill district, had a serious piece of ill luck recently. In the past their ventures have been fortunate. A short time ago a serious malady began to affect some of their best breeding stock, and nearly 60 of the 150 mink on the farm have succumbed. At this time of year, on account of the condition of the fur, the pelts are practically valueless." (*Milford Cabinet*, 24 Aug. 1933, p. 4, AMHERST column by correspondent Frederick W. Brown.)

1940: "The so called Burton Prince farm situated on the north Manchester road and operated by Buck, Holt and Kincaid as a mink farm, has been sold to Ralph F. Fisk [& wife Hazel W. Fisk] of Needham, who will use the property as a summer home." (*Milford Cabinet*, 27 June 1940, p. 3.) When they sold, Ralph W. Buck was a resident of Wilmington, Mass.; Clyde Holt was a resident of Nashua; and Lawrence H. Kincaide was a resident of Amherst (deed 1004:39).

More History: In April 1945, Ralph & Hazel Fisk were taxed on 110 fowls valued \$137.50 as well as 100a "Burton Prince farm" in District 7 and other property.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2025.]

Categories: 19th-century (present house?) * SonBuiltonPa'sHomestead (original house, 18th-century) *

(For another history, see article entitled "The Prince Homestead, 4 Brook Road (1981: Wayne Pierson)" by Charles/ "Chuck" L. Bacon (1924-1992), Historical Society of Amherst, N.H. newsletter, Oct. 1981, p. 7-8.)

Dating house at **18 Brook Road** (tax lot 8/23; "S. P. Parkhurst" [sic, but middle initial is error: should be "S. Parkhurst" for Stil(l)man Parkhurst] on west side of road, short distance south of schoolhouse and sawmill, on 1858 map; District 7):

In the 19th century, two houses stood together side-by-side on this homestead farm, one built c. 1825 and the other c. 1855. Only one of these houses is still standing. The question is: which one?

First House: The first house was built in the 1820s, say circa 1825, by/for John Warren (married 1828; d. 1874 aged 72 in Ipswich, Mass.), son of Dimon(d) Warren (1779-1857) & his wife Phebe nee Ellinwood (1784-1848), on farm created in 1822. In April 1822, John Warren bought 13a for \$200 (deed 135:184) and 70a for \$1000 (deed 135:184) from Ebenezer Ellinwood (3d, c.1749-1828, twice widowed 1805 & 1818), his grandfather who resided at 54 Brook Road. In 1825 (deed 144:537), Warren sold off 3 tracts (including the 70a) for \$300 to Reuben Stearns who since 1818, in exchange for a life-lease arrangement, owned & occupied Ebenezer Ellinwood's homestead at 54 Brook Road. In May 1828, John Warren was married to Abigail Blake (b. 1808). Warren is shown in this location in 1830 census (wherein residents are listed in geographical order), shortly before he sold the house at 18 Brook Road with 40a.

More History: From 1830 until about 1865, this was the homestead farm of a Parkhurst family. The last family members to live in one of the houses were two elderly unmarried sisters, until 1886 or '87.

In 1830, Henry Parkhurst (Sr., 1779-1861), yeoman (farmer) whose wife was Lydia nee Spalding (1784-1867; married 1802), bought this house with piece of land and additional 40a for \$420 (deed 166:116) and

moved from Bedford to Amherst with 5 of their children: Lydia, aged 25; Spaulding, 21; Sally, 17; Stilman, 12; and Emily, 7. The parents and two of the daughters would live on this farm for the rest of their lives.

In 1833, Pa sold the place to [his son] Spaulding Parkhurst (1809-1882), as yet unmarried, for \$429 (deed 176:126). However, Pa Henry continued to be taxpayer of record in 1833-1835. (From Nov. 1836 until March 1838, Spaulding Parkhurst also owned a 60-acre farm on Schoolhouse Road, labeled "J.F. Skinner" on 1858 map, which his brother Henry Jr. unloaded on him (deeds 194:266 & 196:310) when Henry Jr. built his new house at 27 Horace Greeley Road.) In April 1838, Stilman Parkhurst (1816/8-1910), as yet unmarried, bought the house & farm from his brother Spaulding \$350 (deed 195:315), but Stillman did not become the taxpayer of record until after 1843, which is the year Stillman started paying taxes as owner of the mill near the house. (Yes, the tax invoices for this family and the deeds for this property are complicated.)

Second House: The second house (perhaps located where the 1858 map appears to show a schoolhouse) was probably built (or converted?) between 1850 and 1860, probably for Stilman Parkhurst (1816/8-1910), the legal owner at that time. In 1852, Stillman Parkhurst married Margaret A. Peasley. The 1860 census shows the old parents with one of the spinster daughters in one house; and Stilman and his young family and a farm laborer in the next house. What's not clear is, which group is in which house. 1861 is the last year that Stilman Parkhurst was taxed on 100 acres with buildings and mill. Around 1864, Stilman & family moved out of town, to Bedford. For the next few years, first "Mrs. Lydia", the widowed matriarch, and thereafter her two unmarried daughters, were taxed on 30 acres.

In 1884, the local newspaper reported the death of "Miss Sally Parkhurst, a maiden lady living with her sister in District No 7; ... aged 68 years." (*Farmers Cabinet*, 18 Jan. 1884, p. 3.) In 1885, Miss Lydia made a deal with new farm owner Rodney H. Prince, selling him the house she still occupied with one acre of land for \$120 but "reserving the right to occupy said buildings during my life rent free" (deed 480:140). She died in 1887, aged 81 years, in Bedford (presumably at the home of her brother), thus ending the tenure of the Parkhurst family on this farm.

Remodeling in 20th Century: William Arthur Hart (1908-1981), a paper mill worker employed by the Nashua Gum and Coated Paper Co., and wife Doris nee Hanson (1913-1981; daughter of Horace Greeley Hanson; widow since 1933 of Henry W. Robinson), a mender at a cotton mill, who together had bought the house & farm in 1941 (deed 1015:363) two weeks after their wedding and occupied for 23 years, "removed the front door on the south and added one of the east end; Bill also made the barn door on the east end smaller." Floyd & Patricia Fletcher, who bought in 1964 (deed 1776:163), "converted the woodshed/carriage shed to a family room and closed off the barn door completely, adding a new one on the south." Richard & Janice Kitchen, who moved in in 1977 and sold in 1984 (deed 3178:300), added "a dormer and a porch" on the north side. (Remodeling info from Chuck Bacon's article, 1981.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Sep. 2025.]

(For more history, see article entitled "THE HENRY PARKHURST HOMESTEAD, 18 Brook Road (1981: Richard Kitchen)" by Charles L. Bacon (1924-1992), Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H., Oct. 1981, which begins: "Undivided half interests, unrecorded deeds, many changes of ownership of parts of the whole – all make the history of the Henry Parkhurst farm a murky one.")

Categories: 19th-century * SonBuiltonLandfromFather (in this case, land bought from Grandfather) *

Dating house at 43 Brook Road (tax lot 10/20; "I. Harraden" on 1858 map; District 7):

House built circa 1840 – probably 1842 – by/for Isaac Harradon (1792-1866; b. Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.) (whose name was spelled multiple different ways, including Haradon and Harridon), farmer whose wife since 1820 was Lucy nee Stearns (1800-1877). Although Harradon appears to be living in this location already in 1830 (census) – his first purchase deed was in 1840, for merely 2 acres split off from the farm/homestead of [his father-in-law] Reuben Stearns (d. 1842, aged 73) whose house was/is at 54 Brook Road (that is, next door north on other side of road), so likely the younger couple had been living with the in-laws. In Oct. 1843, Harradon bought additional 5.25 acres, adjoining his first small parcel, also carved off from the homestead of the late Reuben Stearns, for \$100 (deed 248:302). The tax invoices indicate that, although he was indeed taxed on a small amount of land starting in 1840, Harradon was not taxed on any buildings until 1844! Isaac lived here with his wife and son(s) for the rest of his life.

More History: From 1893-1903, the owner-occupant was Henry A. Peabody (1862-1903; b. New Boston, d. Amherst), who bought this house on 2 acres for \$150 (deed 533:91) and, in 1897, additional 10 acres nearby for another \$150 (deed 658:387). Peabody had been a 26-year-old blacksmith of Amherst in Dec. 1891 when he married Winifred/“Winnie” Matilda Stevens (1870-1949; b. Amherst; resident of East Weare before died at convalescent home in Francestown; buried Amherst), who had grown up in the house next door on the opposite side of the road at 54 Brook Road, owned & occupied since 1854 (deed 291:74; 1860, 1870, 1880 censuses) by her father, farmer Alpheus Stevens (1825-1902). The Peabody couple and the Stevens in-laws are shown as neighbors in the 1900 census. From obituary (in *Milford Cabinet*, 2 April 1903, p. 4): “Henry A. Peabody died at his home in Amherst, March 14, after a long and painful illness of diabetis, aged 40 years. He was a blacksmith by trade, but being unable to follow his trade he has been engaged in farming and working on our roads, being a most diligent worker ... Funeral services [were] held at his late home ...” Harry E. Stevens (1865-1958; b. Amherst, d. Concord), an unmarried resident of Concord, N.H., where he was inspector of the Concord Board of Water Works (*Milford Cabinet*, 10 March 1898, p. 5), came to the financial rescue of his widowed sister Winifred, administratrix of her late husband’s estate, by buying 43 Brook Road farm from her in June 1904 (deed 623:473); Harry sold the place in 1908 (deed 658:427).

[Research Aug. 2023 & text by Katrina Holman rev. Sep. 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * SonBuiltOnLandfromFather (in this case, Son-in-Law & Father-in-Law) * Life-lease (1850) *

Dating house at **54 Brook Road** (tax lot 10/13; “A. Stevens” on 1858 map; District 7):

House built c. 1785 by/for Asa Hutchinson (1759-1848), yeoman=farmer who had married Eunice Davis (1763-1855) in Aug. 1785 and was already a resident of Amherst in Feb. 1786 when he bought 100 acres for 40 Pounds lawful money from [his father] Solomon Hutchinson of Merrimack (deed 19:68, no mention of bldgs). Asa sold the “farm that I now live on with the buildings thereon” in Jan. 1800 to [his brother-in-law] Andrew Davis (b. 1747 in Dunstable, N.H.) (deed 49:96).

More History: Ebenezer Ellenwood (3rd, c.1749-1828, twice widowed 1805 & 1818) & Reuben Stearns (1768-1842): Ellinwood purchased in two stages with deeds 62:96 of 1804; and 69:365 of 1806, initially with son-in-law Dimond Warren. In 1818, after the death of his second wife, Ellinwood conveyed 200a homestead farm to Stearns in a life-lease arrangement (deeds 121:374&375), and both of them lived here for the rest of their lives. Reuben’s wife was Miriam nee Whiting (married 1799; d. 1851); they raised 4 daughters. The farm decreased in size as Stearns and heirs sold off multiple parcels in bits and pieces until only about 25 acres was left (1852 deed 273:442).

More History: In 1854, Alpheus Stevens (1825-1902), farmer, bought 10a with house for \$550 (deed 291:74); and in 1867 bought remaining 15a (deed 368:457). He lived here until his death but advertised the place for sale in 1870: “Small Farm for Sale Cheap! Situated in Amherst, about four miles from the village, on the Brook or Valley road west of Chestnut Hills. Twenty-five Acres of Land, a good Garden, Tillage, Pasturing and plenty of Wood; also a considerable number of Apple Trees, some of which are young and just beginning to bear. Buildings comfortable – a one story house, with L. 33 x 14’; good barn 22 x 24 with cellar. For further particulars inquire of the subscriber on the premises ALPHEUS STEVENS. Amherst, N.H., Feb. 21, 1870.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 3 March 1870, p. [3].) His marital history:

wife1 (married 1849 at Concord) Emeline F. Currier (1824-1858; died at Amherst of consumption aged 34)

wife2 Sarah L. Hackett (1844-1875; died at Amherst of consumption at age 31)

wife3 (married 1882) Rozella, abandoned him after 2.5 months; he filed for divorce, granted 1885

wife4 (married 1896) Ellen C. Greely, who was 60-year-old seamstress when she married 70-yr-old farmer

In Jan. 1904, Harry E. Stevens (1865-1958; b. Amherst, d. Concord, buried Homeland Cemetery, Bristol, N.H.) of Concord, N.H., who grew up on this farm as a son of Alpheus & Sarah, bought “30”-acre former homestead of his late father for \$350 (deed 624:485) from his father’s widow, Ellen C. nee Manning, who had remarried in Jan. 1903 to become Mrs. William McLean (divorced 1905, for cruelty, she was libellant). It appears that Harry did not reside here after his purchase; house sold out of Stevens family in 1932. “Burton Bruce, a teacher in the Manchester Central high school and who is also football coach for

St. Anselm's College, Manchester, has purchased the Alpheus Stephens place on the Brook road, for a summer residence." (*Milford Cabinet*, 19 May 1932, p. 4.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Oct. 2023.]

(For another history, see article entitled "The Asa Hutchinson Homestead, 54 Brook Road (1981 William Jobe)" by Charles "Chuck" L. Bacon (1924-1992) of Historical Society of Amherst, 1981.)

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltonLandfromFather * Life-lease 1818 * SummerHome *

Dating house at **25 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 10/44; "L. H. Stratton" on 1858 map):

House built unknown date between 1820 and 1830 censuses, say circa 1825, by/for James Prince (1794-1852; married first 1826), on land that formerly belonged to his father, Abel Prince (1757-1838). (In the 1820 census, James Prince is *not* listed as a head of household but likely is included in the household of his father Abel Prince (1757-1838), where there were 2 persons working in agriculture.) In 1816, James Prince bought 25 acres (part of Second-Division Lot 70) lying on the east side of Chestnut Hill Road from his father (deed 110:565, with no mention of buildings). In Dec. 1822, James bought additional 18 acres on the west side of Chestnut Hill Road (also part of Lot 70) for \$400 from his father (deed 136:217). In 1826, James Prince (1794-1852) married girl-next-door Mary "Polly" Upham (1799-1837). James grew up in his father Abel's house located at bottom (south end) of Chestnut Hill Road, on west side (labeled "J. Mace" on 1858 map); and Polly's father Phinehas Upham Jr. (1769-1831) bought house next-door north in 1807 (labeled "I. Upham" on 1858 map). From 1826-1832, the assessed value of James Prince's real estate ("wild land and buildings") remained constant in tax invoices, suggesting that the house was built by April 1826. In the 1830 census, in which residents are listed in geographical order, Abel Prince and James Prince are listed one right after the other, directly after other residents of Chestnut Hill Road and before residents of the northeasterly part of Horace Greeley Road.

The land was owned by 4 generations of Prince in direct line of succession from Lt. Joseph Prince, early settler, but this house remained in possession of the original family for 2 generations of farmers, until 1898.

In March 1850, James Upham Prince (1828-1897), the only son, bought 70-acre homestead farm of his father, James, lying on both sides of Chestnut Hill Road, for \$1500 (deed 259:326); and half a year later, in Oct. 1850, married Louisa Jane Osgood (1832-1904), daughter of Joel F. Osgood (1807-1891) of Amherst. Two years after the death of his father, however, the son "disposed of his Farm on Chestnut Hills" and auctioned off his livestock, farm wagons, equipment and tools, also "corn, wheat, barley, and a lot of sweet and winter apples" (*Farmers' Cabinet*, newspaper published in Amherst, 28 Sep. 1854, p. [3]). James U. Prince then moved to the Village where he "went into the stove and tinware business" (per Howard Locke) selling "plow castings [and] ashe, oven, and boiler mouths" (advertised in *Farmers' Cabinet*, 17 April 1856). After a business trip to California (probably in early 1857), upon his return he was agent of a nursery company for 3 years.

The next owner-occupant, for a few years in the mid-1850s, was James' brother-in-law, Levi H. Stratton (b. c. 1821 or 1825 in N.H.) who in 1847 had married James' 17-year-old sister, Lucinda Prince (1830-1867; surely born in this house; died in Minnesota). The Strattons moved around quite a lot: The 1850 census captured them in Lowell, Mass. where Levi worked as a moulder (foundry worker), but in the fall of 1850 he bought a 40-acre farm in Amherst on upper Mack Hill, built a new barn, then lost the farm because he couldn't pay off his mortgage (Sheriff's sale, *Farmers' Cabinet*, 7 Jan. 1852, p. [3]). He left Amherst, then returned in 1854 to live here at 25 Chestnut Hill Road. 1857 was the last year that Levi H. Stratton was taxed as a resident, assessed on real estate of 70 acres. (No deeds between the brothers-in-law were recorded; possibly perhaps James still owned and Levi was just renting and paying the taxes.) In 1857/8, James U. Prince (1828-1897) moved back to this house with wife and 2 yg children, where he is shown in 1860 census – and lived here until his death, dying in the same house where he was born. Starting in 1858 for several years (per Amherst tax invoices), James U. Prince was assessed taxes on real estate of 74 acres (whereas in 1856 he was taxed on 42 acres [in a different part of town]). His widow sold the house & farm (as 130a + 3a) out of the Prince family in October 1898 for \$2500 (deed 581:282). [Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Sep. 2025.]

(Note regarding Dating: In 'windshield survey' for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built "ca. 1850" (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, spreadsheet appendix, p. 40).)

Categories: 19th-century * SonBuiltonLandfromFather *

Dating house at **46 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 10/33; southern one of 2 adjacent houses labeled “R. Fletcher” on west side of road on 1858 map; District 9):

House built circa 1775 by/for Robert Hosea (d. 1821 at Bedford, aged 86), who had been a mariner in Plymouth, Massachusetts, before he bought 90-acre Second Division Lot 77 in April 1775 for 118 Pounds 15 Shillings & 4 Pence from William Walton (deed 3:222). (In 1800, Hosea, “gentleman,” sold off 50 acres for \$260 (deed 49:154) to an abutter, a blacksmith named Baker, who appeared as Backer through 1809 in this neighborhood in tax invoices.)

More History: In July 1801, John Stearns Jr. (b. 1753; married since 1781), at that time a resident of Milford, bought the house with remaining 39 acres from Hosea (deed 52:368; see also 61:400 and 62:278). (In the Amherst Tax Invoice of April 1801, in which individual taxpayers are listed in roughly geographical order (*Amherst Town Records Volume 2*, p. 200), Capt. Robt Hosea (with no taxable real estate) is still listed, followed directly by John Stearns Jr. (with “wild land & buildings” valued \$50). In the next tax invoice, 1804, Hosea was gone but this Stearns was still in same location (with his real estate reduced to \$30 valuation); and John Stearns 3d (assessed the poll tax but no real estate tax), presumably his son, is apparently living there too.) In 1807, John sold this 39-acre farm for \$400 (deed 73:289) to his brother Reuben Stearns (1768-1842), who had been a laborer in Wilton before becoming a farmer here for 12 years. Reuben’s wife was Miriam nee Whiting (married 1799) with whom he had four daughters. (Reuben Stearns in 1818 acquired the 200-acre homestead farm with house at 54 Brook Road of Ebenezer Ellenwood (3rd, c.1749-1828) in a life-lease arrangement, and moved there for rest of his life.)

Next owner, from 1819-1825, was John Arbuckle (1752-1839), who bought the farm for \$650 (deed 124:408) and enlarged it. (Arbuckle probably lived on different nearby farm that he also owned.)

Next occupant-owner, from 1825-1856, was Moses Barron Stewart (1785-1868), “gentleman,” who bought this farm as a newlywed for \$800 (deed 144:383) and sold with 60 acres for \$1400 (deed 303:370; for sale advert in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 21 Feb. 1856). Moses B. Stewart (who was born in the Horace Greeley Birth House built by his father) had been a son-in-law of Arbuckle from his first marriage in 1811 until the early death in 1819 of his first wife, with whom he had four sons. Widower Moses remarried in 1825 to Nancy Parker (who would die aged 59 in 1855 in Illinois) and had 7 more children, the youngest in 1839, probably all born in this house.

Regarding owner on 1858 map: Robert Fletcher (d. 1863 aged 61), who owned & occupied farm next north (house at 52 Chestnut Hill Road), bought 60a farm with house next door at 46 Chestnut Hill Road for \$1400 (1857 March, deed 316:509) and sold for \$1800 (July 1858, deed 318:125). Therefor Fletcher is shown owning two side-by-side houses on map.

More History: From 1858-1945, this house was owned & occupied by two generations of the Plummer family. In 1858, Harrison Plummer (1823-1882) of Amherst, whose wife (m. 1848) was Sarah nee Batchelder (1825-1901), bought 60-acre Stewart Farm, on west side of Chestnut Hill Road (lying between Robert Fletcher’s home farm and Isaac Upham’s farm) for \$1800 (deed 318:125). In 1889, his son Voscoe H. Plummer (1867-1945), a resident of Nashua at that time, bought out the other heirs, his 3 sisters, for \$270, which did not include their mother Sarah’s dower right (deed 592:508). Voscoe farmed here in the summers but he and his family spent winters in Nashua, where he was a carpenter. Voscoe had two marriage failures that he made public in an awkward way. First at age 28 in 1895 he married 17-year-old Jennie E. Melendy of Milford; but less than a year later:

“This is to give notice that my wife Jennie E. Plummer, having left my bed and board without due cause, I shall no longer be responsible for any bills of her contraction and all persons are warned against harboring her on my account. VOSCOE H. PLUMMER, Milford, July 13.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 16 July 1896, p. [8].)

He sued for adultery and they divorced June 1898. (Jennie remarried July 1898, gave birth to a daughter in Sep. 1898; divorced her second husband, Pinette, in 1912; and died aged 59 in 1938 as Mrs. Duffy.) Second at age 34 in 1902, Voscoe was married to Harriet May Gurney, a 17-year-old artist, and they had two children who in 1910 census were a 6-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter. Another public notice:

“Whereas, my wife, Hattie M. Plummer, having without just cause or reason left my bed and board, I hereby give notice that after this date I will no longer be responsible for bills of her contracting and warn all persons to that effect. VOSCOE H. PLUMMER. Amherst, N.H., Dec. 19, 1910.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 29 Dec. 1910, p. 6.) Wife Hattie evidently left and returned; but they were divorced in 1919.

Remodeling: In January 1945, Miss Ada D. Nielsen (b. 1910 in Denmark, immigrated 1913) of Roslindale/Boston, Mass., hotel waitress, bought house on 28a on west side of Chestnut Hill Road (deed 1073:250) and extensively remodeled, raising the roof. She sold in 1948 (deed 1191:34).

“BEFORE AND AFTER ON CHESTNUT HILL. ... When Miss Ada Nielsen of Boston and Francestown bought of the late Voscoe Plummer his house, on Chestnut Hill in Amherst she acquired a typical old farmhouse. All the place lacked was paint, a tight roof, some new sills, and conveniences of all types. Perhaps it would be simpler to say that all the place had was four pretty good walls, a barn of sorts, a primitive privy ... and a gorgeous view. That was a little more than a year ago. ... The pictures do not show all the changes, the new kitchen and the bathroom, the new sills and rebuilt rooms, the new roofs and all the things that change a disintegrating old house into a lovely modern home. ...” (*Milford Cabinet*, 27 Dec. 1945, p. 6; with 2 photos, before and after.)
[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * RevolutionaryWarVet (Arbuckle) * SummerHome *

Dating house at **52 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 10/31; District 9; northern one of 2 adjacent houses labeled “R. Fletcher” on west side of road on 1858 map):

Main part of 2-story house built circa 1850, judging by its Greek Revival style (gable end front with non-centered door), on 57-acre homestead owned & occupied since 1832 by Robert Fletcher (1802-1863; b. Littleton, Mass.; d. & buried Amherst), cooper (as of 1832 deed), carpenter (1850 census), farmer and mill owner, and real estate wheeler-dealer, who bought the farm from [his brother] Otis Fletcher for \$700 (deed 170:371). In 1835, Robert Fletcher’s taxable livestock comprised: 1 horse worth \$50, 2 oxen together worth \$66, 2 cows worth \$40, 2 other neat stock worth \$20, and 11 sheep worth \$22. Tax invoices from 1852 to 1853 show a doubling (!) in the valuation of Robert’s buildings while the value of his land and his mill remained unchanged. Robert & wife Mary nee Cochran (1807-1879, b. & d. Amherst) raised four children here.

Challenge regarding Dating: There was an earlier house here, but it had disappeared by 1857 (per 1858 map). Is any of the earlier house contained within the present house?

Earliest History of Farm: The first dwelling was built here on Chestnut Hill at unknown date, either in 18th century by/for Lt. John Patterson (1742-1829; resident already 1760; first married 1765) or in early 19th century on Patterson’s land by/for his son-in-law Samuel Fletcher (d. 1825 aged 55), who in 1795 had married the Lieutenant’s daughter, Susannah G. Patterson (d. 1822 aged 47). Samuel Fletcher is not listed in 1800 census but the numbers fit for him & wife to be among the household of John Patterson. Samuel Fletcher already resided on Chestnut Hill Road by 1804, deduced from 1804 Amherst tax invoice of Northern ‘third’ part in which taxpayers are listed in roughly geographical order and Sam’s Fletcher is listed between John Stearns [46 Chestnut Hill Rd] and Lt. John Patterson (*Town Records Vol. 2*, page 208 for 1804 tax invoices). But it is not clear whether Sam had his own house at this point or was residing with his wife in the home of his father-in-law. (In 1805, Sam. Fletcher was taxed on “wild land & buildings” valued \$40 while John Patterson was taxed on “wild land & buildings” valued \$360 (*Amherst Town Records Volume 2*, page 213). In 1807, John Patterson sold his homestead in Amherst to [son-in-law] Wm Dole “of Bedford, gentleman” as (1) 271a; (2) 45a; (3) 6.5a, for \$3000 (deed 73:518), but John Patterson and Samuel Fletcher continued to reside in same place(s) as previous several years judging by tax invoices.) In 1814, Samuel Fletcher of Amherst, yeoman, bought 17 acres for \$80 from Wm Dole “of Amherst” adjoining land supposedly deeded on the same day to Sam by John Patterson (deed 137:20), thus creating new farm. In 1823, Sam’s son Otis Fletcher (wife Abigail) became owner of the farm and house by buying 17 acres for \$200 from his widowed father (deed 139:160) and about 40 acres “the same on which said Samuel now lives” for \$300 from [his grandfather] John Patterson (deed 139:159). In 1823, Otis sold out to his brother Robert.

More History: Three generations of Fletcher men, farmers, occupied (since c. 1800 or possibly as early as marriage in 1795) & owned (since 1814) the land, but only two of those generations owned & occupied (1852-1933) present Greek Revival style house. The final generation of Fletcher farmers on this homestead & in this house was John P. Fletcher (1849-1933; b. Amherst; d. Goffstown hospital, buried Amherst), who inherited the homestead of his parents, Robert & Mary, reduced to 48 acres. John was a farmer and also, from about 1905-1919 (per 1910 census and newspaper adverts), a merchant of shingles which he sold from train-car loads. John never married; but had a long-time housekeeper (of more than

five decades), Miss Martha/ “Mattie” A. Stevens (1854-1934), who grew up at 54 Brook Road as the daughter of Alpheus Stevens (d. 1902). Mattie also never married and remained in this house after John’s death until her own death and was buried in the Fletcher family lot where her name is listed on his gravestone.

Mill (“S.M.” on Brook Road, north of different house also labeled “R. Fletcher” on 1858 map):

In 1863, Robert Fletcher’s heirs offered for sale at auction “the Saw Mill known as the Fletcher Mill, situated in Amherst, upon the valley road leading from Amherst Plain to Chestnut Hills, together with the privilege and a few acres of good Land adjoining said mill; upon which a small House and Barn are built for the accommodation of the same.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 12 Nov. 1863, p. [3].)

[Research April 2024 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2025]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * Builder *

Dating house at **82 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 11/10-2; “A. McCluer” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1834 by/for Joseph K. Harvell (1810-1870; d. Wisconsin), a newlywed whose wife was Ann B. nee Perry (married April 1834), who in June 1834 acquired a newly-created farm of 33 acres, split off from the homestead of his father, Joseph Harvell (1774-1853), “gentleman” (whose house was/is at 89 Chestnut Hill Road, labeled “Capt. T. M. Harvill” on 1858 map), valued at \$700, in exchange for yearly payment of \$21 to each of his parents, Joseph & Agnes, for the rest of their lives (deed 178:100; bond 178:101; mortgage 178:102). In 1844, Joseph K. Harvell expanded the farm by 13 acres (deed 230:80, \$190), split off from the homestead of Calvin Dodge (house labeled “Mrs. Dodge” on 1858 map, at or near present-day 96 Chestnut Hill Road). In 1846, J.K. Harvell advertised the house (“The buildings are new.”) and farm (“There is not a better Farm, according to its size in Amherst.”) for sale (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 19 Nov. 1846, p. 4) and sold 50-acre farm in 1848 for \$1300 (deed 248:298).

More History: In 1856, Asa McCluer (1793-1870; b. Merrimack, d. Amherst), yeoman (farmer), whose first wife was Mary nee Allen (1798-1859; b. Charlestown, d. Amherst; married 1820), bought 38 acres with buildings on west side of road for \$925 (deed 302:197). (Asa McCluer & family had lived on 150-acre Chestnut Hill farm near New Boston townline from 1833-1858, but he was a resident of New Boston when he bought this place.) Asa had financial difficulties but lived here until his death.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * Life-lease 1834 * SonBuiltonLandfromFather *

Dating house at **89 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 11/7-1; “Capt. T. M. Harvill” on 1858 map; Distr. 9):

Two-story house built unknown date, say circa 1780, by/for John Harvell (Jr., 1736-1821; married 1763), husbandman (farmer), who was not yet a resident in 1760 but already a resident of Amherst in Oct. 1762 when he bought 45-acre Third Division lot 113, bounded on the north by New Boston townline, from his father, Sr., an innholder (tavernkeeper) at Litchfield (deed recorded late as Hillsborough County 10:407). The Chestnut Hill(s) road was laid out in 1761, “beginning at the westerly side of John Harvell land at the Chestnut Hills so called, running southerly across said Harvell land...” (*Amherst Town Records*).

(Note regarding Dating: Howard Locke (1883-1959), not a reliable source but sometimes correct, in his notes for this house numbered Town 175 wrote: “First house was a log cabin up nearer the schoolhouse. Present house built 1812.” However, preservation consultant Elizabeth Durfee Hengen in her visual assessment of the exterior in 2009, for ‘windshield survey’ commissioned by Amherst’s Heritage Commission, stuck with “ca. 1780,” the same date chosen by late 20th-century homeowner when property tax cards were first computerized and dates assigned to old houses.)

The No. 9 Schoolhouse lot (created 1808 by deed 117:5) and Chestnut Hill(s) Cemetery lot (sold to Town in 1830 by deed 166:134) were both split off this homestead, by second-generation owner-occupant Capt. Joseph Harvell (1774-1853), John Jr.’s youngest son who had acquired the homestead in 1803 as a life-lease deal with his pa. Joseph Harvell was one of the 14 founders of The First Baptist Society in Amherst in 1828, becoming a Deacon, and their worship services were held at his house until 1837 (Secomb, p. 311; *Farmer’s Cabinet*, 17 Jan. 1829, Notice; “The First Baptist Church of Amherst, New Hampshire: A Narrative Account of its History 1828-1982” by Seth Shorey, especially p. 5; obituary *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 17 March 1853, [p. 3]). With his wife Agness aka Nancy nee McKinney (1772-1858), he had 9 children of whom four died young. Joseph’s gravestone says: “He was born, lived and buried on the same farm. He

was an honest upright man.” (Altho a neighbor disputed a boundary, claiming Joseph moved stonewall (1853 deeds 282:409 & 415).)

This house and land belonged to the homestead of 5 generations of the Harvell family for nearly 180 years, until 1941 (deed 1025:140).

More History: From 1941-1959, this was the summer home of Paul P. Pierce (1879-1963; m. 1900), upon his retirement as chief examiner at the Patent Office in DC, & his wife Madge Ella nee Hawkins (1878-1960), of Takoma Park, Maryland (deeds 1025:140, 1588:390).

[Research by Jackie Marshall 2012 & Katrina Holman May 2023; text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Life-lease 1803 & 1849 * HouseofWorship * SummerHome *

Dating house at **97 Chestnut Hill Road** (tax lot 11/4; “S. H.” near New Boston townline on 1858 and 1892 maps; District 9):

House built 1860 as Schoolhouse No. 9 aka Chestnut Hill School on land granted to the School District in 1808 by Joseph Harvel(l) [1774-1853] for this District’s first schoolhouse (deed 117:5). Evidence for new, replacement schoolhouse is in “Report of the Superintending School Committee, Amherst, March 4, 1861” on p. 9. School closed 1919. School District sold (building only) 1933 for \$110 to John R. and Grace E. Hughes of Dorchester, Mass. (deed 1107:353), who used it as a summer “camp,” having negotiated a 75-year lease from landowner Thomas Harvell for \$5 rent per year (deed 1107:308).

More History: Lot created 1947 for next owners (deeds 1123:293, 1155:334); and former No. 9 was used as a summer home for at least two more decades.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 19th-century * Schoolhouse * SummerHome *

Dating house at **55 Christian Hill Road** (tax lot 5/129; “L. Smith” on 1858 map):

Stone cape (granite blocks on front & back; bricks on sides) house built 1839 by Jesse C. Patterson (1796-1859), yeoman and mason, on land he had bought in 1836 (deed 184:342) while he occupied house at 61 Christian Hill Road. In August 1840, Jesse sold this newly-created farm “with the buildings thereon” for \$2150 to his brother, a merchant of Danvers (deed 208:8). The evidence for the construction date is in a newspaper advertisement (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 13 March 1840, p. [4]): “FOR SALE, FARM situated in the westerly part of Amherst, 1 1/2 miles from the Plain, containing about 58 acres of excellent land, ... the same being the easterly half of the farm, formerly owned by the Rev. Mr. Barnard. On it there is a house built the last year, 36 feet by 28 feet, of stone and brick ... For further particulars inquire of Jesse C. Patterson, near the premises, or of N. P. C. PATTERSON, Danvers, Mass. Feb. 20, 1840.”

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * StoneCape * Builder – Mason *

Dating house at **61 Christian Hill Road** (tax lot 5/128; “L. Elliott” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1780 (because it is unclear how much, if any, of the original/first house is part of the present house). The original house was built by/for Joseph Steel (Sr., c.1706-1788), wheelwright, who was a resident of Londonderry, N.H., when he bought Second Division lots 16 & 17 in Souhegan West, containing 56 acres each, in 1748 (Provincial N.H. deed 35:373), and had become a resident of S.W. by 1753, when he signed petition for incorporation. The next owner & occupant was Rev. Jeremiah Barnard (1750-1835), Amherst’s second Congregational minister (ordained 1780), who in 1781 bought 71-acre parcel “with all the buildings” from Steel (deed 7:334) and then enlarged the farm, which comprised 117 acres in 1834 when it was sold on his behalf.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Parsonage *

Dating house at **65 Christian Hill Road** (tax lot 5/128-2; “S. H.” on 1858 and 1892 maps):

House built in 1817 as Schoolhouse No. 4, known as West or Christian Hill School, on a 6 x 3 rod lot granted by Rev. Jeremiah Barnard (1750-1835) (deed 883:535; School District 4 record book). School closed 1913.

More History: School Board sold it 1934 for \$137.50 (deed 936:173) to Harriett B. & Herbert L. Patterson (1874-1940), a civil engineer who worked in Boston and owned & occupied abutting 60-acre farm (with dwelling at 61 Christian Hill Rd), who used the old schoolhouse for storage.

In 1951, the farm's new owner, Edward A. Larner (Sr., 1897-1970) who owned & occupied 61 Christian Hill Road 1951-1968, converted the former No. 4 into a dwelling house to be the home for his new employee, Theodore Forbes (1918-2005) who was still living there a decade later (*Milford Cabinet*, 22 Nov. 1951, p. 4; 23 Jan. 1964, p. 5).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, March 2020; rev. July 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Schoolhouse *

Dating house at **40 Corduroy Road** (tax lot 4/91; District 3; not on 1858, 1892 nor 1906 maps): House built 1911 on 75-acre parcel by Thomas S. Merrow (1861-1941; b. N.H.; d. Florida; buried Cricket Corner Cemetery, Amherst), farmer and blacksmith newly turned house-builder, as new home for himself & wife Vienna C. nee Jackson (1862-1941; d. Amherst; married 1886). (The evidence for when the house was built is in the tax invoices. In 1911 (after having sold 75-acre Souhegan River farm at 377 Boston Post Road which he owned together with this Corduroy Road/Merrimack Road land from 1890-1910 per deeds 509:448 and 682:209), the real estate in District 3 on which Merrow was invoiced/ taxed comprised 75 acres valued \$300 [not enough for a house!]; blacksmith shop valued \$150; and 40-acre "Phoebe Boutelle lot" valued \$150. In 1912, Thomas Merrow's tax invoice included: 75-acre "home place & shop" valued \$1600; 40a "Smith Berry land" valued \$400; and some livestock, besides his poll tax.) (Howard Locke (1883-1959) in his house notes for Town 47A said "Built by Tom Merrow"; same said for 47B [92 Merrimack Rd]; 47C [95 Merrimack Rd]; and 47E [96 Merrimack Rd].)

A news item tells about Merrow's shop, which preceded the house: "Thomas Merrow, a blacksmith at South Merrimack, has built a shop for himself in Amherst" (*Milford Cabinet*, 22 Dec. 1910, p. 3). The blacksmith shop was either built from the beginning on part of his land that became 92 Merrimack Road, or it was moved to there before he sold the 40 Corduroy Road house.

In 1914, having built another house, on North Street (*Milford Cabinet*, 15 Jan. 1914, p. 3), Merrow sold this house on Corduroy Road, on lot reduced to 30 acres, to William H. Turner (1879-1950) of Somerville, Mass. (deed 722:271; \$900 mortgage 722:273), a traveling salesman, who probably intended to use it as a summer residence. But Turner sold the following year (deed 733:421) to Antonio Zarella (1874-1943, b. Italy, d. Boston) of Boston, Mass., who moved here with his wife.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Aug. 2023.]

Categories: 20th-century * Builder *

Dating house at **8 Craftsman Lane** (tax lot 12/42; nonexistent on 1858 map, "Mrs. A. Sargent" on 1892 map; District 11):

House built 1867 by/for Stephen M. Sargent (1803-1900), farm laborer and carpenter, later shoemaker, and his wife, Ann (Heath) Sargent (1809-1895; married 1834 in Warner), who bought newly-created half-acre lot (split off from 10 Craftsman Lane) for \$55 in May 1867 (deed 371:239) and already the following April they were taxed on half-acre of land with buildings. The Sargents lived here for 25 years until 1893, when Ann sold (deed 537:527) and they moved to Nashua where their only child, a married daughter, lived.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman; rev. Oct. 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Builder – Carpenter *

Dating house at **10 Craftsman Lane** (tax lot 12/43; "F. Dunckle[e]" on 1858 map; District 11):

House built 1839 by/for Benjamin Kidder (1817-1892), wheelwright briefly turned millwright, who in Aug. 1838 bought newly-created lot of 2 acres mostly in Amherst and partly in Merrimack on the north side of road to Milford and south side of "mill pond" (now called Stump Pond) for \$20 (deed 219:124); but not until 1840 was his real estate assessment high enough to include a house (Amherst Tax Invoice 1839 and 1840). Ben, whose wife was Eliza A. (1817-1892), sold the place in 1844 for \$350 (deed 286:83).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman; rev. Oct. 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **6 Dodge Road** (tax lot 5/3; “J. L. Hardy” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1775 by/for a tailor named Samuel Harris (wife Lydia) of “Malbury” [sic, Marlborough?] in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, who in Oct. 1773 bought 4.5 acres, at NE corner of road to New Boston (Mack Hill Road) and road to Bedford (Dodge Road), for 46 pounds (deed 4:6). This tailor briefly owned a shop nearby on a 33 by 16 foot lot that stood “about 8 rods” “northeast of the Court House [first meeting house at SW corner of Jones Road & Mack Hill Road] which he sold in Dec. 1774 for 10 Pounds to a cordwainer (shoemaker) (deed 1:536). Harris sold his homestead in 1778.

More History: Next, for 55 years this was the homestead farm of William Low (1752-1826), “gentleman,” and wife Elizabeth nee Crosby (1760-1836; married 1778), who raised 8 children (not counting triplets who died young) here. In March 1778, Wm Low bought 4.5-acre lot plus 13-acre Fourth Division Lot 119 from Harris for 180 Pounds (deed 5:535). In March 1779 he bought abutting 10 acres for 200 Pounds (deed 6:480). (In April 1779 Low sold off 92 square rods at corner (deed 6:291), which was creation of 23 Mack Hill Road.) Wm Low represented the Town of Amherst in the General Court of N.H., in 1810, ’11, ’12, and ’14. In 1833, his estate sold the house with about 20 acres at auction for \$705 (deed 173:160) and widow Elizabeth Low sold her dower right for \$5 (deed 173:161).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman; rev. Feb. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Tailor & Shoemaker Shop *

Dating house at **64 Dodge Road** (tax lot 7/43; “Miss Ford” on 1858 map; District 8):

House built unknown 19th-century date, say circa 1820 (specifically between 1816 when 22-acre lot was created and 1836 when a deed first mentioned “buildings”). In 1816 (deed 121:142), Daniel Campbell (1739-1838) split off 22 acres, that lay on south side of Austin Road, from the east side of his “home farm” (whose house fronted the east side of Mack Hill Road) and sold for \$100 to two married daughters. The daughters, who had married in 1805 and 1807, one married to a housewright and the other to a shipwright, resided their whole married lives in Salem, Mass.; they sold the parcel in Feb. 1829 for \$300 (deed 158:181), a substantial increase in value that suggests a house was added to the property. This could be a very early example of a summer residence.

More History: The new owner in 1829 was Miss Lydia Stiles (1804-1884; married 1838) of Waltham, Mass., daughter of Cyrus Stiles (d. 1831) of Amherst, who bought 22a for \$300 (deed 158:181). Likely she never resided here as owner, instead it was home for her parents; her father (although misspelled as Cyrus Sturns/Stearns) appears to be located here in 1830 census (1 male 70-79 and 1 female 60-69). Lydia, still a single woman and still a resident of Waltham, sold in 1834 for same amount (deed 176:526).

More History: From 1842-1905, this was the Ford place. In May 1842, Miss Lydia Ford (d. 1876 aged 67), daughter of John Ford (1774-1848), bought the house on 23a for \$500; later the property was increased to 36a. Her parents lived here with her until their deaths; John farmed & paid the taxes while he lived. Fred Ford (d. 1905 aged 67), nephew of Lydia, unmarried farmer, lived here from about age 10 until his death.

More History: From 1925-1946, Carl Edward Nordstrom (1869-1951; b. Sweden) of West Newton, Mass., house painter with his own business, whose wife (married 1896 at Newton) was Ranghild (1867-1931; b. Sweden), owned house on 21a as summer residence.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Oct. 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * OriginalWomanOwner * SummerHome * SonBuiltonLandfromFather (in this case, Daughters built) *

Dating house at **5 Eaton Road** (tax lot 5/135-1; “J. F. Crosby” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date before 1858 map, say circa 1850, by/for Joseph Fitch Crosby (1819-1900), farmer and stone mason, probably in the period shortly before or after his marriage in 1847 to Helen M. Averill of Mont Vernon, as second house on the farm that had been his father’s homestead and more recently belonged to his late brother Otis Crosby (d. 1831 aged 31), which “Fitch” Crosby had bought in 1834 (deed 207:31) at the age of 14 (fourteen!). (His father, Joseph, paid the real estate and livestock taxes until his death in 1842. The older house on that farm was the one labeled “Crosby” on 1858 map located south of the junction of Christian Hill and Eaton Road; later moved.) Fitch Crosby moved out of

town in 1855 but still owned 5 Eaton Road house until 1870, when he sold the farm as 4 tracts for \$2600 (deed 392:76).

More History: In 1876, Samuel Eaton (1825-1892), a former foundry worker aka moulder turned farmer, whose wife was Eliza Ann nee Kinson (1828-1902), bought the “Coombs lower farm (Fitch Crosby place)” (as it was called in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 2 May 1876) on “east side of highway leading from Amherst to Mont Vernon” for \$1800 (deed 427:317; acreage not specified but taxed on 65 acres) and soon added a piazza (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 25 July 1876, p. 2). Near the end of his life, Eaton described his homestead as: “consisting of 65 or 70 acres of land, nice two story house, with plenty of the maples in front. A nice place for summer boarders or a good home. Never failing water at house and barn. Good barn, 72 by 30 feet, house 38 by 26, with piazza in front, ell 60 feet long, cellar under whole.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 2 June 1892, p. 8.) Widow Eliza Eaton sold in 1894 for \$1800 (deed 541:419).

Road Name: In early 20th century, this section was considered part of Christian Hill Road (in 1920 and 1940 censuses, for example) although in 1927 town directory it was called Mont Vernon road. Eaton Road was/is named for two Eaton families, the occupant-owner of house/farm at 5 Eaton Road from 1876-1894 and the occupant-owner of house/farm at 9 Eaton Road from 1883-1909. The name Eaton Road first appears in local newspaper in 1962.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, Aug. 2022; rev. Oct. 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * Greek Revival *

Dating house at 9 Eaton Road (tax lot 5/134-1; “A. Phelps” on 1858 map; District 4):

House built unknown date in 18th or 19th century. [PLACEHOLDER]

First Challenge regarding Dating – Two Early Houses at Same Time: House possibly built as early as 1795 if built by Sam Phelps, on Pa’s homestead, as could be inferred/deduced from deeds (47:15, 47:19, 71:83) which show that in Jan. 1797 there were two houses on the homestead – one occupied by Pa Nathan Phelps, the other by this Son who had married in 1795. By 1858 map for certain (and probably already by 1830 census) one of those houses had disappeared. Let’s say that the younger house is the one that survived to be occupied by another Son, Amos, starting in 1809/1810.

Second Challenge regarding Dating – Architectural Feature that Suggests Later Build Date: However, the present house has large columns on two adjacent sides, which has led some to conclude it is in the Greek Revival style, which would suggest an estimated build date in mid-19th century. The columns originally held up a second-story balcony, giving the house the look of an 1860s resort hotel. “Pillars of this house were purchased for a hotel in Mont Vernon. Not being large enough they were purchased and used for the porch.” (So states an anonymous undated note, not in Locke’s handwriting, that is included in Howard Locke’s file for this house, which he numbered Town 105. [WHEN and BY WHOM installed??])

Beginning of the Farm: In 1761, Nathan Phelps (b. 1734; died after 1797) of Reading in the County of Middlesex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, husbandman newly wed to Bethiah Upton, bought Second Division Lot 25 (minus 10 acres) in the recently incorporated Town of Amherst in the Province of New Hampshire, for 80 Pounds lawful money, from Solomon Hutchinson (recorded late, in 1779, as Hillsborough County deed 6:453).

From 1761-1882, the farm associated with this house was owned & occupied by 3 generations of the Phelps family. The second generation of owners comprised 3 brothers, who owned in whole or in part by turn, starting in 1797 while Pa Nathan still lived:

- 1) Samuel (who had married Sally Perkins in 1795), who likely occupied 1795-1797 living in his own, separate house but owned homestead (valued \$1000) only for several months in 1797 in exchange for supporting his father for the rest of Nathan’s life; then
- 2) Jonathan (wife Hannah), who had been a laborer in Milford before he owned Pa’s homestead for 12 years (1797-1809) (purchase deeds 71:83 for “half” excepting both houses, in exchange for assuming life-lease for Pa; and 47:19 for 4 tracts and dwelling house for \$600), but only occupied about 7 years (last tax invoice wherein he was listed as taxpayer residing in this location was 1804; no taxpayer named Phelps living in this location 1805-1808); and finally
- 3) Amos Phelps (1771-1861), who bought “part of Phelps farm,” with house and new barn, as 3 tracts for \$500 from his brother Jonathan in 1809 (deed 82:205) and returned to Amherst from Sutton to be a farmer here for the rest of his life. Amos acquired the other “part of the Phelps farm” as 3 tracts in 1818 & 1819,

buying out six presumed heirs of late Eleanor Perkins of Mont Vernon (which appear to be his siblings, including Jonathan and Nathan [Jr?] both of Sutton) in three deeds for total of \$222 (deeds 336:94, recorded 1861; 357:154, recorded 1865; 140:390, recorded 1824; no mention of buildings). In 1858, Amos Phelps was taxed on 50 acres and 5 cows.

The third generation to own the house & farm was two sisters. In 1859, Amos Phelps conveyed, for token one dollar, his “homestead farm, containing about 60 acres” plus two other small tracts, to the two youngest of the six children borne by his late wife, Sarah nee Whiting (married 1802; d. 1851 aged 72): namely Ede E. Phelps (c.1814-1885), as yet unmarried, and Lucy N. Co(o)mbs (1811-1884, married 1843), with the stipulation that Lucy’s “share in the premises [be] to her sole & separate use free from the interference or control of her husband” (deed 327:483). Curiously, in 1860 census, Daniel Phelps (d. 1864), widower who was Amos’s eldest son, is shown as head of household, living in the house with his unmarried sister Ede, as housekeeper and home/land-owner, along with 83-year-old Pa Amos, with son and father being joint farmers. In 1872, while Ede was still a “single woman” but on the very same day that she was married to widower David Hopkins, a 65-year-old farmer or farm laborer who owned no real estate then or thereafter, Ede sold her share of their father’s homestead farm to her co-owner, sister Lucy, for \$1000 (deed 431:115). Nevertheless, the two sisters and their husbands are shown in 1880 census sharing the same house. (Lucy’s husband, Isaac Co(o)mbs (1805-1891; died at County Farm in Wilton; buried Meadowview), cooper and farmer, from 1870-1876 owned neighbor farm with house at 5 Eaton Road (deeds 392:76 and 427:317, bought for \$2600 and sold for \$1800).) The Coombses lost the 9 Eaton Road house & farm in 1882, seized by the Sheriff on writ of possession (Hillsborough County court execution deed, recorded in registry of deeds 10:235).

More History: From 1883-1909, George S. Eaton (1848-1925), formerly a worker in the foundry on Foundry Street but here a farmer, owned & occupied 75-acre farm on “highway leading from Amherst Village to the Upham farm.” George – together with his father, Samuel Eaton (1825-1892) who owned & occupied 5 Eaton Road since 1876 (deed 427:317) – bought the farm for \$2100 (deed 468:526). In 1889, Pa quitclaimed his half share to Son (deed 501:462). George’s wife was Georgianna nee Weston (1852-1925; married 1869). Eaton’s sale of the farm in Dec. 1909 included 4 tons of hay and one ton of fodder written into the deed (674:536).

More History: From 1931-1944, Randolph “Ray” Kruger (1886-1978, b. NJ, d. NH), who had been manager of a roofing company before moving to Amherst, & wife Catherine “Kay” nee Bose (1896-1979; married 1920 in NY) owned & occupied this house and called the place Highland Farm. Mrs. Kruger was a charter member of the Amherst PTA in 1932.

A visiting/calling card, which is in the Howard Locke collection of house notes as part of the hardcopy file for house numbered Town 105, shows photo of the 9 Eaton Road house with the columns on two adjacent sides of the building, holding up a second-story balcony! Printed on card: “HIGHLAND FARM / Amherst, New Hampshire / R. KRUGER / PHONE MILFORD 612-14”

(After moving to the Village, Catherine Kruger was clerk and treasurer of the Amherst School District 1946-’56; town treasurer starting in 1946 for 26 years; Town Clerk 1948-1970 (with her office being in her home on Middle Street), and a justice of the peace. Source: “A tribute to Catherine Kruger” by Dorothy Davis, *Milford Cabinet*, 28 June 1979, p. 17.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century or 19th-century * SonBultonFather’sHomestead * Life-lease 1797 * (pseudo or retrofitted??) GreekRevival *

Dating house at 16 Eaton Road (tax lot 5/132-1; unlabeled house opposite P. Upham on 1858 map; burned May 1912):

House built 1913 by/for Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Amidon after fire destroyed the old house (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 May 1912, p. 1). “Building Operations. E. C. Brooks with a gang of six men framed a new house for F. W. Amidon in Amherst. It stands on the site of the house which Mr. Amidon lost by fire last year, on Christian hill, opposite the E. A. Seabury place. It is a 1 1/2 story house with modern conveniences.” (*Cabinet*, 9 Oct 1913, p. 1.) Florence E. Amidon nee Ball (born England) had bought the old house with 45 acres in 1910/1911 (*Cabinet*, 12 May 1910; deed 692:296); and sold the new house with 35 acres in 1923 after the Amidons had moved to Cambridge, Mass. (deed 826:335).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Dating house at **17 Eaton Road** (tax lot 5/133-1; “P. Upham” on 1858 map; “J. A. Bullard” on 1892 map; in District 4 called Christian Hill or West District):

House probably built ca. 1790 by/for Andrew Elliot (Sr., 1759-1838; m. 1792), husbandman, who in Dec. 1790 bought from his father Francis Elliot (1726-1792) of Amherst, husbandman, “part of the farm I [Francis] now live on,” for 150 Pounds (deed 86:35) – which was the beginning of 17 Eaton Road farm. This made Andrew the second generation to own the land but the first generation to own the house.

Andrew was married a year later, in Jan. 1792, to Hannah Stevens (d. 1849 aged 85).

In January 1822, Andrew Elliot (Sr.), yeoman, sold to his son, Andrew Elliott Jr. (1795-1833) “part of the farm I now live on” with half of the house for \$500 (deed 134:254). Together, father & son sold the 46-acre farm + 17-acre tract for \$1000 in Dec. 1828 (deed 156:384) to a neighbor who owned for less than a month.

Challenge regarding Dating: To determine plausible and likely construction date for old house at 17 Eaton Road, it must be researched together with farm of 16 Eaton Road because originally both were part of the same homestead. In August 1761, Francis Elliot (1726-1792) of Amherst, husbandman, bought Second Division Lot 26 in Amherst, N.H., for 500 Pounds of the Massachusetts old Tenor (Hillsborough County deed 2:426). In Dec. 1790, he split his homestead farm between two sons, Amos (b. 1755), who got the NW corner and a neat rectangle with its south bound in the middle of the original lot’s south bound (deed 78:108), and Andrew, whose oddly-shaped parcel would become 17 Eaton Road farm, both sons paying the same amount for their respective portions. Presumably Francis’s house still existed in 1790, but it’s not clear from the deeds which brother got it. Hypothesis (by KMH, Aug. 2021):

(1) Original house of Francis Elliot was likely at 16 Eaton Road (west side), and is house that went to his son Amos in 1790 – probably the house that burned in 1912. (2) Andrew Elliot built new house at 17 Eaton Road opposite his parents’ home, on his ‘half’ of his father’s former homestead. Amherst’s early tax invoices (1801, 1804-1810 in Volume 2 of *Amherst Town Records*) show Amos Elliot and Andrew Elliot living close (next to or opposite) to each other. By 1858 (map), both houses were owned again by the same person, P. (for Phineas) Upham. Still in 1882, there were 2 “sets of buildings” – that is, 2 houses! – on the combined farm.

More History: In Jan. 1829, Phine(h)as Upham “Jr.” (3rd, 1795-1863, born & died in Amherst), yeoman = farmer and soon-to-be officer in the local militia for next five years, bought 46-acre farm with buildings + 17a tract for \$1000 (deed 158:34) – and lived here until he died. Phineas bought this farm well before his first marriage in 1834 to Mary Crosby (1808-1838), with whom he had one child, Phineas C. Upham (1835-1859). More on him later. In Feb. 1850, Phineas Upham remarried, to his first wife’s sister, Sarah/ “Sally” nee Crosby (d. 1880), widow of Andrew Elliott Jr. (1795-1833). (Andrew had probably been born in this very house.) Andrew & Sally’s daughter Sarah Elliot (1832-1871) at age 17 also moved into this house when her Uncle Phineas became her stepfather. The younger Sarah worked as a tailoress (1860 census) before her marriage in Jan. 1862 to Noah P. Batchelder (b. 1833 in Vermont), farmer, who joined the household & farm upon marriage. Phineas died shortly after his step-daughter’s marriage and Noah took over the running of the farm; he raised cows here (5 bovines in 1864; increased to 7 bovines in 1865; up to 11 bovines in 1867 along with 1 horse and 1 sheep, per tax invoices), staying on even after the death of his wife, living in the house with his mother-in-law until 1878. Although as a widow, Mrs. Sarah E. Upham did not inherit the property, she did have a dower right (to live in a third of the house and to use a third of the property) and she did live here until her death. In the early years after the death of her second husband, Widow Sally was assessed taxes on 90-acre farm, reduced to 51 acres from 1868 on. From 1879-1881, Alonzo Hill (1855-1899), farmer, rented the farm and shared the house with Widow Upham until her death, even becoming the executor of her estate. Alonzo’s first wife, Cora E. nee Knight, died here aged 21 in Oct. 1879 on the same day she gave birth to their son.

The heir of Phineas Upham (d. 1863) was his only grandchild, Mary E. Upham (b. 1858), the daughter of his late son Phineas C. Upham, who in Jan. 1853 as a 21-year-old cabinet-maker had been married in Boston to Zeneva Helen “Nellie” Stevens, 21, but had returned to Amherst to die of consumption at age 24 in 1859. (See Probate notice in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 7 July 1864 by Mary Upham’s guardian, Perley Dodge, a local attorney who lived in the Village.) The estate must have comprised about 128 acres with

bldgs, because that's what Phineas was invoiced for taxes in 1861; but the estate was insolvent so Mary's guardian soon sold off multiple smaller parcels and rented out house at 16 Eaton Road with about 20-26 acres (see tax invoices for Dodge as Guardian in District 4, 1865-1879). Upon the death of Widow Sarah E. (Crosby) Upham, the taxes on 71 acres (17 & 16 combined) were assessed to Mary E. Upham, a nonresident who resided in Charlestown, Mass. In 1882, Miss Upham offered the farm with both houses for sale ("Farm for Sale" advert in *Farmers' Cabinet*, 24 March 1882, p. 3) and sold with "about 100 acres" for \$2800 (deed 466:410) out-of-the-family to a local real estate investor.

[Research Aug. 2021 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltonFather'sHomestead *

Dating house at **14 Green Road** (tax lot 5/115-1; "W. Pratt" on 1858 map):

House built circa 1755 and circa 1814. Oldest part of house (in back) built by/for John Washer (1716-1783) & wife Hannah nee Wilkins (d. 1808). John Washer was a resident taxpayer of newly-incorporated Town of Amherst in 1760. (They arrived in Souhegan West some time after 1750 as births and/or baptisms of their children occurred in Middleton, Mass., between 1736 and Aug. 1750; Washer did not sign 1753 petition of S. W. inhabitants. Washer's purchase deed was not recorded.)

Main part of house built 1813/4 by Loea Pratt (1785-1875), carpenter and housewright, who was a resident of Reading, Mass., in April 1813 when he bought the former Washer farm on Christian Hill with seven deeds (no mention of buildings) from the heirs (deeds 96:532, 96:533, 97:270, 97:271, 97:272, 100:294, 109:217). Loea married girl-next-door Lucy Hartshorn in Dec. 1814. Their son William (1830-1921; m. 1864), together with a partner, kept a "Nursery on the Farm of Loea Pratt in the West part of Amherst" where they offered for sale "various kinds of Fruit Trees, such as Apples, Pears, Peaches, Cherries and Quinces, of good size for transplanting." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 28 April 1852.) In 1858, William Pratt took over his father's farm (taxed as 65 acres) in exchange for a life lease to his parents (deeds 292:452, 318:553) and sold in 1918 but remained in the neighborhood, boarding with a neighbor relative until his death.

More History: Miss Bertha Rogers "of Boston" (1889-1989) owned & occupied house for 47 years since 1941, initially as a summer home, then from 1956 as her year-round residence. She left the property to the Town of Amherst. The Town kept the land and sold the house.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

(Related: A letter dated December 1839 written to Loea Pratt by his 21-year-old-son, Stephen H Pratt, a young schoolmaster in Malden, Mass., was discovered in the old Pratt house in Amherst, when it was owned by Miss Bertha Rogers of Boston. "The Olden Time Historical Newsletter By Andrew E. Rothovius – Milford, New Hampshire: "How an Amherst Lad Faced Storms and Pestilence in 1839" which was published in *Milford Cabinet*, 18 June 1953, p. 11.)

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * 19th-century * Builder – Housewright * Life-lease 1858 * SummerHome *

Dating house at **23 Green Road** (tax lot 5/123-1; "A. Green" on 1858 map; District 4):

House built 1771 by Amos Green (Sr., b. 1740 in Reading, Mass.; d. after April 1808; wife Keturah nee Stewart), joiner/housewright and farmer, who in June 1771 bought Second Division Lot 31 of about 66 acres for 23 Pounds & 2 Shillings lawful money (Hillsborough County deed 2:17). Thus was established the Green Farm, which would be owned & occupied & farmed by 3 generations of the Green family, from 1771-1885. The second generation was Amos Green Jr. (1775-1860) who in 1805 took over the 77-acre homestead farm, valued \$2000, in exchange for a life-lease agreement to support his father for the rest of Sr.'s life; support his unmarried sister and pay her \$1.50 per year for her labor until her marriage; and in future to fulfill bequests to two minor children of his deceased married sister (deeds 69:58, 71:245, 71:247). In 1835, the livestock on which Amos Jr. was taxed were: 2 horses, 1 young horse, 2 oxen, 4 cows, 6 other neat stock, and 11 sheep. In 1856, he was taxed on 1 horse, 10 cows, and 6 sheep as well as 84 acres & buildings. Of the 10 children borne by his wife Ruth nee Hastings (1787-1847), 7 outlived their father. The third generation to live & farm the shared homestead were the two unmarried sons (Charles, d. 1873 aged 57, and Rufus, the youngest, d. 1874 aged 44) and three unmarried daughters, namely Mary Green (1810-1888), Jane Green (1818-1896), and Augusta Green (1823-1888). When only the sisters were left on the homestead, their nephew Charles F. "Frank" Green (b. c.1852) lived in their home and worked for his elderly aunts as a farm laborer, already at age 18 (1870 census) and continued

after his marriage to Emma nee Bullard (1858-1914, b. & d. Amherst, married 1st 1870s) who likely gave birth to their son Charlie here (1880 census).

1874: "Hillsboro' County Fair. [Exhibits] Mary Green of Amherst had 23 varieties of pears, 9 of plums and 2 of crab-apples." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 23 Sep. 1874, p. 2.)

1875: "Among our most successful fruit raisers are the Misses Green, in District No. 4, who annually bring to this market large quantities of apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, etc. which for quality cannot be excelled." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 22 Sep. 1875, p. 2.)

1880: "Sheriff's Sale of Personal Property. Taken on execution in favor of Chester Shipley against Mary Green, Jane Green and Augusta K. Green, and will be sold at public auction at the house of the said Greens in Amherst, November 24th, 1880 ... 4 Good Cows; 2 three-years-old Heifers; 1 one-year-old Heifer; 4 Spring Calves; 1 Ox Cart, iron axle; 1 Lumber Wagon; 1 Ox Sled; from four to six tons of hay, and a lot of straw. J. F. OSGOOD, Jr., D. Sheriff. Amherst, Nov 19th, 1880." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 23 Nov. 1880, p. 3.)

The elderly Misses Green continued to live together in their childhood home until 1885 when they sold (deed 480:230), probably because they couldn't afford to keep it any longer. The Green sisters received charity aid from the Town from 1887-1896, including the expenses of each of their final medical care and burial. From 1892-1896, Mrs. Emma Green was paid by the Town of Amherst from the fund for Aid to Town Poor for the board of Jane Green, the last surviving family member (e.g., \$65.50 for board during 1891; \$77.50 for 1895, per annual town reports). (For perspective, in 1889 & 1891, there were four persons, including Miss Green, aided by Amherst as Town Poor out of the budget, the total aid in 1889 being \$166.24; in 1895, the Town's total expenses for aid to town poor were \$305.45 of which \$83.95 was for Miss Green.)

More History: The next occupant-owner was George E. Towne (1842-1907; b. Mont Vernon, d. Amherst), a farmer, who in 1886 bought 77-acre farm (except any standing wood and timber) for \$2300 (deed 485:118) and moved here in Spring 1887 (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 April 1887, p. 3) with wife Sarah E. nee Cullen (married 1882) and 4 children; their 5th child was born here five months later. Grandvue was the name the Townes gave this/their farm on Christian Hill (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 11 Nov. 1897, p. 5). George lived here for the rest of his life.

Road Name: Green Road was/is named for earliest and longest owner-occupants of this house.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Oct. 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * Builder * Life-lease 1805 *

Dating house at **118 Hollis Road** (tax lot 2/15; "S.H." on 1858 map but in different/original location): House built in 1846 as Schoolhouse No. 5 (originally called Danforth's, later Ponemah School) on west side of road (which was a new, different site from earlier schoolhouse in this district pursuant to Nov. 1844 petition to Selectmen recorded *Amherst Town Records Vol. 3*, p. 327). District paid \$6 for right to use lot with 4 rods frontage belonging to D. W. Blunt's 40-acre farm (deed 241:360, 1 Jan. 1847). School closed 1928; the building was sold 1933 for \$65 (*Cabinet*, 4 May 1933) to Edward P. Bartlett (1864-1934), who moved it across the road (*Annual Reports of the Town Officers of Amherst, N.H. for the Year Ending January 31, 1938*; also "Officers of the School District for the Year Ending June 30, 1937," page 67). New 5a lot containing former schoolhouse created in 1938 for Frank J. Hauptman, carpenter, and wife Exalia, who made it their home and raised fowls.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2021.]

Categories: 19th-century * Schoolhouse * Moved *

Dating house at **146 Hollis Road** (tax lot 2/10; "W. B. Peacock" on 1858 map):

House built 1845 (which certainly fits the architectural style with gable-end facade), by/for William Burnham Peacock (1822-1898; married 1843), farmer, who in Feb. 1845 bought 6-acre piece of land with 43 rods of frontage on east side of "road leading from Hollis to Amherst" for \$37 (deed 240:530) from his father, William Peacock "Jr." (1796-1887; 3rd but promoted to Jr. upon his grandfather's death in 1824). Wm. B. Peacock was first taxed on real estate in April 1845: land valued \$50 and buildings valued \$100; in 1847, having bought additional land, the value of his buildings remained the same but his land had increased to valuation of \$450. "Burnham" Peacock & family moved out of town from 1847/8-1853 (nonresident in tax invoices). In March 1852, when he was a resident of Pepperell, Mass., where he was superintendent of the Poor House (1850 census), Wm. B. Peacock bought more land from his father, two

25-acre parcels, for \$400 (deed 282:12). Parcel 1 lay at NE corner of Hollis Road and “new road leading from John Ober to Nashua” (now called Bartlett Drive, but the original east end of the road, which used to connect to Old Nashua Road, has been discontinued) and adjoined his house lot on its south and east sides, thus enlarging his homestead. Parcel 1 of that deed is first evidence of existing house in this location, because it mentions the SE corner of Wm. B. Peacock’s “barn yard” being 8 rods east from the Hollis Road as well as his “door yard” being even closer to the road. (Parcel 2 lay south of the new Nashua road, so probably abutted south side of road now called Ponemah Hill Road.)

In Dec. 1860, Wm. B. Peacock & wife Mary Jane nee Wright (married 1843; 8 children; divorced 1885) sold 40-acre homestead farm – with this house – plus 20-acre parcel, for \$1225 (deed 331:554).

(In 1861 they moved to Milford, where he was a farmer; then returned to this District 5 neighborhood, occupying a different house (1870 census), but subsequently moved to Nashua where in 1880 he was a stable keeper. Wm B. Peacock died at the County (Poor) Farm in Goffstown. His three sons changed their surname to Burnham, which was their paternal grandmother’s name. His brother, born Andrew F. Peacock (1835-1921), changed his surname to Sawyer.)

More History: ...

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2023; added to this file Feb. 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * SonBuiltonLandfromFather *

Dating house at **168 Hollis Road** (tax lot 2/8; “J. Colburn” (on east side of road, next-to-last house before Hollis line; but the house next north on same side is labeled “Colburn”. This is rare error on 1858 map: this house should be S. Ober.):

Before 1771, this land was part of the town of Monson. Before it became part of Monson, it was part of Dunstable in a section called Turkey Hill near Souhegan River (Provincial N.H. deeds 98:459 of 1745 and 98:461 of 1746).

Cape house built 1767 at the earliest if done by/for Josiah Kidder (Sr., 1717-1794; b. Billerica, d. Tewksbury), cabinet-maker and farmer whose second wife (married 1754) was widow Sarah (French) Kittredge, who settled in Monson, N.H., around May 1767 and was warned out by the selectmen of Monson in July 1767 (source: *An Account of Some Early Settlers of West Dunstable, Monson and Hollis*, N.H., by Charles S. Spaulding, 1915, p. 99; Kidder’s purchase deed not found).

In Feb. 1772, Josiah Sr., who was still a resident at same place but now located in “Amherst in his Majesty’s Province of New Hampshire in New England”, sold part of his farm, 35 acres, to his son Josiah Kidder Jr. (1745-1803; b. Tewksbury; d. Amherst, N.H.) (deed 1:287). Josiah Jr.’s wife was Mary nee Jewett (b. 1745; married 1768 at Tewksbury). In 1776, Josiah Kidder signed Amherst’s Association Test Paper, proving himself a Patriot (Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, p. 376). (Sr. must already have returned to Tewksbury prior to 1776 because only one Kidder signed Association Test Paper of Amherst.) Jr. enlarged the farm in 1779 by buying a 27.5-acre parcel lying to the east of his farm (deed 7:208). Josiah Jr. was a cabinet-maker like his father. “He used to manufacture coffins for the people in the vicinity, at \$2.50 each.” He had five identified children, born between 1771 and 1781 in Amherst (per *Early Settlers of West Dunstable, Monson and Hollis* book, p. 100).

In 1803, Josiah Kidder [Jr.] conveyed “my farm situated in Amherst which I now live on with all the buildings, outhouses and hereditaments which I now own which contains about 73 acres of land” for \$1000 (deed 62:333) to his son Jonathan Kidder (1781-1871; b. Amherst; d. Dorchester, Grafton county, N.H.), yeoman=farmer who in 1802 at Amherst had married Susannah/”Suky” Hager.

In Jan. 1806, Jonathan Kidder sold 35 acres for \$640 to Josiah Kidder [3d, 1779-1849], joiner (deed 75:508) and 25 acres – probably with this house – for \$300 to abutter William Peacock Jr., yeoman (deed 70:176).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Monson * RevolutionaryWarVet (Josiah Kidder Jr.) *

Dating house at **6 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 8/15; “S. [for Spalding] Parkhurst” on 1858 map; District 14 until 1863, then District 10):

House (re)built 1877 after fire destroyed the first house, by Spalding Parkhurst (1809-1882), farmer, who in June 1844 had bought 5 acres “on the west side of the road leading from Amherst Plain to Damon’s pond” with the buildings for \$123.56 (deed 225:505).

1877: “FIRES IN AMHERST. On Thursday afternoon the house of Mr. Spaulding Parkhurst in District No. 10, took fire around the chimney, and was so far underway when discovered that nothing was saved from it but a few articles from the kitchen. The fire communicated with the shed and barn, and all were burned. The loss is a very severe one to Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst, who are a most worthy couple, advanced in life, and without children. There was no insurance on the buildings, the policy having run out in the spring, and Mr. P. neglecting to re-insure.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 19 June 1877, p. [2].)

He must have rebuilt immediately and to a similar size because there was no change in the assessed value of his real estate from 1877 to 1878, at which time he owned 40 acres and his taxable livestock were 1 horse and 2 bovines. Spaulding Parkhurst lived here until his death with his wife Sally nee Ford (1818-1894; married Dec. 1845 at Amherst); no children.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. July 2025.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **27 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 8/28; “H. Parkhurst” on 1858 map with “W.S.” = wheelwright shop across the road, just north of junction with Brook Road; District 7):

House built 1837 by Henry Parkhurst Jr. (1808-1893), carpenter and wheelwright who had apprenticed in both occupations in Chelmsford before marrying Abigail Butterfield (1812-1882) in 1831 and moving to Amherst in 1836, to the northeasterly section where his Pa and a couple brothers already lived. The source for the construction year is his obituary (*Milford Cabinet*, N.H., 3 Jan. 1893, p. 3). From 1839-1844, Henry Jr. paid taxes on “buildings” and one cow – but no land! This kind of rather unusual situation usually meant that the house was built on land owned by a family member; the likeliest candidate in this case is his brother Spaulding Parkhurst (1809-1882) but it’s a puzzle. (One possibility is 4a of meadowland that Spaulding owned since Dec. 1835 (deed 183:435, \$22.76).) Not until Feb. 1843 did Henry Jr. buy 8 acres “being the south end of Abel Prince farm,” mostly lying on the east side of the highway but its NW corner being on the west side of the highway, for \$107 from Joseph Mace (deed 224:145). In April 1852, Henry Jr. bought 17 acres adjoining on the north that had also been part of the Abel Prince farm, for \$200 from his brother Spaulding (deed 284:18); Spaulding had purchased that parcel from Joseph Mace in August 1843, for \$200 (deed 224:146). In 1856, Henry Jr. was taxed on real estate of 24 acres; by 1866, his homestead farm comprised 34 acres (per tax invoice of District 7).

(Background on Abel Prince Homestead: In 1779, Abel Prince (1757-1838), yeoman (farmer), bought Second Division Lot 70 “containing by estimation 72 acres” from Joseph Prince, “gentleman”, his inferred father, for 200 Pounds (deed 9:412, recorded 1783; no mention of buildings nor homestead nor farm). (This was not homestead of Lt. Joseph Prince, early settler, because Joseph Jr. stayed on that, according to historian Secomb.) Abel Prince thus established a new farm; and in 1782, Abel married Fanny Cowen (also called Anna & Nancy in various deeds; d. 1841 aged 79). From that Lot 70, Abel would sell off 25a on east side of Chestnut Hill Road in 1816 plus 18a on the west side of same road in 1822 to his son James, the only one of his 10 children who remained in Amherst, and James therewith established his homestead at 25 Chestnut Hill Road. Abel had plenty more land: e.g., in 1793 he had bought 59a for 83 Pounds from John Prince of Amherst (deed 30:406) and in 1807, 14a part of Third Division Lot 96 for \$45 from Solomon Stevens of Amherst (deed 81:122). By the time he died, Abel Prince owned 160 acres (probate notice in *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 23 April 1841, p. [4]) or 150 acres (probate notice in *Farmers Cabinet*, 18 March 1842, p. [4]) in this vicinity. By Oct 1842, when his 10 heirs sold the Abel Prince homestead farm with all buildings to Joseph Mace for \$1325, it comprised 135 acres (deed 217:507). The Abel Prince House was the one labeled “J. Mace” on 1858 map, at south end of Chestnut Hill Road on west side near junction with Horace Greeley Road; now gone.)

This house at 27 Horace Greeley Road was owned by 3 generations (skipping one generation) of the same family until 1945:

In 1893, Henry H. Parkhurst (1840-1921), carpenter & cabinet maker, inherited the house in which he was raised – and lived his whole life. In 1862, at age 22, this Henry had married a neighborhood girl aged 16, Harriet P. Upton (1845-1919, b. Lowell, Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.). Henry’s shop was destroyed by fire in 1909 but reportedly he rebuilt. In later years, Henry was also a gun smith (1910 census) and expert clockmaker (*Cabinet*, 28 May 1914, p. 5) and machinist (1920 census).

In 1920, H. H. Parkhurst, widower, conveyed the homestead to his grandchildren, the children of his only child, Arthur (1864-1906): Wynona L. Parkhurst (1886-1958, b. Amherst, d. Nashua; m. 1922) of Milford, N.H., later Mrs. Victor Smith, and Douglas L. Parkhurst (1893-1959) of Washington, D.C., (deed

786:578, 6 tracts). These absentee owners utilized the place as a rental and sold in 1945, at which time they still lived in Milford, N.H. and Washington, D.C., respectively (deed 1079:75).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Sep. 2025.]

(Note regarding Dating: In 'windshield survey' for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built "ca. 1830s" (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, spreadsheet appendix, p. 41).)

Categories: 19th-century * Builder – Carpenter * SonBultionLandfromFather (in this case, likely brother's land) *

Dating house at **40 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 10/47-10; "S. [for Silas] Parkhurst" on west side of road, north of fork with Brook Road on 1858 map; District 7):

House built circa 1850 by/for Silas Parkhurst (1803-1877; married first 1838 & widowed 1845; remarried 1847), a farmer and carpenter, on land owned by his brother Spaulding Parkhurst (1809-1882) (who since 1844 owned & occupied 6 Horace Greeley Road). Silas, eldest of the Parkhurst siblings, arrived in Amherst shortly before April 1850, when he was assessed taxes on 3 bovines, besides the poll tax required of adult male residents, but not on any real estate (1850 tax invoice); Silas as a 45-year-old laborer & [second wife] Mary A. [nee Roby, m. 1847; d. 1877], 35, & 5 children are captured in the 1850 census of Amherst, but in a different location, namely renting at 60 Old Manchester Road. It was in 1851 that Silas began paying real estate taxes in Amherst – and from 1852 on, on 26 acres with buildings. But not until 1856 did Silas buy a single acre, "being the same piece of land which the said Silas Parkhurst has erected buildings upon, and now occupie[s]," from his younger brother Spalding, for \$25 (deed 449:13, recorded posthumously 1880). As no recorded deeds for larger parcels have been found, it's likely that Silas rented farmland and payed the taxes on it, up to 45 acres by 1867/8.

This house would remain owned & occupied by two generations of Parkhurst, father and son, until 1926. In 1877, James S. Parkhurst (1837-1926) bought out the other heirs, four siblings, after the death of their father, Silas Parkhurst. James, also a farmer, never married and lived here for the rest of his life, sharing his home with his step-mother, Mary Ann (Roby) Parkhurst (1825-1899), and his half-sister Mary Etta (1849-1910). In January 1917, when he celebrated his 80th birthday, it was reported that he "is very contented in his home, being his own housekeeper, his only companion being a beautiful cat." (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 Jan. 1917, p. 5.) But soon after, he made arrangements to have live-in care so that he could spend the rest of his life here.

In 1917, Harlan P. Odell (1866-1933), a farmer, acquired the land & house from James S. Parkhurst in exchange for caring for Parkhurst (*Milford Cabinet*, 12 July 1917, p. 2; also 20 Aug. 1917, p. 6). Mr. & Mrs. Odell lived in the house with Mr. Parkhurst (in the 1920 census, both men are designated "head" in the same house). Harlan continued to live here with his wife Alice for the rest of his life.

More History: From 1934-1949, this was the summer home of Samuel G. Langley (1877-1971) & wife Grace nee Pendleton (1877-1953) of Maplewood, New Jersey (*Milford Cabinet*, 6 Sep. 1934, p. 4). Sam was born in Washington, D.C., but spent some of his youth living in Amherst Village, attending the Brick School. He went to work for Thomas A. Edison in New Jersey at the turn of the century where he was a chief engineer for almost four decades. One of the projects Langley worked on was the recording of the human voice. He did experimental work on the rotating wax cylinder which accepted vibrations of the voice. After his retirement in 1949 from the Edison company, the couple made this their permanent home. Grace was a full-time resident for only a few years but Sam lived here for nearly two more decades, and died at the age of 94. (*Milford Cabinet*, her obituary 22 Oct. 1953, p. 6; his obituary and tribute 18 Nov. 1971, p. 2 & 4.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Sep 2025.]

(Note regarding Dating & Architecture: In 'windshield survey' for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built "ca. 1850s" and noted "Greek Revival, diminutive 2nd story windows; connected farmstead with gable front barn" (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, spreadsheet appendix, p. 41).)

Categories: 19th-century * Builder – Carpenter (occupant & brother next-door) * SonBultionLandfromFather (in this case, brother's land) * Life-lease 1917 * SummerHome *

Dating house at **78 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 10/59; "L. Staples" on 1858 map):

Cape house built 1782/3 by/for Benjamin Damon (1760-1846; married Feb. 1783), yeoman, who was a resident of Reading, Mass., in May 1782 when he bought 100 acres (Second Division Lot 71; no mention of buildings in deed) from Wm Walton (deed 9:165).

[Research by Jackie Marshall (JLSM); text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

(For more history, see “The Homestead Farm of Deacon Benjamin Damon (1760-1846) on Horace Greeley Road” by Jackie Marshall, newsletter of the Historical Society of Amherst, Aug. 2012.)

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * RevolutionaryWarVet *

Dating house at **106 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 10/67-1; “A. Steele” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1775, by/for Samuel Henry, who in 1776 was among the Amherst men who signed the “association test paper.” Henry acquired his homestead land in bits and pieces over more than two decades: first 45a (3d Division Lot 123) in Jan. 1771, when he was “of Windham, N.H.”; 10a (4th Division Lot 28) six months later, when he was “of Merrimack”; 9a in 1788, after he had moved to Amherst; a 4th Division lot bounded on the Bedford line in 1792; 60a (part of 2d Division Lots 75 & 78) in 1794; and 6a (part of 3rd Div. Lot 124) bounded on west by [Pulpit] brook in 1795. In June 1801, Samuel Henry (wife Hannah), a yeoman, sold “my farm I now live on” containing 180 acres in the northeast part of Amherst, N.H. (Hillsborough County deed 53:472).

[Research 2015 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

(For full history, see “Joseph Nichols Farm - Abiel Steele House at 106 Horace Greeley Road” by Katrina Holman in Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, August 2015, p. 2-4 and 9-11. Also, “Historic Amherst: Caring for Parents in Old Age – On Amherst Farms at Beginning of 19th Century” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, 28 July 2015, p. 4 & 7.)

Categories: 18th-century * Life-lease 1807 & 1822 *

Dating house at **114 Horace Greeley Road** (tax lot 10/72-1; “W. Brown, Birth Place of Hon. H. Greeley” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1775 by/for John Stewart (Jr., died 1803), joiner, whose wife Mary (Barron) Stewart (1754-c.1837) had inherited, before she married, Second Division lot 74 (as well as other lots) in 1773 from her father, Moses Barron (c.1710-1771) of Souhegan East (not West!), who had purchased the land in 1749 (Province of New Hampshire deed 50:156). The Stewarts had 8 children born between 1775 and 1795. Widow Stewart in 1802 owned 68-acre homestead (Hillsborough Co. mortgage deed 53:473), from which she sold 50 acres with this house in 1804 (deed 61:190).

More History: Zaccheus Greeley (1782-1867) “of Londonderry,” yeoman whose wife was Mary nee Woodburn (1788-1855), in 1808 bought 10 ¼ acres “part of farm on which John Stewart late of Amherst deceased formerly lived” (deed 80:274) and in 1809 bought another 11 acres “with the buildings thereon” (deed 130:249) and some more land in subsequent years until his farm comprised about 40 acres straddling the Amherst-Bedford townline, which he owned until 1820, lost to court executions for debt (Hillsborough County, N.H., execution deeds vol. 2, p. 128-144, 281-284). The house is famous as the birthplace of Zac’s son, Horace Greeley (1811-1872), who was born here in 1811, moved away at age 9, and became a nationally prominent and influential man of the 19th century as founding editor of the New York Tribune and member of Congress. An official historical marker of the State of New Hampshire, a plaque embedded in a rock that sits by the house, commemorates this as Greeley’s Birthplace.

More History: From 1940-1977 (deeds 1005:599; 2523:712) this was the home of the first woman representative from Amherst to N.H. General Court (elected 1950 and served for three terms) and first woman senator from District 12 to the N.H. State Senate (elected 1956 and served four consecutive terms), namely Nelle L. (Weathers) Holmes (1903-1996), wife of Philip B. Holmes (1904-1985).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman, 2015; text by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2023.]

(For more information, see “Historic Amherst: Horace Greeley – Amherst’s Most Famous Native Son, Part One: Early Life as the Son of a Poor Farmer” by Katrina Holman, *The Amherst Citizen* newspaper, Jan. 2016, p. 4 & 6; and “Historic Amherst: Horace Greeley – Amherst’s Most Famous Native Son, Part Two: Sheriff Seized Father’s Amherst House for Debts” by Katrina Holman, *The Amherst Citizen*, April 2016, p. 4 & 6.)

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Builder – Carpenter * WomanOriginalOwner * Life-lease 1877 *

Dating house at **4 Lynch Farm Road** (tax lot 6/22; “G. E. Boutell” on 1858 map; District 6 = Pond Parish):

House (main narrow two-story part with centered chimney) built unknown date, say circa 1790, certainly before 1801, probably by/for Joseph Boutell aka Boutwell [Jr., as he would be called by today’s custom] (1766-1828; married 1788). No deed nor probate record has been found whereby this Joseph acquired the

land, but in the 1790 census, in which heads of household are listed in roughly geographical order, Joseph “4th” is listed right after Joseph “3d”, apparently in this vicinity; and because they are heads of separate households, they likely lived in separate houses. The older of these surely was Joseph Bout(w)ell (1733-1807), and the younger his son JB (b. 1766). (The designation of “3d” is surely an error; I call him Sr. but the one b. 1733 was usually called “Jr.” in the records until mid-1795 when the earliest settler of the same name, the Deacon, died.) The 1801 Tax Invoice, in which taxpayers are listed in roughly geographical order, had “En Joseph Boutel” assessed 2 [!] polls and a valuation of \$300 for “wild land & bldgs” (*Amherst Town Records vol. 2, 1801 Amherst Tax Invoice by Wm Fisk [for Northern part of town], p. 201*), where the second poll could be for his father. Interestingly, the valuation of \$300 for his real estate is enough for two houses. In the next surviving tax invoice, 1804, Ensign Jos. Boutel is recorded with same valuation for real estate but only one poll (himself alone, because his father had become exempt from the poll tax due to old age).

Earlier/earliest Ownership Record of Homestead: Unknown. But here’s an intriguing deed from 1765: Benjamin Davis of Amherst in the Province of New Hampshire, cooper, sold to Joseph Boutel of Woburn in the County of Middlesex & Province of the Massachusetts Bay, husbandman, for 60 Pounds Sterling money of Great Britain, a tract of land lying in Amherst, containing about 60 acres, abutting lands of Thomas Boutell Jr., Moses Truel, and Philemon Warner, Esq. (Provincial New Hampshire deed 79:336, online under Rockingham County registry). (In the 1801 Amherst tax invoice, there was a Benj. Davis listed right after En Joseph Boutel! And a couple Truel households listed just before JB, so very likely in this vicinity.) If the buyer in this deed was indeed the second JB to arrive in Amherst (Secomb says he arrived before the Revolution), then what happened to his house? Architecturally, there is a cape-like ell to the present house, which raises the possibility that the older house (Sr.’s) was moved and attached to the present house (Jr.’s) after 1807 when Pa (Sr.) died.

Challenge regarding Dating:

Finding the deed for the acquisition of this land by the first Bout(w)ell, presumed to be a Joseph, is tricky because there were 4 men named Joseph Boutwell/Boutell/Bowtal in town at the same time in the late 18th century, three of them still living and residing in Amherst in the early 19th century, probably all blood-related but Secomb in his *History of Amherst* (1883) was unable to connect them all. And Secomb goofed by calling two of them “3rd”: both Joseph (b. 1757), son of Kendall, and Joseph (b. 1766), son of Joseph. (Differentiation: That slightly older one (b. 1757) was called “Lt” in early tax invoices, was a cordwainer, & lived on Thornton Ferry Rd 2 until 1825.) To further confuse us moderns: in the custom of that time, men of the same name were numbered according to their birth order, so “Jr.” would be the second oldest, regardless of the given name of his father; and someone with the same name as his Pa, whom we would call Jr., would instead be 3rd when there was an older man of same name in town; and when the oldest died, the remaining were upgraded one ranking – so one has to know death dates of the older ones in order to deduce who-is-who in any given year. To make matters worse, records seem to sometimes confuse them (such as 1790 federal census, where Jr. and 3d are swapped). (In 1790 census, the oldest of the 4 men with same name, who lived until 1795, appears to be missing altogether; perhaps living in household of younger man, but who?) In the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds are recorded multiple land purchases in this general area of Amherst (SE of Village) between 1771 and 1797, by one or another Joseph Boutwell/ Boutell (some with no suffix, some as “Jr”, and some as “3d”). Alas, there is not a single old probate record in Hillsborough County for anyone named Joseph Boutwell or variant, so no helpful property inventory nor list of heirs, even though the two oldest/earliest residents of that name in Amherst surely died in Amherst.

From some point in the 18th century until 1869, this was the homestead of (at least 3, probably 4) successive generations of Bout(w)ell. The final three generations of occupant-owners, all farmers, were: (1) Ensign Joseph Boutwell (Jr. [son of Joseph], 1766-1828), whose wife was Sarah nee Eaton (married 1788 at Wakefield or Reading; d. 1829 aged 66), who owned from no later than 1801 until his death, by which time his militia rank was Lt. (as shown on his gravestone). (2) Mr. Lill(e)y Eaton Bout(w)ell (1796-1829), whose wife was Phebe nee Holt (1793-1847; married Feb. 1820), who inherited with his unmarried sister. In June 1829, Lilly paid his unmarried sister, Hannah Boutwell, \$1000 for her share of the remaining real estate (their inheritance) of their “late Honoured Father Ensign Joseph Boutwell” – except Hannah reserved, during her single life, “the use and occupation of the East chamber in the house,” the house being occupied by Lilly and Hannah at that time (deed

159:233). However, Lilly died at age 33 in the following month; and their mother died in the following year. Lilly's widow, Mrs. Phebe Boutell as Bowtal was listed as head of household in 1830 census. (3) George E. Boutell (1825-1910; married first 1851), son of Lilly, inherited with his sister Phebe and ran the farm for his widowed mother and then for himself until about 1867, when he went into the hotel business in neighboring towns. Sold out-of-family in 1869.

More History: From 1869-1923, the house was owned & occupied by George Franklin Lynch (1844-1923; d. Shirley, Mass. at son's home; buried Meadowview Cem., Amherst), farmer, who bought the house & farm for \$3000 (deed 387:143). George was a newlywed when he moved to town, having married in May 1868 when he was a 23-year-old "trader" (storekeeper) in Milford, to Emily E. Smith (1844-1922; d. Shirley, Mass.; buried Amherst), with whom he raised one son (born 1877) here. In the early years, they shared the house with his parents, Alexander Lynch (1797-1877; b. Boston, Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.), a veteran of the War of 1812 and farmer, & Anna nee Barrett (1803-1885).

Road Name: Lynch Farm Road, which is a connecting or cross road between Spring Road on east end and Pond Parish Road on west end, was/is named for family that owned & occupied this house from 1869 to 1923. Prior to its official name, this road was usually called "off Merrimack rd" (1907 *Nashua Directory*, Amherst section, p. 139; and 1911 Milford, N.H. Directory's Amherst section) but in 1917 *Nashua Directory*, Amherst section, it was called "Lynch Cross rd"!

Caution about Sources: A local article from 1918 contained this no-doubt-sincere, romantic hyperbole: "the present home [of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Lynch was] the Boutelle homestead in Amherst, which has been continuously in the possession of the Boutelle family from the time it was granted to them by the king in the early days of the 18th century." (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 May 1918, p. 3, "Married 50 Years Ago: Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Lynch Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary at Amherst.") Wowie – the King himself! As silly and cringe as that statement was/is, both in terms of date and land-granting, it does hint at the valid possibility that part of the house could be even older than the two-story main part and did send your historical researcher to check the Provincial N.H. deeds.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2025.]

Categories: 18th-century * RevolutionaryWarVet (Jos. Boutell "Jr." [probably the one b. 1733]) * SonBuiltHouseonFather'sHomestead (likely) *

Dating house at **7 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/90):

Bungalow built 1913 for Civil War veteran Daniel A. Peabody (1842-1925), a farmer born in Amherst, by George L. Goodale (1866-1944), builder. Construction began in October 1912 (reported in *Milford Cabinet* 17 Oct. 1912) and was completed for occupancy April 1913 (*Cabinet*, 17 April 1913, p. 3).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2021.]

Categories: 20th-century * CivilWarVetOwner * Builder *

Dating house at **23 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/86; "T. Patch" on 1858 map):

Cape house built 1767 by/for Phinehas Upham (Sr., 1744-1815), blacksmith, who was a resident of Amherst by 1768 (when he acquired 60a Second Division Lot 13, recorded Hillsborough County deed 14:74), but not yet in 1760. Phinehas built his first house on land owned by his father, Amos Upham of Malden, Mass. (died Jan. 1786 at Malden), who had bought 66-acre lot in Dec. 1766 (Hillsborough County deed 17:527). In 1782, Amos gifted his son Phinehas 20 acres surrounding "Phinehas's house and buildings", bounded on the south by "the road leading from Amherst to Lyndeborough" and on the west by Phinehas's land (deed 14:76). In 1809 Phinehas (Sr.) sold to his son Amos Upham (2d, 1771-1826; wife Elizabeth, married 1803), husbandman/farmer, 43a with fountain head spring for \$1000 plus 40a abutting farm of Nathan Upham [31 Lyndeborough Rd], for \$800 (deed 98:144). At his death in 1826, the estate of Amos Upham included 57a homestead farm with house at 23 Lyndeborough Road, which was sold out of the family that year ("Sale of Real Estate of AMOS UPHAM late of Amherst", *Farmers' Cabinet*, 19 Jan. 1828; deeds 157:66, 154:342).

More History: Patch Hill is named for farmer Timothy U. Patch (1800-1868), who in 1836 arrived from Wilmington, Mass., and bought the house with 94 acres (deeds 189:134 and 189:135), which he occupied with his wife Mary nee Proctor (1796-1872) until his death. After having been owned by two of Tim's daughters, the house was sold out of the Patch family in 1889 (deeds 441:272; 505:524).

Challenge regarding Dating: To determine construction dates of old houses at 23 and 31 Lyndeborough Road, they must be researched together because Phinehas Upham Sr. owned both – & they were part of same homestead – until 1809.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SonBuiltOnLandfromFather *

Dating house at **31 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/83; “J. Gowing” on 1858 map):

Two-story house built unknown date, say circa 1795 (between 1790 and 1800 censuses), on land owned by Phinehas Upham (Sr., 1744-1815, wife Ruth Green), blacksmith, who since 1767 resided at 23 Lyndeborough Road and had enlarged his farm with purchase of more land on Lyndeborough Road (60a 2d Division Lot 13) in 1768 (Hillsborough Co. deed 14:74). It’s not clear whether Phineas Sr. remained in the older house and one of his sons moved into this newer house, or vice versa. The first indication of two houses is the 1800 census, in which Phinehas Upham and two of his sons are heads of household (including Amos, to whom Pa Phinehas would sell 23 Lyndeborough Road farm in 1809). The first evidence of 31 Lyndeborough Road house is 1809 sale by Phinehas Upham to [his son, not recorded by Secomb] Nathan Upham (wife Sarah Osgood, married 1810) “a certain farm” of 146a for \$2000 (deed 105:484); who in turn would sell 100a farm with house at 31 Lyndeborough Road for \$1000 in 1829 (deed 157:448) out of the family.

More History: This was a summer home for multiple owners from 1919-1979. In 1919, Alfred E. Stearns (1871-1949), headmaster/principal of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, from 1903-1933, bought as a summer home on 34 acres, to be near his brother, Prof. Arthur F. Stearns, headmaster/principal of the Stearns School in Mont Vernon, a prep school for boys; Alfred also “purchased the Amherst quarry property across the road to prevent further operations and noise” (*Milford Cabinet*, 8 May 1919, p. 4; 1919). From 1941-1979, when owned by Roger Payson Clemens (1898-1948), an attorney, and/or his wife, who bought as a summer home from his aunt, Grace P. (Clemens) Stearns (deeds 1025:380; 2662:125), the place was called “Woodcock Valley” (nickname mentioned *Milford Cabinet*, 26 Aug. 1965; 21 Aug. 1975, p. 14, obituary of Mrs. Lucy Cole Smith).

Challenge regarding Dating: To determine construction dates of old houses at 23 and 31 Lyndeborough Road, they must be researched together because until 1809 they were part of same homestead, both owned by Phinehas Upham Sr.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead (maybe perhaps) * Quarry * SummerHome *

Dating house at **46 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/64-1; “B. Hastings” on 1858 map):

House built 1830 by/for Benjamin Hastings (1789-1870, called “Jr.” on marriage certificate but was son of William), stone mason aka stone cutter and farmer, who in July 1830 bought his initial 5 acres on the south side of Lyndeborough Road for \$90 (by deed 162:418) (from Nathan Upham of Lowell who from 1809-1829 had owned & occupied farm with house at 31 Lyndeborough Rd (deeds 105:484 and 159:433), 146 acres when bought and 100 acres when sold). Hastings – with wife Abigail nee Lovet (1795-1872; married 1818 at Mont Vernon) and 5 daughters under age 11 – was already living in this neighborhood in 1830 census, listed between Amos Upham [at 75 Lyndeboro’ Rd] and Ezra Woolson [65 Lyndeboro’ Rd]. In Feb. 1833, Hastings expanded his farm by 14.75 adjoining acres for \$206 (172:177) that had also previously belonged to the Upham farm. By 1856 Hastings’s farm comprised about 13 acres (per Amherst tax invoice). In 1859, Ben made a life-lease arrangement with his 21-year-old son George W. Hastings (1838-1873, probably born in this house; died in Hudson), whereby George became the owner of the farm valued at \$700 in exchange for “maintaining” his parents for the rest of their lives (deeds 331:274 and 331:225). It was, however, a short-lived arrangement: George married in May 1862 and in Sep. 1863 relinquished the farm back to his father (deed 348:237) and moved out of town. Ben & Abigail Hastings lived here until their respective deaths, both of typhoid fever; and the house was sold out of Hastings family in 1873 with 13.75 acres for \$508 (deed 413:430).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * Life-lease 1859 * SummerHome *

Dating house at **65 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/82; “G. A. McCluer - Woolson Farm” on 1858 map; District 4):

Cape house built circa 1795 by/for Ezra Woolson (1761-1844; married Dec. 1793 to Susannah Elliott), husbandman, who in April 1795 bought half an acre surrounding his already-built house, carved out from the farm of his father Thomas Woolson (Sr., d. 1823, aged 93), husbandman, whose older house (gone before 1858) stood next-door west (deed 37:118). Thomas & family had arrived in Souhegan West in 1777, when Thomas bought 100 acres at the west end of Lyndeborough Road, on both sides (deed 16:14). Ezra would acquire the rest of his father’s farm in Dec. 1804 in a life lease (deeds 83:47,48) and occupy it until 1843. In 1814, on their property “2 miles west of the meeting-house,” Ezra Woolson & son Thomas erected a “furnace for casting iron,” making machinery, flat-irons, sleigh-shoes (*Farmer’s Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., Dec. 1814). By 1838, they were making fire frames, oven mouths and ash doors, and andirons; and in 1841 also advertised parlor stones and cooking stoves, cast iron ploughs, and cauldron kettles in sizes from 12 to 50 gallons made in their “iron foundry,” before their business was dissolved in June 1842 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 23 Feb. 1838; 7 Jan. 1842; 17 June 1842). Ezra Woolson subdivided and sold the house with 33 acres of the family farm in April 1843 to a cooper (deed 220:14); and, after moving to Milford, sold the rest to his mortgage holder (deed 220:189), who would further subdivide to create 70 & 73 Lyndeborough Road lots.

More History: In 1856, George A. McCluer aka McClure (1831-1863), a “mechanic” turned farmer, acquired this house with 44 acres in a special life-lease deal with the spinster owner, his aunt (deed 300:486, 488, \$1000), and they together took out a small mortgage in 1859 (322:250, \$360). Married to George since 1860, Lucy W. (Melendy) McC. (1835-1873, born in Amherst) was widowed May 1863 when he was killed accidentally by ‘friendly fire’ of a fellow soldier of 10th N.H. Volunteers in camp in Virginia. Three months later, the Civil War widow and her one-year-old daughter lost their home to foreclosure (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 27 Aug. 1863, p. 3). (McCluer/McClure probably wouldn’t have defaulted if he hadn’t been away serving his country.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; more added Jan. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead * Foundry * Life-lease 1804 & 1856 * CivilWarWidow *

Dating house at **70 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/71; “R. Gray” on 1858 map):

Greek Revival vernacular house built circa 1845 by/for John Marvell (Jr., 1815-1888), yeoman, who in May 1843 bought 20 acres lying on south side of Lyndeborough Road “together with buildings (barn & corn barn)” that had been part of the Thomas/Ezra Woolson farm, for \$400 (deed 219:304), and another 65a of the former Woolson farm for \$500 in Feb. 1845 (deed 230:359), thus creating a new farm. However, Marvell was a nonresident April 1844 until at least April 1846 (per tax invoices). In 1846, the assessed value of just his buildings (without land) was \$560, occupied by a renter, and for the following three years, when Marvell had become a resident, the assessed value of his buildings alone was \$400. In Jan. 1850, Marvell sold this farm that he had bought for \$1170 in three parcels altogether for \$1550 (deed 258:485), and the assessed value of the buildings for the next owner stayed consistent at \$400 for the next four years.

More History: In 1856, newlywed Robert Gray (1827-1865) of Wilton, farmer, bought this house with 20 acres for \$1100 (deed 302:532) plus adjoining 45-acre parcel for \$400 (deed 308:173). He enlisted at age 35 in Aug. 1862 in Company H of 10th N.H. Regiment of Volunteers; was taken prisoner Oct. 1864 and died of starvation as a POW at Salisbury, N.C., near the end of the Civil War. (There is a photo of him in uniform on p. 90 of Boylston’s *Amherst in the Great Civil Conflict 1861-1865*.) His widow, Olive A. (Holt) Gray (1828-1884), was left with their 7-year-old daughter who had been born in this house. As guardian of the young heir, Civil War widow Gray sold off a piece of the farm in 1866 (deed 364:84, \$125) to Porter Wheeler, her brother-in-law & neighbor (who owned & occupied 75 Lyndeborough Road since 1840), and sold the #70 house with remaining 50-acre farm in 1868 (deeds 376:328, 376:329, total \$1200) one month after she was remarried at age 39 and moved to Chelmsford, Mass.

In 1869, the land was sold separately from the house, and thereafter the house lot was only one acre.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; more added Jan. 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * CivilWarWidow *

Dating house at **73 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/80; “F. E. Pearson” on 1858 map):

House built 1843 either by/for Aaron Lawrence, a “trader” = merchant who resided in Amherst village, who bought the remnants of the Woolson farm without house in April 1843 (deed 220:189) and subdivided; or by/for Francis Elliot Pearsons aka Pearson (1807-1867), widowed since the previous year, iron founder, who on 1 May 1843 bought newly-created lot of 8 acres at NW corner of intersection of Lyndeborough Road and Christian Hill Road, which was land that had formerly been NW corner of Ezra Woolson’s farm, for \$215 from Lawrence (quitclaim deed 277:481).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **75 Lyndeborough Road** (tax lot 5/79-1; “P. Wheeler” near Milford line on 1858 map):

House built 1814 by/for James Hartshorn (1787-1878; m1 Dec. 1814) who in Dec. 1813 bought newly-created 4-acre lot, split off from Ezra Woolson’s farm, with Milford townline as its west bound (15 rods long) and abutting land of his father on its north bound, for \$76 (deed 99:487) and was first taxed in 1815 on “wild land & buildings,” indicating probability of a house, as well as poll tax indicating residence in town (*Amherst Town Records* vol. 2, p. 272). James’s first wife, Judith nee Stevens, died in 1819 aged 29, having born two daughters; James remarried. In Jan. 1823, James sold this house lot (plus half of saw mill and 2 tracts in Milford) to a brother-in-law for \$1200 (deed 151:145).

More History: Notably, one of the early owners of 75 Lyndeborough Road house was a black and/or colored person: William Ross Parker, who must have been a son of Cesar Parker of Mont Vernon. (Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, p. 907, gives a sketch of Cesar but mentions only one, different son; *History of Mont Vernon*, p. 120, mentions Cesar’s son Ross.). In Dec. 1828, William R. Parker & Amos Upham (Jr., 1799-1869; who grew up in Pa’s house at 23 Lyndeboro Rd; has as first wife Fanny Clark; died Lowell), both residents of Amherst and both husbandmen (farmers), together bought this house & its original small lot (along with 3 tracts in Milford and an undivided half of a saw mill in Milford) for \$900 (deed 157:127). Parker & Upham took out a mortgage of \$800 from the prior owner (deed 56:358). In Oct 1829, Ross Parker of Amherst held an auction at his house of 2 yoke of oxen, 2 horses, wagons, chaise, sleigh, and furniture (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 3 Oct. 1829, p. [3]) – homeowners usually do this when they are ready to sell & move away, but he didn’t then. Although this Parker cannot be found as head of household in 1830 census of Amherst, his co-owner Amos Upham (enumerated as white male aged 30-39) is listed as head of household with a white family of inferred wife aged 20-29 and a young son and daughter, and there is also 1 “free colored” male aged 10-23!! (In Amherst in 1830 there were a total of 7 free colored persons, 4 females and 3 males, including a free colored man aged 24-25 in the household of neighbor Ezra Woolson [at 65 Lyndeborough Road].) In April 1830, Upham quitclaimed his half share to Parker for \$50 (deed 166:165) and moved to Lowell. In Dec. 1830, the tax collector of Milford notified “non-resident owners and proprietors of land and buildings in the town of MILFORD, N.H. that “so much of their lands as will pay said taxes, with incidental charges, will be sold at public auction” on Monday 7 March next if they did not pay delinquent taxes for 1830. Among the delinquents were: Edward Hartshorn with real estate valuation of \$10 and Daniel Hartshorn with valuation of \$25, two Amherst residents; and “Ross Parker & Co.” with valuation of \$75 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 22 Jan. 1831, p. [3]; see article for tax amounts owed). This is interesting in that it suggests Parker was the primary owner. Alas, Parker sold in May 1833 back to the mortgage holder (deed 176:168).

(What happened to Ross afterward? In the 1850 census of Nashua, N.H.: William Ross Parker, 50, race Black, b. NH, laborer, no real estate; & Mary, 35, b. Vermont, race not marked so inferred to be White. Then he falls off the genealogical radar. In 1850 census of Mont Vernon, N.H.: Cesar Parker, 90, race Black, laborer, b. NH, no real estate; Margaret, 81, race White inferred, b. NH; Humphrey, 49, race Mulatto=mixed, laborer, b. NH.)

More History: In Nov. 1840, Porter Wheeler (1812-1870), cooper, bought the farm for \$1000 (deed 208:344), the main part of the house being two stories (per 1841 deed 209:481). In April 1841 he married Mary Holt (1816-1898), and they would live here until Porter’s death, at which time the farm comprised 31 acres in Amherst. They were succeeded by their son Charles Porter Wheeler (1849-1938), farmer, who was born and died in this house.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Aug. 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Black/ColoredOwner *

Dating house at **23 Mack Hill Road** (tax lot 20/2; “M. Boyington” [sic, Boynton] on 1858 map): Cape house built 1779 by/for Henry Kimball (d. 1826 aged 75; wife Sarah), feltmaker (aka hatter), who in April 1779 bought 92 square rods (about half an acre) bounded in part by the road to Bedford and in part by the road to New Boston (deed 6:291). The lot’s SW corner was near the north side of the town’s first meetinghouse turned county court house (since disappeared). In June 1782 (deed 9:153), Kimball sold the land with buildings to Robert Means, “gentleman” (who owned & occupied house & store at 1 Pierce Lane).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

(For another history, see article entitled “The House That Henry Kimball Built” by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992) in newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H., April 1992.)

Categories: 18th-century * Cape *

Dating house at **86 Mack Hill Road** (tax lot 7/37; “L. Secomb” on 1858 map):

House built 1762 at the earliest by John Secomb(e) (Sr., 1733-1796, b. Boston, d. Amherst), joiner (=builder) who in Feb. 1762, when he was a resident of Derryfield in the Province of New Hampshire, bought First Division Lot 61 containing about 60 acres for 20 Pounds Sterling money from Benjamin Wilkins (wife Lydia) of Amherst (Hillsborough County deed 4:397, recorded late, in 1777). That was the beginning of the 86 Mack Hill Road farm. John was already a resident of Amherst by 1763 (when he signed a petition regarding Monson). In 1770, John, still a joiner by occupation, expanded his landholding by buying “westerly part of First Division Lot 112 containing 60 acres” nearby that bounded “school lot” for 29 Pounds - 6 Shillings - 8 Pence from a resident of Lyndeborough (deed 4:395, recorded 1777). John Sr. married 1st, in Nov. 1777, Mary Small (d. 1781 in childbirth with 2nd child); married 2nd, in 1784, Mrs. Elizabeth (Carter) Wheeler of Hollis (1754-1807) who bore him 5 more children of whom 3 lived to adulthood. John Secomb Sr. died intestate, leaving 5 minor children ranging in age from 17 to under 2. From 1762-1908, the house & farm were owned & occupied by four (or five) successive generations of Secomb(e). The 2nd generation was Capt. John Secomb(e) (Jr., 1778-1856), his father’s eldest child, whose petition to the Probate Court was granted, giving him the entire homestead valued at \$950 in exchange for paying each of his siblings their portion upon reaching the age of 21. John Jr.’s wife (married 1798) was Rachel nee Durant (1778-1839), with whom he had 5 children. (Their second son and youngest child was Daniel F. Secomb (b. 1820) who would write our town’s history published in 1883 and would become city librarian of Concord, N.H.)

The 3rd generation was Levi Jones Secomb (1804-1882), middle child and eldest son, who in March 1853 (deed 278:92) bought from his father his father’s homestead of 60a with the buildings thereon and also 13a (whole of Fourth Division Lot 117 and 5a of southerly part of Fourth Division Lot 116), for \$1800 but “reserving to Mary Secombe [Levi’s youngest aunt who would die in 1872] 1/5 of the thirds [dower] of her late honored Mother Elizabeth Secomb in said premises.” Levi’s wife (married 1831) was Nancy nee Herrick (1810-1900) with whom he had two children, a son and a married daughter who died young leaving a daughter, Helen.

The 4th generation was Henry W. Secomb (1836-1906; widowed 1866; no children), only son and only surviving child of Levi, who inherited. After completing his education in Amherst and in Concord, Henry had worked in Concord, N.H., and in Lowell, Mass. “When his father came to be in failing health, [Henry] returned to the farm [by 1880 census]. He has been a good citizen and a kind neighbor. ... Miss Helen Secomb is all that remains of a once numerous household.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 14 June 1906, p. 4.)

The 5th generation to live here was Miss Helen E. Secomb (1861-1944), who was born with her parents’ surname of Robinson but called by the name of her maternal grandparents Levi & Nancy who raised her – in this house (judging by 1870, 1880, 1900 censuses). As an adult Helen shared this house with her Uncle Henry as his housekeeper. As “Helen E. Robinson” she was executrix of the last will and testament of Henry W. Secomb and, as part of the estate settlement, she presented for allowance to the Probate Court her private claim against the estate “for services as housekeeper, to the amount of \$1092.00” (*Milford Cabinet*, 19 Dec. 1907, p. 7). Called “Miss Helen Elizabeth Secomb, 83” in her obituary.

In 1900: “The summer season is at its height in Amherst. Houses are pretty well filled. / At the E. C. Hubbard farm, city people have found a pleasant resort this summer. / Miss Helen Secomb has thrown her farm house open to the public this season. It is a very pleasant resort as many know who have been fortunate in being her guests.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 9 Aug. 1900, p. 4.)

More History: In 1908, Catherine/“Kate” Pesterfield nee Buckley (1860/62-1946, b. Ireland, d. Amherst, buried Meadowview), long-time domestic servant of Rev. & Mrs. J. G. Davis at 19 Main Street, whose husband (married 1897) was John F. Pesterfield (1872-1947, b. England, d. Amherst in car accident), who worked for Davis-Spalding family as caretaker of their Village property & as farmer – bought Mack Hill farm “on east side of the Valley road leading from Amherst village to New Boston” containing about 133 acres for \$3200 (deed 659:243) but the couple continued to live in the Village until around 1925 [CHECK tax invoices to see in which district his poll tax was invoiced]. On this farm, Mr. P. raised turkey eggs, which he offered for sale at 30 cents each or \$27 per hundred (*Milford Cabinet*, 21 April 1932, p. 4). Mr. P. repeatedly tangled with the law for illegal trapping:

In 1919: “John Pesterfield of Amherst was found not guilty by the Milford court after a lengthy trial during which the state failed to prove that P. set traps on land of Frank Smith.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 30 Nov. 1939, p. 2.)

In 1926: “John F. Pesterfield of Chestnut [sic, probably Mack] Hill was fined Tuesday in Milford police court \$48.50 for snaring foxes and having in his possession a skin of a fox that had the marks of a snare. Pesterfield has been under suspicion for some time and this week Game Warden Tilden Barnard of Nashua and James H. Atkinson of Amherst caught him in the act of bating two snares near his home on Chestnut hill. Later his house was searched and a skin valued at \$10 taken as evidence of snaring.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 18 Nov. 1926, p. 2.)

In 1929: “John F. Pesterfield of Amherst was in the police court Tuesday on a charge of setting a trap without license. He was fined \$40, including costs, by Judge _____. Chief James H. Atkinson and Game Warden Barnard of Nashua made the arrest after finding a trap with Pesterfield’s name set on land ... at Amherst.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 5 Dec. 1929, p. 3.)

In 1934: “The superior court at Manchester reversed the finding of the local court in the case of John Pesterfield of Amherst. He was charged with illegal trapping by Game Warden Tilden Barnard of Nashua and was found guilty in court here December 6, and appealed. The superior court brought a verdict of not guilty, and Mr. Pesterfield says he considers it unjust that the case was ever prosecuted.” (*Milford Cabinet* 8 Feb. 1934, p. 1.) Kate died at/in this farmhouse. Shortly after being widowed, Mr. P. sold the place in Oct. 1947 and was killed by collision with a truck the following month (reported in *Milford Cabinet*, 13 Nov. 1947, p. 1). [Research Oct. 2023 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * Builder * SummerBoardingHouse *

Dating house at **146 Mack Hill Road**, at end of short Bate Road (tax lot 7/62; “A. R.” on 1858 map): House built unknown date, say c. 1780. The first known owner-occupant was Timothy Jones (Sr., 1755-1793) of Amherst, yeoman=farmer, who bought 30 acres for 450 Pounds in April 1780 (deed 6:531); and 36 more acres abutting on the north “with all the buildings on the same” for 350 Spanish Milled Dollars in June 1781 (deed 6:555). Jones was married 1782 to Elizabeth nee Kendrick (d. 1818 aged 55); she bore him 6 children; she was pregnant with the youngest, Jr., when Tim Sr. died. Widow Jones remarried, to Andrew Leavitt (1752-1846), housewright; bore him 3 more children; and continued to live here until her death. Leavitt is shown here in 1804-1810 tax invoices, in which taxpayers are listed roughly geographically (*Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*). (Afterwards: The next widow whom Leavitt married was Abigail Hildreth (widowed 1816; died 1834) so he moved into her farmhouse at 40 Walnut Hill Road; after her death he again had to find a new home.)

Timothy Jones (Jr., 1793-1882), who was born after Pa died and learned carpenter trade from his step-father Leavitt, inherited together with his Jones siblings. Tim Jr. commenced paying the taxes on the farm in 1818: he divided the land into 3 acres of tillage, 1.5 acres of mowing, 1/2 acre of orchard, and owned 1 horse and 2 oxen. Tim was married in 1821 to Sophia nee Stearns (d. 1830 aged 26). In 1828, Tim Jones sold the place with 90 acres for \$1000 (deed 154:165).

Subsequent occupant-owners included:

From 1829-1836, Bryant Melendy (1800-1889), husbandman =farmer, was the occupant-owner. He was married in Jan. 1830 to Clarinda nee Prince (1805-1870); the oldest 3 of their 8 children were born here. He bought 90-acre farm for \$1000 (deed 154:165) and sold for \$1200 (deed 187:178).

From 1838-1861, the owner was Albert Riddle (1808-1859, b. & d. Bedford), husbandman =farmer, who paid \$900 for the buildings on 50 acres (deed 194:484). Riddle kept a horse, a couple oxen, a couple cows, and, for a few years, also a couple sheep. Albert’s wife was Sarah nee Wheeler (1814-1892; m. 1835). The Riddle family with 5 children moved back to Bedford in 1851 but the farm wasn’t sold until 1861, by his heirs/estate.

From 1877-1893 (deeds 433:467 and 534:173), the house on 50-acre farm was owned & occupied by Charles H. Burnham (1840-1912; d. Amherst, buried Milford) who came from Milford, was Civil War vet, farmer and Baptist deacon, and had two children with his wife, Lucy A. nee Haseltine (b. 1837; married 1865).

More History: Beginning in 1932, this place became a summer home for a succession of three different owners.

In 1932, the local newspaper reported: “Joseph H. Smith Jr. of Boston has purchased the Stockwell farm in the Hubbard district [of Amherst], for a summer home. Mr. Smith is conductor of the orchestra at the Copley Plaza [Hotel], in Boston. Theodore Zahn, one of the artist players of the same orchestra, has bought the Kendall farm, just over the line in Mont Vernon...” (*Milford Cabinet*, 5 May 1932, p. 4; similar 19 May 1932, p. 7) When Smith sold 13 years later: “Mr. Smith [of Newton] is busy with orchestra work, mostly in the vicinity of Boston, and Mrs. [Margaret] Smith is now secretary at a girls' school in Newton.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 Oct. 1945, p. 4.) (Smith’s purchase deed was 913:211; sale deed 1090:247.)

In 1953, Prof. Walter J. Bate (1918-1999) of Cambridge, Mass., bought 50 acres with bldgs (deed 1374:388) to be his summer residence and owned the place for more than four decades. In 1959, Bate expanded the property by buying adjoining 2.7 acres with 384 feet bounding on south side of [Bate Road] split off from 158 Mack Hill Road farm (deed 1581:338). He added a one-room addition to the house in 1960 (*Milford Cabinet*, 1 Sep. 1960, p. 5) and a screened-in porch in 1977 (*Cabinet*, 28 July 1977, p. 5).

Obituary: “Walter Jackson Bate, 81, a professor of English at Harvard University who won Pulitzer Prizes for biographies of John Keats [in 1964] and Samuel Johnson [in 1978], died July 26, 1999, of cardiac arrest at Deaconess Clinical Center in Boston. A resident of Cambridge, who also had a home in Amherst, he wrote in 1964, “My principal hobby has been farming. Unsuccessful farming, I hasten to add. For a few years, I actually had a dairy farm of sorts, and then, after continual loss, decided to grow rocks.” Mr. Bate was born in Mankato, Minn.. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees and a doctorate at Harvard, where he taught from 1946 until his retirement in 1986. ...” (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 April 1999, p. 24.)

Deeded Out: In 2003, David Dodd Perkins of California, as executor of Will of W. J. Bate, conveyed 30-acre tract bounding the Mont Vernon town line to the Town of Amherst (deed 6886:2768; plan 32,370): “Said property is to be used only for wildlife conservation and forest reservation purposes in perpetuity and is to be kept in a wild state.”

[Research Oct. 2023; & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Feb. 2024.]

Categories: 18th-century * RevolutionaryWarVet (Leavitt) * CivilWarVetOwner * SummerHome *

Dating house at **158 Mack Hill Road** (tax lot 9/11-2; “W. H. Hubbard” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1812 for the oldest part and circa 1857 for the main 2-story gable-front part in Greek Revival vernacular style.

In 1779, William Hartshorn (1753-1831) of Reading, Mass., cordwainer, bought 66 acres for 246 Pounds (deed 6:470), and settled in Amherst – between Dec. 1780 (when he married as a resident of Reading, Mass.) and Feb. 1783 (when he signed a petition as a resident of Amherst, N.H.) – which was the beginning of 158 Mack Hill Road farm. However, the first house was a log cabin (according to lore from his direct Hubbard descendant as captured by Howard Locke in notes for house numbered Town 128) which makes it difficult to ascertain the year when the first, small frame house was built – on the east side of the road. The tax invoices suggest the build year was between April 1812 and April 1813, because from 1804-1812 Wm Hartshorn’s assessed/taxable valuation of his “wild land & buildings” was constant at \$60, then in 1813 jumped to \$100. In Feb. 1814, William Hartshorn sold his whole homestead farm to Amos Hubbard (1783-1858, b. Groton, Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.) of Boston, his son-in-law since 1811, for \$1200 (deed 100:102), yet Hubbard’s assessed valuation for “wild land & buildings” remained the same, \$100, until at least 1819, while Hartshorn’s went to \$0.

(Meanwhile it appears that the Hartshorn parents-in-law continued to live in their log cabin on the same property, a short distance from the first frame house. Wm Hartshorn and Amos Hubbard are heads of separate households in 1820 and 1830 censuses. After the death of his first wife in 1789, Hartshorn remarried in 1790 at Amherst, his 2nd wife, Hepsibah Holt (d. 1851 aged 103). “Until [the widow of the late William Hartshorn] was upward of 90 years, she lived by herself, milking her own cow, and making

butter for the market.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 20 June 1850, p. [2].) That would have been till around 1840! Then she moved in with her Hubbard daughter & son-in-law (1850 census) where she died as the town’s oldest inhabitant.)

In 1856, Amos & Mary in old age sold “our homestead farm” of 66 acres to son William Hartshorn Hubbard (1818-1888) for \$2000 (deed 304:209), at which time William and his wife, Elizabeth/ “Betsy” H. nee Russell (1824-1905; married 1849 at Marlborough), were residents of Marlborough, Mass. The younger couple moved here right away: William was first taxed as resident of Amherst in April 1857, on 95 acres, land valued \$900 & buildings valued \$500, and on 1 horse worth \$90 and 8 bovines valued together at \$364. William built the main part of present-day house circa 1857 (before map published in 1858 was drawn) on the west side of the road; the first/original frame house was moved across the road and is the ell of the present-day house.

In June 1888, Eugene C. Hubbard (1857-1927, b. Boston), adopted son and only child of William, farmer, whose wife was Addie Frances Noyes (1859-1928; married 1878), acquired father’s/grandfather’s homestead plus 3 other tracts of land from his father (deed 496:237).

In 1928/1929, Fred William Hubbard (1880-1957, born and died in this house), only son of Eugene, bought out other heirs (deeds 892:225 and 893:455). Fred quit the dairy business in Nov. 1922 with an auction of all his cattle and related farming tools (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 Nov. 1922, p. 4). Fred married in 1938 for the first & only time at age 58, to Widow Annie M. (Chesley) Hoeg, 55.

In September 1961, after 5 generations of ownership & occupancy of farm by one family (4 generations of ownership & occupancy of house by one family), sold out of Hubbard family by widow Annie M. Hubbard of Amherst – bldgs with 91 acres (deed 1660:47).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, Oct. 2023; rev. Aug. 2024.]

Categories: 19th century * Moved * Greek Revival * SummerBoarders *

Dating house at 24 Merrimack Road corner Border Street (tax lot 14/6 ; missing from 1858 map; District 2 = The Acre):

House built circa 1855. First owner-occupant was Thomas Broderick (wife Bridget nee Finerty), carpenter and Irish immigrant, who in April 1856 bought newly created corner lot (of about one acre; taxed as 3/4a) for \$300 (deed 305:157). The Broderick family is shown here in 1860 & 1870 censuses; moved to Milford before April 1871. Regarding unusual architecture, the 1873 Amherst tax invoice of District 2 nonresidents for Broderick, actually mentions “flat roof”!

More History: The next owner-occupant was widow Mary Hennes(e)y (1834-1907, buried St. Patrick’s Cemetery), an Irish immigrant by way of New York, who in 1875 bought house for \$600 (deed 425:170) and owned until her death; sold by her married daughter in 1921 (deed 791:432).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * IrishImmigrants * Builder ? *

Dating house at 92 Merrimack Road (tax lot 4/87; District 3):

House built 1915 for Frank J. Gaidmore (1880-1959; b. Lithuania; d. Milford rest home; buried Amherst, St. Patrick’s Cemetery), blacksmith, & wife Julia (Antonowicz/Antanovich) Gaidmore (1880-1945; b. Poland or Lithuania; married 1906 in Palmer, Mass.; d. Nashua hospital), who in November 1915 bought newly-created triangular lot “with buildings” (including “Morrow shop” according to 1916-1924 tax invoices) + 6a parcel for \$1100 (deed 737:425). The house lot was (and still is) bounded by a road on each side: on the east by “the main road from Amherst to Nashua” which at that location is now called Corduroy road (its southern terminus); on the south by the “Milford Road” which is now called Merrimack Road; and on the north by “the New Road” which is now called Cricket Corner Road (its western terminus). The builder (according to Howard Locke note for house 47B) and prior owner of the land was Thomas S. Merrow (1861-1941; b. N.H.; d. Florida; buried Cricket Corner Cemetery, Amherst), farmer, blacksmith, and house-builder (who formerly, until 1914, had owned nearby 40 Corduroy Road lot and still owned, until 1919, 95 Merrimack Road lot). Gaidmore raised poultry here. Widower Gaidmore sold in January 1953 (deed 1344:156).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. August 2023.]

Categories: 20th-century * Builder * Blacksmith Shop *

Dating house at **95 Merrimack Road** (tax lot 4/70; District 3):

House built 1920 for James F. Hodgson (1885-1952; b. England; d. Dover, N.H.; buried Cricket Corner Cem.), woodworker and poultry raiser, & first wife Clara (Wilkerson) Hodgson (1884-1924; b. England; d. Amherst; buried Cricket Corner Cemetery). In 1919, Clara bought a newly-created 30-acre lot (deed 768:472). The prior owner of the land was Thomas S. Merrow (1861-1941; b. N.H.; d. Florida; buried Cricket Corner Cemetery), farmer, blacksmith, and house-builder. The house was “built by Tom Merrow” (according to Howard Locke, notes for house 47C). In 1920 the newspaper reported (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 Sep. 1920, p. 5, Milford section): “Work on the new house of James Hodgson on the Amherst road to Nashua is progressing. W. L. Winslow put up the chimneys last week and Mr. Hodgson expects to move in within a few weeks. Mr. Hodgson next spring will go into the poultry business on a large scale. The house has nine rooms.” Having moved to New Jersey for work in 1942 (*Milford Cabinet*, 26 Nov. 1942, p. 5), Hodgson sold the place with 30 acres in 1945 (deed 1077:339).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. August 2023.]

Categories: 20th-century * Builder *

Dating house at **96 Merrimack Road** (tax lot 4/92; District 3):

House built 1912 on newly-created 4-acre lot by Thomas S. Merrow (1861-1941), a farmer and blacksmith newly turned house-builder. The first owner-occupants, who bought/used it as a summer home, were widow Kate Poor nee Catherine S. Clark (1866-1923) of Somerville, Mass., and her daughter Grace P. Turner nee Grace Perley Poor (1882-1957), wife of William H. Turner (1875-1950), briefly of Charlestown, Mass. (deed 704:248).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Aug. 2023.]

Categories: 20th-century * Builder * SummerHome *

Dating house at **31 Mont Vernon Road** (tax lot 7/95-1; “C. C. Twiss” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1785 by/for Nathan Fuller Jr. (1763-1840) on his father’s farm. In Aug. 1786 (deed 16:272), Nathan Fuller (Sr., d. Dec. 1807, aged 84), yeoman, sold to “my son” Nathan Fuller Jr., yeoman, “one moiety or half quantity and quality” [usually same as “undivided half”] of Second Division Lot 45 containing about 66 acres; also 15 acres “beside a part of the Washer lot;” “together with the whole of the new house standing on Lot No. 45 which house was erected chiefly at the expense of my said son.” From 1786 until shortly after Sr.’s death in 1807, two houses stood side by side on same farm – but only one of them has survived – presumably the newer one. (The older house was built circa 1754 by/for Nathan Fuller Sr., wheelwright, who bought 2nd Div. Lot 45 & part of 28 in March 1754 (Provincial N.H. deed 88:549).)

Nathan Fuller Jr. lived in the newer house until financial difficulties (tangled up in Capt. Eli Brown’s financial real estate mess), which culminated in losing a court suit brought by Frederic French that resulted in a court execution in 1821 (per deed 135:190), caused Fuller to sell in 1822 (deed 135:192).

More History: For nearly 100 years, from 1841 (deed 212:226) until 1938, this farmhouse remained in same family, Twiss-Putnam-Bennett.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead *

Dating house at **39 Mont Vernon Road** (tax lot 7/98; “J. W. Perkins” on 1858 map):

Cape house built 1805 by John Fuller (1772-1820; married Feb. 1805), joiner and cabinet-maker, who in May 1805 paid \$40 to his brother for a newly-created small lot (22 rods frontage) “where his [John’s] house & barn now stand” (deed 67:147) split off from the west side of the Nathan Fuller homestead, owned jointly since 1786 (deed 16:272) by John’s pa, Nathan Fuller (Sr., d. 1807 aged 84), and John’s brother Nathan Fuller Jr. (1763-1840). (Since 1754 this land had been part of the Nathan Fuller homestead – 2nd Division lot 45 – that included land of 31 Mont Vernon Road lot on which John’s brother Nathan Jr. had built his house circa 1785.) John’s widow Waitstill T. Fuller nee Hopkins (1785-1856; married Feb. 1805; died Lowell) moved to Lowell around 1826 with her children, but not until 1841 did the Fuller heirs, three adult children of Lowell and one adult son of Acton, Mass. and the widow, sell the house on its small parcel of land that was bounded on the west by the “highway leading from

Amherst to Mont Vernon” plus 1.5 acres on the opposite side of the road, and 2 lots (5a and 7.5a) in Mont Vernon, for \$400 (deed 211:217)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2022.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * Builder * SonBuiltHouseonFather'sHomestead (& paid Bro for lot) *

Dating house at **5 Old Manchester Road** (tax lot 8/84; “F. W. Holbrook” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1745 earliest probable (but unknown if any of original house survives) – however two-story with center chimney likely built about a decade or more later – by/for Andrew Seetown aka Seaton (born before 1700 in Scotland; died betw 1770-'72 in Amherst, N.H.) & his second wife Margaret nee Wood (1701-c.1773; married 1741 when he was a resident of Boxford and she of Topsfield, Mass.) on land that belonged to the wife. Before she married, Peggy had inherited right to land from her Narraganset-war soldier father Nathaniel Wood (c.1657-1732) of Topsfield, Mass., making her a rare direct descendant of original Narraganset soldier to actually settle on the land that was awarded to him for his service. This means that a *woman* was one of the Proprietors of Souhegan West – so she had to pay financial assessments (like taxes but at irregular intervals) to cover building of roads and bridges, incentive for miller to settle, etc., to retain her property. Andrew signed 1747 petition as Souhegan West resident, as did his son-in-law and nephew John Seetown aka Seaton (Secomb, p. 357). (At that time there were 35 families total, including 58 men over age 16, in area covering most of present Amherst, Milford and Mont Vernon.)

Challenge regarding Dating: There is no documentary evidence to indicate on which homestead, #5 or #10, a house was built first. It's possible, even likely, that Andrew & Peggy initially resided in the same house with John & Ismenia – but where? In ‘windshield survey’ for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior of 5 Old Manchester Road house as built “circa 1760-1780” (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, p. 38). (Sources for ownership by Margaret Wood: Will of Nathaniel Wood of Topsfield, Essex county, Massachusetts, dated 26 Jan. 1732 and proved 5 July 1732, bequeathed to “my daughter Margaret,” “half of the land granted to me by the General Court for serving his Majesty in the Narragansett War; the other half equally divided between my daughter Zurviah and my grandson Robert Down.” By deed dated 17 March 1734, Zerviah Wood, spinster, of Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts, conveyed/granted to Margaret Wood, my sister, spinster, of Topsfield, Essex, Mass., “a certain parcel of land being one quarter part of a share of lands which my father, Nathaniel Wood, late of Topsfield, deceased, had or was to have had for his service done at ye Narragansett fort fight in the former Indian War, called Phillip’s War.” (Both will and deed transcribed in *Historical Sketches Relating to Spencer, Mass.*, by Henry M. Tower, Volume 1, 1901, p. 20-22.) The Narraganset No. 3 Souhegan West Propriety Records include: 1738 Second Division Lot 84, 78 acres, belonging to Margreat Wood; and for the 1753 Third Division: One Right, One lot nr Walnut Tree Hill adjoining his [sic, by virtue of being married to his wife nee Wood] land, No. 7, 45 acres, belonging to Andrew Seeton. Andrew Seetown, resident of Souhegan West, was granted his [actually *his wife's*] land, specifically First Division Lot 74, in 1759 mega-quitclaim (Masonian Proprietors’ Records Vol. 2, p. 124; reprinted *N.H. State Papers* Vol. 27, p. 67-73); Andrew & Margaret sold First Div. Lot 74 in 1770 to Joseph Jewett by deed that clearly states “said share of Margaret (called Margaret Wood before marriage to Andrew)” (Hillsborough County deed 3:404).)

More History: Being childless, Mrs. Andrew Seaton adopted 2 children; and Peggy made sure that her adopted daughter and her adopted son would own the property equally as they would if they inherited as natural children. In 1772 as a widow, Peggy nominally sold to each of them: “one moiety or half of [60-acre] tract of land in Amherst, with half of the Dwelling House & Barn; half the livestock which Margaret now owns; half indoor movables & household items & the outdoor utensils” (deeds 2:398 and 2:434). The adopted children were married in May 1774, to each other. The daughter was granddaughter of Peggy’s late husband Andrew, namely Jane/Jennie Seaton (1746-1812) (whose birth parents and siblings lived across the road at 10 OMRd), and the adopted son was Samuel Stanley (c.1753-1814), a husbandman = farmer. Sam & Jennie had 4 children, the first two named Andrew (1775-1857; married 1807) and Peggy (married 1796). Sam added land. Andrew Stanley of the third generation lived & worked on this farm with his father (tax invoices 1801, 1804-1810, *Amherst Town Records* Vol. 2, p. 233; on microfilm at Amherst Town Library) until Samuel died, then Andrew bought out the other heirs, his siblings; Andrew Stanley sold in 1816 (deed 109:198); with his wife Fanny nee Prince (1781-1878) moved to NY state where he was a farmer again.

[Research by Jackie Marshall and Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman March 2021; rev. Oct. 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 (maybe) * WomanOriginalOwner * NarragansetSoldierHeir *

Dating house at **10 Old Manchester Road** (tax lot 8/83-1; “A. Noyes” on 1858 map):

Cape house built unknown date, say circa 1745 at the earliest, by/for John Seetown/ Seaton (Jr., 1724-1793), cordwainer (shoemaker), who in Oct. 1744 as a resident of Andover, Mass., had married his first cousin Ismenia, making her father, Andrew Seetown/ Seaton, both his uncle and father-in-law. Andrew’s wife Margaret nee Wood was the first individual to own this land, as one of the Proprietors of Souhegan West. Newlyweds John & Ismenia must have moved to Souhegan West immediately, because their ten children were born in S. W. starting in 1744 [1745?] and John signed 1747 petition as S. W. resident. John Jr. became Deacon of Congregational Church of Amherst.

(Sources for ownership by the elder John Seaton: John Seaton, resident of Souhegan West, was granted his land, specifically Third Division Lot 7, in 1759 mega-quitclaim (Masonian Proprietors’ Records Vol. 2, p. 124; reprinted *N.H. State Papers* Vol. 27, p. 67-73). This lot is mentioned in the Narragansett No. 3 Souhegan West Propriety Records as part of 1753 third division of lots, the one belonging to Andrew Seeton [although not stated, by virtue of being husband of Margaret nee Wood]: One Right, One lot nr Walnut Tree Hill adjoining his land, No. 7, 45 acres. Oddly, not until March 1772 did John Seaton gain clear title to the property, when widow Margaret Seetown of Amherst granted him 45-acre 3d Division Lot 7, bounded south on “land Margaret now lives on”, for 100 Pounds (Hillsborough County deed 4:128).)

Deacon John Seaton (3d, 1756-1836), who in 1787 was married to Rebecca Kendall (1763-1839), took over his father’s farm and raised four sons. From March 1831 until Jan. 1833, Deacon Seaton had a life-lease arrangement with Joseph Waugh whereby Waugh bought half of John Seaton’s 75-acre farm and leased the other half of farm from Seaton, while John & wife Rebecca continued to occupy the buildings, in exchange for Waugh providing the elderly couple support, including giving the Seaton’s 2/5 of produce (deeds 165:616, 617, 620; reversal deed 172:108). 75-acre farm sold out of Seaton family in 1837 (deeds 190:515, 190:516, 190:517); widow Rebecca moved to Kentucky, joining her sons there.

More History: From 1929-1977 Lincoln family owned & occupied, initially as post-retirement home for Charles Jewett Lincoln (1869-1945, b. Hingham, Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.), a retired carpet salesman and also veteran of the Spanish War serving on American ship and also WW1 in Navy, & wife Theodora nee Hendricks (1889-1978), a retired milliner, who were newlyweds, having married both for the first time (at Port Washington, Long Island, NY) in 1926 when he was 56 and she 36, but they had been brother-in-law & sister-in-law since 1917 when his younger brother Roy had married her older sister Grace at Bronx, NYC. Roy Melville Lincoln (1878-1956; d. Amherst) & Grace E. nee Hendricks (1888-1970; died Nashua nursing home) moved here around 1941, after his retirement as “executive in the textile industry handling imports of silk” in NY (per obituary), joining Charles & Theodora with Mother Louisa Hendricks (here 1950 census; d. 1961 at Conrad Rest Home on Ponemah Road in Amherst) and causing further enlargement of the house.

Remodeling: Charles J. Lincoln & wife Theodora, who bought in 1929 (deed 884:259), remodeled: A larger cellar was dug in order to install a heating system. The dormers were added upstairs. The shed was made over to include the kitchen and a large recreation room or shop. Electric lights and bath, a deep well and pump were installed and the whole house done over inside and out. (Howard Locke (1883-1959) was the electrician; he is the one who recorded these house alterations in his notes for house which he numbered/designated Town 147 (original hand-written notes held at Amherst Town Library).

In 1946 an addition was added on the back which enlarged the kitchen and added two more bedrooms & a bath (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 April 1946, p. 4). In 1948 another room was added on north side.

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2021.]

(For info about creation of Lincoln Pond on land that had belonged to this farm, see newspaper article “Historic Amherst: Amherst’s Man-Made Scenic Pond: Lasting Legacy of Frank A. Smith, Summer Resident” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, January 2020, p. 4 & 8.)

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead (in this case: Son-in-Law Built on Step-Mother-in-Law’s Land) * Life-lease 1831 *

Dating house at **23 Old Manchester Road** (tax lot 8/82; “J. H. Hildreth” on 1858 map; District 14 until 1863, thereafter District 10):

House built unknown date in 18th century on 60-acre First Division Lot 103, say circa 1770 (the date chosen by owner A. L. Lincoln in 1950 for house tour brochure). The first owner-occupant here was John Wasson, husbandman (farmer), who was a resident of Souhegan West in May 1752 (per Provincial N.H.

deed 74:253) and a resident taxpayer when Town of Amherst was incorporated in 1760 (Secomb, p. 53). However, what kind of dwelling Was(s)on had – unlikely to have been two-story this early – and whether any of it survives is unknown. John Wasson's wife was Martha nee Seaton (married May 1744 in Andover, Mass.), sister of John Seaton Jr. who settled across the road at 10 OMRd and niece of Andrew Seaton who settled on the homestead next south at 5 OMRd. (The Wassons moved to Penobscot, Hancock county, Maine.)

Next owner-occupant was Jacob Hildreth (Jr., 1739-1815), who was a resident of Litchfield in June 1760 when he bought 60-acre First Division Lot 103 for 100 Pounds (Provincial N.H. deed 100:96) and had become a resident of Amherst by 1763 (when he signed a “memorial” regarding Monson by inhabitants of Amherst, transcribed in Secomb, p. 61). His wife was Mary Shepard (1749-1823, an Amherst girl, married circa 1766). For about 130 years, until 1893, this homestead was occupied and farmed by three successive generations of Hildreth. But the house was actually occupied and farmed by same family until 1902 (sale deed 612:184), because the 3d generation and final Hildreth, John Hartwell Hildreth (1807/8-1893) never married and in 1866 made a life-lease deal also called a life support agreement (deed 364:200) with his cousin Pliny F. Odell (1826-1912), whose wife was Lucy A. Miller (1831-1938; married Dec. 1856 by JP), whereby Pliny maintained & provided for Hartwell for the rest of his life while Hartwell occupied “the room at the south end of the kitchen (the SE corner room) & the chamber [bedroom] directly over it”, and the Odells occupied the rest of the house; and Hartwell and Pliny each farmed half of the remaining 50 acres, each taxed on 25 acres. In the 1890s, Mr. & Mrs. Pliny Odell took in summer boarders calling their place Walnut Hill House – advertising space for 10 guests (sources: “Immigration Report” listing Proprietor or Landlord / Name of House / P. O. Address / No. of Guests in *Annual Report of N.H. Board of Agriculture*, 21st annual report, Nov 1891-Nov. 1892, published 1893, p. 407 & 409; also “Summer Excursions to the White Mountains, Mt. Desert, Montreal and Quebec ...” by Boston & Maine Railroad Co., 1895).

Note regarding Dating: In ‘windshield survey’ for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as Georgian style built “ca. 1770s” (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009). For comparison, Ephraim Hildreth (1735-c.1815), who was a brother of Jacob Jr., also bought land in Amherst in 1760 (Prov. N.H. deed 100:95, 60-acre lot for 100 Pounds; witnessed by Jacob Hildreth; executed Sep. 1760) and likely built (or began building) 2-story intended as tavern at 18 Jones Road in 1760.

More History: From 1928-1952, this house served as the summer home – on 20 acres – for four elderly Lincoln siblings, originally from Hingham, Mass.: widow Mercy (Lincoln) Thayer (1847-1940); Miss Sarah Jane Lincoln (1862-1945), a former music teacher; widow Helen (Lincoln) Baxter (1867-1931; d. at Amherst); and Alfred Loring Lincoln (1869-1952), a former shoe manufacturer who in his retirement raised poultry here in Amherst c.1945 (when he offered 300 pullets for sale) until 1951 (500 pullets for sale, *Milford Cabinet*, 1 Nov. 1945 and 2 Aug. 1952; obituary *Cabinet*, 10 January 1852, p. 4).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Life-lease 1866 * SummerBoardingHouse * SummerHome *

Dating house at **54 Old Manchester Road** (tax lot 8/80-6; “S. Dow” on 1858 map; District 10): Two-story house built c. 1800 (after 1800 census, when he & his young family were living with his parents, and before tax invoice of April 1801, when he was taxed on “wild land & buildings”) by/for John Ellinwood/Ellenwood (1777-1856) on land of the farm owned & occupied since 1778 (deed 7:151) by his father, Ebenezer Ellinwood (3d, c.1749-1828), near Pa's NE corner. (In Feb. 1779 Ebenezer bought 30 additional acres adjoining on the north for 30 pounds from Jonathan Fisk (deed 18:247) – the parcel on which the house at 54 OMRd would be built about two decades later. First concrete evidence of this house is 1806 deed 70:461; evidence of 2 houses on Pa's land is 1807 For Sale advert (*Farmer's Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 31 March and 21 April 1807).) John Ellinwood was married to Jane Stanley in 1799 and they had 5 children, the first born in Sep. 1799, probably in his parents' home on OMRd (south of #54, disappeared before 1858), and the next three children between July 1803 and Sep. 1810, probably in house at 54 OMRd.

Challenge regarding Dating: To determine construction date of old house at 54 Old Manchester Road, it must be researched together with the earlier, former house next south which had disappeared before 1858.

[Research 2019 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Feb 2023.]

Categories: circa1800 * SonBuiltHouseonFather'sHomestead * Life-lease 1806 & 1826 *

Dating house at **16 Old Milford Road** (tax lot 5/22-40; “A.A. Flint” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1787 by/for Ebenezer Wakefield (1753-1835), cordwainer formerly of Reading, Mass., who in 1787 bought newly-created 10-acre lot bounded on the west by “the highway that runs from Amherst Parish by Shepard’s mills to Wilton”, for 45 Pounds lawful money, from Joshua Atherton, Esq. (deed 34:247), who split the land off from his large homestead farm (dwelling house at 232 Boston Post Road). Ebenezer Wakefield was married at Reading in 1783 to Abigail Damon. Ebenezer sold this place (with 20 acres as 2 tracts) in 1799 for \$500 (deed 50:259).

More History: The next two owners, until 1820, were also shoemakers from Reading.

From 1834 until 1852, house with 60-acre farm was owned by three Dickey sisters, who were all single twenty-somethings when they bought for \$1200 and all married living in different towns when they sold for \$1700 (deeds 181:72 and 274:336). During this period the property was farmed by their father James Dickey (1772-1856) until the death of his wife, Mary nee Clark (1772-1852; married 1796), when he retired from farming and auctioned off his livestock, hay, 40 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of potatoes, farming equipment, and furniture (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 19 Aug. 1852; Oct. 1852).

From 1852 to 1865, the owner-occupant was Amos A. Flint (1827-1869), shoemaker turned farmer, who bought 62 acres “with buildings” for \$1700 (deed 274:336). The Flint family came here from Stoneham, Mass., but Amos was a resident of Reading when he married Catherine Carter (1826-1892; m. 1848) of Amherst, N.H. They arrived with 2 children (born in Stoneham) and 5 more were born to them here; and Catherine was expecting her eighth when they moved.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. July 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * RevolutionaryWarVet (Ebenezer Wakefield) *

Dating house at **25 Old Milford Road** (tax lot 5/25-3; “A. Hartwell” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date definitely before 1801 and likely before 1790, say circa 1785, by/for William Wakefield (1757-1826), yeoman (farmer), whose wife was Sally Hosea (married 1786 at Amherst). Wm Wakefield already lived here by 1801, when he is listed in this location in April 1801 tax invoice (*Amherst Town Records, volume 2*, p. 202) and subsequent years. Wm Wakefield probably lived in his own house already by 1790, because in 1790 census William is listed nearby his father Thomas Wakefield, each head of a separate household. There is no deed in the registry’s indexes whereby Wm Wakefield acquired this land, although there is a deed from April 1789 whereby William Wakefield of Amherst, yeoman, bought nearby 15-acre tract lying on west side of Old Milford Road (deed 28:555), opposite 10-acre lot owned since 1787 by his brother Ebenezer Wakefield (16 Old Milford Road; deed 34:247). William acquired his homestead by inheritance from his father, Thomas (see 1791 probate records of Hillsborough County).

Earlier/earliest Owner of Homestead: Thomas Wakefield (Jr., 1727-1791) had been married since 1750 to Dorcas Pratt (d. in Reading, 1802, aged 78). In Dec. 1753, Thomas Wakefield was a resident of Reading in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, when he bought a 63-acre lot in Souhegan West for 40 Pounds (Hillsborough County deed 34:227, recorded decades later, in July 1794). In the Dec. 1759 mega-quitclaim deed of the Masonian proprietors to Souhegan West proprietors, Thomas Wakefield “of said place” [Souhegan West] was granted “one first division Lott No. 84” (Masonian Proprietors’ Records Vol. 2, p. 124; reprinted *N.H. State Papers* Vol. 27, p. 69). Thomas’s house had disappeared before 1858 map; seems to have disappeared from this location as early as 1804 (judging by resident taxpayers listed in roughly geographical order in tax invoices); it is unknown whether Thomas’s house – or part of it – was annexed to William’s house after Thomas’s death in 1791. William’s invoice for “wild land & buildings” in 1801 was \$150 (p. 202), reduced to \$100 in 1804 (p. 210) and subsequent years, which was a normal amount for a single house.

William & Sally’s surviving adult children – sisters Nancy (b. 1793), Mary, and Sophia Wakefield – would grow up to be milliners in business together in Amherst Village in 1820s. Apparently they started with a shop in a room in their father’s house in 1819:

“Straw Bonnets. Mary Wakefield informs the Ladies of Amherst and its vicinity that she has commenced Manufacturing STRAW BONNETS. She has a handsome assortment made according to the latest fashions. Likewise, an assortment of fashionable ribbons. Bonnets altered and bleached at short notice. Ladies are

invited to call on her one mile from the Meeting-House on the county road leading from Amherst to Milford. Amherst, April 26, 1819.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 1 & 8 May 1819.)

The Misses Wakefield bought an empty lot in 1824 for their new house-cum-shop at 97 Boston Post Road. In 1826, shortly before his death, their father, William Wakefield sold his homestead of 60-acre farm with house on Old Milford Road for \$1050 (deed 148:322).

More History: Preservation consultant Elizabeth Durfee Hengen said the exterior looks like it dates from ca. mid-19th century with its “Greek Revival peaked entry surround” (“Amherst Town-wide Survey of Historical Resources” sponsored by Amherst Heritage Commission, 2009). If someone gussied-up and/or enlarged an 18th-century house with Greek Revival features, that probably was Amasa Hartwell (1807-1896), farmer and carpenter, who was owner-occupant from 1852-1865, living here with his wife, Mary nee Patch (married 1830 at Boston), and his widowed mother, Abigail. Amasa bought 45-acre “farm” plus 3-acre piece of meadowland for \$1400 (deed 275:146); and sold 50-acre farm plus two 3a parcels for \$2000 (deed 356:413).

The next owner, Timothy Holland Junior (1839-1911), an immigrant from Ireland, advertised the place:

“... There is a good variety of Plum and Apple Trees and Grapes on the place. The House is 2 story, has 9 rooms and convenient closets. The Barn is 36x40, with a good dry cellar. ... capable of supporting 8 cows and a horse.” (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 30 April 1868.)

More History: From 1868-1870, this house was owned & occupied by Civil War vet Calvin N. Washburn (1826-1906; b. Peterborough, d. Milford), farmer, who bought 50-acre farm plus 3 other nearby parcels for \$2300 (deed 375:386) and lived here briefly with wife Sarah nee Cragin (married 1855, died 1875).

More History: From 1895-1901, this house on its 50-acre farm was the country residence aka summer home of Dr. William C. Latimer (1848-1929; b. NH, d. NY), a physician of Brooklyn, N.Y., and his wife Columbia E. nee Brock (1861-1936; b. Conn; d. Florida; married 1892) who would have three young sons (born April 1893; Nov. 1898; and 1899) by the time they sold (purchase deed 549:24 in Dec. 1894 for \$2200; sold 609:9 in Feb. 1902). For the next three decades, the house would continue to be known as the Latimer place and in 1923, the local newspaper noted: “This place has been long deserted and for years was known as the “haunted house.”” (*Milford Cabinet*, 7 June 1923, p. 4.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Feb 2025.]

(For another history, see article entitled “The Thomas Wakefield Homestead” by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992) in Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H., circa 1985.)

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead * RevolutionaryWarVet (William Wakefield) * GreekRevival? * CivilWarVetOwner * SummerHome *

Dating house at 3 Old Mont Vernon Road (tax lot 7/81; “Mrs. L. Lampson” inside road fork on 1858 map):

House built circa 1850 (after Nov. 1847 and before 1850 census) by/for Levi Woodbury Lamson (1811-1856; married 1835 at Danvers when he was a resident of South Reading), a laborer and grandson of Amherst’s first settler, & his wife Elizabeth W. nee Fuller (d. after 1870), the wife having bought newly-created triangular “2”-acre lot for \$20 in Nov. 1847 (deed 247:378). In 1850 (census) the couple resided here with six children ranging in age from 13 to 2, but the first time either appeared in the list of resident taxpayers was 1851 when taxes were assessed to Levi on land valued \$24 and buildings valued \$100 – a small house. Widow Lamson resided here and owned until Oct. 1860 when she sold house for \$100 with “3” acres (deed 332:303).

More History: The house served as a summer home from 1927-1939 for the family of Dorothy (Lee) MacGillivray (1892-1988) of Everett, Mass. (deeds 866:288 and 997:170). Her husband Daniel J. MacGillivray Sr. was credit manager for a gas company and Dorothy worked as clerk in a bank (1930 census). By the time she sold, their two children had grown up (aged 18 and 17).

[Deed research by Jackie Marshall 2019; more research and text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * WomanOriginalOwner * SummerHome *

Dating house at 26 Old Mont Vernon Road (tax lot 7/74; “J. Bills” on 1858 map):

[PLACEHOLDER – research/write-up incomplete]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival *

Dating house at **6 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 3/62; “J. Cochran” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1788 by/for Ebenezer Taylor (Sr., 1761-1835), clothier, who bought the land in July 1788 (deed 20:423) and also built his fulling mill nearby on Beaver Brook. He married in 1791 Lucy Weston (1772/3-1834) and they raised 8 children here (3 other children died young). Ebenezer Taylor was a selectman 13 times/years between 1799-1814; and he was town treasurer in 1800-1804. When he died, his estate was about \$1000 in debt, so only the house on two acres was left for his children, the heirs, to split.

More History: In 1847, Roxanna H. Stiles (1822-1898), single woman, bought house on 2.5 acres + .75a near stone bridge for \$500 (deed 244:515) as a home for her parents, Lewis Stiles (1796-1875), shoemaker, & wife Eliza nee Hartwell (1798-1879). By 1850 (census) Roxanna resided in Manchester in a boarding house with other young single women, probably working in a textile mill because in Feb. 1853 she married Lorenzo Cutter (1821/2-1892) of Manchester, N.H., a mill overseer and widower with two young children (they divorced 1870). In March 1853 (deed 278:95), Mrs. Cutter sold this place with 5 acres for \$650 to another shoemaker, James Cochran (1829-1907), whose wife was Sarah Jane H. Barrett (1831-1912). It was owned & occupied by two generations of Cochran family until 1940.

[Research 2011 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; more added Jan. 2023.]

(See (1) “Historic Amherst: Fulling Mill & Saw Mill on Beaver Brook – One Mile Below the Common” by Katrina Holman in *Amherst Citizen*, Amherst, N.H., 8 November 2011, pages 4 and 15. Also, (2) “Historic Amherst: Roxanna H. (Stiles) Cutter, 19th Century Owner of Two Old Amherst Houses” by Katrina Holman in *Amherst Citizen*, N.H., 27 March 2012, pages 6 and 7.)

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Fulling Mill *

Dating house at **54 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 4/27; not on 1858 nor 1898 map; although in District 1, this lot was part of section of town called Ponemah, most of which lies in District 5):

House built 1898 by/for Herbert G. Upham (1874-1963), who was an unmarried resident of Merrimack in May 1898 when he bought 5 [sic] acres on the east side of “highway leading from Amherst [Village] to Amherst Station” (Amherst’s first railroad depot, previously called Ponemah Station, located in SW corner of Amherst) (deed 578:339, no mention of buildings). (Those 5 acres were split off from the farm of Frank E. Willoby (1855-1903; married 1888), formerly the Samuel Wilkins homestead, whose farmhouse was labeled “F. E. Willoughby” on 1898 map, located at NE corner of Ponemah & Merrimack Roads. Tax invoices confirm that Willoby’s farm was reduced from 125 acres in 1898 to 120 acres in 1899.) The local newspaper (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 June 1898, p. 5) reported in its AMHERST section: “Mr. Frank Willoby has sold recently, four acres of his land from his farm, in a southerly direction, on the Station road, to a Mr. Upham, who is about to erect a set of buildings there. He is to engage in hen culture, so says Dame Rumor.” Herbert did raise fowls here, but was only taxed on such livestock in his first & last years: taxed in 1899 on 20 fowls valued together at \$10 and in 1912 on 36 fowls valued together at \$27 (per tax invoices). His primary occupation was house painter & wallpaper hanger. In 1907, while occupying this house, Herbert George Upham married Edith M. Bickford at Conway, N.H. (In 1910, Upham built a paint shop in Amherst Village on the old hotel site, as the local newspaper, the *Milford Cabinet*, reported 17 March 1910, p. 4; which in 1912 tax invoice was assessed value of \$50. After selling this house, from Dec. 1912 to 1919, this Upham couple lived in Amherst Village; and then moved to Conway, where they died.)

More History: In December 1912, H. G. Upham sold the small farm with buildings to Daniel A. Warren (1857-1923; b. Boston; d. Vermont) of Vermont (deed 704:393), who in turn owned it & occupied it with his wife until 1916 (deed 741:284).

[Deed research by Jackie Marshall, 2011. Further research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2025.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **76 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 4/31; “Town Farm” = prior house on 1858 map; District 5):

Two-story house built 1894 by Town as replacement for pauper alms house that burned 1892 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 24 March 1898, p. 4, auction notice). The first occupants were Town Farm superintendent Watson B. Byrd (1849-1921) & wife Isabelle nee Severance (1855-1927) (per annual reports of Town of Amherst, N.H.).

More History: The first owner-occupant was farmer Frank A. Holbrook (1853-1938) with wife Marcia E. nee Davis (1852-1929), who bought house (“two-story house and ell with 16 large pleasant rooms, hardwood floors, hot water”) and barn and corn barn and hennery with 256 acres from Town at auction in 1898 (deed 578:331; *Farmers’ Cabinet* of Milford, N.H., 14 April 1898, p. 5) for \$5100. In 1899, Holbrook was also taxed on 3 horses worth \$180 altogether, 20 cows worth \$560, and 4 other neat stock worth \$80 (1899 Amherst tax invoice, District 5 residents).

Next owner, Alexis Rimbach nee MacRae (1872-1958) of Boston bought house on 205-acre farm together with farming tools and livestock in 1917 (*Milford Cabinet*, 3 May 1917, p. 6; deed 752:455) and with her husband Charles M. Rimbach (1879-1954) for a decade operated the house as Millex Inn with “a taste of real farm life,” also offering banquets and dinner dances in the expanded (1926) dining room (*Cabinet*, 29 July 1920, p. 5; 1 July 1926, p. 5). Mr. & Mrs. Ralph P. Currier (1886-1968) operated Millex Inn in 1931 and the following year the wife, Mary L. Currier nee Hunt (1884-1964; married 1911), bought the place (*Milford Cabinet*, 2 July 1931, p. 4; 24 Sep. 1931, p. 1; 31 March 1932, p. 5; deed 912:191).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2021; more added Jan. 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * SouheganRiverFarm * Almshouse * PoorFarm * PauperFarm * SummerBoardingHouse * Inn * Eatery *

Dating house at **102 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 2/112; “G. Danforth” next north of “Station” on 1858 map; District 5):

Main house built circa 1775 (possibly as early as 1770); the former train station aka passenger depot, built 1849, is attached in the back corner. In 1770, the house lot was created as 1 acre and 32 poles with 16 rods of frontage on the east side of the road, by/for Jonathan Lund of Monson, blacksmith, who paid 12 shillings (Hillsborough County deed 7:414); Lund added another acre on the opposite side of the road in 1781 for one pound (deed 7:415); and sold the 2-acre and 32-pole tract with buildings in July 1783 for 116 Pounds (deed 13:128). The next owner-occupant was John Blunt (1756-1836), a feltmaker = hatter, whose wife was Sarah nee Eames (1765-1858; married Oct. 1780); John’s father Isaac, a feltmaker of Andover, Mass., bought the property for him in Feb. 1790 for 100 pounds (deed 24:292) and John reimbursed his father in 1795 (deed 37:361). In 1817, John Blunt made a life-lease deal with a son for this homestead lot with his dwelling house and barn, plus 30a (deed 114:192) and the house stayed in the Blunt family until 1839 (deed 204:148).

More History: For the next five decades, the house was the home of “Major” George Danforth (1806-1893), farmer and teamster, and his wife Sarah/ “Sally” Melzer (married 1829; died 1882 aged 72), who would live here the rest of their lives, raising 5 children. It was George Danforth who in 1849 sold off a portion on the south end that became the train station lot (104 Ponemah Road) (deed 254:237) and the station initially was called Danforth’s Corner after his family.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Monson * Life-lease 1817 * RailroadPassengerDepot (also served as Post Office & telegraph office in later years) * Moved (back corner portion) *

Dating house at **104 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 2/111; “STATION” on 1858 map; neither RR station nor house on 1942 map by S. W. Seaman):

Railroad Station: From 1848 to 1945 this was the railroad station lot. Danforth’s Corner station on the Wilton Railroad line opened 1848 (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 26 Oct. 1848); renamed Amherst station in 1866; renamed Ponemah station on 1 Dec. 1900. Amherst’s first train station lot was created when George Danforth (1806-1893), owner-occupant of house at 102 Ponemah Road, sold 3 lots of land, altogether 3 1/8 acres, to the Wilton Railroad Company for \$362.50 in Feb. 1849 (deed 254:237). In 1850 the line was extended to Milford, in 1851 to Wilton. In 1867, the Amherst station lot was slightly enlarged when a small “triangular piece of land situated near the Depo[t] on the Wilton Rail Road now called the Amherst Station in Amherst” was split off from the lot adjoining on the south, 106 Ponemah Road, and sold to Nashua & Lowell Rail Road corporation for \$40 (deed 371:232). In 1881, a telegraph office was opened at Amherst station and the Danforth post office too, so station agent Charles H. Mackay became telegraph operator and postmaster as well. In 1935, Boston & Maine eliminated passenger service on the Wilton-Nashua line. (*Sleeping Town Awakens*, 1983, p. 100.) In 1945, Boston & Maine Railroad sold the property

to abutter Lawrence A. Fowle of Amherst (deed 1084:83).

House built 1948 by Lawrence A. Fowle (1901-1995), occupant-owner of 102 Ponemah Road from 1941-1952 (sale deed 1163:185), who in 1945 had bought adjoining 34,780-square-feet of former train depot lot (deed 1084:83) and moved the passenger depot building off the 104 lot onto 102 lot. The tax invoices pinpoint the year-built for this house because in 1946-1948 tax invoices of District 5 residents, Fowle's valuation of 1-acre "land bt of B&M RR" was \$200; but in 1949 tax invoice of District 5 residents, Fowle's valuation for the same property "& Buildings" jumped to \$2200. Fowle was a road building contractor.

More History: From 1952-2013, Arthur J. Goduti (1907-2001; buried Milford, N.H.) & wife Emma L. (Comperchio) Goduti (1911-2013, buried Riverside Cem., Milford, N.H.) were the occupant-owners (purchase deed 1327:453 with a covenant for a shared common driveway with #102; sale deed 8621:1459). Mr. Goduti, who had long worked in the printing industry in Massachusetts, with a partner started up a new business in the basement of this house with a small press to print pressure-sensitive labels. Soon Label Art of New Hampshire, Inc. moved to Milford where in 1966 it was called a "fast-growing, highly technical business" (*Milford Cabinet*, 8 Dec. 1966, p. 1); Label Art later moved to Wilton.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2024.]

Categories: RailroadPassengerDepot * 20th-century * Life-lease 1988 *

Dating house at 106 Ponemah Road (tax lot 2/110; unlabeled, south of Station, directly opposite "P. Duncklee" house on 1858 map):

Oldest part (back half) of house built unknown date, say circa 1800; whereas the Greek Revival front half was built c. 1840s-1860s. The older date is hard or impossible to ascertain because for decades this land belonged to homestead farm of tavern on opposite side of road at 107 Ponemah Road. However, in 1806 a "To Let" advertisement explicitly mentioned "small dwelling house and barn opposite the [late dwelling house of Levi Adams deceased who died 1805]" which is "well finished, has a good cellar, and is very convenient for a small family." (*Farmer's Cabinet*, Feb. 11 (p. 3) through April 8 (p. 3), 1806.) The lot was created in 1836 as one acre, split off from the tavern homestead by its owner, Jacob Danforth (1766-1851), for his unmarried daughter, Orpha Danforth (1800-1888), who paid \$300 for newly-created lot with existing building(s) (deed 189:186). (This was before railroad station was built on newly-created lot next north, now 104.) In 1861 Orpha sold the place for \$300 (deed 339:260) to an investor.

More History: In 1874, Laura E. Smith nee Allen (1843-1927; married 1870 at Lowell) of Milford bought land (less than an acre) with buildings for \$500 (deed 417:497). Her husband, Charles E. Smith (d. 1894 aged 48; buried West Street Cemetery at Milford) was a cooper until 1885 when he became railroad station master (and postmaster and telegraph operator there) (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 19 Dec. 1884). After Charles's death, their son, Harry E. Smith (1875-1940; married 1895), became RR station agent in his father's place (*Farmers' Cabinet*, Milford, N.H., 30 Aug. 1894); and Mrs. Laura E. Smith received official commission as postmistress at Amherst Station (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 1 Nov. 1894, p. 5). (Harry was replaced as RR station agent in Feb. 1898 and moved to Nashua, where he worked for the railroad as a brakeman in 1900 and conductor in 1910 (censuses), in all a career of 43 years with the railroad. (By 1910 widow Laura lived with her son's family in a rented house in Nashua. Harry died at Somerville, Mass.)

In 1991, the house and connected barn became Treasures Antiques Collectables store, as the place still is/was in 2023.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman; rev. Feb. 2023.]

Categories: circa1800 * 19th-century * GreekRevival *

Dating house at 107 Ponemah Road (tax lot 1/20-x, multiple condo units; "P. Duncklee" on 1858 map):

House built c. 1755 (perhaps) and c. 1795. In Sep. 1754 Archelaus Towne (1734-1779, born in Topsfield), a resident of Souhegan West, bought 59 acres in Monson for 59 Spanish milled dollars (Provincial N.H. deed 383). Towne commenced tavern-keeping on this site, when it belonged to town of Monson, soon after his first marriage in 1757, and the last 12 years (1758 to 1770) of Monson town meetings were held in his tavern. His house was still a tavern after this area was annexed to Amherst (granted tavern licenses

by new county court in 1771 & 1772). He sold in 1777 (deed 4:216) and the next owner-occupant, Darius Abbot (b. 1737) also obtained a tavern license (1777). Darius Abbot of Andover, in county of Essex in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, yeoman (and formerly also a housewright), who had sold his homestead in Andover in 1776, bought one third and his wife Mary (Holt) Abbot (married 1757) bought two thirds of 3 tracts of land in Amherst for 480 Pounds from A. Towne: 60-acre homestead with dwelling house + 58 acres of intervalle land on Souhegan River + 28-acre piece of pine land lying on highway from Amherst to Dunstable. Because the homestead land associated with this first tavern lay on both sides of the road, it could have stood on either side of the road. It is unknown what happened to this older house/tavern-inn; perhaps it was incorporated into the large replacement tavern building, perhaps not.

“About 1795 [David Danforth] erected the buildings near the railway station which were occupied as a tavern-stand for several years.” (So said historian Secomb, 1882, p. 556.) David Danforth (Jr., 1752-1827, b. Billerica) of Chelmsford, Mass., blacksmith, had bought the Abbot farm & buildings in 1785 (deed 15:116). Danforth became innholder/tavernkeeper (tavern licenses from 1793 to 1799 in *Amherst Town Records Volume 2*) and storekeeper. He was an enterprising businessman: when he sold in 1800 for \$4000 (deed 50:112), his business complex and homestead farm of more than 150 acres on both sides of the road included two dwelling houses, the main house with an attached store and a “small dwelling house” (probably #106 across the road), barns, blacksmith shop, and pot-ash (on present #108 lot). The next innholder/tavernkeeper and storekeeper here was Lt./Captain (militia rank) Levi Adams (1764-1805), formerly of Temple, who in 1802 bought the tavern-inn and farm and business complex with about 135 acres (deed 53:422, \$5333.33). His farm land comprised 1 acre of orchard, 5 acres tillage, 9 acres mowing land, and 16 acres pasturing land and for taxable livestock he had 2 horses, 4 oxen, 3 cows, and 6 one-year-old neat stock (1804 & 1805 Amherst tax invoices, *Amherst Town Records Volume 2*). Adams’s tenure was unfortunately accidentally brief as he died from a kick to the stomach by a horse, leaving his widow Lydia nee Farrar (d. 1845 aged 78) with six children, ranging in age from 15 to 3 years. Widow Adams leased the tavern for a few years (to licensed tavernkeeper Jonathan Foster), then carried it on herself for a few years until about 1810 (granted a year-long tavern license by Selectmen 1809). Lydia remarried in 1811 to Jacob Danforth (1766-1851), a brother of earlier owner David Danforth, as Jacob’s third wife, and they lived here until 1844; Jacob did not obtain tavern license.

More History: From 1849 until about 1980, the large house and large property was owned & occupied by five generations of the Duncklee-Boutell-Richardson family.

In 1867, Brooks Russell Came (1835-1914), who in 1859 had married Mary Ann Duncklee (b. 1840), and John Averill Boutelle (1838-1928), who in 1860 had married 18-year-old Chastina Burns Duncklee (1842-1917), together bought 105-acre farm – house on 75-acre homestead lot that bounded on both the Amherst Poor Farm and the Milford Poor Farm plus 30-acre parcel that also bounded on the Amherst Poor Farm – from their father-in law Porter Duncklee (1806-1884) for \$5000 (deed 368:295; mortgage for \$4000 368:297). Porter Duncklee and his wife Mary Ann nee Buxton (1808-1870; married 1828) continued to live here until their deaths. Meanwhile, Mssrs. Came and Boutelle in 1870 added rooms for summer boarders in the house and a portico or piazza (wrap-around porch) (*Farmers’ Cabinet*, 2 April 1870); presumably their wives managed the summer inn. The brothers-in-law were partners in lumber business and general farming until 1877 when Boutelle bought out Came’s share of this homestead (deed 438:279). The Boutelles’ only child, Carrie Lizzie (1865-1884), wife of RR station agent and Danforth Corner postmaster Charles H. Mackay (1859-1953), died at age 18, one day after giving birth to her first and only child, Lizzie Boutelle Mackay (1884-1966). John & Chastina raised their granddaughter in this house. In 1913, John A. Boutelle conveyed the homestead farm (75a + 30a) to his only grandchild, Lizzie (Mrs. Arthur C.) Richardson (married 1906) (deed 713:375); and two parcels lying on road from Danforth’s Corner to Nashua (including 18 5/8 acres which Boutelle had owned since 1898) to his grandson-in-law Arthur C. Richardson (1882-1977; buried Milford), a farmer (deed 713:374). Lizzie’s obituary said that she lived out all of her 82 years in this house. Of her five daughters and two sons, all but the last two were born in this house. Three of her daughters were married in the same front parlor as she. The last generation of that family to own were Elizabeth Miles nee Richardson (1916-2008; married

1941; buried Meadowview, Amherst) & husband Hibbert V. Miles (1914-2001), who subdivided and sold to developers.

(Sources: For tavern license by first county court see *Historical Sketch of the Hillsborough County Congresses, Held at Amherst (N.H.) 1774 & 1775 with other Revolutionary Records*, compiled by Edward D. Boylston, 1884, p. 44: At Oct. 117 term Archelaus Town was licensed at same time as Ephraim Hildreth [18 Jones Road in Village], Nathan Kindall [382 Boston Post Road], Hezekiah Lovejoy [302 Route 101], Capt. Robert Read [232 Boston Post Road], Jonathan Smith [3 Church Street in Village], and four other men. For genealogy of Capt. Archelaus Towne (1734-1779), see *An Account of Some Early Settlers of West Dunstable, Monson and Hollis*, N.H., by Charles S. Spaulding, 1915, p. 108. For establishment of post office at Amherst station and its postmaster, see *A Sleeping Town Awakens*, 1983, p. 76; also Secomb, p. 447; Mackay resigned Dec. 1884, reported in *Farmers' Cabinet*.)

Condominiums: In 1981, developer "Arthur Martin [of Hollis] received nonresidential site plan approval for converting the former Miles residence on Ponemah Road (Route 122) into professional office space. He had received a variance from the Board of Adjustment April 23. The exterior of the house will not be changed. It sits on a rural lot of under three acres. There will be 15 offices in the main house and an additional 15 to 20 as expansion is made into the ell and barn, Martin said. The building will be named "Amherst Station" Professional Offices, and there will be a 12-foot square sign." (*Cabinet*, 11 June 1981, p. 13.) In 1986, Condominium Office Space in "The Barn at Amherst Station" was being advertised for sale or for rent. N.B. Despite the name, neither this building nor this land were ever the train station which was at/on present-day 104 Ponemah Road lot.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; expanded May 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Monson * Tavern * Blacksmith Shop * Store * SummerBoardingHouse * Condos *

Dating house at 108 Ponemah Road (tax lot 2/109):

House built 1904 by/for Harry E. Heath (1870-1948), station agent/master of Amherst's Ponemah railroad station as well as postmaster and telegrapher since 1898 there, & wife Mary Whitcher Heath (d. 1955) who in May 1904 bought 4 acres on east side of "highway leading from Milford to Nashua" (which could also be designated the road leading from Amherst Village past the railroad station at Danforth's Corner to Hollis) (deed 627:369). "Harry Joslyn [of Milford] has the contract for building the two story cottage for Mr. Heath, station agent at Ponemah." (*Milford Cabinet*, 25 Aug. 1904, p. 5.) "Weston Brothers ... plastered a house for Joslyn & Goodale at Ponemah for Mr. Heath." (*Cabinet*, 1 Dec. 1904, p. 4.) Architecture: Prairie style.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 20th-century * Builder *

Dating house at 112 Ponemah Road (tax lot 2/107; "W. Peacock" on 1858 map):

House built unknown date before Jan. 1802, say circa 1800, by/for unknown owner. This land at NE corner of junction of Ponemah Road & Old Nashua Road belonged to the large property associated with the tavern at 107 Ponemah Road that belonged to David Danforth (Jr., 1752-1827, born in Billerica) from 1785 (deed 15:116) until he sold in 1800 to an investor, his cousin-once-removed Joseph Danforth (Sr., 1767-1805, b. & d. Billerica) of Billerica, Mass. (deed 50:112). Joseph Danforth sold the tavern with most – but not all! – of its associated land & buildings to the next inn/tavernkeeper in Jan. 1802 (deed 53:422). The first documented mention of this #112 house was in that Jan. 1802 deed, which split off a newly-created 6-acre parcel (including both today's 112 Ponemah Road & 4 Old Nashua Road lots), with a pre-existing "small house," from the tavern property.

More History: The first known owner-occupant, for brief period from 1814 to 1816, was Joseph Lakeman Jr. (1792-1871), an unmarried wheelwright born in Amherst, who bought "6" acres with a "small house thereon" for a total of \$200 from the heirs of Joseph Danforth (6 minor children by deed 99:232, 2 adult children by deed 99:229, and widow by deed 99:230).

In 1843, when the property was offered for sale by owner Joseph S. Bradbury (Sr., 1811-1880), the "small farm" "contain[ed] 11 acres of land; with a House 1 1/2 stories high, 17 by 40 feet; having 3 rooms on the first floor, with pantries, &c., and chambers above the same; a Shed 16 by 18 feet, attached to the house. Also, a good Barn, Cow Shed, &c." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Dec. 1843 [p. 4]; sold 1845 by deed 232:42.)

More History: In Jan. 1853, William Peacock (3d, 1796-1887), cooper, whose wife was "Fanny" nee Burnham (1800-1876; married 1822 at Milford), bought house at 112 Ponemah Road on 9a for \$700

(deed 275:496); which he sold in 1866 for same amount (deed 363:224).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman. Dating & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2023.]

Categories: circa1800 * Wheelwright Shop *

Dating house at **117 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 1/15; “H. A. Clark” on 1858 map):

Central-chimney cape house built 1799 by/for Timothy Danforth (1778-1855) as a newlywed, having married Mary “Polly” Nevins in 1798, on land purchased in March 1799, being 10 acres on west side of road to Hollis, split off from the homestead of his father, David Danforth (whose house-cum-tavern was at 107 Ponemah Road), along with 3 other parcels totaling 46 acres for \$305 (deeds 49:37 and 49:38). Tim sold the same in Dec. 1800 to his brother Jesse Danforth (1776-1826), blacksmith, whose wife was Sally nee Wheat (m. 1797), for \$650 (deed 49:38); although no buildings are mentioned in deed, this substantial dollar increase suggests a new house. By January 1805, there existed “a house and barn and blacksmith shop” on same acres (per mortgage deed 64:174, Danforth to Means). Jesse lost the property in 1814 (by which time six of ten children were still living) to foreclosure/ execution for failure to repay that \$600 mortgage. The next owner-occupant, Daniel Peacock (1776-1858; wife Elizabeth Foster), cooper, paid \$1000 for buildings on 48 acres (deed 103:315) in 1814; sold 1815.

More History: Horace A. Clark (c.1820-1873; married 1849 Nancy G. Gay), Ponemah railroad station agent for 18 years from 1854 until death, bought the place in 1857 for \$1700 (deed 309:504) and he and his son, Edward G. Clark (1851-1905; m. 1873), farmer, lived here the rest of their lives. They increased the farm’s acreage.

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. July 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Blacksmith Shop *

Dating house at **1 Ponemah Hill Road** (tax lot 1/9; on 1858 map of Town of Amherst, original house is labeled “W. Danforth” at NW corner of intersection (the present location); whereas current house before moved is labeled “J. Clark” in SE corner of Milford near Hollis corner-boundary, almost directly southwest of W. Danforth house; on 1906 map of Milford, both houses are shown in their respective original spots but not labeled):

The house now standing here was built in 1782, moved here in 1922 and set partly on a foundation from 1841 and partly new 20th-century foundation.

Former/First House: The house lot was created in 1841 when John Kendrick (1864-1874) of Boston, proprietor of a grocery store, bought a small parcel of about 1.5 acres with 16 rods of frontage on Ponemah Hill Road (its south bound) and 13 rods of frontage on Hollis Road (its east bound) for \$25 (deed 212:299), split off from the homestead of his brother-in-law John Ober (Jr., 1807-1867) who owned & occupied the house next west at 7 Ponemah Hill Road with his wife Rebecca nee Kendrick (1812-1898; m. 1834). The first house here was built 1841 to be the retirement home for their parents, Benjamin Kendrick (1779-1853) & his wife Rebecca nee Danforth (1789-1853; m. 1807), who did occupy it for their final dozen years, until their deaths. That original house was destroyed by fire in 1907 (*Milford Cabinet*, 6 June 1907, p. 1) when owned by Mrs. Lula Frances Nelson nee Pinkham (1872-1948; b. Wilton, N.H.; d. Amherst; buried Riverside Cem., Milford) (1903 purchase deed 636:531). The hired man, Mrs. Nelson and her two young children were home when the fire broke out, but her husband, Herbert A. Nelson (1867-1931; b. Brookline, N.H.; d. Nashua, buried Riverside Cem., Milford), “was absent in Boston, negotiating for a contract of teaming.” In Nov. 1914, Mrs. Nelson sold the place to Charles F. Nichols (wife Cora) of Amherst (deed 727:479, in which Ponemah Hill Road was called “highway leading from Ponemah Station [in Amherst] to the Ponemah Hotel [in Milford]”).

Older Replacement House Moved Here: A smaller version of the cape that forms the main part of the present house was moved to this site (according to local lore). The date of that move was 1922, deduced from the tax invoices. The valuation of the lot had been \$100 since the fire. In March 1919 Charles F. Nichols of Milford (who would die in this house in 1928) sold the property to his son Ernest F. Nichols (1883-1972) of Milford for \$100 (deed 790:290). In 1920 (census), Ernest F. Nichols lived on Federal Hill in Milford with wife & son, and worked as an engineer at a granite quarry. In 1921 and 1922 tax invoices of Amherst, Ernest was still a nonresident and this lot still valued \$100; whereas in 1923 Ernest and his wife Eva (nee Brousseau; married 1911; d. 1950) were both assessed the poll tax as residents of

Amherst and the “1-acre” “Nelson place” increased to a valuation of \$500. The house was sold out of the Nichols family in 1966.

Present House at Prior Location: The cape was built in 1782 – in the part of Hollis that formerly, until 1770, had been part of Monson and in 1794 would become part of newly-incorporated Town of Milford – by/for Joseph Hood (Sr., 1746-1795; b. Topsfield, Mass.; buried North Cemetery, Hollis, N.H. with gravestone that identifies him as “of Milford”) who was a resident of Topsfield when he bought 22.5-acre parcel for 60 Pounds in April 1782 (deed 11:294). Joseph Hood was a resident of Hollis in 1790 census; without moving, his widow Dorcas nee Hovey (b. 1749; married 1767 at Topsfield) was a resident of Milford in 1800 census. Widow Dorcas Hood sold the place, situate in Milford, for \$400 in June 1804 to two neighbors (deed 62:334).

From 1805 to 1852, the cape in SE corner of Milford was owned & occupied by farmer David Duncklee (still alive in 1850 census but his [2nd?] wife Lydia nee Lund, married 1821, died 1847 aged 77), who expanded the homestead farm to 33a, and next by his son Ebenezer P. Duncklee (1813/4-1869; b. Milford, N.H.; d. Wisconsin), probably born in this house (deeds 66:6 of 1805; 191:419 of 1836 which transferred ownership from father to son; and 271:380 of 1852).

From 1852 to 1857, the cape in SE corner of Milford was owned & occupied by Jacob Clark (wife Esther) (deeds 271:380 and 315:242), hence his name on map published in 1858.

From 1863 to 1903, the cape in SE corner of Milford was owned & occupied by Job W. Green (1832-1911; b. England; died Hudson, N.H.; buried West Street Cem., Milford), who bought the house on about 23a plus 3 other nearby parcels in Milford for \$500 (deeds 345:458). Job & wife Sarah nee Smith (also born in England) came from Lowell to Milford, where Job worked in textile mill.

(Sources: For genealogy of Joseph Hood, see *An Account of Some Early Settlers of West Dunstable, Monson and Hollis*, N.H. by Charles S. Spaulding, 1915, p. 94. For local lore about which house was moved here: Howard Locke (1883-1959) in his notes for house numbered Town 11 wrote: “House burned about 1910. House was rebuilt from the old Green Place in Hollis.” It was Russell Dickerman (1930-2024), restorer and longtime volunteer caretaker since 1998 of the J. Gould House museum at Monson Village, who identified the original location and researched the early owners of the present house.)

[Research March 2024 & text Aug. 2024 by Katrina Holman.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * RevolutionaryWarVet (Joseph Hood Sr.) * Moved *

Dating house at 7 Ponemah Hill Road (tax lot 1/10-1; “J. Ober” on 1858 map):

Two-story narrow house built after 1800, probably between 1805 and 1817.

In 1804, Aaron French (Jr., 1780-1817; b. Tewksbury; d. Amherst) of Merrimack, whose wife was Susannah nee Clark (married 1801), acquired 80-acre farm including 7 Ponemah Hill Road and 1 Ponemah Hill Road lots in exchange for life lease, committing to provide for [his probable father-in-law] Joshua Clark (Sr., d. Jan. 1806) & Joshua’s wife Susannah (d. April 1817, aged 74) and their “idiot” son for the rest of their lives (deeds 61:158; mortgage 61:160; bond 61:161). Maybe the French family lived in the “little old hut” of Joshua Clark (who had been a cordwainer=shoemaker in Tewksbury, Mass. in 1777 when he bought 116-acre tract in SW corner of Amherst by deed recorded 60:434 from which he immediately sold off 40a by deed 7:207) – but more likely Aaron French built this house. The assessed/taxable value of Aaron’s “wild land & buildings” was \$40 in 1805, then steadily increased, to \$60 in 1806 & 1807; \$80 in 1808-1810, and \$100 in 1811 (Amherst tax invoices in *Amherst Town Records vol. 2*, starting p. 212).

From 1818-1822, the next occupant-owner was William Brown “3d” (wife Hannah), cooper, who bought land at NW corner of Hollis Road & “road leading to David Duncklee’s” (now called Ponemah Hill Road) “with all the buildings thereon”, for \$760 (deeds 121:287; 121:286).

From 1822-1833, occupant-owner was Lummus Shepard (1786-1849), yeoman, who bought corner parcel for \$750 (deed 134:594). He appears to be in this location in 1830 census, in which inhabitants were enumerated in roughly geographical order.

In January 1834, John Ober (Jr., 1807-1867), cooper and yeoman, bought corner parcel for \$800 (deed 175:299; source for occupation as cooper from earlier deed for purchase of land in same neighborhood). A few months later, in July 1834, John Ober was married at Amherst, to Rebecca Kendrick (1812-1898),

and the couple lived out their lives in 7 Ponemah Hill Road house.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * Life-lease 1804 *

Dating house at **23 Ponemah Hill Road** (tax lot 1/2; “W. Hayden” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1773 (at the earliest) by/for David Duncklee (Sr., 1746-1826) & wife Phebe Odall (1750-1839; m. c. 1766). In 1773, this Duncklee, already a yeoman of Amherst, bought 32 acres, partly in Amherst and partly in Hollis, for 9 Pounds (deed 6:49) and 124 acres in Amherst for 49 Pounds 12 Shillings from a different grantor (deed 6:48); in 1774 he bought 6 more acres in Amherst, adjoining his other land, for 10 pounds from yet another grantor (deed 6:46); and in 1784 he bought 50 acres, partly in Amherst and partly in Hollis, for 48 Pounds from a fourth grantor (deed 12:215). When he died, the homestead was considered to be 131 acres lying partly in Amherst and partly in Hollis, and his estate also included a “pine plain lot” in Amherst and a 10-acre pasture in Milford.

[Research 2018 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 18th-century *

Dating house at **226(A) Route 101** (tax lot 8/1; “I. Wheeler” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1850 (after 1 April 1849 when he owned no buildings, per tax invoice) by/for Isaac Wheeler (1781-1870), carpenter, as his final homestead with his newlywed wife, Eliza nee Hildreth (1810-1901; married 1849), after selling his 175a farm at 5 Old Manchester Road in Jan. 1849 (deed 252:116). Wheeler pieced together his new homestead, starting with land on this side of the road that he retained in 1849; adding a 10-acre parcel that abutted on the west side in Nov. 1852 (deed 274:525); buying an adjoining 13-acre parcel further expanding westward in Jan. 1853 (deed 278:50) and another 19a in May 1859 (deed 322:449). Isaac built so many neat ornamental rock-lined terraces up the hillside in front of his house that the place was called “Rockland Cottage” and “Rockland Farm.” The Wheelers sold the place with 60 acres for \$3000 in 1869, which turned out to be the year prior to his death (*Farmers Cabinet*, 12 Aug. 1896; deed 383:26). It remained a farmhouse until 1893.

More History: This house was a summer home for decades, for two different families:

From 1894-1937, it was the summer home for Frank Arthur Smith (1854-1928, died in this house) of Lowell, a dealer or retail merchant in fine woolens associated with textile mill, & wife Efretta “Nettie” nee Roberts (1850-1922; m. 1882), who bought 45-acre place in her name for \$875 (deed 542:250), and increased property to 53a (1903 & 1912 tax invoices, District 10). It was inherited by their widowed daughter (b. 1874, widowed 1915) who continued to use it as a vacation place.

From 1937-1947, it was the summer home of Mary (Field) Jackson (1911-2000, married 1931) & Henry B.[Bigelow] Jackson (1906-1995) of Belmont, Mass., mathematics teacher at a private school. They added swimming pool and state-of-the art tennis court (*Milford Cabinet*, 21 Oct. 1937, p. 5), remodeled the barn adding huge field-stone fireplace, and built small barn. In 1940 (census) their household in Belmont included a caretaker and his wife who was their cook, a maid, and two nursemaids.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2021.]

(For more, see newspaper article “Historic Amherst: Amherst’s Man-Made Scenic Pond: Lasting Legacy of Frank A. Smith, Summer Resident” by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, January 2020, p. 4 & 8.)

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * Builder – Carpenter * SummerHome *

Dating **“Building 1” at 276 Route 101** (tax lot 8/3; District 10):

Building 1 was built 1925 as “wayside tea room” and convenience store with filling station at “cider mill corner” when lot was owned by Thomas W. Harvell (1876-1953), a local farmer who lived in a different district. 1926 was first year that Harvell assessed taxes on “Riverside store” and gasoline pump in District 10. The next owners, from 1927-1940, Will Robinson (1858-1940) & Son (Henry, 1903-1933), called the place Elmwood Filling Station (and sold cider here from their Elmwood Cider Mill nearby on Austin road). The senior couple, Will Robinson & wife Annie nee Adams (married 1899, died 1940), lived above the wayside store (*Milford Cabinet*, 20 Oct. 1927, p. 9).

Eatery: Began in 1925 as “wayside tea room.” In 1950 turned into 101 Snack Bar, offering sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, frappes, and sundaes (*Milford Cabinet*, 16 March 1950, p. 8) by proprietors Robert S. Gerard (1907-1989) & Helen G. Gerard, who had bought the store, filling station & cabins in 1945 and

owned & ran until 1956, usually closing their establishment during winter. In 1956 turned into restaurant by enlarging into a dining room by new owners Harold A. Moore (1908-1971) & wife Lillian Helen nee Bundy/Dame (1905-1981; m2. 1927), formerly of Mason (deed 1478:196; *Cabinet*, 11 Oct. 1956, p. 9; called restaurant in 1959 & 1961 tax invoices). April 1962 renamed White Way Restaurant by owner and chef Dennis Kois (*Cabinet*, 12 April 1962, p. 7; 1964 foreclosure deed 1752:227). 1964 renamed Blue Spruce Restaurant under new ownership (*Cabinet*, 5 March 1964, p. 7).

Motorist Cabins: Two original motorist overnight cabins survive in back. They may have been built by/for Will Robinson shortly before he sold in 1940 (when the place was “known as Elmwood Filling Station and Cabins” per deed 1004:501) or by the next proprietors, Paul Heesch (1896-1974) & wife Dorothea Heesch (1894-1972; m. 1918), owners from 1940-1944, who arrived with the intent to “build modern cabins” (*Milford Cabinet*, 26 Sep. 1940, p. 5) and called them Paul’s Cabins. There were 4 cabins total, 2 single and 2 double (per 1952 tax invoice, Gerard). In 1961, the Moores were still taxed on 4 cabins, as well as restaurant, on 4.3 acres.

Gas Station: It remained a Tydol (Tidewater Oil Company) gasoline filling station until at least 1953 (per tax invoices).

(Earlier History of Land: This lot in District 10 was part of 75-acre J. Upton farm 1857-1902 aka Lang farm 1910-1919 with house at 15 Austin Road (now gone) owned as a rental 1919-1927 by Thomas W. Harvell, farmer whose homestead was in District 9. Robinsons owned both Upton farm & gas station lot.) [Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Aug. 2022.]

Categories: 20th-century * Eatery * MotoristCabins * GasStation * Store * Commercial *

Dating house at **302 Route 101** (tax lot 8/37; “E. S. Gutterson” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1755 by/for Andrew Bixbe (b. 1723, Boxford, Mass.), yeoman and husbandman. He was one of the earliest settlers, having arrived in Souhegan West as early as 1745, but he bought this land in January 1753 (Provincial New Hampshire deed 53:386) as part of 60-acre First Division Lot 50, which lay east of the meetinghouse and a short distance NW of Baboosic Lake; and by 1766 had made his homestead here (Prov. deed 86:32, mortgage).

More History: In 1770, Hezekiah Lovejoy (Jr., 1729-1793), another early settler, having arrived by 1751, bought Lot 50 with buildings from Bixbe (Prov. deed 101:115) and kept a tavern on this site (licensed by court in 1771-1778), where Matthew Patten (1719-1795), Esq., a magistrate from Bedford, would stop on his way home from court sessions in Amherst for dinner or just a mug or half a bowl of toddy (between 1777 and 1785) and once, in 1783, also lodged at Capt. Lovejoy’s when caught in a snowstorm.

(Source for tavern licenses by/from new county court: *Historical Sketch of the Hillsborough County Congresses, Held at Amherst (N.H.) 1774 & 1775 with other Revolutionary Records*, compiled by Edward D. Boylston, 1884, p. 44, 47, 50, 53. Evidence for use as tavern from *The Diary of Matthew Patten of Bedford, NH, 1754-1788*, published by Town of Bedford, 1903, p. 370 for 1777 visit and p. 456, 471, 476 478, 487, 507 for 1783-5.)

For 84 years, from 1770 to 1854, this homestead – which in 1854 comprised 150 acres including the present 302 and 304 house lots and land on south side of the highway – was owned by three successive generations of Lovejoy, farmers.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * Tavern * Life-lease 1827 *

Dating house at **304 Route 101** (tax lot 8/45-1; “J. Avery” on 1858 map):

For original house & homestead, see 7 Saddle Hill Road below.

Dating house at **313 Route 101** (tax lot 8/73-2; no house at this site on 1853, 1892 maps, nor 1942 Seaman map. On 1953 map of Milford Quadrangle, Hillsborough County of New Hampshire, two side-by-side houses are shown in this vicinity on south side of Route 101, opposite 3 houses close together.) Oldest part of house was built unknown date, probably in 19th century, originating in Amherst Village where it was used as a carpentry workshop, before it was moved in 1928 to Old Manchester Road where it was converted to a summer cottage; and two decades later, in 1948, it was moved again, to newly-created lot on Route 101, and remodeled into a year-round house with a mid-20th-century foundation. The original house lot, created in 1948, consisted of 2 acres on south side of Route 101 (present lots 8/73-2 and 8/73-1 plus 0.23a that now is part of highway passing in front of these two lots). Those 2 acres were

probably the SE corner of the land associated with the 18th-century Hezekiah Lovejoy tavern standing at 302 Route 101 and, after subdivision, in 1854 became the SE corner of the 75a farm associated with 304 Route 101 ("J. Avery" on 1858 map). Roman Stanley (1892-1973; b. Poland), a carpenter, & wife Czeslava Maria Stanley nee Kozicinski (1903-1998), both formerly of Lynn, Mass., who since 1942 owned & occupied original old house at 304 Route 101, were the ones who deeded out 2 of the 75 acres (deed 1032:12; with mortgage of \$3000 for land with buildings, recorded 1211:65).

The first owner-occupants at this location on Route 101 were Boleslaw Szczechowicz (1908/1910-1951; b. Mass.) & wife, Irene Szczechowicz (deed 1211:22). They were from Lynn, Mass., where Boleslaw had worked in a tannery (1940 census) but here he worked in a cotton mill (1950 census). When the highway was widened/straightened, they lost 0.23 acre which they granted to the State of New Hampshire in 1951 (deed 1297:458). After the death of Boleslaw at age 42 from chronic myocarditis and alcoholism, widow Irene remarried, to Antoni Galinski and continued to live here until 1957 (deeds 1420:308; 1512:410). Edward H. Wilson & wife Florence E. Wilson bought #313 house in 1958 (deed 1547:326); the neighbor house on 8/73-1 was built in 1968 (for the Wilson's widowed daughter), but lot 73 wasn't split in half until 1975. The Wilsons sold #313 house in 1977 on lot reduced by half.

Earlier Locations:

Site 1: The earliest known location of the oldest portion of #313 house was/is 154 Amherst Street lot in the Village where the Hiram Leavitt House ("Miss Clagitt" on 1858 map) was built in 1825 and where it still stands, on a lot bounded on the west by Middle Street and on the east by Courthouse Road (originally part of the post road to Boston). In Feb. 1869 (deed 379:333), the Hiram Leavitt house was bought on half-acre lot by Henry M. Parker (1839-1927, b. & d. Amherst), a carpenter and maker of picture frames, handyman and odd-jobber, and janitor for the Town Hall (1886-1891), and policeman who assisted the sheriff in raids of illegal Irish grog shops in District 2 (1886-1891), who lived there until his death at age 87. (Henry's wife was Emma L. nee Twiss (d. 1932 at age 85).) It was Parker's "carpenter's shop" (described variously as standing "in the field north" on Middle Street and as being "west ell" of the house) that was sold to be moved off-site in 1928 by George Huntington (1862-1936; b. NY, d. Amherst, buried Indianapolis), a retired Episcopal clergyman and husband of the next/new owner of the Leavitt house & lot, Elizabeth (Ray) Huntington (1870-1959) (*Milford Cabinet*, 5 July 1928, p. 4; 16 July 1936, p. 4; 1959; 10 Dec. 1959, p. 5). It is unknown: (a) whether this was the very first location of the original structure; (b) whether it was stand-alone building or attached ell; and (c) whether it comprised one or two rooms and whether it already had a chimney.

The move was accomplished by Charles "Tink" Pherson (1860-1951; b. Sweden, d. Amherst), a blacksmith and wheelwright and lumberman with portable mill, whose house & shop were at 92 Boston Post Road in the Village.

Site 2: In the fall of 1928, Alfred Loring Lincoln (1869-1952; married 1895) of East Weymouth, Mass., arranged for the carpenter's shop of the late Henry M. Parker to be moved from the Village to 23 Old Manchester Road ("J. H. Hildreth" on 1858 map) to be turned into a summer cottage. The old house on 20 acres had been purchased in July 1928 by Lincoln's widowed sister Helen L. Baxter (1867-1931; b. Hingham, Mass.; d. Amherst, N.H.) of Hingham, Mass. (deed 880:100), intended as a summer home for herself and her three siblings. (*Milford Cabinet*, 16 Aug. 1928, p. 4; and 23 Aug. 1928, p. 4.) In 1934, Alfred became legal co-owner of the whole place with another sister, Mercy W. (Lincoln) Thayer (1847-1940; married 1880; widowed 1894) (deed 934:306). In 1953, after Alfred's death, this Old Manchester Road place was sold out of the Lincoln family; but in 1948, prior to his death, the cottage was moved off-site to a location further east on the road to Bedford & Manchester.

[Does anyone know what the cottage looked like at this location?]

Sources for 2 Moves: There are four articles in the local newspaper – published 1928, 1964, 1971, and 1984 – about the earliest known site of the oldest part of this #313 house & its use there, as well as its two moves:

[1] "The carpenter's shop on the Henry Parker place has been sold by the present owner, Rev. G. Huntington, to Mr. Lincoln, who purchased a farm of Percy Odell. The building was moved there by Charles Pherson and now stands on land formerly owned by Henry Parker's grandfather." (*Milford Cabinet*, 15 Nov. 1928, p. 4, AMHERST column.)

[2] ... An ell of the Stewart house is said to have been moved to Middle street and is now the Erik Brown house. And as we turn toward the Brown house we recall that a harness shop of sorts once stood in the field north and was moved to the Old Manchester road and was a summer house for Alfred Lincoln up above the old home, now the

Frederick Haigis house. This old building was purchased by Roman Stanley, moved down to the Horace Greeley highway and is the main part of the present Edward Wilson home. ... (*Milford Cabinet*, 30 July 1964)

[3] "The main part of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilson, Horace Greeley Highway, came originally from the village for it was a west ell to the Carl Doane house. The Rev. George Huntington had it moved from Middle street in the late 1920s by Tink Pherson to the Old Manchester road where it served as a summer house in the woods above the present Haigis house. Roman Stanley bought it from Alfred Lincoln about 20 years later and it moved again to its present location." ("More on Amherst Houses Moved from Original Locations", *Milford Cabinet*, 21 Jan. 1971, p. 7, Amherst section by Mrs. Dorothy Davis.)

[4] "Not only people move in Amherst, houses have been relocated also." By Dorothy Davis. "... About 55 years ago a back shed or ell of the old Huntington house now on Amherst street between Courthouse Road and Middle Street, was removed to the Old Manchester Road, high on a hill above what is now "Journey's End", to be converted into a summer house for a relative of Alfred Lincoln's. About 1949 it left to become a house at 315 [sic] Route 101. Over the years it has been pushed back as the highway was widened and additions were made to the rear and side." (*Milford Cabinet*, 20 Dec. 1984, p. 33.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. April 2025.]

Categories: 19th-century * Moved * Summerhome (in prior location) * 20th-century * Builder (possibly H. M. Parker of original form and R. Stanley of final or near-final form) *

Dating house at 348 Route 101 (tax lot 8/54; "T. Hartshorn" on 1858 map):

House built unknown date after 1760 by/for Moses Barron Jr. (1742-1797; married 1770), who was not yet a resident of Amherst in 1760 but resided in town by 1763 (signature on memorial), on land owned by his father Sr. (d. c. 1771), a resident of Bedford, which Junior inherited (probate petition Oct. 1772).

More History: In 1831, owner-occupant James Bell (1792-1864), "gentleman" (per deed) and farmer, offered at auction:

"... my homestead FARM, situated partly in Amherst and partly in Bedford, containing 200 acres of first rate land, with a large and commodious Dwelling-house, a new Barn 76 by 36 feet, Cider Mill, Grain-house, Blacksmith Shop, and other out-buildings, standing thereon, with a lead aqueduct, which affords a constant supply of excellent water for both the house and barn." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 17 Sep. 1831.)

In 1831, Timothy Hartshorn (1793-1868), yeoman=farmer, bought 200-acre farm, partly in Amherst and partly in Bedford, for \$3025 (deed 167:480), with a mortgage discharged 1843 (167:413), Harthorn called the place Hillside, and his adult children ran boarding schools here from 1859 to 1867. In Nov. 1859, Timothy's son Edward B. Hartshorn (c. 1830-1866) returned home from Illinois where he had been principal of an academy, and joined with his sister Hannah Jane Hartshorn (1828-1869) to make a private financial arrangement to take over the farm and run a "manual labor school" whereby students boarded and worked there to earn a tuition refund.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2021.]

(See "Historic Amherst: Hillside Manual Labor School: Amherst's Boarding School" by Katrina Holman, in *The Amherst Citizen*, Sep. 2019, p. 4 & 8.)

Categories: 18th-century * SonBuiltonLandfromFather * Life-lease 1826 * SchoolPrivate * SchoolBoarding *

Dating house at 40 Route 101A at NE corner of junction with Veterans Road (tax lot 2/90; no house here on 1858 nor 1892 maps nor 1908 Milford Quadrangle map nor 1942 Seaman map; however, there is a bldg likely a house here on 1953 Milford Quadrangle map in Ponemah section of Amherst):

Cape built unknown date (before 1970, likely 19th century) in Milford for unknown owner; the ell-part was original house on this site, built circa 1950 (mid-20th century) by/for Franklin B. Worcester (1925-1965).

Bank: It has been a bank branch since 1980 at the present location, first of Milford Cooperative Bank (bought 1979 by deed 2676:458; *Milford Cabinet*, 8 May 1980, p. 1 re: opening; photo of converted old cape in *Cabinet*, 15 May 1980, p. 18); which merged with Bank of New Hampshire; then merged with Bank North; and since 2008 is a TD Bank branch (headquartered in Canada).

Remodeling: The cape was "extensively remodeled" by Kokko Builders in 1979/80 to turn it into a bank, but it retained some old features such as so-called Indian (retractable) shutters at the 12-over-12 windows and a fireplace. In the 2000's it was remodeled even more (including for better insulation) and all but the upper and lower shutters on a single window disappeared as did the old staircase near the original front door and the fireplace and most plaster walls.

Creation of Lot: The present corner lot of about 2 acres was created in 1964 (deed 1785:348), split off from a 9-acre parcel of Frank Worcester that extended further south to just below the railroad tracks and further east (see Plan 866 dated 1954 in Registry of Deeds).

Moved in 1970: “Two Milford houses have been moved to make way for the by-pass. The Kolehmainen house, a classic old cape, was moved from Nashua street into Amherst, to the corner of Route 101A and Veterans road.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 16 July 1970, p. 12.)

“Still another house affected by the new highway was moved to Amherst from Milford by Arvo and Eunice Kolehmainen. Permit was dated May 25. This old cape was settled on route 101A near Veterans road. The small house already on the site was turned about to make the ell of the larger. This smaller building was owned by Frank Worcester and remodeled about 22 years ago by John Jackson.” (“Amherst Homes That Have Been Moved; Fourth Installment”, anonymous, *Milford Cabinet*, 25 Feb. 1971, p. 12.)

“BUILDING PERMITS REQUESTED [in Amherst]. ... Arvo and Eunice Kolehmainen to attach a portion of a building to structure on Veteran’s road and 101-A.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 21 May 1970, p. 3.)

From 1955-1964, John Joseph Jackson (1894-1964; b. Lithuania; 1917-’19 WW1 Army vet; died VA Hospital in Manchester), carpenter, & wife Phyllis J. (Curry) Jackson (1902-1973; married 1920) owned this land as part of larger property (having bought 9-acre lot from Franklin B. Worcester (1925-1965; WW2 Navy vet) in 1954 by deed 1384:131 and triangular tract with NW corner “on southerly side of dirt road leading from the Milford to Nashua highway,” from Howard & Shirley Parkhurst in 1955 by deed 1451:44).

From 1964-1979, Arvo A. Kolehmainen (1922-1991, born & buried Milford), WW2 vet, & Eunice B. Kolehmainen (nee Boutilier; 1921-2006; married 1943), husband & wife, formerly of Milford, owned & occupied much smaller parcel, having bought newly-created lot of 2.3 acres (with 663 feet frontage on “new” Route 101A and 220 feet “on southerly side of dirt road known as Veterans Road (now [1964] discontinued)” with buildings (bought by deed 1785:348). They moved the cape here in 1970; ran Cozy’s Corner Antiques here (*Milford Cabinet*, 15 March 1979, p. 4); and sold to a bank in 1979.

Road – “new” Route 101A: In 1970, the State of New Hampshire took land “for highway purposes” as described in “Sixth Emendation to Commissioners’ Return of Highway Layout Milford-Amherst [number] 1970” by “the commission appointed by Governor and Council on 17 Oct 1966, incident to the laying out of the highway in the Towns of Milford and Amherst” emending their Return of Layout dated 11 Feb. 1969. (11 pages recorded as deed 2088:201, which also names (on p. 9) 3 owners whose building had to be removed – possibly one of them was/is this cape – and how much each landowner was compensated for the “taking.”

Road: Veterans Road is actually quite old, shown on 1858 map, a connecting road extending from Stearns Road at its northern terminus southerly (with a bend) across the railroad tracks to Old Nashua Road. After the construction of Route 101A in 1970, the section south of the modern highway was discontinued.

[Research (as yet incomplete regarding the cape) & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2023]

Categories: 19th-century (perhaps) * Moved * Commercial *

Dating house at **7 Saddle Hill Road** (tax lot 45-5; “J. Avery” on 1858 map at prior location, 304 Route 101 = NE corner junction with Schoolhouse Road; District 2 until 1838, thereafter District 7): Cape with center chimney built circa 1825 (after 1820 census and before 1830 census, most likely in 1827) by/for William Howard Lovejoy (1799-1874, probably born in #302 house; m1. 1827), the third generation Lovejoy to own the homestead which encompassed both 302 & 304 Route 101 lots and land on both sides of the highway. In 1827 William was granted the 150-acre homestead as well as farming tools and livestock by his father, Jonathan Lovejoy (1762-1843), in exchange for Son giving his parents (every year for the rest of their lives) half of the produce raised on the farm, of which the grain was to be already threshed and cleaned, corn in the ear, potatoes dug and put into the cellar, cider put in casks and into the cellar; except for hops raised on the farm, of which one third was to be delivered to Pa “in the bag in merchantable order”; and Son keeping and tending well “two cows, two young creatures and four sheep, both summer and winter” for his parents’ sole benefit (deeds 153:46, 153:48, 153:346). Another condition of that 1827 life lease was that Wm allow his parents the occupation and use of the “whole of

the old house now on the farm” [presumably the one still standing at 302 Route 101] – which indicates that there must have been a ‘new’ house too [the one that at that time stood at 304 Route 101]. The 1830 census corroborates that there were two houses by listing Jonathan Lovejoy and his son William as two separate households, neighbors. As does the 1850 census which enumerates William H. Lovejoy, farmer, owning real estate with his family in one household, followed by [his mother] Olive Lovejoy, 87, owning no real estate yet head of her own household. In March 1854, just six months after the death of his widowed mother, William sold the 150-acre homestead out of the family for \$3000 (deed 286:225).
Challenge regarding Dating: To determine construction date of old house now standing at 7 Saddle Hill Road, it must be researched together with old house at 302 Route 101 (NW corner junction with Schoolhouse Road) because until 1854 both houses were part of same homestead.

Subdivision: In 1854, the next owner subdivided, separating the two houses: selling the *easterly* part of former Lovejoy farm as 75 acres including present-day 304 Route 101 house lot for \$1500 (deed 288:435); the *westerly* part of former Lovejoy farm as 53 acres including present-day 302 Route 101 house lot for \$500 (deed 291:71); and the *northerly* part as a separate 25-acre parcel for \$650 (291:39). In 1953 (not long after Route 101 had been widened), after residing in this old house for a little over a decade, Roman Stanley (1892-1973; b. Poland) & wife Czeslava Maria Stanley nee Kozicinski (1903-1998, b. Mass. of Polish immigrant parents), formerly of Lynn, Mass., turned their land on north and south sides of highway into separate lots. They sold the #304 old house with land on *north* side of Route 101 (deed 1374:270; no acreage specified but there were about 50 acres left from the former Lovejoy farm with this old house plus an adjoining 40-acre parcel). (The Romans then moved across the highway into their newly-built house on the south side of Route 101 on 19 acres (which is now 303 Route 101 or lot 8-75, a 13-acre parcel that contains the ranch house built in 1954 and the Lutheran church built in 2003).)

In 1972/3, lot 45-1 was created as 2.03 acres with the William H. Lovejoy House.

Moved: In 1989, the old William H. Lovejoy house and shed (small barn) were moved from Lot 45-1 to 7 Saddle Hill Road (lot 45-7) by firm of Ann Colby Hines. (*Milford (N.H.) Cabinet*, 26 July 1989, p. 16 with 2 photos!: “Taking Everything, Including the Kitchen Sink” – tells about moving whole house except foundation and chimney 2/10th of mile.)

Housing Development: The remaining 87.7 acres lying on the north side of Route 101 and east side of Schoolhouse Road were sold ten years later, in 1983, to the developer of Saddle Hill Road development. However, the SE corner of the Saddle Hill development, including most of lot 8-45-5 (7 Saddle Hill Road), came from 14-acre northwesterly portion of Wallace-Dunn farm aka Ruiter place.)

[Research 2019 & text by Katrina Holman, rev. May 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead * Life-lease 1827 * CivilWarVetOwner * Moved *

Dating house at **16 Schoolhouse Road** (tax lot 8/36; “S. H.” on 1858 and 1892 maps):

House built 1857 as Schoolhouse No. 7, later known as Greeley School, on new site – 20x25 feet “with blinds, ante-rooms, and play ground” – at cost of \$660 including \$15 for lot with 12 rods frontage split from Eli Gutterson’s pasture (1858 deed 323:525; School District 7 record book; annual town report). Final closure as school 1930.

More History: School Board sold 1933 with half acre for \$210 to Miss Bertha L. Piper, long-time teacher in Amherst (*Milford Cabinet*, 4 May 1933; deed 920:414). She sold it 1943 to Robert Michie (deed 1051:129), who made it his family’s home.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 19th-century * Schoolhouse *

Dating house at **57 Seaverns Bridge Road** (tax lot 2/177; “E. Merrill” on 1858 map; District 12):

Cape house with center chimney built circa 1790 (possibly as early as 1786) by/for Josiah Coburn (1760-1835; married 1784), cordwainer =shoemaker, who in 1786, when he was a resident of Merrimack, bought 10 acres partly in Amherst & partly in Merrimack (deed 18:187) – which was the creation of his house lot on the east side of road although road is not mentioned in deed. In 1796 Josiah Coburn, a

resident of Amherst, enlarged his homestead by 21 acres in Amherst on west side of road now called Seaverns Bridge Road (deed 48:484). Coburn sold in 1799 as (1) 10a + (2) 21a for \$400 (deed 49:58).

More History: In 1858, Letitia Maria Barry/Berry nee Smithwick (b. Ireland; d. 1895 aged 74), wife of James Barry (b. Ireland; d. 1889 aged 70), farmer, whom she married 1853 in Lowell, divorced 1879 in Amherst due to his alleged habitual drunkenness, yet is buried with side-by-side gravestones in Nashua – bought 100-acre farm mostly in Amherst & partly in Merrimack, conveyed to her for her sole and separate use, free from the control of her husband, for \$1230 (deed 320:469). Taxed by Amherst on 97 acres. Her son and brother helped her continue the farm after her ex-husband left (see 1880 census). In 1891, Letitia M. Berry of Nashua, “widow”, sold for \$1130 (deed 513:270).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2022.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Life-lease 1847 * IrishImmigrants *

Dating house at **92 Seaverns Bridge Road** (tax lot 4/61; “L. Kendall” on 1858 map):

Cape house with center chimney built circa 1800 or circa 1795 (before 1800 census). (To sort out dating for this house, it must be researched together with 94 Seaverns Bridge Road.) James Gilmore Jr. (wife “Mercy,” likely Mary Wilson of Merrimack; married 1791) was the occupant in 1800 census (but not yet in 1790 census), however not until 1809 did he become owner of the land which he received in gift from his father, Sr., “in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have for my son as also the better maintenance support and livelihood of him the said James Gilmore Junior” and in lieu of his future inheritance, as 5 tracts of land split off from westerly end of Sr.’s homestead farm and comprising land partly in Amherst, bounding on southerly bank of Souhegan River, and partly in Merrimack (deed 81:519). (This might be an example of Son building house on Pa’s land and Pa subsequently deeding land to Son.) Jr. and Sr. were listed as separate heads of households in 1800 census and living next to each other in 1801 tax invoice (*Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*).

Remodeling: As of 1960, the “house was a 1½ story pitch roof cape with its front door centered on the gable end facing the road. Inside were five small rooms on the ground floor and two above reached by a staircase near the front door. There was a small cellar under the eastern end of the house. ... [T]he original kitchen fireplace was in the room facing north and had been taken out about 1932. ... An old threshold was found [during 1960s remodeling] in the west wall so a door was there at one time.”

Remodeled by Donaheys who purchased in July 1961 and “put a 1½ story ell on the west side of the house in 1962 [which] contains 2 bedrooms, a laundry room, breezeway and garage.” They also moved the stairs to the 2nd floor from the east end of the house to the south side. “The east ell went on in 1966, thus enlarging the living room.” (“James Gilmore Jr. House on Seavern’s Bridge Rd. at Gilmore’s Corner” by Priscilla Donahey, Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, Feb. 1977.)

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2022.]

Housing Development: Arrow Lane.

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead (maybe) * SouheganRiverFarm *

Dating house at **94 Seaverns Bridge Road** (tax lot 4/60-16; “A.[Aaron] B.[urleigh] Wood[w]ard” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1770 (1765 at the earliest) by/for James Gilmore (Sr.), who was a resident of Pelham in 1765 when he bought 86 acres – 84 acres in Monson and 2 acres in Merrimack – bounding on southern bank of Souhegan River, from Elias Hassell (wife Sarah) of Monson for 35 Pounds (Provincial New Hampshire deed 79:64 bottom; online Rockingham County registry of deeds although grantor is incorrectly indexed). Gilmore had become a resident of Monson by 1770 when he bought an abutting large tract of land in Merrimack, bounded north 176 rods on the south bank of Souhegan River (Provincial N.H. deed 97:375). (1770 was the year that this part of Monson was annexed to Amherst; Souhegan West and therefor the Town of Amherst as originally incorporated did not include any land lying south of the river.)

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, June 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Monson * SouheganRiverFarm * Life-lease 1796 & 1797 & 1811 *

Dating house at **1 Smith Lane** (tax lot 3/29; “W. Ried” = Wilder Reed on 1858 map):

Cape house built unknown date, possibly as early as 1747, say circa 1750, probably by/for Benjamin Wilkins (wife Lydia). This Wilkins was already a resident of Souhegan West in Jan. 1748 when he wrote petition to Masonian Proprietors (Masonian Papers, Vol. 5, p. 40; reprinted in *NH State Papers* Vol. 27, p. 65); Benj. Wilkins was granted his land (“one full share”) in 1759 mega-quitclaim (Masonian Proprietors’ Records Vol. 2, p. 124; reprinted *N.H. State Papers* Vol. 27, p. 70). Although purchase deed could not be found, Benj. Wilkins is shown as owning THIS land in southwest part of township in 1755 (mentioned as abutter in Hillsborough County deed 12:321, Everden to Smith). In 1763, Benjamin Wilkins sold 120-acre farm with “house on the premises” to Moses Towne (Provincial N.H. deed 67:526).

[Research by Jackie Marshall (JLSM); text and dating by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape *

Dating house at **47 Spring Road** (tax lot 6/104-5; “J. D. Brown” on opposite side of road on 1858 map; District 10 changed in 1864 to District 6):

House built 1848 *IF* it is the same one that was built on NORTH side of road and moved a couple of decades later to present site on SOUTH side of road; OR, if originally built here on SOUTH side, then built circa 1870.

Challenge regarding Dating: The parcels on opposite sides of road must be researched together; when not owned by same person, the different owners were often related (family members). And notice which owners were not occupants.

North Side of Road: A house was built on north side of Spring Road in 1848 by/for John Dalton Brown (1818-1879; married to Mary Jane Buttrick (1828-1903) Dec. 1849), who bought 2 parcels – (1) 40 acres & 66 square rods on the northerly side of the road and (2) 9 acres & 33 square rods on southerly side of same road – for \$510 (deed 220:45, no mention of bldgs) and was first taxed on land in 1843, but not on buildings until 1849. Brown moved to Mont Vernon around 1865, and in 1867 sold his former homestead as (1) 9a with buildings on northerly side of road and (2) 9a & 33 square rods on southerly side of road together for \$350 (deed 371:435); also in 1867, widow Tabatha Brown sold abutting 2a with barn on south side for \$50 (deed 371:434). In 1869 there were still “buildings” on 9-acre north side lot (387:148, Barrett to Phelps, \$350) but by 1873 the house had been removed from north side of road (deed 412:505, Phelps to Meserve, \$90) although the deed does not say whereto.

South Side of Road: Meanwhile, in 1868 Samuel E. Staples (1834-1917), who lived at 66 Spring Rd, bought 12a on SOUTH side for \$150 (deed 380:3), for which William Rogers Stackpole (1843-1896), blacksmith, began paying taxes in District 6 as early as 1872; in 1875 his wife, Olive A. Stackpole nee Howes (1841-1926; b. Maine, d. Bradford, N.H.) bought that 12a lot for \$250 (422:295), which she sold in 1880 for \$400 (466:528).

[Research (July 2023) & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Dec. 2024.]

Categories: 19th-century * Moved *

Dating house at **86 Spring Road** (tax lot 4/152; “P. Carlton” on 1858 map; District 10, then 6):

Cape house built circa 1795 by/for John Clark (died 1814), who in Oct. 1793 bought two parcels – 12.25a & 10a, both on easterly side of highway – from [his father] Timothy Clark for 20 Pounds (deed 60:193, no mention of buildings). John Clark appears in 1800 census of Amherst as head of household. John Clark resided in this location in 1801 judging by the earliest individual tax invoices (*Amherst Town Records volume 2*, p. 201).

More History: The next owner-occupant was Peter Carlton (1806-1859; b. Merrimack, d. Amherst aged 52 of consumption), “gentleman” of Cambridge, Mass. (per purchase deed 188:450), who in 1836 bought 9 acres “with the buildings thereon” on “north side of road leading from Court house to house of Calvin Clark,” bounded on west by “road leading to the house of Lemuel Blood,” for \$100 from widow Susan Emerson of Lowell, Mass. (presumed heir of John Clark; see 1835 deed 183:325). Carlton enlarged the farm; at the time of his death it comprised 88 acres. In 1840, Carlton was taxed on 1 horse valued \$39; 2 oxen together worth \$66; 1 cow \$18; 4 neat stock \$60, and 5 sheep \$8. The maximum number of taxable bovines he had was 11 in 1853.

Peter's wife was Sarah/ "Sally" nee Fields (1810-1890; married 1834 at Cambridge, Mass.) of Merrimack and they raised four children. Peter's son-in-law John Hadlock (1827-1913, b. Hudson; buried Amherst), farmer, took over the farm. Hadlock's wife (married Nov. 1857 at Nashua) was Sarah Elizabeth nee Carlton (1835-1892; b. Cambridge, Mass.; died Milford; buried Amherst). They sold the farm in 1867. From 1867-1890, John H. Upham (1835-1907; b. Amherst, d. Merrimack, buried Cricket Corner Cem.) owned & occupied this farm, having bought 9a with house plus 2 other parcels, probably totaling 75a, for \$2500 (deed 371:78). John H. Upham grew up at 2 Upham Rd; was pedlar at age 24 in 1860 but already a farmer by age 27; and was married in April 1862 to Catherine E. Coburn (1840-1911), with whom he raised three sons. Upham sold the farm with 115a for \$2200 (deed 508:290) to Wm W. Goodale (1863-1941) who would own & occupy this house & farm until 1909, selling the place as 65a.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, July 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * SonBultonLandfromFather *

Dating house at **98 Spring Road** (tax lot 4/155-1; "C. Converse" on 1858 map near Merrimack townline; District 6):

House said to have been built 1848 (a date which fits its Greek Revival style), by/for Charles Convers(e) (1817-1891), farmer, although in October 1843 there were already "buildings" on site when he, as a resident of Merrimack, bought the 75-acre parcel for \$1150 (deed 222:215). Charles was newlywed having been married in April 1843 to Elizabeth Fuller (1818-1875), and their five children were born and raised here.

The house was owned & occupied by three generations of this Converse family until 1978.

In Feb. 1884, Charles sold the homestead – of about 82 acres (based on references to prior deeds) – for \$3000 (deed 473:554) to his youngest son, Robert Converse (1852-1939), who had been a farm laborer on the home farm until then and would become farmer and lumber dealer. The transfer of ownership was in preparation for Robert's marriage in April 1884 at age 31, to Mary E. Noyes (1854-1928) of Derry, a 29-year-old teacher. They would have one surviving child, Helen E. Converse (1887-1979), who never married, worked as a music/piano teacher, and lived here until shortly before the end of her long life.

(Note regarding Dating: Howard Locke (1883-1959), not a reliable source but sometimes correct, in his notes for this house numbered Town 67 wrote: "Charles Converse built this house about 1850. ... old house few feet east of present house." "1848" was the "year built" entered when the Town's property tax cards were first computerized, likely selected by Miss Helen Converse.)

[Potential Further Research – as to who was first owner-occupant on site: The first Converse bought from Timothy Hodgman (wife Charlotte).]

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, July 2023.]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival *

Dating house at **99 Spring Road** (tax lot 4/160; "J. York" on 1858 map near sawmill and mill pond; District 10, later 6):

House built unknown date, say circa 1850 or 1855 (if the ell is older, it could be circa 1835 or 1840), for an unknown owner. The owner of this land and the nearby mill and probably this house, possibly as early as 1835 but certainly in 1840s until 1855, was David Fisk (1792-1873, Jr. but called "3d" because a cousin of same name was a tad older; promoted to "2d" upon father's 1843 death) (although from 1818-1860 this Fisk owned & occupied farm with house at 116 Spring Road with his wife Harriet N.). The likely occupant here from 1840-1851 (location deduced from 1850 census, range of residency years from tax invoices) was Samuel Woodward (1805-1882; buried Lyman Township Cem., Illinois), grain miller, & wife Eunice nee Clark (1803-1885; married 1830 at Amherst; died & buried Illinois) with 5 children. (Samuel Woodward had owned 100 Baboosic Lake Road from 1830-'35, lost to foreclosure and left town for a few years before returning, but never again owned real estate in Amherst.)

The first owner-occupant was John York (b. Maine; died 1876 at Nashua) of Merrimack, who in 1855 bought 29 acres at SW corner of Spring Road junction with Thornton Ferry Rd2, for \$1700 (deed 299:140) – presumably with dwelling house & mill although deed did not say so, but deed did convey "right to flow [Fisk's] land lying southerly of the [granted land] at all seasons of the year and as high as he [York] pleases on to said land" which is obviously a privilege important for a mill. From 1855 to 1856 tax invoice, Fisk's valuation of "buildings" was reduced significantly (by \$226) while in York's first tax

invoice (April 1856), the valuation for his buildings was \$326. The mill was valued separately from “buildings” and “land,” and assessed taxes on the mill did migrate from Fisk’s invoice (on valuation of \$500) to York’s invoice (\$600). In 1857, York expanded his property to the east toward the nearby Merrimack townline by 12 acres bought for \$204 from his neighbor Peter Carlton (deed 310:475). John York’s wife was Melinda nee Burroughs (1818-1891; d. Nashua); in 1860 (census), his middle child and eldest son, John W. York, at age 15 was already a mill laborer, no doubt helping his miller Pa in the family business. John York in Feb. 1866 sold his 29-acre farm with buildings and adjoining 12-acre parcel for \$2000 (deed 361:249).

More History: From 1866-1899, this house with 39 acres and the mill were owned by Isaiah S. [Sherburne] Berry (1840-1899), who came here from Pittsfield, N.H.. With his wife Carrie N. (Danielson) Berry (1838-1910; b. Newburyport, Mass.; died Milford; buried Amherst), to whom he was married May 1858, he raised two sons here. Although I. S. Berry ran the mill, his primary occupation was farmer (per 1870 & 1880 censuses). In 1899, when the house was sold (deed 589:556), the mill lot was split off and sold to Robert (2/3) & Luther B. (1/3) Converse (deeds 588:251 & 599:180; *Farmers’ Cabinet*, 28 Sep. 1899, p. [4]).

[Research July 2023 & text Feb. 2024 by Katrina Holman.]

Categories: 19th-century * GreekRevival * Mill * CivilWarVetOwner (Bliss, altho technically wife was owner) *

Dating house at **116 Spring Road (formerly 102 Spring Road)** (tax lot 5/157; “D. Fisk” near Merrimack townline on 1858 map):

Cape house with center chimney built unknown date in 18th century, say c. 1780, by/for unknown owner. Taking the deed chain all the way back to 1748, the most probable first owner-occupant of a dwelling house here appears to be one Eleazer Cole (wife Lucy), husbandman (farmer) who was already a resident of Amherst but had never before purchased land in Hillsborough County, when in July 1781 he bought a newly-created farm of 50 acres for 400 silver dollars from a nonresident landowner (deed 9:408). In 1786, Cole sold his farm to an investor, a resident of Merrimack (deed 16:309; see also 17:105 and 17:438).

More History: In June 1799, David Fisk (Sr., 1757-1843; married 1786) of Bedford, N.H., cordwainer, purchased 50 acres, the tract’s SW corner being at “rode that leadeth crost the plane,” for \$260 from Joseph Eayrs of Merrimack, husbandman (deed 49:83, no mention of buildings). The farm was owned by two generations of Fisk until 1860 when sold as 55-acre home farm, partly in Amherst and partly in Merrimack, having a dwelling house & sheds & barn & outbuildings, for \$1700 (deed 329:69). (David Sr.’s son David (1792-1873) was called 3d – rather than Jr. as we would – because he had a cousin of same name who was a smidge older. When Pa died, his son David was promoted to “2d”).

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. Jan. 2023.]

(For more history, see “The Luther B. Converse Homestead” article by H. T. Converse, in newsletter of Historical Society, June 1969, about “last farm in Amherst on ... Spring Road” owned by author’s father, Luther B. Converse, from 1876 until his death 1923. Also mentions nearby Schoolhouse still standing during author’s boyhood. Also, deed chain – back as far as 1799 purchase by Fisk – by Charles “Chuck” L. Bacon (1924-1992) of Historical Society of Amherst, undated but during time house was owned by Ackley.)

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * RevolutionaryWarVet (D. Fisk Sr.) *

Dating house at **44 Stearns Road** (tax lot 2/126; “F. Wright” on 1858 map; District 5):

Cape house built circa 1751 by/for Isaac Farwell, yeoman and resident of Monson in Province of New Hampshire, who in April 1751 bought 100a in Monson on the south bank of Souhegan River (“part of farm called 700 acres granted at a general court held at Boston [in] 1660 to John Wilson Sen’r,” [first pastor of Boston]) for 100 Pounds new tenor from Samuel Lamson of Souhegan West [famed earliest settler who resided at 244 Boston Post Road on a homestead of at least 200a] (Provincial N.H. deed 51:224; online at Rockingham County registry). There is evidence that Farwell resided on this farm by May 1755 (Prov. N.H. deed 51:223). In September 1756, Farwell sold “farm I now live on” with buildings for 500 Pounds new tenor to an investor, resident of Litchfield (Prov. N.H. deed 51:220).

More History: This land became part of Amherst in 1770.

More History: From 1847-1949, three generations of Wright owned & occupied this house & farm.

The first was Francis Wright (1798-1883; m. 1821) who paid \$2400 for the farm (deeds 240:528 and 247:324), and occupied with his wife Lucy nee Scripture (d. 1875 aged 82). In 1873, their son Charles F. Wright (1826-1900) returned to this farm as a dairy farmer, having made a life-lease arrangement with his father (bond deed 471:5), whereby Son would gain possession of the farm upon Father's death, so long as Son managed the farm well and allowed the parents to remain in their home, providing them with food, drink, clothes, medical care as needed, and when the end came, would give them a decent burial and erect a suitable grave monument. C.F.W. had a wife, Mary Adaline nee Bartlett (1827-1921; m. age 18) and 5 children. Their only son, Charles A. Wright (1865-1949, b. Amherst, buried Milford), inherited the place as the third generation to farm here. However, the following year he was married to Harriet F. Burnham (1864-1936), proud great-great-granddaughter of Capt. Josiah Crosby, who owned a house on Souhegan Street in Milford and that became their main house/home. He sold this cape house with 123 acres shortly before his death.

[Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020; updated Jan. 2023.]

(For another history, see article entitled "The Benjamin Shepard Homestead at 44 Stearns Road" by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992) in Newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, Dec. 1986.)

Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * Monson * SouheganRiverFarm * Life-lease 1873 *

Dating house at **34 Thornton Ferry Road1** (tax lot 6/110; "D. Low" on 1858 map; District 1): Cape house built unknown early date before 1771 and possibly as early as 1750, say circa 1760, by/for Joseph Ellinwood (born 1723 in Beverly, Mass.), bricklayer, who was among the earliest settlers of Souhegan West. Joseph's land was nearly surrounded by land owned by his father and two brothers. (The Ellinwood patriarch and his sons owned all the land in Amherst Village south of the militia training field (Village Common) before 1759. For their early ownership, see letter by Ebenezer Ellinwood to Masonian Proprietors in *New Hampshire State Papers, Volume 27*, page 64; Jan. 1748 petition of 27 inhabitants of Souhegan West including Joseph Ellinwood, page 65; and "Joseph Ellenwood of said Souhegan a second division Lott No. 8" as part of Dec. 1759 Masonian mega-quitclaim deed, p. 71. The house of Joseph's father, Ebenezer Ellinwood Sr. (1697-after1770) whose wife was Sarah nee Tuck (married 1719 in Beverly), and Joseph's brother Rolandson was at or near 24 Courthouse Road. The house of Joseph's brother Ebenezer Jr. (1719-c.1791), whose wife was Esther Hibbard, was/is at 41 Courthouse Road.) All of these Ellinwood men were brickmakers/bricklayers, so presumably Amherst's earliest chimneys and fireplaces were their handiwork.) The genealogy (based on research by Jackie Marshall): Joseph Ellinwood/Ellenwood (b. 1723 in Beverly; d. after 1773 and bef 1786 in Lyndeborough), son of Ebenezer (Sr.) & Esther, was married first to Abigail Lamson, daughter of Samuel Lamson & Abigail Bryant, and their first child was born 1746 at Souhegan West but died young; and was married second to Sarah, who had 10 children born in Souhegan West/Amherst between Oct. 1753 and April 1772 and an 11th child, Ebenezer, was born Dec. 1774 in Lyndeborough.

More History: In 1771, John Tuck (wife Mary) of Manchester in County of Essex & Province of Massachusetts Bay, housewright, bought 110 acres for 110 Pounds sterling money of Great Britain (Hillsborough County deed 2:259). In 1786, Jonathan Ellsworth (1758-1814; wife Anna) of Rowley, Mass., husbandman, bought 99a (deed 16:323; Secomb's *History*, p. 581). Ellsworth's remarried widow sold in 1815 as Anna Kimball for \$800 (deed 104:597).

More History: In December 1837, David Low(e) (1785-1867; b. Lunenburg, Mass.; died Amherst, N.H.), yeoman (farmer), came from Fitzwilliam with his wife Betsey nee Damon (1789-1881; b. Reading, Mass.; died Amherst; married 1811 in Lancaster, Mass.) and bought farm with land lying on both sides of road leading from Amherst Plain to Thornton's ferry, for \$1635 (deed 194:293). Although David & Betsey lived in this #34 house until their respective deaths, Pa did not own the farm & house(s) after 1841, having made life-lease deals with two of his sons.

In 1841, Cyrus Low(e) (1818-1903; b. Fitchburg; moved 1850 to Illinois; died California), farmer, whose wife was Cynthia nee Carter (1822-1910; married 1842 in Amherst; divorced 1870s after bearing 10 children, 5 of whom survived till 1900), acquired his father's homestead of 75a in consideration of unspecified legacies Cyrus was to pay to his brothers & sisters (deed 210:306) in exchange for a life lease to his parents (deed 217:11). Pa & son dissolved the arrangement in Feb. 1850, because Cyrus & family

moved to Illinois.

In 1850 Feb., Newton Lowe (1823-1891; b. Fitzwilliam, d. Amherst; married 1847), farmer here with his father since 1837, whose wife was Helen M. nee Richardson (1826-1866; b. Wakefield, d. Amherst), bought his father's homestead as 100a lying on both sides of road leading from Thornton's Ferry to Amherst Plain, with all the buildings, for \$2000 from his brother Cyrus; plus two other parcels (259:211, no description of bounds) – in exchange for life lease for their parents, David & Betsey (Damon) Lowe (deed 260:180). The parents continued to live in house on northerly side of road (34) for the rest of their lives and Newton continued to live in the house he built on southerly side of road (35) for the rest of his life.

More History: The history of the #34 house continued to be intertwined with that of #35 house, because they had a common owner for decades – until 1985.

In 1921, on the day prior to his wedding, Arthur Lee Stone (1886-1972; b. NH, d. Florida) of Cambridge, Mass., bought the property with both houses (deed 791:32); in 1924, he conveyed the property to his wife Edith nee Carter (deed 828:398). They were summer residents (e.g., entered in 1927 *Nashua Directory* in the Amherst section as “Stone Arthur L. (Cambridge Mass) s r Depot rd”), staying in #34. In 1931, “an electric light plant” was installed at “Arthur Stone's farm” by Earle Roberts (*Milford Cabinet*, 17 Sep. 1931, p. 4). The 1940 census captured them here in Amherst, when 53-year-old Arthur was a “salesman for packing house” and wife Edith was 49. In 1941, the following advert appeared in the local newspaper: “EXCEPTIONAL RENT. To the right party, I will rent my 65 acre farm, including seven room house and barn, for a very low rental. Only half a mile from Amherst Village. ARTHUR L. STONE, Ambassador Hotel, Cambridge, Mass.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 23 Jan. 1941, p. 4.) In 1946, after returning from WW2 service, Harry Bennett Carter Jr. (1921-2008; died Florida, buried Amherst) bought property with both houses (#34 & 35) from his aunt Edith A. Stone of Concord, N.H. (deed 1113:165). In May 1948 at Amherst, Harry Jr., a toolmaker for Hitchiner Manufacturing Co., was married to 19-year-old June Priscilla Young (1928-2004; died Amherst), and they raised 5 children in #34. In 1985, the property was sold out of the Stone-Carter family, reduced in acreage (deed 3331:495).

Road Name: The road that passes between #34 and #35 houses was first described in reference to Thornton's ferry (located in Merrimack) in deeds for this farm in the 1873 deed (194:293) as “road leading from Amherst Plain [Village] to Thornton's Ferry” and was described slightly differently in 1844 for another tract lying on this same road as “road leading from the meeting house in Amherst to Thornton's ferry” (deed 230:228). In the 1891 deed for this #34 & 35 farm (520:142), it was called “the Thorntons Ferry road in Amherst.” (In the 1920 census, this road was called Thornton Ferry Road but in the 1927 *Nashua Directory* which includes Amherst, it was called Depot road which was the usual designation at that time for Middle Street. The depot or train station was located at western end of present-day Thornton's Ferry Road 1.)

During this same period, an entirely different road in town was also designated as having the same destination, that road being the one that runs along the north bank of Souhegan River. For example: The 1837 deed (194:328) for the farm associated with 30 Thornton's Ferry Road 2 described the road as “road from Daniel Fletcher's [tavern at 382 Boston Post Road] to Thornton's Ferry.” The 1872 deed (401:429) for farm associated with Isaac F. Caldwell house at 20 Thornton's Ferry Road 2 describes it more ambiguously as “road leading from Amherst to Thornton's Ferry.” (This road along the river was called Weston Road in 1920 census & 1961 town report.)

So when Amherst got around to formalizing road names, in 1962, the proposal put to voters was so call the road along the river Thornton's Ferry road and the one that passes in front of this house County road. Mrs. June Y. Carter argued for the traditional name. At the March 1962 Town Meeting, after some amendments, the voters reached a compromise: The western portion of this road officially became “Thornton's Ferry road No. 1” – but only “until the tar ceases to be” (which was pretty close to the edge of this property) – while the continuation southeastward to Seavern's Bridge was renamed County Road; and the road running along the north bank of Souhegan River became “Thornton's Ferry road No. 2” (*Milford Cabinet*, 15 March 1962, p. 5; and 23 Aug. 1962, p. 5).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, June 2023; updated Feb. 2025.]

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * Clay-pit * Life-lease 1841 & 1850 * SummerHome *

Dating house at **35 Thornton Ferry Road1** (tax lot 6/111-2; “N. Low” on 1858 map; District 1): Cape house built 1847 by/for Newton Lowe (1823-1891; married May 1847) on the homestead of his father David Lowe (1785-1867), which at that time was technically/legally owned by Cyrus Lowe (1818-1903), son of David and brother of Newton. Ten years earlier, in Dec. 1837, David Lowe bought house at 34 Thornton Ferry Road 1 on farm with land lying on both sides of road leading from Amherst Plain to Thornton’s ferry for \$1635 (deed 194:293). In 1841, David conveyed the 75-acre homestead to his son Cyrus in a life-lease deal (deeds 210:306 and 217:11) that was dissolved in Feb. 1850. Meanwhile, Newton was first taxed on buildings in 1847 although in 1849 tax invoice, both houses were assessed to Cyrus as owner of the whole homestead farm. In 1850, Newton took over the life-lease arrangement with his father for support of both parents (deeds 259:211 and 260:180) – and thus owned both 34 and 35 houses. The parents continued to live in house on northerly side of road (34) for the rest of their lives and Newton continued to live in house on southerly side of road (35) for the rest of his life. In 1891, Albert N. Lowe (1848-1916, b. & d. Amherst; married 1887), farmer, whose wife was Emeline nee Putnam (1851-1941, b. Worcester; died at home in Amherst on Middle Street) – bought the entire homestead farm of his late father, Newton Lowe, lying on both sides of Thornton’s Ferry Road 1, from the other heirs (deed 520:142, with specific measurements in rods & links but no acreage specified). He was taxed on 97 acres in District 1. The property with both houses (34 & 35) was sold out of the Lowe family by Albert in 1912 (deed 702:325).

More History: In 1921, Arthur Lee Stone (1886-1972; b. NH, d. Florida) of Cambridge, Mass., bought the property with both houses (deed 791:32) as a summer home, staying in 34 ThFRd1; in 1924, he conveyed the property to his wife Edith nee Carter (married 1921) (deed 828:398). In 1940, Edith’s brother Harry B. Carter Sr. (1894-1978; died Manchester, buried Meadowview) & wife Alice LaVigne (1895-1972; died & buried Amherst) moved to Amherst and they lived here in #35 until their deaths, although they never owed the house. By 1943, the local newspaper referred to it as “the Harry Carter place on the Old Thornton Ferry road” (*Milford Cabinet*, 2 Sep. 1943, p. 4). In 1946, after returning from WW2 service, their son Harry B. Carter Jr. (1921-2008; died Florida, buried Amherst) of Amherst bought property with both houses (34 & 35) from his aunt Edith A. Stone of Concord, N.H. (deed 1113:165), and would raise his young family in the house across the road. In 1985, the property was sold out of the Stone-Carter family, reduced in acreage (deed 3331:495). [Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, June 2023; updated Feb. 2025.] Categories: 19th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sLand (technically owned by Brother although Pa still lived on homestead) * Life-lease 1841 & 1850 *

Dating house at **2 Thornton Ferry Road2** (tax lot 4/45-21; “M. Fletcher” on 1858 map): Cape house built circa 1750, before April 1752 when Ebenezer Weston (Sr., b. 1702; wife Mehitable) of Reading, cooper, bought 103a (part of 1660 grant to Rev. John Wilson Sr. of Boston) “with the buildings” for 206 pounds (Provincial N. H. deed 78:442). It was his son, Ebenezer Weston Jr. (1731-1805), physician, who split off 6 Thornton Ferry Rd farm in 1791. [Research & text & dating by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.] Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * SouheganRiverFarm * OldBarn *

Dating House at **6 Thornton Ferry Rd2** (tax lot 4/47; “W. J. Weston” on 1858 map): Cape house with central chimney built unknown date (by 1790 census), say circa 1784, by/for Ebenezer Weston 3d (1761-1846) on the homestead farm of his father, Ebenezer Weston Jr. (1731-1805), physician, whose house was/is at 2 Thornton Ferry Rd2. Ebenezer 3d did not own the land of 6 TFRd2 until 1791 when his pa divided his homestead farm in two and deeded his namesake son the “easterly 80a of [his] homestead” bounded on the south by the north bank of Souhegan River, with “buildings” (but excepting the “newest barn” and “cooper’s shop” on the premises) (deed 34:441). However, Ebenezer 3d was married in 1784, to Eliza Hildreth, so that is a plausible date for his house. [Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021. A 20th century homeowner chose “1784” date for tax card.] Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * Cape * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead * SouheganRiverFarm * Cooper Shop *

Dating house at **16 Thornton Ferry Rd2** (tax lot 4/50; “E. A. Caldwell” on 1858 map):

House built unknown date, say circa 1752 which was when original house likely built by/for William Odell (Sr., d. 1812 aged 85; wife Phebe) of Reading, husbandman, who in June 1752 bought 47.75a (part of 1660 grant to Rev. John Wilson Sr. of Boston aka Joseph Gouch’s farm) for 47 pounds 15 shillings (deed recorded Hillsborough Co. 5:84). In 1779, he sold to his son William Odell Jr. (1752-1829; wife Susannah) of Amherst, yeoman, for 100 pounds, “certain buildings in Amherst, viz. one half of my dwelling house, viz. the easterly end containing 3 fireplaces & one half the other buildings such as barn [and] corn barn” (deed 8:292).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 1660LandGrant * 18th-century * before1760 * SouheganRiverFarm *

Dating House at **20 Thornton Ferry Rd2** (tax lot 4/51-1; “I. F. Caldwell” on 1858 map):

House built circa 1855 (after 1850 census) by/for Isaac F. Caldwell (1817-1889; married 1855) on land that was part of the farm of his father David who resided in house at 16ThFRd2 (deed 390:205). The farm of 20ThFRd2 was created in 1872, when split off from 16 ThFRd2 farm (deed 401:429).

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 1660LandGrant * 19th-century * SonBuiltHouseonFather’sHomestead * SouheganRiverFarm *

Dating house at **2 Upham Road** (tax lot 4/121; “J. Upham” at NE corner of intersection on 1858 map):
GHOST HOUSE

Cape house with center chimney that FORMERLY stood at 2 Upham Road was built unknown date, say circa 1790, the earliest certain year being 1792. John Damon (“Jr.”, 1766-1849; wife Hepzibah Smith), formerly of Reading, Mass., in Oct. 1791 bought 76 acres encompassing this lot, for 86 Pounds 6 Shillings (deed 28:146, no mention of bldgs) and sold after only one year of ownership, in Nov. 1792, reduced to 50 acres but “with the buildings now standing on the same” for 70 Pounds 18 Shillings (deed 31:42). (It’s not clear if Damon built the house because he already owned & occupied the neighbor farm next east from 1789 to 1796 (originally with 76 acres and with house at 21 Upham Rd, “J. W. Pillsbury” on 1858 map; now gone, burned 1969) (deeds 22:154 and 40:490).)

More History: The new owner in 1792 was Jacob Upham (1766-1849; first wife Sarah Pratt) of Reading, Mass. (deed 31:42). The 2 Upham Road house was owned & occupied for 188 years by 4 generations of Upham. The last generation, Charles J. “Jake” Upham (1876-1939), farmer and husband of Eva, was one of Amherst’s earliest car adopters, his being one of only four automobiles registered in Amherst in 1907/8 (*State of New Hampshire Report 1907-1908, Volume 1 – Biennial*, p. 122, “Report of Secretary of State for Year ending Aug. 31, 1908,” published 1909) and his chosen car was a 22.5hp Ford (*State of New Hampshire Reports 1911-1912, Vol. 3 Biennial*, published 1913, p. 153). In 1914, Jake became the first car dealer in Amherst (*Sleeping Town Awakens*, p. 71). The local newspaper announced: “Now is the time to order Ford cars for early delivery. Charles J. Upham of Amherst is agent for Amherst, Mont Vernon and Merrimack. adv” (*Milford Cabinet*, 26 March 1914, p. 6). Presumably he stored the cars on his farm. As late as 2021 the house with farm was still owned through inheritance by relatives of the last Upham, widow Eva V. Upham nee Kelly (1885-1980).

Road Name: Upham Road was/is named for longtime owner-occupants of this house.

[Research by Jackie Marshall (JLSM); text & dating by Katrina Holman (KMH), rev. May 2022.

Amended March 2025: House is now gone, no trace on the neat space, although large red barn is still standing as are 2 sheds. The demolition permit dates from May 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * AutomobileDealership * vanished house *

Dating house at **1 Walnut Hill Road** (tax lot 6/73; nonexistent on 1858 map):

House built 1884 as two stories with ell (called 9 finished rooms) by/for Benjamin B. Whiting (1813-1885), a prosperous farmer who had been a resident of this eastern section of Amherst since he was a little boy, and second wife Minday (1829-1900; married 1855), on land that he had owned for decades.

Evidence for construction date is Last Will of Benjamin B. Whiting dated Feb. 1885; corroborated by 1886-1889 tax invoices for Mrs. Benj. B. Whiting.

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, rev. March 2020.]

Categories: 19th-century *

Dating house at **20 Walnut Hill Road** (tax lot 8/89-2; “B. B. Whiting” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1750 by/for Samuel Seetowne of Andover in Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, who in 1750 bought 3d Division Lot 75 from his brother James, also of Andover, for 140 Pounds (deed recorded Hillsborough County 2:434). As Samuel Seaton he was on the 1760 list of taxpayers of newly incorporated Town of Amherst. The homestead with 77.5 acres was sold out of the family by daughter and son-in-law, Henry Kimball, latter, in 1803 for \$625 (deed 57:487).

More History: This was the Whiting farm for four generations covering 108 years from 1818-1926, starting with Nathaniel Whiting (1779-1843), husbandman, who came from Washington, Cheshire county, in 1818 (deed 119:189), followed by his son Benjamin F. Whiting (1813-1885), then Ben Jr. (1856-1907), and finally Jr.’s son Paul N. Whiting (1892-1958), who sold out (deed 861:106, 70.5 acres) and moved to California.

Arthur Underwood (1897-1958) owned & occupied the house & farm from 1928 (deed 875:175) until his death (sold by his widow Lillian in 1959 by deed 1581:386).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman, March 2020, expanded Jan. 2023.]

Arthur Underwood operated the farm as a market garden, growing mostly fruits.

Housing Development: Orchardview Drive & Whiting Farm Road developments came out of this farm.

Categories: 18th-century * before1760 * Cape * Life-lease 1840 *

Dating house at **27 Walnut Hill Road** (tax lot 6/80-3; “R. Howard” on 1858 map):

Cape house built circa 1775 by/for Wm Fisk (Jr., 1755-1831; wife Eunice), cordwainer and yeoman, who in April 1775 bought 60 acres (First Division Lot 76) for 100 Pounds (Hillsborough County deed 5:421); and sold 75a “with buildings” in 1779 for 1900 Pounds (deed 5:539).

More History: For the next 97 years, the 27 Walnut Hill farm remained in one family: John Lovejoy (1751-1831) owned 1779 to '81; then sold to his brother-in-law William Odell Jr. (1752-1829), who occupied it for next 31 years (1781 to 1812). Odell conveyed farm to son-in-law Henry Howard (1788-1871) in 1812 in exchange for support of himself and wife Susannah (d. 1831) for rest of their lives. In 1840, Henry conveyed farm to his son, Rodney Howard (1817-1909), in exchange for Rodney providing support for his parents for rest of lives and three sisters until age 16. The year after his mother Polly died aged 86, Rodney sold the house with 80 acres for \$3500 in 1876 (deed 427:238).

[Research by Jackie Marshall & Katrina Holman; text by Katrina Holman, rev. June 2021.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Life-lease 1812 & 1840 *

Dating house at **40 Walnut Hill Road** (tax lot 8/92-1; “W. H. Lovejoy” on 1858 map):

Cape house with center chimney built circa 1790 by/for John Lovejoy (1751-1831) (wife Martha), “gentleman,” who in July 1790 bought 40 acres (four 4th Division lots, Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14) from his brother-in-law John Odell (1761-1844) for 100 Pounds (deed 26:162); and in March 1795 sold the same 40 acres “with buildings” for \$380 to Jonathan Hildreth (1767-1816) (deed 35:454).

More History: The house & farm were inherited by Jonathan’s daughter, Abigail R. Hildreth (b. 1804) who became Mrs. Thomas Parker Hills. Jonathan’s widow Abigail nee Rust (1769-1834) continued to live here with her second husband, Andrew Leavitt (1752-1846); the farm was sold out of the Hildreth family after the mother’s death in 1836 (deed 188:411).

[Research by Jackie Marshall (JLSM); text by Katrina Holman (KMH), rev. June 2021.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape *

Dating house at **61 Walnut Hill Road** (tax lot 6/82-1; “I. P. Weston” on 1858 map):

Cape house built c. 1784 by/for Benjamin “Pond Ben” Wilkins (c.1753/1764 -1821; m. 1778) formerly of Middleton but already a resident of Amherst, tailor, whose wife was Sarah nee Wilkins and who in Feb. 1784 purchased 80 acres near Baboosic Lake for 90 pounds (deed 15:271). In 1812, Wilkins lost his farm due to lawsuit by Robert Means, storekeeper in Village, for unpaid debts (deed 94:376, Means to Weston). In July 1812 Wilkins sold his 80-acre farm + abutting 30-acre parcel for \$800 to Isaac Weston Jr. of Mont Vernon, yeoman (deed 94:260).

[Research by Jackie Marshall 2011; text by Katrina Holman, rev. Feb. 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century * Cape * Life-lease 1865 *

EMAIL corrections, suggestions, comments, feedback to: Katrina at acugen dot com

The above History briefs of Amherst's oldest houses outside the Village focus on documenting earliest plausible "year built" and earliest owner-occupant. Searchable keywords identify all houses in certain categories: for example, you can search for all Taverns or Schoolhouses or Capes or 18thCentury as well as special uses such as AlmsHouse, GarrisonHouse, and Parsonage.

This is the first-ever systematic methodical effort to determine the "year built" for most of the old houses outside the Village — based on actual research of primary sources (deeds all the way to the beginning and other sources such as tax invoices). Research and analysis by Katrina Holman, independent historical researcher of/for Amherst.

First public release (Version 2) May 2023: about 90 houses. Version 4 (March 2024) contained 103 houses from 18th & 19th centuries; and 10 built in 20th c.

Revisions: Version 3 (October 2023):

More Houses Added: 100 Baboosic Lake Rd; 54 Brook Rd; 40 Corduroy Rd (20th c.); 64 Dodge Rd; 92 Merrimack Rd (20th c.); 95 Merrimack Rd (20th c.); 96 Merrimack Rd (20th c.); 94 Seaverns Bridge Rd; 86 Spring Rd; 98 Spring Rd; 34 Thornton Ferry Road 1, 35 Thornton Ferry Road 1.

More Sources Added to: 84 Amherst Street.

Category Changes:

Former SonBuiltHouseonFather'sLand split into more precise SonBuiltHouseonFather'sHomestead and SonBuiltonLandfromFather. In cases where the familial relationship was not Father-Son, the differences are noted in parentheses.

Another Category Added to: 423 Boston Post Road (SouheganRiverFarm, SummerHome); 44 Stearns Road (Life-lease).

Revisions: Version 4 (March 2024):

More Houses Added: 118 Baboosic Lake Rd; 146 Hollis Rd; 46 Lyndeborough Rd; 146 Mack Hill Rd; 104 Ponemah Rd (20th c.); 99 Spring Rd.

More History Added to: 112 Ponemah Rd (Peacock from 1858 map); 44 Stearns Rd (3 generations Wright).

Another Category Added to: 116 Spring Rd (RevolutionaryWarVet).

Revisions: Version 5 (August 2024):

More Houses Added: 46 Chestnut Hill Rd; 82 Chestnut Hill Rd; 168 Hollis Rd; 158 Mack Hill Rd; 1 Ponemah Hill Rd; 7 Ponemah Hill Rd.

More History Added to: 233 Boston Post Road (sources as garrison house & first jail).

Revisions: Version 6 (December 2024):

More Houses Added: 43 Brook Rd; 9 Eaton Rd [as PLACEHOLDER: history research completed but dating as yet indeterminate]; 17 Eaton Rd; 23 Green Rd; 86 Mack Hill Rd; 47 Spring Rd.

Another Category Added to: 5 Eaton Rd (architectural style).

Revisions: Version 7 (April 2025):

More Houses Added: 4 Brook Rd; 52 Chestnut Hill Rd; 4 Lynch Farm Rd (also, date changed from c. 1800 to c. 1790); 25 Old Milford Road; 54 Ponemah Rd; 313 Route 101.

More History Added to: 34 & 35 Thornton Ferry Rd 1 (20th c. owners/occupants; how road was named).

Another Category Added to: 233 Boston Post Road (moved); 16 Old Milford Rd (RevolutionaryWarVet); 2 Upham Road (vanished house, meaning it has disappeared/vanished, in this case recently).

Revisions: Version 8 (Sep. 2025):

More Houses Added: 18 Brook Road; 25 Chestnut Hill Road; 6 Horace Greeley Road; 27 Horace Greeley Road; 40 Horace Greeley Rd

More History Added to: 54 Brook Road (Ellinwood & Stearns).

Another Category Added to: 348 Route 101 (SonBuiltonLandfromFather – in this case, about a decade before inherited; Life-lease 1826 – which deed can be read in separate file on Life Lease Deeds on website of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.).