

Amherst\_Houses\_DatingOldHouses\_Town\_byKH\_rev2024Mar.xxx by Katrina Holman.  
Research begun 2008 (with Village); date corrections begun March 2020. Revision changes at bottom.  
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\*\*\*\*\* WORK IN PROGRESS \*\*\*\*\*      EMAIL corrections, suggestions, comments, feedback to:  
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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)

*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.

### 18th Century:

**Before 1760** – all but one in Souhegan West (18 houses, of which 2 might not be so early; 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 (41 houses of which 1 has no history write-up yet=39):

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; 61 Christian Hill Rd; 78 Horace Greeley Rd; 6 Dodge Rd; 106 Horace Greeley Rd; 114 Horace Greeley Rd; 23 Lyndeborough Rd; 31 Lyndeborough Rd; 65 Lyndeborough Rd; 23 Mack Hill Rd; 146 Mack Hill Rd; 31 Mont Vernon Rd; 23 Old Manchester Rd; 16 Old Milford Rd; 25 Old Milford Rd (no history write-up yet); 6 Ponemah Rd; 102 Ponemah Rd; 107 Ponemah Rd (likely built as tavern); 117 Ponemah 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; 27 Walnut Hill Rd; 40 Walnut Hill Rd; 61 Walnut Hill Rd.

**Either 18th or 19th Century = circa1800** (4 houses, of which 1 has no history write-up yet = 3):

4 Lynch Farm Rd [not yet included below]; 54 Old Manchester Rd; 106 Ponemah Rd; 112 Ponemah Rd.

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

29 Austin Rd; 82 Baboosic Lake Rd; 382 Boston Post Rd (double listed, before 1760); 14 Green Rd (double listed, before 1760).

### 19th Century:

- **Built as Dwelling house** (35 houses of which 1 has no history write-up yet = 34):

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; 55 Christian Hill Rd (stone cape); 8 Craftsman Lane; 10 Craftsman Lane; 64 Dodge Rd; 5 Eaton Rd; 146 Hollis Rd; 46 Lyndeborough Rd; 70 Lyndeborough Rd; 73 Lyndeborough Rd; 75 Lyndeborough Rd; 24 Merrimack Rd; 39 Mont Vernon Rd; 3 Old Mont Vernon Rd; 26 Old Mont Vernon Rd [no history write-up yet]; 76 Ponemah Rd; 226(A) Route 101; 7 Saddle Hill 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.

### 20th Century:

- **Built as Dwelling house:**

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).

- **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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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. 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 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) whose wife was Judith nee Laws (d. 1883 aged 66), farmer, 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 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., I 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.

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 (wife Hannah), husbandman=farmer and soon Revolutionary War soldier, who in 1773 bought 60 acres partly in Merrimack 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 \* SonBuiltonLandfromFather \* 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, Orcharding, 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 on exterior 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).

(See also: "The Four Houses of the Read-Atherton Complex" by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992), April 1991 newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst.)

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). 1747 appears to have the period of greatest fear by the settlers of such attacks (see petitions to Governor in 1747, Secomb, p. 356-357). However, neither historian indicated *where* (in today's Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Milford) the garrisoned houses were located.

Regarding use as first jail: This lore seems to have originated with Miss Elizabeth D. Nichols in 1896 ...

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 (d. 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. Who better to feed prisoners than someone whose occupation included preparing food for guests.

More History: The old garrison house was moved across the street to this hillside location in the fall of 1924 by Charles “Tink” Pherson and 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.]

Categories: 18th-century \* before1760 \* GarrisonHouse \* Jail \* 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 geographically (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]).

Note 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 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. 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, 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 later, toward 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 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 1759 (Masonian Proprietors’ mega-quitclaim deed). 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 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 Quoquinnapassakessananagnot [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*, 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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 (Corduroy) 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 latter 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 Road2 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 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, 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). Note 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).

More History:

[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 **54 Brook Road** (tax lot 10/13; “A. Stevens” on 1858 map; District 7): House built c. 1785 by 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: 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 libelant). 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.]

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

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 for several more years.

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).

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

Categories: 19th-century \*

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.]

Categories: 20th-century \* Builder \*

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 in Middleton, Mass., occurred 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 **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 **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 (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 **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).

Note 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. (Clemons) 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).

Note 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; grew up in Pa’s house at 23 Lyndeboro Rd; 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.]

(See “The House That Henry Kimball Built” by Chuck Bacon (1924-1992) in newsletter of Historical Society of Amherst, April 1992.)

Categories: 18th-century \* Cape \*

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. started 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 1877 (*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 **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 “Merrow 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.)

Note regarding Dating: In ‘windshield survey’ for Heritage Commission, a preservation consultant visually assessed the exterior as built “circa 1760-1780” (Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, 2009, p. 38). 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?

(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; 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 Seaton [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 Seaton 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 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*, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Note 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).

The owner-occupant from 1852 to 1865 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, Mass.) and 5 more were born to them here; and Catherine was expecting here eighth when they moved.

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

Categories: 18th-century \* Cape \*

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

[PLACEHOLDER – research/write-up incomplete]

First known owner-occupant was William Wakefield (1757-1826), yeoman (farmer), whose wife was Sally Hosea (married 1786 at Amherst). Wakefield sold 60-acre farm for \$1050 in 1826 (deed 148:322).

Categories: 18th-century \*

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), singlewoman, 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 **76 Ponemah Road** (tax lot 4/31; “Town Farm” = prior house on 1858 map):

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).

Next owner, Alexis Rimbach nee MacRae (1872-1958) of Boston bought house on 205-acre farm 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):

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 in. (*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, front page); 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 intervale 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 till 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 **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 Efretha “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 – 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 **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: When owned by Timothy Hartshorn (1793-1868), the farm was called 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 \* 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). Note regarding Dating: To determine construction date of old house now standing at 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 Ruitter 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. \_\_, 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 **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” 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 \* SonBuiltonLandfromFather \*

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 tax card 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, the younger 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. 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. 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. 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 more, see article entitled “The Benjamin Shepard Homestead at 44 Stearns Road” by Chuck Bacon 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, and Masonian mega-quitclaim deed in [ADD SOURCE] . 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 his 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.

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"). The 1940 census captured them here in Amherst. 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." (Advert, *Milford Cabinet*, 23 Jan. 1941, p. 4.) 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 1985, the property was sold out of the Stone-Carter family, reduced in acreage (deed 3331:495).

[Note to Reader: It's not clear whether the Stones and Carters stayed in 34 or 35 ThFRd1. Do you know?]

[Research & text by Katrina Holman, June 2023.]

Categories: 18th-century \* before1760 \* Cape \* Clay-pit \* Life-lease 1841 & 1850 \* SummerHome (either this or house across street) \*

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, 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”). However, it’s not clear whether they stayed in 34 or 35 ThFRd1. The 1940 census captured them here in Amherst. 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.” (Advert, *Milford Cabinet*, 23 Jan. 1941, p. 4.) 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 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.]

Categories: 19th-century \* Cape \* SonBuiltHouseonFather’sLand (although Pa still lived on homestead, it was technically owned by Brother) \* Life-lease 1841 & 1850 \* SummerHome (either this or house across street) \*

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):  
Cape house with center chimney 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 Uphams. 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: Upham Road was/is named for owner-occupants of this house.

[Research by Jackie Marshall (JLSM); text & dating by Katrina Holman (KMH), rev. May 2022.]  
Categories: 18th-century \* Cape \* AutomobileDealership \*

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, hatter, 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 \*

[end]

EMAIL corrections, suggestions, comments, feedback to:

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History briefs of Amherst's oldest houses outside the Village with a 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 3 contains more than 100 houses.

**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).