



# NEWTON'S OLDER HOUSES

NEWTON CENTRE • NEWTON HIGHLANDS • OAK HILL • CHESTNUT HILL

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# PRE-1855 NEWTON HOUSES REMAINING IN 1983

Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Oak Hill, and Chestnut Hill

Publication 14

Newton Historical Society  
The Jackson Homestead  
527 Washington Street  
Newton, Massachusetts 02158

© Newton Historical Society at the Jackson Homestead

## CREDITS

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**Cover:** View of Newton Centre from Chestnut Hill.  
Lithograph from *Plan of Chestnut Hill*, 1856.

**Cover and Interior Design:** Peggy Pomposini

**Printing:** Roberts Printing Company

*The Newton Historical Society extends special thanks to David Webster for donating the talents and resources of Graphics etcetera.*

## FOREWORD

Some time in the early 1970s, when domestic architecture was still the interest of the few, the Chairman of the Historical Committee of the Friends of the Jackson Homestead, Dorothy Bates, became aware of the many buildings of historical and architectural interest scattered through the streets of the city. To bring to the notice of other Newtonians this hitherto neglected aspect of their cultural heritage, she initiated the project which was to produce *Newton's Older Houses*. The first booklets did indeed generate a new interest in, and awareness of, the built environment. They were directly responsible for the creation of the Upper Falls Historic District and the publication by the Historical Commission of a complementary series on Newton's Nineteenth Century Architecture.

Choosing 1855 as the cut-off date because of a detailed map published in that year, Mrs. Bates, assisted by Ruth Cannard (then Director of the Homestead) co-ordinated the activities of groups of "house detectives", and compiled and edited six booklets between 1971 and 1978. *Newtonville*,

which appeared in 1980, was brought to completion by Anna Frager, and the current publication, the first under the auspices of the Newton Historical Society (successor to the Friends) is the last in the series.

Our task has been made easier by knowing what information lies where, and we are grateful to those who, over the years, discovered sources which in the beginning were not always obvious or easily available. In addition to the early records of Newton, we have used those of the Colony, Middlesex County, and some surrounding communities. Nevertheless information has sometimes been too sparse or too ambiguous to interpret with confidence, and we hope that future researchers will regard this work as a beginning and find the answers and close the gaps in both the general history and those of the houses.

We were helped by many people in many ways: Susan Abele, Kae and John Bowes, Joseph Cancellieri, Lynette Dennis, Frederick C. Detwiller, Anna Frager, Helen Heyn, Jean Husher, Priscilla Ritter, Elizabeth Rubin and the Reference Staff at the Main Branch of

the Newton Free Library, Duscha Scott and David Webster. We thank them all.

### Authors' Note

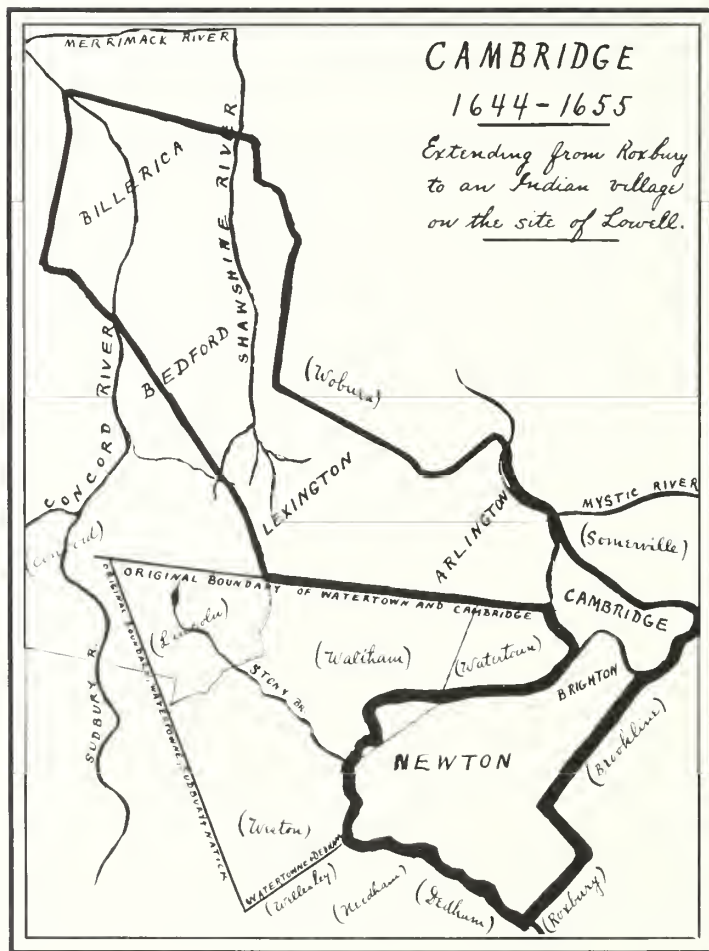
Where possible, modern street and place names have been used, but it is important to keep in mind that while today's roads may correspond to, they are not identical with, the old highways. Similarly, except in rare cases, definitions of property lines are highly tentative. *The Plan of Newton in 1700* compiled by Francis Jackson to accompany his 1854 *History of Newton* was a praiseworthy attempt to locate old estates on a then up-to-date map. However, he used as a basis the survey made in 1831, since when the shape of the map of Newton has changed considerably, altering the relative positions of many physical features. Thus the plan has been used as a guide only, and information derived from it has been marked with an asterisk.

Whenever possible occupations of the owners have been given; if some of the designations seem quaint, for example "milk", it is because they appear thus in the Newton Directory.

Architectural descriptions are confined to external features of the buildings, which, with one exception, are private homes and not open to the public.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Oak Hill, and Chestnut Hill combined, fewer than seventy buildings shown on the 1855 map may still be seen. This is somewhat less than half of the number originally depicted, which itself was somewhat low considering that the area concerned represented approximately a quarter of a town that had a population of just over 5,000. Even today much of this part of Newton, particularly to the south, is less densely populated than the rest of the city, a result of development patterns that started taking shape as far back as the eighteenth century for which a variety of causes can be suggested. Chief among them are, perhaps, the nature of the soil, much of which was too wet or too poor to invite or sustain intensive cultivation; the nature of the river, which in that part of its course was too sluggish to provide



sites for the generation of power such as those which led to the development of the villages at the upper and lower falls; and the absence of important highway intersections which might have attracted concentrations of settlement such as those that grew at the crossroads in West Newton and at Newton Corner. Thus, even Newton Centre, for a brief period the center of the town in fact as well as name, gradually lost its pre-eminence as the focus of local activity shifted to the west.

All of present day Newton was included in the original grant of the General Court to Watertown. However, in 1634, when the Reverend Thomas Hooker and his followers, who made up a large and influential group of settlers in the New Town (Cambridge), complained of a shortage of land there, the Court added to that town an extensive area south of the Charles River encompassing Newton, Brighton, and Brookline. When, despite this, the Reverend moved off to Connecticut, the Brookline section (then Muddy River) reverted to Boston. Brighton and

Newton remained part of what, in 1636, became Cambridge and were henceforward referred to as "the south side of Charles River" or "over the water" to distinguish that area from the original portion of town.

Although much of this newly acquired territory had previously been given to deserving individuals by the General Court, there were still several thousand acres to be distributed by the Cambridge Proprietors, and a complex, if temporary, land pattern developed. Along with the many large individually owned holdings, there were about a dozen "open fields" in which those who qualified were allotted additional strips (usually about six acres) of marsh, upland, meadow or woodland. There was much buying and selling and consolidating of estates, but with some exceptions the owners continued to live north of the river. As the 1630s wore on, a small group of permanent settlers established themselves in the vicinity of Newton Corner near the Brighton line. From there settlement spread along the trodden ways until, by 1656, these

families, now numbering about fifteen, finding the journey to the meeting house on the other side of the river inconvenient, started holding separate religious services. Within a few years they built their own meeting house and soon after buried their first minister in the burying ground surrounding it (at the corner of Centre and Cotton Streets). By that time they had freed themselves from paying for the support of the ministry in Cambridge and their new precinct had come to be known as Cambridge Village. Complete political separation was achieved in 1688. With independence came the obligation to deliver the services formerly provided by the parent community and within the next decade and a half these were housed in facilities which either were, or on available evidence seem to have been, close to the meeting house.

The first was the pound. Stray animals were no small problem and the office of poundkeeper was no sinecure; thus it was convenient to have the incumbent living nearby. Newton's first poundkeeper was John Spring,

appointed in 1689, who lived on Mill Street not far from the meeting house. It is fair to assume, therefore, that the pound was built in the neighborhood. By the end of the century there were enough permanent inhabitants to warrant a training field for the militia and a school. Both were accommodated on land abutting the burying ground. The stocks, built in 1694, were, for a time at least, kept in the school house where they were "forever to hand," if not always exposed to the public view.

Thus did Newton's first center come into being. Roads were laid out to "the falls" and to the east, and this nucleus, no different from those in many other New England settlements, seemed permanent. When a new building was needed for the meeting house, there was no thought of moving it elsewhere; it was erected across Centre Street, probably on Spring's land. However, what had been convenient when the few settled families lived in relatively close proximity became less so as more ground was broken and new homes were established further away. A second school house was built near Oak Hill in

Taken up on stray on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this Instant, by  
George Fuchem a Dark Coloured horse about four  
-teen hands high with a White face, and one  
white foot. The Owner may have him again  
by Applying to said Fuchem, and paying the  
Charge.

Newton June 8. 1778

George Fuchem

a True Copy, taken from Newton's Registry of  
Strays, Attest

J. S. M. J. J. J. J.

Notice of a stray horse, 1778.

Taken up on the Eighteenth Instant a  
Small Swine, the owner may have it again,  
by applying to the Subscriber, Proving Property  
and Paying Charges.

Newton Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 1805

Edm. Frowbridge

Notice of a stray pig, 1805.

1703 and in 1712 six families, living in what would later become the Brook Farm area of West Roxbury, won the right to pay their ministerial dues to Roxbury where they had for some time been attending meeting. A more acute crisis arose when a petition was presented to the General Court requesting that either the meeting house be moved to a more accessible spot or that the town be split into two precincts and a second meeting house built. The Court ordered that a new site be found and, to avoid further dissension, a surveyor was appointed to determine the center of the town. This was found to be very close to the corner of Centre and Homer Streets, and one and a half acres of land was bought there from Nathaniel Parker. At the same time two new roads were laid out: one (Homer Street) leading to the west part of town and another (possibly Morton or some now discontinued path close to it) to make the meeting house accessible to the northwest. Thus, in 1716, Newton Centre was born.

The land which was bought for the meeting house was at one time part of

the estate of Jonathan Hyde who with his brother Samuel came from England and started buying property on the south side of the river in 1647. Between them they accumulated hundreds of acres which they later divided, Samuel choosing to live east of Centre Street towards Newton Corner and Jonathan in Newton Centre near the pond, where he eventually owned some 300 acres. His estate extended from Centre to beyond Walnut Street and from Crystal Lake to somewhere north of Commonwealth Avenue. Before he died he parceled out his holdings among his many children. What became the meeting house lot went to his daughter Anne who sold it to Nathaniel Parker, Newton's first entrepreneur who, in time, owned the water rights at Upper Falls, the saw mill on the Brookline line, and was the town's first licensed inn-holder.

The meeting house was completed on the new site in 1721. The school house was built shortly thereafter (probably on the north side of Homer Street) and was known as "the School near the Meeting House" or the Central School House. It is difficult to pinpoint

the times at which other town facilities were moved to the new center.

The stocks, used to punish bad behavior during divine service, were re-erected a short distance from the meeting house and were still there at the end of the century. The pound probably remained at its original site until 1755 when a new one was built (in stone) on land given by Noah Wiswall on Cypress Street, where it remained at least until 1855. The most vexing question, however, concerns the training field, now the Newton Centre Green or Common. In the 1850s when Francis Jackson was writing his *History of Newton*, the land was traditionally supposed to have been given by Jonathan Hyde some time before he died in 1711, and Jackson suggests that a part could have come from a member of the Wiswall family. A closer study suggests other possibilities, but at this time all that is certain is that it was as town property that it was chosen as the site for the "noon houses" in 1730. These were shelters where churchgoers, unable to return home between services, could rest and keep

relatively warm. The foundations of at least one of these austere buildings were still visible in Jackson's time. For a brief period during the 1760s consideration was given to putting a workhouse on the town land. At the end of the century the powder house, which stood until 1849, was built at the corner of Lyman Street.

While the public facilities were being concentrated about the geographical center of the town, Newton's first villages were growing up elsewhere. In West Newton, where the roads from Watertown, Natick and Waltham intersected, and particularly after the completion of the Waltham bridge in 1761, a sizable community was developing, and, in 1763 these residents and many from Upper and Lower Falls began agitating for a separate precinct. Although this was voted down by the town, a meeting house was built with private funds. In the following year came the first of a series of annual petitions to have winter preaching in the west paid for by the town. Despite initial denials, the inevitable happened in 1778 when the Second Precinct, or West Parish, was

established by order of the General Court. Three years later the Baptists, having won the battle to be released from paying for the support of the established minister, built their own meeting house in the Centre.

As a consequence, when the First Precinct Meeting House had to be rebuilt in 1806, it was financed, not by taxing the whole town as its predecessors had been, but by assessing the Proprietors of the First Parish, and a time came when they, and particularly "the ladies who complained bitterly of the dirt brought in on the feet of the independent voters" no longer wished to have town meetings and other public business take place exclusively in their building. Thus in 1832 the First Parish informed the town that its meeting house would be available only "in proportion with the other four meeting houses in the Town." Apart from the West Parish and the Baptists there were St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lower Falls (1814) and the Unitarian Society's building in Upper Falls, then being used by the Methodists. From the point of view of the development of the Centre, this was one more link in the

chain of events leading to the transfer of town business to West Newton.

Subsequent town meetings were held in the Baptist and Second Parish meeting houses, and in 1834, after many votes and reconsiderations, it was agreed that a town house should be built in Newton Centre (shown on the 1848 map opposite the Baptist Meeting House). In addition it was voted that a contribution be made to the Fuller Academy, about to be constructed in West Newton, for the inclusion of a hall of the same dimensions as the town house so that meetings could be held alternately in each section of the town. This arrangement, which seems to have worked well enough, was upset by the early demise of the Academy, although meetings continued to be held there until the Normal School took over the building. In 1841 the whole unfortunate subject was re-opened, complicated this time by recurring petitions to the General Court for a complete division of the town.



Old Meeting House at Newton Center  
Drawn from memory by Sarah Freeman Clarke, 1889.

**First Precinct Meeting House**

Jackson Homestead Collections

The ascendancy of West Newton had increased in the few intervening years. The advantages of having first the stage coaches along Washington Street and, from 1834, the railroad, were in no way offset by the construction of the Worcester Turnpike. Too far south, with stages at Upper Falls and in Brookline, this road brought no obvious benefits to the Centre.

The bitterness and intensity of the debates in the years that followed — such undignified behavior as the clapping of hands, stamping of feet and the use of the expression "all up" had to be prohibited — are apparent even in the businesslike reports of the town meetings. Various locations for a new town house were proposed, including Newtonville. The East Parish, having second thoughts, offered the use of its basement — at a price. The matter was finally resolved when the town bought from the West Parish its old meeting house and put it to use as a town house with school rooms in the basement. In 1849 the last town meeting was held in Newton Centre. The town house was moved onto the Common at the corner

of Langley Road, where, as Lyceum Hall, it was used for meetings, lectures, and "other secular gatherings." Moved once more, this time down Langley Road to Beacon Street, it served as a livery stable until it burned down in 1876.

The issues of division and secession were laid to rest too. The years of agitation, proposals and counter proposals ended with the annexation of 1800 acres of Newton territory by Roxbury and 600 by Waltham. Although no longer the administrative nor the geographical center of the town, Newton Centre nevertheless proceeded to develop a distinctive character of its own.

In 1829 the Newton Theological Institution bought eighty-five acres just south of the Common, including the mansion house on what came to be called Institution Hill, which had been built by John Peck in the 1790s. This was the first of the important outside educational institutions to locate in Newton, and in time its presence induced a number of theologians and other scholars to move into the area.

They included Reverend Samuel F. Smith who wrote the history of Newton, and the Reverends Ira Chase and Henry Ripley for whom streets were named a few years later.

In addition, in 1852, the Woonsocket Division of the New York and New England Railroad extended its service from Brookline, through Newton Centre, to Needham. Initially, this was, at best, a mixed blessing, for along its single track during the next decade were to run the cars taking fill to the Back Bay, and it was not until many years later that the effects of a good passenger service to Boston would be felt in the Centre.



ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION,  
NEW CENTRE, MASS.  
1866.

Courtesy Franklin Trask Library, Andover Theological School

Nevertheless in the decade of the 1850s many new streets, among them Beacon, Parker, Grafton, Pelham and Pleasant, were laid out and others were upgraded. The Newton Centre Tree Club, the forerunner of the Improvement Association (which would be responsible for the acquisition of the playground in the nineties) regraded and planted the Common, thus carrying on a tradition established by the town in 1769. The Post Office opened about 1827, the first store some thirteen years later and the first engine house was built on the Common in 1837. Its location was changed twice before the present site was chosen for a fire house in 1869.

In 1855, the extension of Beacon Street from the Centre to Waban Square breached for the first time "the wide expanse of territory, on all sides woody, or broken or low" which stretched, in the words of one who advocated division of the town, "almost entire from the southern boundary at Charles River to the North." This separation from the outlying villages had been one of the drawbacks of having the town house in Newton Centre. In earlier years the



Jackson Homestead Collections

**Store and post office Newton Centre**

same physical barriers had dictated the routes taken by the highways to the meeting house which had had to pick their way through a variety of natural and man-made obstacles to get there. Chief among these were the mill pond and acres of swamp and meadow to the south of it.

When, in 1664, John Spring built a dam across Smelt (now Laundry) Brook, he flooded a low-lying area of swamp and bog at the confluence of two streams, creating a pond a great deal larger than the present day Bullough's which took its current shape only in the 1890s. Grist mills were so important in seventeenth century New England that under common law anyone owning both sides of a stream could flood land without restriction in order to provide enough power to keep the wheels turning. Thus no deeds granting flowage easements were necessary and there is nothing to indicate the extent of the original pond. Maps drawn over 100 years later suggest it covered the entire site of the present city hall, and it may have been a good deal larger. To the southwest of the mill pond were many



Edwina Seeler

### Cold Spring Swamp, 1983

acres of wetland, probably a mixture of bog, swamp and meadow, of which some remains in Cold Spring Park.

In the nineteenth century all or much of this area was known as Alcock's Swamp. Neither the identity of the owner nor the extent of the property is certain. Did it belong to George Alcock who, possibly accompanied by a brother, Thomas, came over with Governor Winthrop and settled in Roxbury? He practiced as a physician, but also held

various public offices and acted as surveyor for the colony on a number of occasions. But if the swamp were a reward for his services, why is there no mention of a grant in the colony records? If he (or brother Thomas, who settled in Dedham) bought it, why do the proprietors' records not say so? The only references that have so far come to light are in land transactions of others, in which Alcock's Meadow is mentioned as abutting property in the areas where Waban and Newton Highlands merge and near Homer and Walnut Streets. Could Alcock have owned all the land between these locations? Why "meadow" in the 1600s and "swamp" two centuries later? There was (and is) a clear distinction between the two: meadow lands were coveted for their hay and usually allotted in small parcels, while, generally speaking, swamps were at that time held in common. There is no record of a sale. Perhaps, because it was unimproved, the land reverted to the town and was divided among the proprietors with other swamps in the 1660s.

What is certain is that by the beginning of the eighteenth century much of Cold Spring (or Alcock's) swamp was owned by Joseph Fuller. He was the son of the earliest settler in the western part of town, and in 1680 he married Lydia, a daughter of Edward Jackson who gave them twenty-three acres of land in Newtonville. Joseph extended his domain until it stretched from Newtonville square to Beacon Street and beyond. By the 1790s the property had passed through two generations to his great-granddaughter Sarah. She was married to General William Hull after whose death she sold fifteen acres to her daughter, Rebecca, and her husband Dr. Samuel Clarke who had an interest in the Boston Chemical Company. The sale included land on both sides of the (Cold Spring) brook and the right to build a dam across it. The resulting mill pond was used to supply water power for the company's factory, which ground drugs and made "various acids, alkalis, camomils, etc.." The building burned and when replaced, it housed a leather factory operated by Rufus Brackett. In 1855 Mrs. Clarke's property, including the

land on which the factory stood, as well as many adjoining parcels, was bought by the Newton Cemetery Corporation. Dr. Clarke's mill pond is probably the predecessor of the ornamental ponds which feature so largely in the cemetery's landscape.

In the process of expanding to the south, Joseph Fuller bought fifteen acres of what had been, and was still known as, Mr. Haynes's Farm. John Haynes came to Cambridge with Reverend Hooker in 1632. A man of wealth and ability, he immediately became involved in the affairs of both the town and the colony. In 1634, while he was serving as assistant, the General Court granted him 1000 acres and "the great pond" (Crystal Lake) above the falls on the east side of the Charles River. His was only one of several grants of land made in Newton that year but it was by far the largest; and although it is not possible to define the boundaries with complete accuracy, the farm certainly included part of Newton Centre and much of Newton Highlands. Despite being chosen Governor the following year, Haynes followed Hooker to Connecticut. When his daughter Ruth

married Samuel Wyllis, Haynes gave them the Newton property; at least one record, in 1671, refers to the Wyllis farm. Haynes died in 1654, and about that time 300 acres, mostly fertile upland which included the pond and the area just south of Newton Centre square, was bought by Thomas Wiswall who came from nearby Dorchester. A devout man, he was appointed to catechise the children and became the first Elder of the village church. One of his sons was killed fighting the Indians and two others settled elsewhere, but others of his descendants remained in the vicinity for many years and, although some of them became Parkers and Longleys, the pond, first called Mr. Haynes's Pond, became Mr. Wiswall's. Thus it was known until the Elder's great-grandson gave land on the eastern shore to the Baptists for their meeting house (subsequent buildings were on the site of the present Baptist Church) when it became Baptist Pond. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century "Crystal Lake" came into use, a name coined, no doubt, by a hopeful real estate developer.



Luther Paul's farm in 1856, originally part of the Wiswalls' portion of the Haynes Farm. (For Silver Lake read Crystal Lake.)

City Engineering Department

The rest of the Haynes farm was divided, possibly when Ruth Haynes Wyllis died in the 1680s, between her two daughters, Mary Eliot and Mabel Russell Woodbridge. Neither she nor they ever lived in Newton and part, if not all, of the property was rented by Captain Thomas Prentice who used the land but lived elsewhere in Newton. He still occupied it when Mabel sold 100 acres of upland and meadow to two Boston blacksmiths who built a house on the west side of Centre Street towards that part of the Sherborn Road that became Clark Street. In 1707 Mabel's daughter Mabel Hubbard Woodbridge sold another 100 acres, some of it wet and in need of draining, to Samuel Petty who built a house on the Dedham Road near Stearns Brook. His house (which is no longer there) was used as a reference point by the surveyors of highways and from a point near it one road (which was subsequently relocated as Elliot Street) ran to the river, and another (Winchester Street) was laid out to the south between the lands of John Kenrick and Samuel Truesdell. Petty's land eventually was owned by

successive generations of Winchesters. Before he left for Boston, Amasa, the third and last, added three quarters of an acre to the South (Winchester Street) Burying Ground when the Proprietors turned it over to the town in 1834.

Each Wyllis sister's share consisted of a number of parcels, not necessarily contiguous: Mary Eliot's was divided into at least four. She married Joseph Eliot, brother of Newton's first minister and son of the Reverend John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians. Their son, the Reverend Jared Eliot, was a man of many interests who, among other things, introduced white mulberries into Connecticut and experimented with the extraction of iron ore from black seasand. His mother gave him her 350 acres in 1712 and although he never lived in Newton either, he joined his tenant, Jonathan Green, in petitioning for the relocation of the County Road (Centre Street) which ran through his land. When the property was sold to John Hammond in 1746 there was no mention of any buildings so the first house must date from this owner. It stood on Centre Street, more or less



Thelma Fleishman

**South Burial Ground, opened 1803  
on Winchester Street**

where the Worcester Turnpike would cross it some 60 years later and where Hammond's son-in-law John Marean, and later Edward Mitchell, would keep a tavern.

The Turnpike was built by a private company in 1808. It crossed into Newton from Brookline at a point very close to the old Sherborn Road, but whereas the latter had from the late 1600s wound its way along what are now Florence, Jackson, Clark, Centre, Woodward, Beacon and Washington Streets to Lower Falls, the new highway cut through the town in a straight line to Upper Falls. It failed as a business venture, and its proprietors were forced to relinquish it to the communities through which it passed. Newton's share was surveyed by the county commissioners and accepted by the town in 1833.

The initial impact of the turnpike on Newton Highlands was slight. When the railroad went through forty-five years later there was still no cohesive community in the area and the local station was called "Oak Hill," thus identifying it with the vast, sparsely populated area to the south. It was not until the 1870s that the residents of the burgeoning railroad suburb chose the name "Newton Highlands."



**Worcester Turnpike at Upper Falls**

Jackson Homestead Collections

To the south of Haynes's farm was a 250 acre tract of land along the river, once the property of Thomas Mayhew. A mercer from Southampton in England, he settled initially in Medfield. In 1632 he moved to Watertown where he built the first non-tidal mill on the Charles and the first of the bridges to cross the river there. In addition he was active in local and colonial affairs, and before he settled on Martha's Vineyard, in 1646, he received several grants of land in Newton and elsewhere. This particular parcel boasted a variety of physical features, ranging from the upland surrounding Winchester Hill to the broad wetlands, part peat, part gravel, of the river's flood plain. The land was bought by Ann and Richard Parker who built a house at the foot of the hill not far from the river. In 1658 they sold it to John Kenrick (b. 1605) who extended the estate even further upstream towards Cow Island. His family remained there for nearly two centuries, with successive generations of Johns and Calebs taking active roles in local affairs. In 1693 Brookline Street was laid out as far as the land of Sergeant John Kenrick

(1641-1721) and possibly continued through his land to the river, although this final section (Nahanton Street) was not surveyed by the town until 1711. Even then it was not an open way, as the Kenricks were allowed to erect and maintain two gates across it, a right that still ran with the land 100 years later. It is not clear when the (Kendrick Street) bridge was built over the river, it was possibly in the late seventeenth century or the early eighteenth. Private bridges were common at that time but became less so as the burden of maintenance increased. Kenrick's bridge was rebuilt in 1764, the cost being shared by the towns of Newton and Needham. In the 1780s the John Kenrick (1755-1833) who established the charitable fund still administered to this day by the Board of Aldermen, bought the Durant house near Nonantum Hill and went to live there. Almost a century later what had been his share of the property was included in Nathan Appleton's Boulder Farm, while today, another hundred years on, some of the land has been developed by the Newton At 128 Industrial Park and some, both public

and private, is still open, much of it too wet to build on. The rest of the land, north of Nahanton Street, was sold after the death of Caleb Kenrick in 1820. A number of owners followed, including the Archdiocese of Boston which built the Working Boys Home in the 1890s. A substantial amount of this, too, remains open as a city park.

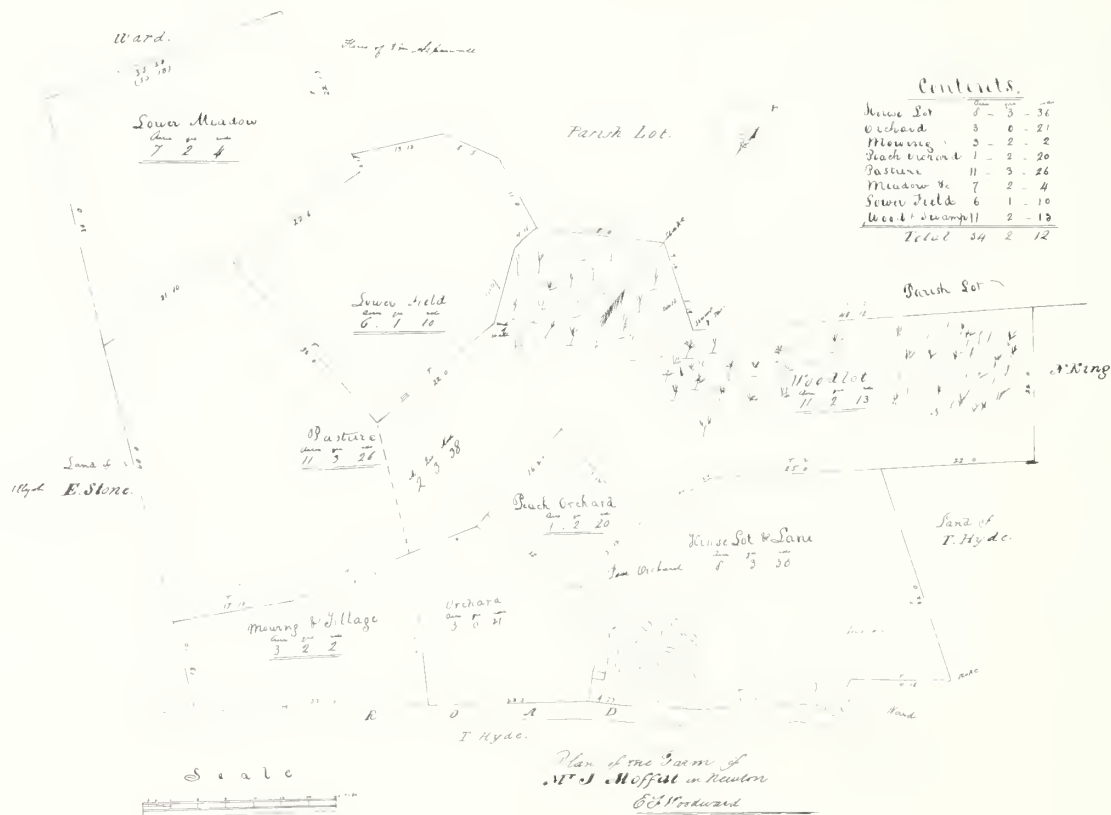
Oak Hill is the second highest hill in Newton, eleven feet lower than its near neighbor, Bald Pate, but whereas the latter gave its name only to two now almost vanished meadows, Oak Hill still designates a large, if ill-defined, area in the southern section of Newton. No part of it seems to have been included in any of the early grants made by the General Court, but by the mid-seventeenth century the Cambridge Proprietors had allotted or sold many parcels of open and undeveloped land there. Actual settlement, however, did not begin until the 1690s, despite the fact that by the standards of the day it was not inaccessible, being traversed by the road from Watertown to Dedham, the earliest highway in Newton on record.

When the effort of the General Court to satisfy Reverend Hooker deprived the inhabitants of Watertown of their territory on the south side of the river, they were given permission to seek out "some convenient place" as compensation. They found it two and a half miles above the falls, and Dedham was established on both sides of the river in 1635. While the new township was being laid out and the houses built, there was much coming and going between the two communities, and thus it came about that the first road through Newton was opened by men from Watertown and Dedham, the latter "mending" the section north of Mr. Haynes's farm in 1636. The route, which was the flattest and the driest if not the most direct, was confirmed by Cambridge Town Meeting in 1650.



Jackson Homestead Collections

**Oak Hill, early in this century.**



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City Engineering Department

Farm on Greenwood Street, Oak Hill, circa 1840, showing ministerial woodlot, "Parish Lot" upper center.

Looking at the Dedham marshes today it is easy to understand the difficulties early surveyors had establishing exact boundaries. In 1637 Roxbury demanded compensation "because Dedham did shorten them," and when the line with Cambridge was run in 1649 another error was discovered: part of Bald Pate Meadow, in which at least four persons had been granted land by Dedham really lay in Cambridge. The area in question was probably about 600 acres. Restitution was made and Cambridge advertised the sale of "the land recovered from Dedham and lying in common." Edward and John Jackson, Thomas Danforth and Edward Goffe, were the four purchasers. The Jacksons were among the first settlers in Newton and the names of both appear with great frequency in Cambridge records as well as those of the colony. Both worked hard to establish Newton as a separate community but neither lived long enough to see it happen. They distributed their shares of the recovered land among their descendants, and in addition Edward left some thirty acres to

the town to provide the firewood that was part of the minister's salary. Fencing and ditching the south ministerial woodlot became a town responsibility, and every year a day was appointed for residents to cut the wood. After Newton ratified the legislation separating church and state, the lot became the property of the East Parish, which sold it in several parcels in the 1850s and 1860s. Part, albeit a small one, remains, virtually untouched as a restricted wetland, adjacent to the South High School tennis courts.

Thomas Danforth served at various times as deputy governor, assistant, recorder of deeds for Middlesex County, Cambridge town clerk, clerk to the Board of Overseers of Harvard, and in several local positions. He sold his portion of the recovered land to John Ward. Part of Goffe's share was eventually owned by Jonathan Hyde. Ward and Hyde also owned large tracts in the Great Meadow which lay to the north of Bald Pate. Some 150 acres in extent it reached almost to the Dedham road (Centre Street), which took a large westward curve to avoid it. Both these

meadows as well as Stake Meadow (which took its name from the stake marking the right-angled turn in the Newton-Brookline line) and others, possibly including some whose names have not come down to us, were part of the South Meadow Brook drainage area which covered almost 1800 acres, most of it virtually unbuildable until the bed of the brook, and thus the ground-water level, was lowered early in the twentieth century.

To the south of Great Bald Pate Meadow lies Little Bald Pate Meadow which is part of the wetland system traversed by Saw Mill Brook. The brook was known also, at times, as Pond Brook after one of its sources, Hammond's Pond, or Palmer Brook after John Palmer who came to live there in the 1760s. The name used today derives from a sawmill built shortly after 1683 by Erasomon Drew and bought by Nathaniel Parker in 1726. Because it was located right on the Newton-Brookline line, the mill was used as a reference point by the early perambulators; now that both it and "the dam apertaining" have gone, a stone bound marks the spot.

There seems to have been at least one other dam on the mainstem of the brook: it was probably not a source of power but part of a system of dams and ditches used from an early date for controlling the water in the meadow.

Much of Little Bald Pate Meadow is no longer part of Newton. It was here in 1712, that the six families permitted to worship in Roxbury lived. In 1837, 1800 acres, including the part that would shortly become Brook Farm, were set off to Roxbury.

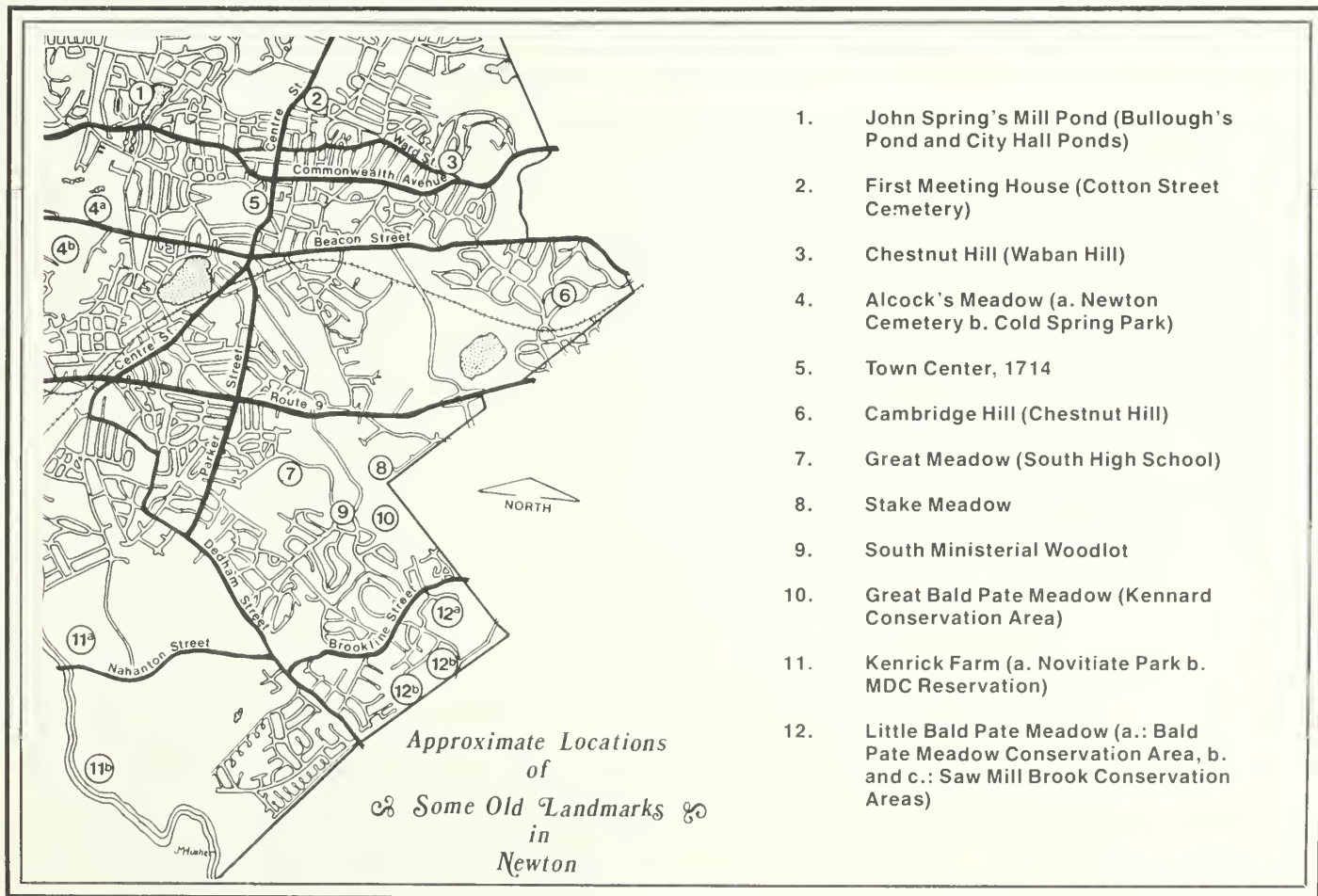
The street pattern in the south was established early and has changed less than those in other parts of the city. In addition to Dedham Street, Dudley and Vine, Brookline and Cypress were there by 1711, the year Greenwood Street was laid out. The houses which clung to the dry solid ground close to the highways increased in number only slightly in the next century and a half. This was due in part at least to the rough and stony soil which, alternating with muck and peat, made it necessary for farms to be large to be productive. Because, until very recently, development has passed them by, a

larger proportion of eighteenth century structures remains there than elsewhere in the city.

In 1641 Thomas Parrish was granted 100 acres "on the left side of the greate playne toward Mr. Haynes his farme . . . on the southwest side of Chestnut Hill," (now Waban Hill). Parrish either returned to or remained in England, because in 1658 the land was sold through an agent to James and Thomas Prentice, Sr. They were brothers, but little is known of them other than that they took some part in town affairs. Their property lay "between the two brooks" (Edmands and Hammond, that is between Cotton and Lyman Streets) and extended westwards from the hill to Centre Street. In the nineteenth century part of it was owned by Marshall Rice who was Newton's last town clerk, from 1846 to 1873, and drew the first plans for the Newton Cemetery and for many of the early subdivisions. On either side of his house (said to have been built in 1742 by Henry Gibbs) were fish ponds. Hammond Brook ran through the more southerly of the two, in which, according to General Hull's grandson, speckled

trout could be caught.

To the northeast of the Prentice brothers was land granted by the Cambridge Proprietors to Elder Edmund Frost. It is not clear when the grant was made, nor when he sold forty-five acres to Edward Jackson, but both transactions were early enough for Jackson's daughter and son-in-law, Hannah and John Ward, to build the so-called "garrison house" there shortly after their marriage in 1650. The house stood on Ward Street until it was taken down by Deacon Ephraim Ward in 1822. John Ward moved to Newton from Sudbury, Massachusetts, at the time of his marriage, becoming one of its most influential inhabitants. In 1682 he was chosen to transcribe the town records into the new book, was the town's first deputy to the General Court, and served in many other capacities. He expanded his holdings, both to the west and the southeast and divided his estate among his children before he died. Because the soil consisted of fertile loam, relatively small parcels of land could be farmed profitably; at least two generations of nineteenth century Wards were



successful market gardeners. By 1855 a number of other names appear on the map, but the last of the Ward properties were subdivided and sold only at the beginning of this century.

Elder Frost sold the rest of his Chestnut Hill property to Captain Thomas Prentice, who commanded the Middlesex cavalry troop in King Philip's war and later became deeply involved in every aspect of town affairs. It was here, where Prentice's land met the property of Samuel Hyde's descendants and that of the Wards, that the Cochituate Aqueduct was constructed in the 1840s.

Since 1795 the Boston Aqueduct Company had provided Boston with water, most of which came from Jamaica Pond. By the 1830s this arrangement was no longer satisfactory, and following a number of studies it was decided to bring "pure water" to a reservoir on Beacon Hill from Long Pond on the Natick-Framingham line. The pond's old Indian name, Cochituate, was adopted when ground was broken for the aqueduct in 1846. The conduit enters Newton just above Lower Falls, makes its way through Waban, the Highlands,

and Newton Centre, sometimes above ground, sometimes below, and its construction seems to have caused no major problems until it reached the Waban Hill area. This was the most thickly settled part of Newton that the aqueduct passed through and presented the greatest difficulties: a tunnel over 24,000 feet long had to be cut through hard porphyritic rock. Work began at both ends in November 1846 and continued, day and night, in eight hour shifts, until the two sections met five months later. The workers, many of them immigrant Irish, lived close by in a temporary village which sprang up, uninvited, on land belonging to John Kenrick (1801-1870) at the foot of Nonantum Hill. During construction seven shafts were sunk through the rock and seven steam engines, pumping constantly, were needed to remove the ground water. When all was completed five of the neighboring households found that their wells had run dry. Litigation ensued, resulting in the formation, under the aegis of the City of Boston, of the Newton Aqueduct Company which sunk a well, built a

small reservoir and laid pipes to cisterns on the affected farms. This small system was one of two or three constructed in Newton before the introduction of the municipal water supply in the mid 1870s. On emerging from the Newton tunnel the Cochituate aqueduct passed through yet another tunnel before reaching the Brookline reservoir. The Bradlee and Lawrence basins in Chestnut Hill were not built until the level of Lake Cochituate was raised to increase the volume of water in the 1860s.

Ward Street was probably among the "necessarie highways" on the south side of the river laid out in the early 1650s by order of the town, but it is first mentioned by name as "the highway near John Ward's land" in 1658. This same year Thomas Parker, Thomas Hammond, and Vincent Druce, were compensated for the damage they sustained when a highway went through their land. That was Hammond Street, one of the roads to Brookline. In 1656 these three men had bought land straddling the Newton-Brookline line from Nicholas Hodgson who had

acquired it from the original grantee, Robert Broadish, for a cow and a mortgage. Parker bought one third; Hammond and Druce the rest. The property included Cambridge (now Chestnut) Hill.

Parker built two houses on his land. His son, Isaac, sold one to Thomas Greenwood, a weaver from England, who married John Ward's eldest daughter, Hannah, and was probably Newton's first town clerk. Most of the rest of Parker's property, but not the second house, eventually belonged to Edwin Webster and became part of the Webster Conservation Area in 1968.

Hammond and Druce both came to the area from Hingham, Massachusetts, where they had been among the first settlers. They made at least two joint land purchases in Newton and Brookline, and when they divided their holdings in 1664, Druce took his share primarily in Brookline and Hammond his in Newton. Druce's property extended southwards toward Bald Pate Meadows, and Hammond's included over 300 acres in Newton which he bought from the heirs of Nathaniel Sparhawke who



**View of Hammond's Pond from "Plan of Chestnut Hill, 1856"**

were forced to sell much of the enormous estate their father had managed to accumulate. Hammond's farm extended from Heath to Ward Streets, and from the Brookline line to Langley Road. It included the pond which bears his name and was traversed by a number of streams, the largest being Hammond Brook which flows through Newton Centre to join Cold Spring (Smelt) Brook just south of Bullough's Pond. The soil was mixed: much was peat bog, swamp and wet meadow, but there was also the same fertile loam as on the Ward farms, so that here, too, orchards and gardens flourished. A number of Hammond houses were built, their occupants playing various roles in the life of the town. Of note was Colonel Benjamin, who rose rapidly from lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. The Worcester Turnpike was built through his property, but as this section of the new highway represented hardly more than a straightened version of the Sherborn Road, it brought little or no change to the area. Change, however, was not too long in coming.

In 1822 the 200-year-old house built by Thomas Hammond (son of the first Thomas) approximately where the Chestnut Hill School stands today was bought by Joseph Lee, a retired sea-captain from Beverly. Lee died, unmarried, in 1845, and left the farm to his nieces and nephews. Initially they considered it very remote from Boston and something of an incumbrance. However, after Beacon Street was laid out westward to Kenmore Square to meet the road across the Back Bay mill dam in 1850, and the railroad, with a station on Hammond Street followed two years later, several of the heirs came to the conclusion that it would be a convenient and pleasant place to live after all. Thus the decision was taken, not only to divide what they called the "Uncle Joe farm" among themselves, but to lay out roads and house lots and create a new community for which they chose the name "Chestnut Hill."

At first the Lees were joined by their friends and relations, among them the Cabots, Lowells and Saltonstalls, but in 1856 an effort was made to attract more buyers. A beautifully illustrated plan was issued and within the next five years a number of lots were sold. This was not the first attempt to promote Newton as a "dormitory" for Boston. Others had been made in the years following the opening of the Boston and Albany Railroad. But at the time it was the largest and most ambitious, and heralded the transition from the old order to the new: Newton the farming community was yielding to the suburban garden city.



City Engineering Department

View of The Back Bay and Beacon Hill from  
"Plan of Chestnut Hill, 1856"

## GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN NEWTON



### SALTBOX 1670

- central chimney
- attached lean-to or shed
- clapboards unpainted
- extended rear slope of gable roof

#### 9 Old Orchard Road

*Photo: c. 1919*

*Jackson Homestead Collection*



### COLONIAL\* (New England Farmhouse) 1690-1780

- gable, ridged, or gambrel roof
- central or double interior chimneys
- double hung sash windows
- ornamented central doorway

#### 137 Suffolk Road

*Photo: 1889*

*Jackson Homestead Collection*

\* The architectural style called Georgian was contemporary with the Colonial Style. It is more decorative and ornate in its use of architectural details. No known examples survive in the area surveyed.



### FEDERAL 1780-1820

- rectangular shape
- hip roof
- elliptical fan light
- six over six windows

#### 184 Ward Street

*Photo: [1940]*

*Courtesy Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Krims*



### GREEK REVIVAL 1820-1860

- gable roof
- triangular pediment
- columns
- entrance with transom and/or sidelights

#### 85 Langley Road

*Photo: 1904  
City Archives*



### ITALIANATE 1840-1880

- paired doors and windows
- brackets at roof eaves and on porches
- two over two windows
- arched, semi-circle or round windows

#### 92 Langley Road

*Photo: 1904  
City Archives*

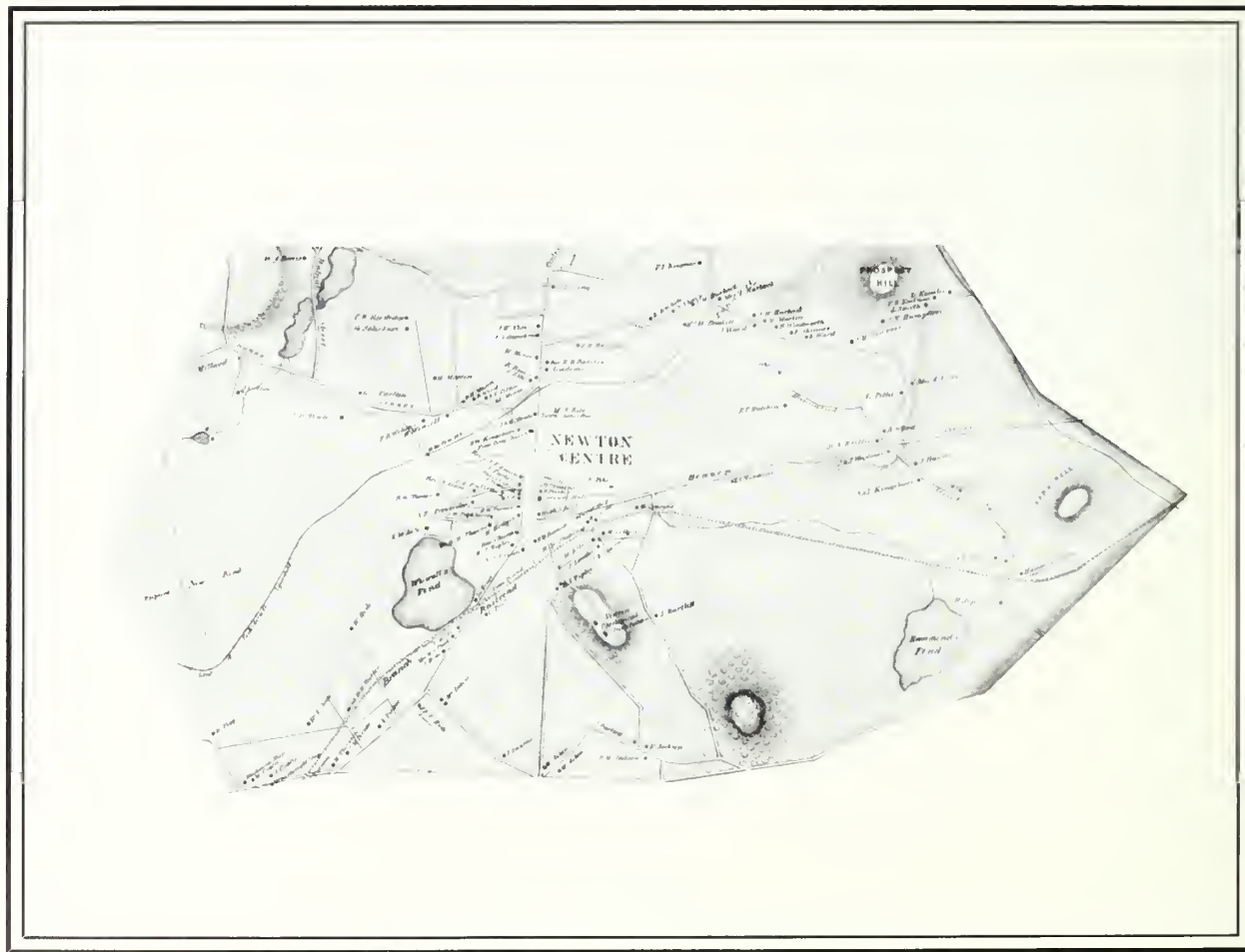


### MANSARD 1855-1880

- mansard roof with curving or straight sides
- bay windows
- dentils
- dormer

#### Old Oak Hill School

*Photo: [n.d.]  
Jackson Homestead Collection*







Newton Historical Properties Survey

## BEACON STREET

Laid out from Centre Street east in 1850, and from Centre Street west in 1855.

### **550 Beacon Street 1853-4**

**1855 E. C. Hutchins, business  
1874 E. C. Hutchins, business**

The carriage house, woodshed, and the siting of the Italianate L-shaped house retain much of their Victorian setting. The rear ell of the house displays Colonial architectural features that suggest that either this portion was built earlier than the main house, or that building materials from another house were reused. Mr. Hutchins lived in a house on Hammond Street near the intersection of Beacon Street in 1848 but in 1855 he owned both houses.

## BOYLSTON STREET

Formerly known as the Worcester Turnpike, it was completed in 1808.

### **575 Boylston Street 1854**

**1854 William Aiken, farmer  
1855 William Aiken, farmer  
1874 James White, farmer  
1927 Antonio Mandile, gardener  
and grocer**

Originally a farmhouse in the Greek Revival Style, the first level of this house was converted to a food market around 1920. The triangular pediment and moulded corner boards are visible from Boylston Street (Route 9). Ten acres of land remained with the house through 1929 and greenhouses were located nearby to serve the market garden owners.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

**595 Boylston Street  
circa 1751**

**\*1751 Elisha Parker**  
**1785 Jonathan Parker**  
**1831 Parker**  
**1855 William Aiken, farmer**

It is believed that Elisha Parker built a Saltbox house with a central chimney at the time of his marriage to Esther Fuller in 1751. The broad gambrel roof with dormers, and the main entrance flanked with panelled pilasters supporting a pedimented cornice, are alterations done by later owners. Elisha Parker's grandfather Nathaniel (1670-1747) and his father Ebenezer (1702-1783), both owned property along the east-west thoroughfare now known as Clark Street near Boylston Street. By the 1850s, the Parkers had sold the house and some of the land to William Aiken, a farmer living on the adjacent property.

\*Date from Jackson's *Plan of Newton in 1700*; see introduction.



Steve Rosenthal

## **BRACEBRIDGE ROAD**

Laid out from Pleasant Street to  
Hancock Street in 1908.

### **15 Bracebridge Road circa 1850**

**1855 Roswell W. Turner, realtor**  
**1866 Charles S. Davis, piano  
manu.**

Except for the Colonial Revival trimming and a twentieth century addition to the north facade, this house represents the Italianate Style complete with hipped roof, tower, and arched windows. From 1844, Mr. Turner lived in Newton Centre where he bought and sold numerous properties. A manuscript by Margaret Orr in the Jackson Homestead Collection describes him as the real estate developer of Pelham Street, Lake Street, and the part of Beacon Street near the village centre. Charles Davis, owner until 1907, called the estate "Mount Pleasant."



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## **BROOKLINE STREET**

The road from Brookline to Dedham Street since 1693.

### **215 Brookline Street circa 1693**

**\* 1693 Thomas Hastings,  
husbandman**

**1760 Samuel Richardson,  
housewright**

**1855 H. Hodges, gardener**

**1874 John M. Schworer, farmer**

Like many seventeenth century farmhouses, it is believed that this was originally a half house then expanded to a saltbox. The symmetrical facade, with a central ornamented doorway and 12 over 12-paned windows, is typical of Colonial changes and possibly made by Samuel Richardson. In 1978 and 1979 the house was carefully restored to a two-story saltbox eliminating a porch.

Although Thomas Hastings's (1671-1737) family lived in Watertown, he apparently was raised in Newton.

There he married Sarah Tarball in 1693 and probably built this house. His will, dated March 8, 1736, mentions a house, barn, and 34 acres which he bequeathed to his sons. They, in turn, sold it to Samuel Richardson, a housewright, and son of David and Remember Ward Richardson whose farm was on Dedham Street near Greenwood Street. His brother, Jeremiah, lived nearby at 9 Burdean Road. Ownership of 215 Brookline Street changed several times until 1874 when John Schworer bought the same 34 acres. His family remained there until 1949.



Steve Rosenthal

**328 Brookline Street  
circa 1710**

- \* 1710 Jonathan Dyke, cooper**
- 1796 Noah King, housewright**
- 1868 Noah S. King, farmer**
- 1909 Lyman W. King, clergyman**
- 1983 June King, retired**

The varying sizes of the window panes in the front facade of this brown clapboard saltbox support the local belief that it was originally a half house, that is, narrowly built so that it could be easily expanded to the left or the right of the chimney. Two first floor windows feature six over nine panes, typical of early eighteenth century houses. Paired chimneys indicate the center hall plan. A pair of sidelights and a lintel surrounding the center door date from the Federal period. The side porch and rear wing reinforce the image of a timeless New England farmhouse.

The family and whereabouts of Jonathan Dyke (died 1751) prior to 1710 are somewhat difficult to determine because of the variety of spellings of his surname (Dikes, Dix, Dike). Local deeds and town records of 1710 indicate Jonathan Dyke's presence and land ownership in Oak Hill. In 1767 the house was sold to Simeon Pond, a yeoman from Roxbury, and in 1796 Noah King, a "housewrite", bought it with 40 acres and a barn. John King, Noah's father, moved to Newton Centre in 1760 where he was a medical doctor and civic leader. He divided much of the land he had purchased among his three sons. His son, Noah, acquired land in Oak Hill from his father at about the same time that he bought this house. At one time the King farmstead included 70 acres between Oak and Bald Pate Hills. It was a working farm until the 1920s. Despite subdivision of the land, the King family has retained ownership of the house.



Steve Rosenthal

## BURDEAN ROAD

Laid out in 1936 from Greenwood Street.

### **9 Burdean Road (formerly 83 Greenwood Street) 18th century**

**\* 1729 Timothy Hyde, soldier  
1761 Jeremiah Richardson  
1855 J. W. Kingsbury, farmer  
1874 Mrs. J. Kingsbury, widow**

It is difficult to determine whether this house was built for Timothy Hyde or for Jeremiah Richardson, but documentary evidence suggests that it, or at least ownership of the land, dates from 1729. In that year John Hyde 2nd bequeathed 36 acres and a dwelling house to his son Timothy (1689-1756). As indicated by the Moffat Plan (page 18) and the city atlases, several buildings have existed on the property throughout its history. The diagonal position of the present house implies its former relationship to Greenwood Street and its south-facing facade indicates its Colonial origin. Changes are evident in the small two over two window lights, small chimney,

foundation and porch. Jeremiah Richardson, son of David and Remember Richardson, bought land from the Hyde family about the time of his marriage to Dorcas Hall in 1761. At the death of their son Thomas Richardson in 1836, Elizabeth, his widow, sold 55 acres and buildings to Thomas Ayling, gentleman, of Bloomingdale, New York, who in turn sold to Sarah Smith, widow, of Boston. In 1853 John Kingsbury of Hammond Street bought the so-called Richardson Farm for his son John W. Kingsbury and his wife Elizabeth. The deed refers to the Moffat plan, drawn by E. F. Woodward, but no information about J. Moffat is available. One can only assume that prior to Woodward's death in 1846, Mr. Moffat was interested in purchasing the farm, since it was available several times from 1836 to 1853. As many as thirty acres remained with the house until the 1930s when the owner Dorris Norris subdivided the property.

## CENTRE STREET

Part of the road from Watertown to Dedham dating from the 1630s.

### 983 Centre Street circa 1850

1855 Joseph Gunderson, bank  
cashier

1874 Joseph Gunderson

1925 Trinity Church Parish House

The wide corner boards, flat pilasters, architrave and gable roof are the original features of this house which characterize it as Greek Revival. This house was one of several estates on Centre Street. Arthur C. Walworth (1844-1920) described the street in his "Reminiscences" as "lined with willow trees. Fences and gates were necessary, for on market days droves of cattle went by on their way to Brighton and much damage could be done to flower beds and vegetable gardens." The land on which it stands was formerly part of Reverend Jonathan Homer's farm, and Joseph Gunderson was one of the first to build a suburban house in

Newton Centre, when the railroad was extended from Brookline through the south side of Newton.

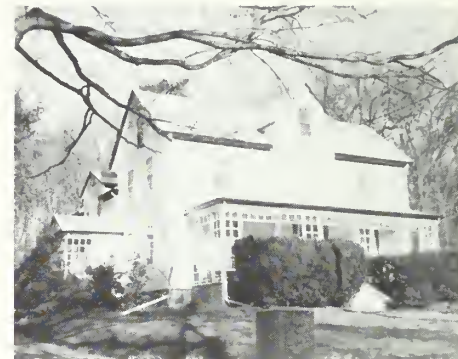
### 1457 Centre Street circa 1830

1831 Clark

1855 Mrs. M.A. Clark

1874 Asa W. Armington, salesman

In the 1830s several houses were on Centre Street near Crystal Lake. This one is the only survivor of three houses belonging to the Clark family shown on the 1848 map. Few original features remain exhibiting its Greek Revival Style: sidehall entry, gabled facade with a wide boxed cornice and returns, and raised mouldings over the windows and door. It is difficult to determine what members of the Clark family were the occupants of the house. John Clark arrived in Newton in the late seventeenth century and many of his descendants remained in the town.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## CLARK STREET

Named for a seventeenth century local family, it was part of the Sherborn Road prior to 1808.

### 144 Clark Street circa 1840

**1855 John Stearns, farmer**  
**1895 Charles Stearns, farmer**

A noted feature of this two-and-a-half story Greek Revival farmhouse is the projecting center bay with gable roof that defines the central entrance way. Other characteristics are the full side lights and elongated first story windows. The Stearns farmstead included land on both sides of Clark Street and an area south of Boylston Street. A tributary of South Meadow Brook is called Stearns Brook.

## DEDHAM STREET

Part of the road from Watertown to Dedham that dates from the settlement of Dedham in 1635.

### 349 Dedham Street 1829, late 19th century

**1831 E. Stone, farmer**  
**1855 E. Stone**  
**1874 Mary C. Stone, widow**  
**1895 Clarence Stetson, provisions**

Ebenezer Stone (1663-1741), born in Watertown, settled first in Newton Corner, then in Chestnut Hill. His son John (1692-1769), a weaver, bought land on the southwest side of Dedham Street in the 1720s. Successive Stone generations farmed the area for 150 years. Three Stone houses remain today in Oak Hill: 349, 360, and 391 Dedham Street. It is believed that Ebenezer Stone, great-great grandson of John, built a portion of #349 in 1829 on land that he inherited. By the time of his death the house had doubled in size, thus obscuring the original structure. The front facade exhibits the late nineteenth century Colonial Revival Style and may

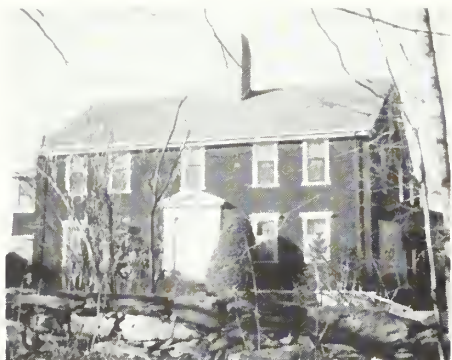
have been added by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Stetson, owners between 1895 and 1929.

### 360 Dedham Street circa 1830

**1831 David Stone, farmer**  
**1855 David Stone, farmer**  
**1886 Martha Stone, widow of David**

Paneled corner boards and moulded trim mark this L-shaped farmhouse built during the Greek Revival period. Probably constructed at the time of David Stone's marriage to Martha Stone, a distant cousin, it still retains the original granite wall and posts designating the entrance drive.

On the 1855 map a blacksmith shop is shown near David Stone's house. The shop is gone by 1874. The only connection that can be established was found in the Stone Genealogy that describes David Stone as being apprenticed as a blacksmith in Cambridge. In 1830, returning to Oak Hill, he followed his trade and later engaged in farming.



Jackson Homestead Collections

**391 Dedham Street  
circa 1772**

**1772 Stone**  
**1831 Stone**  
**1855 E. Stone, farmer**  
**1868 Grafton Stone, milk**  
**1917 Peter Volante, gardener**

The original house has a symmetrical main facade with lintels over the windows and a triangular pediment capping the doorway. Seen from Dedham Street are the central chimney and gable end of the roof. Several additions to the rear of the building were added in the nineteenth century.

It is believed that this house was built for one of Captain Jonas and Anna Stone's sons. Both Ebenezer (1757-1800) and Jonas Junior (1749-1835) are listed on the 1798 tax list: Jonas had a house valued at \$340 with 52 acres valued at \$1,346, while Ebenezer's house was valued at \$825 with 100 acres at \$2,392. A working farm remained here until the middle of this century.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

**729 Dedham Street  
circa 1855**

**1855 Calvin Rand**  
**1874 H. E. Howard, schoolmaster**  
**1886 William Sanderson, farmer**

The broad columns and horizontal entablature of a Greek temple are imitated in this one-and-a-half story house. It was built by a local carpenter using wide boards and mouldings to represent these features. The centered door with sidelights and high lintel is a miniature version of the same image. The large rear ell was added by 1886.



Steve Rosenthal

**777 Dedham Street (Mt. Ida Junior  
College campus)  
circa 1719**

**\* 1718 Robert Murdock, Junior  
1772 Wiswall  
1831 William Wiswall  
1855 B. H. Cooke  
1920 Peabody Home Tea Room**

Originally a center chimney saltbox, the house was enlarged to a two-and-a-half story farmhouse with connected barns in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1964 the main house was moved across Brookline Street to Carlson Avenue, near the entrance of Mt. Ida Junior College. At that time eighteenth and nineteenth century architectural components were carefully restored. A twentieth century wing and attached garage sympathetically blend with the older elements.

The earliest portions of the house were built at the time of Robert Murdock, Junior's, marriage to Abigail Hyde in 1719. Captain Jeremiah Wiswall (1725-1807) acquired two Murdock properties at the intersection of Dedham and Brookline Streets. First, in 1757, his wife Elizabeth inherited the south parcel from her father, Robert Murdock, Junior. Subsequently he bought a 26-acre parcel with this house from his brother-in-law, Joshua Murdock, in 1767. The Wiswall family resided in the house through 1855.

**926 Dedham Street  
circa 1772**

**\* 1713 John Wilson  
1772 Wilson  
1831 Richards  
1855 Wm. McIntosh, farmer  
1874 Marcus Byrne, farmer**

This house has the shape and proportions of a typical late Colonial farmhouse. Twentieth century siding and porches have been added. In a deed of 1800, it is recorded that John Wilson sold a dwelling house and 40 acres with a cider mill to Daniel Richards. The first decades of this century found this house still part of a farmstead that included four barns and 41 acres of land.

**992 Dedham Street  
circa 1850**

**1855 T. J. Orange, farmer  
1874 Thomas Orange, farmer  
1927 William Wright, farmer**

Several families lived along both sides of Dedham Street from Oak Hill Street to the Roxbury line during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but numbers 926 and 992 are the only houses remaining from those years. This house was sided in the twentieth century and its original features have been altered. However, the proportions, roof, and windows appear to be pre-1855.

## DUDLEY ROAD

Laid out in 1711 as an open highway and part of the road from Roxbury, it was designated a scenic road by the Board of Aldermen in 1974.

### **336 Dudley Road 18th century**

- \* **1708 John Hyde, husbandman**
- 1738 John Hyde, Junior**
- 1751 Elisha Hyde**
- 1831 Hyde**
- 1844 Conrad Decker, farmer**
- 1855 Conrad Decker, farmer**

This five bay rectilinear house with low granite foundation and gable roof gives the impression of a Colonial farmhouse. Its overall image is similar to the other Hyde houses at 9 Burdean Road and 29 Greenwood Street. No original details appear to remain, as the doors, windows, and chimneys were modernized in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The house is on the site of, and perhaps is a portion of, the house with 46 acres which in 1703 Jonathan Hyde, Senior, gave to his son John (1656-1738). His son, John Junior (1686-1760) died a bachelor and left the

estate to his brother Timothy's children. It is believed that one of these heirs, Elisha (1730-1781), lived there, as did his sons Gershom II (1755-1836) and Elisha Junior (1757-1838). Thus the house was occupied by Hydes until it was purchased by Conrad Decker, a farmer from West Cambridge, in 1844.



Newton Historical Properties Survey



Steve Rosenthal

## **GREENWOOD STREET**

In 1711 a highway was laid out "from the road that goeth from our meeting house to the Roxbury line unto the road that goeth to Dedham".

### **29 Greenwood Street circa 1744**

- 1744 Gershom Hyde**
- \* 1782 Thaddeus Hyde**
- 1855 T. Hyde, Junior**
- 1860 Edward Wales, farmer**
- 1868 George Wales, fruit  
preserves**

This house is an example of a New England Farmhouse Style which was common between 1690 and 1780. Its exterior features are a gable roof, central chimney, clapboard siding and central doorway (which in this case is covered by a twentieth century porch), and a low foundation. Research has shown that in the second quarter of the eighteenth century John Hyde, Junior, a bachelor, lived at nearby 336 Dudley Road and his brother Timothy resided opposite at what is now 9 Burdean

Road. It is possible that Timothy's son Gershom (1719-1754), who married Grace Norcross in 1744, was the first occupant of this house. He died at age 35, leaving no will, and his widow remarried in 1757. A 1766 Town Meeting Record provides evidence that the heirs of Gershom Hyde owned land bounded by the South Ministerial Woodlot, which was located next to 29 Greenwood Street at the corner of Dudley Road and Greenwood Street. There is no record of how Thaddeus Hyde (1751-1821) got the house, but he is the nephew of Gershom Hyde and it was his heirs who sold several parcels of land, totaling 53 acres, as well as the homestead to Edward Wales in 1860.



Courtesy Ferne E. Worthington

## HAMMOND STREET

The earliest known reference to this highway was in 1658. It was designated a scenic road in 1974.

### **521 Hammond Street 1675, late 19th century, 1937**

- 1675 Nathaniel Hammond, Senior**
- \* 1749 Benjamin Hammond, soldier**
- 1794 Benjamin Hammond, Junior**
- 1823 Samuel Jepson, coach  
maker**
- 1848 Henry or Charles Jepson,  
yeomen**
- 1858 John Lowell, District Judge**

Nestled between the railroad tracks laid out in 1852 and the shopping mall built in the twentieth century, the building with its nearby barns is a reminder of Chestnut Hill's agricultural past. A section of this house appears to be Colonial and possibly dates from before 1675. The 1675 will of Thomas Hammond, Senior, stated that his son Nathaniel (1643-1691) had a house. The heirs of Nathaniel occupied the house through 1810. By that time two descendants, Benjamin and his son Benjamin, Junior, had sold the farm in

several parcels. The Jepson family acquired the Hammond house when Samuel Jepson of Boston purchased the buildings and 50 acres in 1823.

Between 1858 and 1863 Judge Lowell purchased the house and the surrounding acreage from the Jepson and Kingsbury families (307 Hammond Street). The house was enlarged by the Lowells in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Further changes were made when Mrs. Storer, the 1937 owner, commissioned the Boston architectural firm of Blodgett and Law to undertake a major renovation.

## HERRICK ROAD

Formerly Institution Avenue, this street was accepted by the City in 1876 and renamed in 1950 in honor of Dr. Everett Herrick, President of the Newton Theological Institution from 1926 to 1957.

**157 Herrick Road**  
**1829, 1857**

**1831 Theological Seminary**

**1855 Newton Theological  
Institution**

**1931 Andover-Newton  
Theological School**

In 1826 the eighty-five acre Peck estate was bought for the Newton Theological Institution. According to Smith's *History of Newton*, the present "Brick Building", paid for by public subscription, was completed in 1829 and named Farwell Hall after Levi Farwell, first treasurer and generous contributor to the Institution. The scale of the original two-story building has been altered by the 1857 addition of a mansard roof, but the proportions of the windows and the rectangular shape of a mansard roof, recall its Federal origins.



Steve Rosenthal

## HOMER STREET

In 1716 this street was laid out from the west part of town to the meeting house. Reverend Jonathan Homer, for whom the road was later named, was pastor of the First Parish Church from 1785 to 1840.

**85 Homer Street**  
**1854**

**1855 Z. Erastus Coffin, merchant**  
**1874 Benjamin F. Brown, blacking  
manuf.**

Dating from 1854, this late Greek Revival house blends the traditional five bay rectangular form with the classical features of paneled corner boards, entablature, and side-lighted central entrance. Three houses in this vicinity (83 and 85 Homer Street and 15 Water Street) were built on lots that Martin Morse subdivided after he bought much of the late Reverend Homer's farm.

**93 Homer Street  
circa 1847-8**

**1848 Bartholomew Wood, teacher  
1907 Maria F. Wood**

Portions of this house may have been built for Mr. Wood by Daniel Eddy, a Boston housewright, in 1847-8, and the original house may have resembled its neighbor at 85 Homer Street. Later additions were made by Mr. and Mrs. Wood who remained at this location through 1907. A high style wood fence in front of the house is reminiscent of the traditional New England picket fence common in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

**168 Homer Street  
1829, 1844-54**

**1831 Dr. Samuel Clarke, medical  
doctor**

**1848 Roswell Turner, real estate  
1855 F. B. Webster, businessman,  
Boston merchant**

The east wing of the house and sheds date from Samuel Clarke's ownership in 1829. Visually predominant is the main

block built in the Mansard Style between 1844 and 1854. The fish-scale slate roof and wide eaves with paired brackets are typical of this style.

With Dr. Clarke's marriage to Rebecca Hull, he established a long time association with Newton. One son, James Freeman Clarke, became a well-known Unitarian minister. Dr. Clarke operated an apothecary shop in Boston, which later became the Old Corner Bookstore. In 1828 he returned to Newton where he began the Boston Chemical Factory. This house was built for Dr. Clarke not far from the factory. The property changed owners several times after his death in 1831, until Roswell Turner bought the property with 20 acres in 1844. This purchase marked the beginning of Turner's twenty year involvement with Newton Centre real estate. Mr. Turner built one of the earliest examples of the Mansard Style adjacent to the earlier house and then sold the house on four-and-a-half acres for \$7,500 to Mr. Webster.



Newton Historical Properties Survey



Steve Rosenthal

**255 Homer Street  
late 18th century, 1848**

**1787 Capt. Henry King,  
blacksmith**

**1848 Thomas Smith, bank teller**

**1855 Rev. George Carlton,  
clergyman**

Newton houses were generally built in the Mansard Style between 1855 and 1880. This house and its neighbor at 168 Homer Street are two of the earliest examples known in the City. Set back on a hill, the house is distinguished by its clapboard siding ornamented with quoins, a bellcast Mansard roof with red and black fish-scale patterned slate, and paired brackets under the eaves. The attached two-story wing in the rear dates from the ownership of Captain Henry King (1787-1823), or perhaps earlier. Homer Street was laid out in 1716 through what had been Jonathan Hyde's seventeenth century 300-acre farm. Three of his sons built houses on land extending as far as present-day Bullough's Pond. One of them, William Hyde, sold an old house and 14 acres to Dr. John King, a prominent medical doctor and civic leader who lived near

the Newton Centre Common. In 1787 Dr. King gave this property, still with an "old house", to his son Henry. Whether Henry King, who married in 1786, lived in the earlier eighteenth century house or built another is difficult to determine. When he died in 1823, his homestead included 58 acres with buildings. After several owners, Thomas Smith purchased almost the entire King farm for \$5,000 in 1847. He probably had the Mansard Style house constructed during his ownership. Between 1849 and 1854, Smith sold portions of the property to Reverend George Carlton from West Cambridge. The price for one parcel with ten acres and a dwelling house was \$4,000, and another 12 acres described as Smith's garden with stone wall and chestnut tree sold for \$5,000. Reverend Carlton remained there through the 1880s.



Barbara Thibault

## HYDE STREET

Originally a driveway to the Hyde House; it was accepted in sections as a street by the City between 1873 and 1907.

### 22 Hyde Street, 1848-51

**1855 William Hyde, farmer**

**1874 William Hyde, farmer**

This residence is a local builder's adaptation of the Greek Revival Style. The house has a traditional center entrance flanked by sidelights, though the entrance porch and dormers are not original. William Hyde, born in 1818, was a descendant of Jonathan Hyde, Senior, who first bought land in Newton in 1647. Members of this family built houses and farmed from that time through the nineteenth century. A long-time resident of Newton Highlands, William was the cousin of James F. C. Hyde (1825-1898) who became Newton's first mayor when the town was incorporated as a city in 1873.



Courtesy Jean Le Compte

## JACKSON STREET

Part of the Sherborn Road

**125 Jackson Street, 1768, 1782**

**\* Abraham Jackson, blacksmith  
1782 Aaron Richards,  
housewright  
1825 Ephraim Jackson 2nd  
1855 Ephraim Jackson 2nd**

A traditional Colonial house with gable roof, twin chimneys and symmetrical facade, this structure also has early Greek Revival characteristics. The wide vertical corner boards with recessed panels and the front portico with columns typify this early nineteenth century architectural style.

Abraham Jackson bought land from Ebenezer Parker in 1766, and in 1768 he took out a mortgage for three acres with a house, barn and ten acres of woodland. In 1782 Aaron Richards of Dedham bought the house from Abraham Jackson and additional acreage from Jonas and Martha Jackson between 1783 and 1800. It is possible that Mr. Richards, a carpenter,

built the main block of the present house and that an earlier structure exists that was Abraham Jackson's house. Aaron Richards remained there until his death in 1823 at which time his children sold his property in ten parcels totalling 60 acres to Ephraim Jackson 2nd (1781-1860) for \$3,500. One parcel consisted of 13 acres with a dwelling house and other buildings, bounded south by the county road (Jackson Street), east by land of Bartlett, north by Bartlett and the late Peck (Andover-Newton Theological School) and west by a town way (Cypress Street). Ephraim Jackson died in 1860 leaving 52 acres with buildings in Newton Centre. His will refers to his estate as the so-called "Aaron Richards farm". His sons divided the property and sold the house. By 1874 the Children's Aid Society occupied the house.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## LANGLEY ROAD

A town way laid out in 1809, later known as Station Street and in 1895 renamed Langley Road for a prominent resident.

### 85 Langley Road 1847

**1847 Jonas Salisbury, yeoman**  
**1855 Warren Ellis, merchant**  
**1873 George Ellis, provisions**

This house is a fine example of the Greek Revival Style with paneled pilasters, a deep frieze and triangular pediments in each gable end. A front porch has Doric columns and the main entrance is highlighted by side lights and a transom. Jonas Salisbury, owner of many Newton Centre properties, acquired the land in 1846. He contracted with a local housewright, Henry Fuller of Newton Corner, to build a house for \$2,630 according to a plan drawn by Mr. Fuller. From the 1840's until his death in 1898, Mr. Fuller built a number of houses in Newton, especially in the Newton area. The source for the classical architectural details may have been an architect-builder's guide which

he owned, entitled *The British Architect*. The book, now in the Jackson Homestead Collection, was written by British architect Abraham Swan in 1744 and reprinted in Boston by 1794. This house is one of the few known examples by Mr. Fuller. It is not clear whether Mr. Salisbury ever lived in the house or not. By 1853, he sold the house with three acres for \$4,000 to Mr. Ellis, a local shopkeeper.

### 92 Langley Road 1855

**1855 Manly Lothrop, trader**  
**1871 J. H. Daniels, lithographer**

Built in the Italianate Style, this house displays the characteristic details of deep overhanging eaves, paired brackets and porch with chamfered posts. The first owner, Mr. Lothrop, was active in local real estate. The next occupant, John Daniels, joined the growing numbers of suburban commuters and travelled on the train to Boston to reach his Washington Street business.

For illustration see *Guide: Italianate Style*.

## MORSELAND AVENUE

Laid out as private road in 1859 when Lyman and Alfred Morse subdivided land between Mill and Ward Streets. Morseland Avenue, once part of Water Street, was accepted by the City in 1902.

### 29-31 Morseland Avenue pre-1831

**1831 Dr. Jonathan Homer, pastor**  
**1848 Martin Morse, farmer**  
**1855 M. Morse, farmer**

In 1844 Martin Morse, a farmer from Brookline, bought the Reverend John Homer's house on Centre Street (opposite Ward) with 35 acres, stretching from Pleasant to Mill Street. Ten years later some of the land was sold and subdivided. The house was moved to Morseland Avenue between 1855 and 1866 and was occupied by the Morse family through the 1950s. They ran a market garden on eight acres until 1911. Original features of the house that may still be seen are the main block with a cornice, dentil moulding and six over six windows.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## MORTON STREET

Morton Street, from Mill to Homer Street, is marked on the 1848 map, though the location is that of the present Cedar Street. The street was probably William Morton's private driveway. Both Morton and Cedar Streets were accepted by the City in 1908.

### 97 Morton Street circa 1852

**1852 Philip Goodridge,  
housewright**  
**1866 Philip Goodridge,  
housewright**  
**1874 P. W. Goodridge,  
patternmaker**

This house and its lot appear after the subdivision of the Morton estate. Built in a popular form of the Greek Revival Style with a front gable and sidehall entrance, it closely resembles its neighbor at 105 Morton Street. Mr. Morton's estate described in *King's Handbook of Newton* as a "gothic villa" was just north of Cedar Street. He sold ten acres of the estate to local speculators in 1847 with the following restrictions: "that there shall not be built

upon the aforesaid land any buildings that shall be used for the purpose of a slaughter house, glue factory, varnish factory, distillery or for any purpose that would generally in a village be considered a nuisance". In that same year, privileges for the use of a road through Mr. Morton's land to the town road were granted to Nathaniel Prince and Philip Goodridge, Newton housewrights who purchased one-acre parcels. In 1852 Mr. Goodridge borrowed \$1,000 and agreed to "erect a dwelling house upon the (this) lot... within one year... the cost of which shall not amount to a sum less than \$1,500."



Newton Historical Properties Survey

**105 Morton Street  
circa 1855**

**1855 Jonas Salisbury, truckman  
1855 J. H. Hazelton, paper hanger  
1874 J. H. Hazelton, paper hanger**

This Greek Revival house, like its neighbor, 97 Morton Street, retains panelled pilasters and side entrance with transom and sidelights. Though identified as a yeoman (market gardener or truck farmer) in deeds, the first owner, Jonas Salisbury, emerged as an early Newton Centre real estate entrepreneur. First acquiring land through his marriage to Elizabeth Ann King, he bought and sold numerous lots in the village center over a period of twenty years. As in the case of 85 Langley Road, it appears as if Salisbury probably did not live in this house. In 1852, Mr. Salisbury purchased this one-acre lot from Philip Goodridge for \$400. Then, he sold that lot with a dwelling house to John Hazelton in 1855 for \$3,500, thus fixing the date of this house between 1852 and 1855.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

### **NAHANTON STREET**

Part of the road from Dedham Street to the river since 1711.

#### **241 Nahanton Street circa 1830**

**1831 Ebenezer Stone**  
**1836 Samuel Stone, yeoman**  
**1855 Timothy Randal, yeoman**  
**1874 George Butters, farmer**

Though the symmetrical front facade is typical of earlier styles, the one-story columned porch and center doorway with sidelights represent the Greek Revival Style. This house was built for Ebenezer Stone who also had property on Dedham Street. In 1856, George Butters of Brookline purchased several Oak Hill properties, including this house. He acquired 75 acres which was a typical New England farm. The Butters family remained there through 1900.

#### **303 Nahanton Street circa 1855**

**1855 David Hall, Junior, yeoman**  
**1917 Mrs. David Hall**  
**1929 Crescenzo Angino, driver**

Though this house dates from 1855, the ancestors of its owner, David Hall, were in Newton earlier. In 1705 Andrew Hall, a weaver, purchased 43 acres of land near the intersection of Nahanton and Dedham Streets. Members of the Hall family remained on Nahanton Street farming the land and participating in local affairs until the twentieth century. In the early twentieth century the house was enlarged by raising the roof, and altering the barn. However, the scale and proportions of the buildings, as well as the adjacent open fields, provide a view into an agricultural past. This is Newton's last remaining working farm.



Jackson Homestead Collections

## OLD ORCHARD ROAD

Partly laid out in 1901

**9 Old Orchard Road (formerly  
Hammond Street near Beacon  
Street)  
circa 1662**

**1662 Thomas Hammond, Junior**

**\* 1714 Thomas Hammond, 3rd**

**1782 Thomas Hammond, yeoman**

**1831 Ebenezer Fuller, yeoman**

**1855 Joseph Woodman, farmer**

**1874 J. and J. Woodman, farmers**

**1919 William Coburn, banker**

The original Saltbox Style house with a central chimney is located in the middle of the present house and is considered the oldest existing structure in Newton.

After 1919 its owners renovated the building, and it took on its present appearance of an eighteenth century formal country house of Georgian Style. It is commonly thought that the house was built for Thomas Hammond, Junior, who married in 1662. From the 1675 will of his father, Thomas Hammond, Senior, it is learned that the two sons, Thomas, Junior, and Nathaniel, were given the houses they already occupied. Hammond descendants lived in the house until 1811 when Thomas Hammond sold a farm called "Hammond Place" with a dwelling house, barn, other buildings, and 79 acres. The farm had several owners until Joseph and John Woodman of West Cambridge purchased the property in 1840. Subdivision of the farmland did not occur until the 1890s. By then the Woodman family had built a new house at 25 Old Orchard Road and the old "Hammond Place" with one acre was unoccupied until it was sold in 1919.



Jackson Homestead Collections

## PARKER STREET

Laid out in 1852 from Oak Hill to Newton Centre "commencing at the orchard of Ebenezer Stone on the present Watertown to Dedham Road... to the Common at Newton Centre". Named after Nathaniel Parker and his descendants who lived near the intersection of Boylston and Clark Streets from 1680 to the 1850s.

### 151 Parker Street 1855-59

**1859 William Giles, painter**  
**1874 William Giles**

This house does not appear on Newton maps until 1866. However, the architectural features in the one-and-a-half story structure combine the Greek Revival and Italianate Styles which suggest that it may have been built in the 1850s. In 1855, Seth Davis, a well-known West Newton resident, paid William Aiken, who lived at 595 Boylston Street, \$260.59 for 36,562 square feet of land. In 1859 William Giles paid Davis \$1,450 for the same land now including a dwelling house.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## PLEASANT STREET

Formerly called Curve Street, it was laid out as a private way in 1849 and accepted by the Town in 1859 from Centre Street to Homer Street. Pleasant Street was probably named for Mount Pleasant, the name of the estate on Bracebridge Road.

### **71, 75 and 83 Pleasant Street 1850-1869**

**1855 Barnas Sears, Doctor of Divinity**

**1874 Charles Clark, merchant**

Originally, one building was at this location but some time between 1917 and 1929, possibly by 1923, the house, known as #75, was divided into three sections. The main block, representing the 1850s Italianate Style, remained on the original site and was renumbered 71. The first floor windows are full length with six over nine panes and the hooded lintels supported on paired brackets are features of the style. Ornate brackets also decorate the roof eaves. The portion of the house which was relocated to the present #75 has been

re-sided in stucco. Changes to the roof were made when the building was updated to the 1920s Craftsman Style. The original kitchen wing was moved to the rear of the property and is now #83. Features that are probably original are the small windows which may have had six over six panes, the corner boards, clapboards and gable roof.

A house belonging to Reverend Sears, described as being from Newton and as President of Brown University, is shown on Pleasant Street at the curve on the 1855 map. A deed of the same year records that Reverend Sears sold nine acres on Pleasant Street to Joseph Parker, also a Doctor of Divinity, who in turn sold the land with buildings to Caroline Tyler Clark, wife of Charles Clark, merchant of Boston, in 1867. A plan of the estate drawn in 1869 shows a large L-shaped house with an extended west wing, two ponds, and numerous acres encompassing the present Newton Centre Playground. Charles Clark, who became President of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and members of his family, remained at this location through 1929.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

## SUFFOLK ROAD

Formerly called Rockminster Road, it was laid out in sections between 1894 and 1908

### **137 Suffolk Road (formerly 307 Hammond Street) 1680-1701**

- \* 1686 John Parker, Junior,  
husbandman**
- 1701 Ebenezer Stone**
- 1817 John Kingsbury, farmer**
- 1855 J. and I. Kingsbury**
- 1896 Edwin Webster, electrical  
engineer**

It is possible that this house or portions of it were built by John Parker, Junior, in the 1680s. A central chimney is common in seventeenth century houses. However, the features of a gable roof, double hung sash windows with small panes and center doorway are more typical of an eighteenth century farmhouse.

In 1686 John Parker, carpenter, bequeathed to his son John eleven acres with a dwelling house, seven acres of meadow and woodland, and

one cow. John, Junior, in turn sold to Ebenezer Stone of Newton Corner, one "mansion house" and barns with fourteen acres; one half of it orchard, upland and meadow in 1701. One hundred years later in 1817 John Stone, yeoman, sold the property to John Kingsbury of Brookline. In addition to the buildings and land, Kingsbury also purchased "Wall Pew number 43 in Reverend Homer's meeting house and stable number six".

John Kingsbury and his children were major land owners in Chestnut Hill and Oak Hill throughout the nineteenth century. Isaac F. Kingsbury, John's grandson, was city clerk from 1883-1911 and acquired the old house. However, he lived at 360 Hammond Street and rented this house to Charles Burrage. In 1896 when Mr. and Mrs. Webster bought the property intending to build a new house, the old house was preserved by Mr. Burrage who moved it to its present location in 1904.



Barbara Thibault

## SUMNER STREET

Named for the well-known abolitionist Charles Sumner who lived on Beacon Hill and was an occasional visitor to William Jackson's house in Newton, the street was accepted by the City in 1908.

### 28 Sumner Street (formerly 6 Sumner Street)

**1848 Hazelton**  
**1855 Hazelton**  
**1886 Lewis Speare, oils**

Few examples of the Gothic Revival Style, popular between 1840 and 1870, exist in Newton. The steep pitch of the gable roof of this one-and-a-half story house is typical of the style. Its lengthwise location to the street resulted when the house was moved from the corner of Sumner and Ward Streets to its present site between 1886 and 1895, when the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Speare, chose to build a new house on Ward Street. In 1895 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Speare lived in the older house and a family member remained there through 1929.

## VINE STREET

Part of the road to Roxbury, renewed by the Town Highway Committee in 1711.

### 134 Vine Street

**\* 1681 Thomas Prentice, Senior**  
**1728 Timothy Whitney,**  
**husbandman**  
**1772 Moses Whitney, yeoman**  
**1848 Whitney**  
**1855 George Curtis, farmer**  
**1874 Mary Curtis, widow**

The house or parts of it may date from the early owners, but the twentieth century additions and alterations have left little visual evidence. Building permits describe the addition of an ell and a two-story wing, the reconstruction of a shed at the rear of the house, the relocation of the front door, and the repair of fire damage.

Several houses, barns, and possibly a mill existed along this colonial roadway by the Sawmill Brook throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In 1681 Edward Jackson bequeathed 100 acres to his son-in-law Thomas Prentice, Senior,

(1629-1724). His heirs sold a dwelling house and land in 1728 to Timothy Whitney. This property became known as the "Whitney Farm" even after it was sold in 1854 to George Curtis.



Steve Rosenthal

## WARD STREET

Probably laid out in the early 1650s and became the road to Brighton.

### 121 Ward Street 1821

1831 Ward  
1855 E. Ward  
1874 T. A. Ward, farmer  
1917 Mr. T. A. Ward

The front facade has Federal Style characteristics with the central doorway and symmetrically arranged six over six windows. The house was constructed in 1821 near the site of John Ward's home, which was demolished soon after in 1822. Tradition describes this house as belonging to Ephraim Ward (1799-1871). He was a fourth generation descendant of John Ward, and the son of Samuel Ward (1762-1834). From John's marriage in 1650 to Hannah Jackson he acquired 45 acres on Ward Street near Hammond Street. They built a house commonly known as the "garrison house" because it had an extended upper story with small windows in order to dump boiling water

and heavy stones in case of attack. By the time of the death of Ephraim's father, Samuel Ward, in 1834, the Ward property encompassed much of Ward Street. Two other houses, #184 and #303, were built for Ephraim's brothers about the same time as #121. Ward descendants continued to own this house until 1974.



Steve Rosenthal

**175 Ward Street**  
**circa 1801**

**1831 Hyde**  
**1855 Michael Martin, farmer**  
**1917 Margaret Martin**

Typically Federal in style, the front facade has window and door surrounds of narrow moulding, and a central entrance. The roofline with an elongated rear slope presents a saltbox profile. That is compatible with the Federal facade but may not be original. Charles Hyde (1774-1821) built the house at the time of his marriage in 1801 to Sarah Jackson. Ownership of the "Hyde Place" so-called in the numerous water and property disputes of the mid-century Newton tunnel construction, changed many times. Finally, in 1852, Michael Martin purchased the house and a portion of the property. The Martin family remained owners through the early twentieth century though they built a new house at 169/171 Ward Street by 1885 and rented the older house to local laborers.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

**184 Ward Street/5 Nobscot Street  
circa 1800**

**1831 Ward**  
**1855 John Ward, farmer**  
**1917 John Ward heirs**

Federal in style, this house has a hipped roof, three interior chimneys and wide cornerboards. It is located on a corner lot and has two five-bay facades, one facing each street. The traditional center doorways have features that may or may not be original, but which exhibit the general proportions, windows and mouldings common to the Federal period.

John Ward, the son of Samuel and Esther, married Mary Kingsbury in 1822 and they lived in the house, continuing the family tradition of market gardening on the surrounding property. John's son John Ward (1825-1911), who married Lydia Bartlett, wrote "Recollections of an Early Home" in 1906 describing the farm life on Ward Street. Hay and apples were major crops, with smaller orchards of pears, cherries and peaches grown from seedlings purchased from Samuel Hyde's nursery. John Ward, Junior, and his brother George built houses on both sides of their father's house by 1874. In 1907 John lived at #194 and rented #184 to a gardener and milkman. The property consisted of eight acres. Nobscot Road would not be completed from Commonwealth Avenue to Ward Street for another year.

**193 Ward Street  
circa 1830**

**1831 Harbach, provisions**  
**1855 J. W. Harbach, butcher**  
**1921 Sophronia Harbach**

A prominent feature of this Federal Style house is the center entrance with a fanlight and sidelights which may or may not be original. Siding and roof alterations were done in the twentieth century. Ownership of the property can be traced to Thomas Harbach who began buying property in Newton as early as 1796 and moved his family from Brookline to a house on the corner of Ward Street and Waverly Avenue in 1806. In 1831, this house was one of three Harbach family homes at the intersection. It was built for Thomas's son John W. Harbach (1803-57) when he married Charlotte Pettee in 1833. John operated a provision business in Newton and Brookline until his death in 1857. The Harbach family remained at this address through 1921.



Newton Historical Properties Survey

**303 Ward Street  
circa 1800**

**1831 Ward**

**1855 J. W. Harbach, provisions**

**1874 Harvey James, provisions**

The proportions of the house, the low pitched hip roof and the corner pilasters, identify it as being in the Federal Style. Though alterations are visible, the window surrounds are Federal in their appearance with moulding of mitred strips of wood. By 1855 John W. Harbach (1803-1857) or his son John Wilson Harbach (1838-1886) owned the house. The property which included the house and four and a half acres were sold to another provision dealer, Harvey James, in 1873. Occupant of the house from 1873 to 1907, Mr. James operated the H. James and W. H. Brackett Provisions Store in Newton Corner.

**WATER STREET**

An unnamed road in 1874. Named for a local resident by 1886.

**15 Water Street  
circa 1855**

**1855 Lyman Morse, gardener**

**1874 J. Whitney, clergyman**

Lyman Morse was the first occupant of this house which originally fronted on Homer Street. Though altered greatly in the twentieth century, the Homer Street facade of the house resembles its neighbor 85 Homer Street, with the entablature under the wide overhang of the roof. The property was originally bounded by the Centre Schoolhouse lot. The schoolhouse was destroyed between 1848 and 1855. All that remains of the schoolhouse site is a triangular open space at the intersection of Grafton, Homer, and Water Streets.



Barbara Thibault

## WINCHESTER STREET

Sections of the street are referred to before 1711 at which time it was formally bounded by the Town Highway Committee.

### 383 Winchester Street

**1831 A. Winchester, Esquire**  
**1855 J. A. Veasie, broker**  
**1886 F. Gordon Dexter**

This house was probably built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Typical of farmhouse construction, architectural features are combined. It is Colonial in its south-facing orientation and Federal in its symmetrical facade and sparse detail of corner boards and blocks.

Amasa Winchester, Junior, inherited his father's homestead and 289 acres. The land was on both sides of Winchester Street stretching south from Boylston Street to Dedham Street. This house was one of several buildings that Winchester sold in 1851 to Mr. Veasie of Boston. By 1882 Mr. Dexter owned the house with 76 acres.

## WOODWARD STREET

Originally a section of the Sherborn Road, renewed in 1726 and upgraded in 1852.

### 79 Woodward Street circa 1843

**1855 David Fogg**  
**1907 Mrs. Elizabeth Fogg**

Though the house has been sided with aluminum, it appears to have early nineteenth century architectural features: moulded window trim, corner boards, and a central entrance with a shelf and fluted pilasters.

David Fogg and his wife Elizabeth Dana Fogg bought one acre of land from Elijah Woodward in 1843 with the condition that a house be built there at their expense within one year. Their daughter, Miss Fannie Fogg, was a schoolteacher in the Newton Public Schools until she was injured in a train accident while travelling to visit a brother in Ohio. Though a semi-invalid, she remained in her parents' home until her death in 1932 aged 101 years.

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Plan of Newton, the outline of which is taken from the survey of Elijah F. Woodward and William F. Ward of 1831 so varied as to show the houses of the original settlers ... by Francis Jackson, 1854.\*

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\* Information taken from this plan marked\*.



