



Photo J. Hauck

History of
Main Street
Its Sights & Sounds

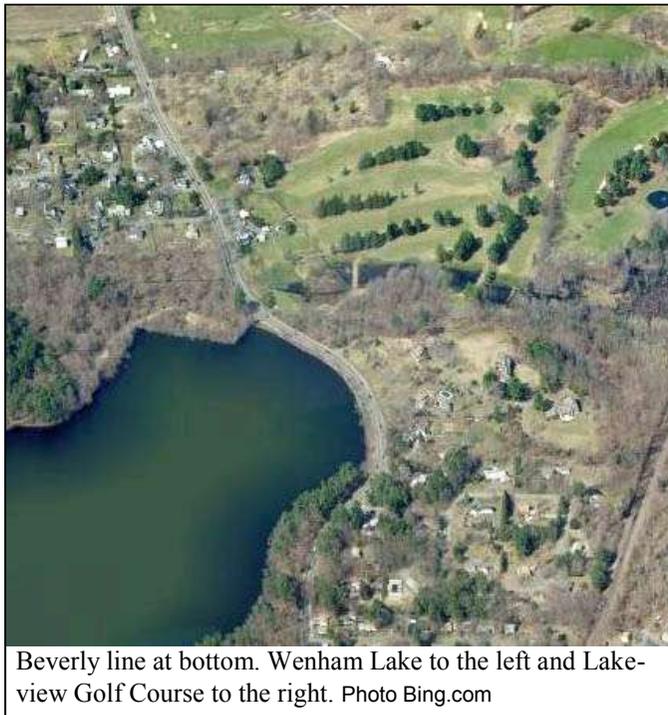
Beverly town line to Wenham Country Club

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Jack E. Hauck



Beverly line at bottom. Wenham Lake to the left and Lake-view Golf Course to the right. Photo Bing.com

Main Street

Beverly town line to Wenham Country Club

While walking along Main Street, you may recall where certain houses once stood. Not only are most of the old buildings gone. Once familiar sounds also are gone, for the most part. Let's take a walk along Main Street, from the Beverly line, and reminisce about what use to be.

As we mosey along, let's recall not just the sights, but also the many melodious sounds that have passed and faded away.

To start with, the street that we are on has not always been called Main Street. There have been several names.

Before the settlers came, it was an Indian path called Agawam way.

In 1690, Wenham's central way was called Country Rd.

In the early 1600s, the road was called Old Bay Rd, and also the Bay Path, by some. Today, in Hamilton, the name is 'Bay Road.'

To this confusion, can be added that some say the name was County Rd., a name that now applies to the road, as it passes through Ipswich.



Until the end of the 1800s, Wenham's Main Street was a dirt road.
Photo Courtesy Wenham Museum.

Near the end of the 18th century, 1790 to be exact, Wenham's town fathers again changed the name of the central roadway, to the commonplace name, Main Street.

For a short time, it was called Elm Street. In 1893, there were over 100 elm trees, alongside the central road. The Dutch Elm disease, in the 1940s and 50s, killed most of these trees.

Some years later, the main thoroughfare was once again called Main Street.

Many of the names of Wenham's central artery have been abandoned. Maybe that is why the Lions adopted the street. I wonder how many people have the old street signs in their attics.

Until the end of the 1800s, Wenham's Main Street was a dirt road. Saddled horses and horse-drawn carriages, passing by turned up large dust clouds.

Annual Town Reports, up to the early 1900s, had Warrant items for "laying dust," on streets. The term refers to spraying water and, in later years, oil emulsions to keep the dust down. In 1923, \$510 was voted for "Abating Dust Nuisance on Main St." ³ That is about \$6,500 in today's dollars.

Not only was Main Street unpaved, but from the Beverly line to Wenham cemetery, there was no sidewalk. Paths gradually were worn alongside the road, which later were covered with gravel. It was not until well into the 20th century, that the paths would be paved. Numerous reports describe paved sidewalks sections being created, especially in the town center.

Up to the end of the 19th century, there were no street signs, at Main Street intersections. In 1893, the Wenham Village Improvement Society - WVIS - asked the Selectmen to permit them to place "guide boards," at the intersections. As late as 1901, the WVIS still was placing "guide boards," on the town's streets. ⁴

There may have been street signs, but there were no house numbers. People just called a house by the name of the current or previous well-known resident. House numbers did not come into common use until 1948. ²²

Also, up to the end of the 19th century, were we taking our walk in the evening, there would have been no street lights, to light our way. At the 1891 annual town meeting, cost-conscious Wenhamites voted against putting up oil lamps, on Main from Beverly to Hamilton. ⁵

Two years later, 1893, the WVIS called for the town to erect street lights, from Wenham Lake to the Hamilton line. ⁶ The Selectmen said that the town already had voted against this, saying the cost was too much. Anyway, opined the Selectmen, electric streetcars soon might be put through the town, and the car company would pay for the lights. ⁴

In 1895, not wanting to wait, the ladies of the WVIS purchased a couple dozen



In 1893, the Wenham Village Improvement Society began placing street signs along Main Street.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



In 1895, the WVIS bought a oil-lamps for Main St.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum.

oil-lamps, for those Main Street home owners, who promised to daily light and extinguish the lamp, in front of their house, as well as keeping the wick trimmed, replacing the oil, and cleaning the globe. It did not take long before many others wanted the lamps: so many were requested that WWIS funds were quickly depleted.⁴

Seven years later, there were electric trolleys, on Main Street.⁷ Welsbach Street Lighting Co. took care of the lighting, until 1913. Thereafter, Beverly Gas & Light Electric Co. handled the lighting.⁶

Not only was the WWIS interested in the lighting of Main Street, the ladies also wanted to keep the roadway free of weeds and trash.

In 1901, the WWIS appointed Mrs. George Perkins, as a committee of one, to have the thorny burdock weeds removed from along Main Street. In 1917, the WWIS hired a boy to keep Main Street clean: he was paid 20 cents an hour. The boy also put out rubbish barrels, owned by the WWIS, and cleaned Main Street, once a week.⁴ The WWIS continued to care for Main Street until after WW2.

Were we walking along Main Street in the 1700s, four-horse stage coaches would have been an exciting sight. Approaching coachmen would toot a horn to warn us, as the horses and carriage came on, at a full run, thundering toward the tavern, at Main and Arbor.

Along Main Street, in the mid 1800s, horse-drawn street cars replaced the stage coaches,⁷ and made it easier to move between the towns.

The tavern was gone that use to be at Main and Arbor and where the stage coaches once stopped. In its place was a station, called a car-barn, for storing the street cars and horses.

At the top of Pond Hill, the ringing of the streetcar bell announced its first stop, in Wenham, at the ice company boarding house.

In the 1900s, right up to 1930, electric streetcars – trolleys – travelled along Main Street. They, too, would sound their bell, when approaching a stop.⁷

Riding the trolleys was a lot of fun for young people going to Beverly High School. Al Dodge recalls boys gathering in the back of the trolley, as it approached Pond Hill. Jumping up and down caused the front of the trolley to rise up and come off of the tracks.

In the 1932, the trolleys were replaced by buses, which ran to and from Hamilton Center. Wenham bus service came to an end, in 1968.⁷ Buses were more convenient to use, but their size often blocked traffic on somewhat-narrow Main Street.

Early that year, 1968, Wenham created a Historic District, which ran from the Hamilton-Wenham town line to the Wenham Cemetery.

Later that year, Wenham extended its historic district to include the area of Main Street, from the cemetery to the Beverly town line. ⁸ (*You will hear why it was lengthened, a little later in our walk.*)

The first house on Main Street, coming out of Beverly, is at 4 Main St. Built in 1863, the Waters' cottage originally was a farmhouse on the Waters' estate, of 45 acres. Several other buildings, including a very large and distinctive barn were behind the Mansard-style cottage. ⁹

The Waters' estate reached back from the road to the Boston and Maine rail line, and down to the Charles M. Tilton estate, which today is about 34 Main St.

Until 1900, there were only a few houses along the south section of Main Street. Today, there are 9 houses, all on the east side of the road. The biggest building boon was in the 1950s and 1960s, when 7 homes were built, in this section of Main Street. ¹⁰

In 2012, 4 Main St. was sold.

The next two houses, 10 Main St., built in 1960, and 16 Main St., built in 1964, also are on what had been the Waters' estate.

The first owners of 10 Main St. were Dorothy and Charles Osborn. The first owners of 16 Main St. were Lela and Preston R. Clark. He was a retired navy commander, who spent 42 months as a prisoner of the Japanese, during World War II.



4 Main St., built in 1863. Photo J. Hauck



10 Main St., built in 1960. Photo, J. Hauck



16 Main St., built in 1964. Photo, J. Hauck



Whose house was on the right, across from the boarding house?
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum

Before crossing over Great Pond Rd, there is a question about the original path of Main Street.

In an 1890 photo of this section of Main Street (*at left*), three houses are shown. The one, at the center, is the Waters' house (4 Main St.). The one at the front left is a boarding house for workers at the A. Gage & Co. ice works on Wenham Lake. No information has been found about the house on the right side of the road.



20 Main St. was built, in 1958
Photo J. Hauck

A 1910 Walker map shows that an A. Waters owned the property beside the lake, and that there was more land on that side of Main Street, than what is there today. However, no houses are shown in this area. Obviously, Main Street's path, today, in this area, is different than it was in the late 1800s.¹¹



24 Main St., built in 1856.
Photo J. Hauck

The boarding house was where workmen stayed during the ice harvesting season. It was built circa 1857.¹² The land was the farm of Charles E. Beard. He was the superintendent of the A, Gage & Co. ice works.

A story goes that, about 1895, Wenham's constable, dressed in street clothes (*no uniforms, at the time*), one summer afternoon, called upon the boarding house. He was met, at the front door, by a

woman, who not knowing he was a constable, told him there were no girls working, at the time, but she could get him a young lady, in a short time. The constable (*this would have been Chester H. Cook*) abruptly closed the boarding house.¹³

A year later, when Charles H. Tilton bought the property, the building was moved to North Beverly (*behind what is now Ray's Insurance Co.*).

20 Main St. was built, in 1958, also on what had been the Water's estate. Had this house, as well as those at 10 and 16 Main St. been built after 1970, they could not have been ranch designs. You will learn why, a little further on.

At this point in our walk along Main Street, we come to Great Pond Road, which leads into a circle of houses, the Pond Hill development. There are a dozen houses built around the road, which was created in 1960.¹⁰

Crossing over Great Pond Road, we come to 24 Main St. Built before 1856 by Nehemiah Brown, the house originally was on a 45-acre property, stretching from the Beverly line to what is now the edge of the Lakeview golf course. Brown was, for many years, well known as the deputy-sheriff of the county.

He sold the property to Robert H. Waters, between 1856 and 1865. A. Waters inherited the property, in 1910.⁹ No explanation has been found why this large property is called the Waters estate instead of by its previous owner.

Over the years, there have been several additions to the original section of the house that is closest to the street.

Also on the property is a large barn. It was remodeled, in 1985, into a garage with living space on the second floor.



24B Main St., built 1985. Photo J. Hauck



Tilton house at 34 Main St., 1960.
Photo courtesy of Wenham Museum



Smith house, at 34 Main St., built in 1925.
Photo courtesy of Wenham Museum



View of Wenham Lake from Main Street, at top of Enon Hill. Photo J. Hauck

We next walk further along Main Street and come to a driveway leading up to some large houses, called The Residences on Main Street. They were built, by Windover Development, beginning in 2005. These elegant houses are 26, 28, 34 and 36 Main St.

Before walking up the driveway to look at them, there is some history of the property to consider.

The first house known to have been built on this site was on land

sold in 1851, by the John "Pond" Dodge estate to Isaac B. Woodbury II. He built a large, square-roofed, three-story house, circa 1852. Isaac B. Woodbury II was the father of Isaac B. Woodbury III, a highly respected author of music books.²¹

In 1859, Rosilla J. and Parker P. Tyrrell (*aka Terrill*) bought the Woodbury land⁹ and lived in the Woodbury house. In 1886, the house burned.²¹ They did not rebuild on the property.

In 1892, Charles H. Tilton acquired the property. About 1895, he built a house (*see previous page*). However, it too burned, in 1906. The house is gone, but a stone wall, built along Main Street, remains.⁹

The next house at 34 Main St. was built, in the English Tudor style, in 1925, by Philip Horton Smith. He had bought the land, in 1921, from Ernest and Carlotta Sharp of Swampscott, who had acquired the property in 1914.

Phillip Horton Smith's name may not now be widely known in Wenham, but his firm's architectural work in Salem, remains as Salem's finest early 20th-century landmarks. The best known are: the Hawthorne Hotel; Salem Tercentenary Band-stand; and the Tabernacle Church, on Washington St.; the Salem Post Office building, at Riley Plaza. His firm, Smith & Walker, restored Salem's Old Town Hall. And, Philip H. Smith generally is credited for designing Christ Church, In Hamilton.¹⁸

In 2004, Windover Development acquired the Smith property and began construction, in 2005, of The Residences on Main Street. (*See pictures on the following page.*)

The houses sit atop a low rise, called Pond Hill, overlooking Wenham Lake. Two of the houses, #26 and #34, face directly toward the lake. No longer seen from this elevated vantage point, is the line of the ten, ugly, tall, ice-storage houses. Fire destroyed them, in 1873.⁸

The Residences on Main Street



The Residences on Main Street were built, beginning in 2005. These elegant and large houses are 26, 28, 34 and 36 Main St. Photo Bing Maps



26 Main St. Photo J. Hauck



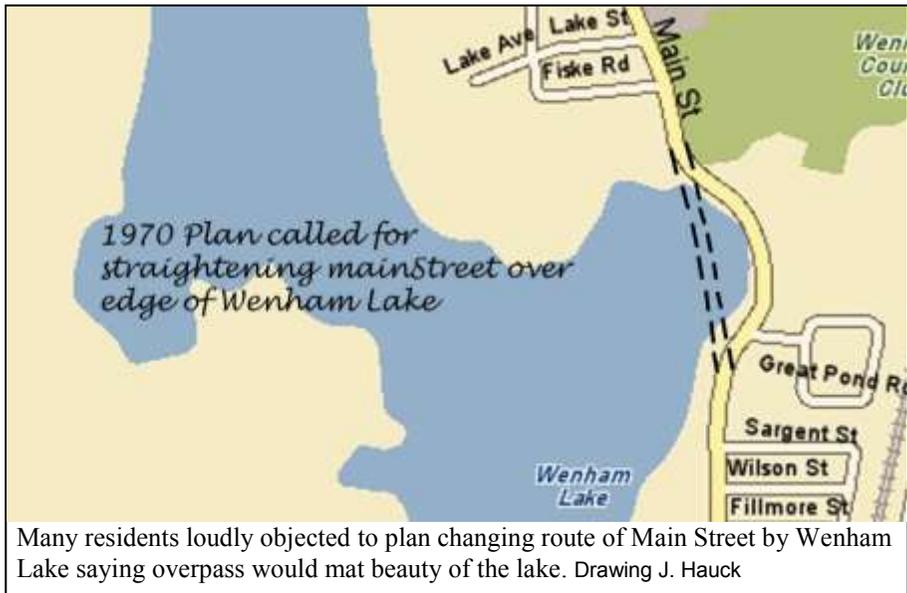
34 Main St. Photo J. Hauck



36 Main St. Photo J. Hauck



28 Main St. Photo J. Hauck



On Main Street, alongside Wenham Cove, a major change almost occurred in 1970. At the top of Pond Hill, near the intersection of Main Street and Great Pond Road, a double S curve sign, alerts drivers heading toward Wenham and Hamilton that there several road curves are ahead.

The State began a long-overdue project to repave the entire length of 1A, in Wenham. Part of the project was to straighten the curves, leading down from the top of Pond Hill. This was to have been done by building an overpass across the Wenham Cove end of the lake.

Some people had requested the state make this change, saying the road was not safe and citing the numerous accidents in the area. Many other residents loudly objected saying the historic roadway's path should not be changed, nor the beauty of Wenham Lake be marred by an overpass. In the end, the lakeside stretch was widened, by five feet, but it was not straightened.⁸

Just to be sure that the town, and not the state, retained control of Main Street in this area, it was voted, at a town meeting, to extend the Historic District from the cemetery to the Beverly town line.⁸ Not only did this act prevent any further thoughts of changing Main Street, it also made it a requirement for all new houses to conform to the historic character of other houses, on Main Street. Thus, ranch designs, such as numbers 10, 16 and 20, no longer can be built in this area. And, now, as Paul Harvey use to say, you know the rest of the story, about these homes.

Back in the late 1800s and early 1900s, were we walking Main Street, in the winter, we would have seen many men cutting ice, and horses dragging the ice slabs, to the ramps leading up to the ice-storage houses. Can you hear the horses' heavy breathing, the saws cutting the ice, men shouting commands, and perhaps some vulgarities?

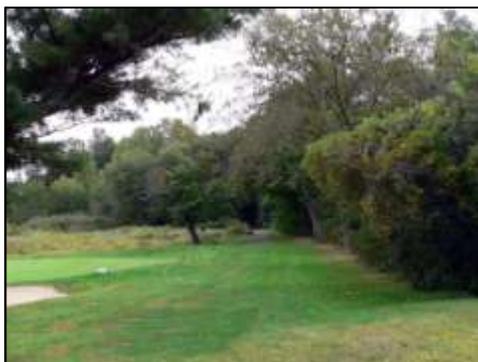
The ice-storage houses, at the water's edge, were lined up in a row. Each of the ten wooden structures was 127 ft long, 20 ft wide, and 24-ft high. The building closest to Main Street, was an expanded former Wenham meetinghouse: from its cupola, a bell signaled the workmen.⁸ The meetinghouse was moved to the lake in 1843.

In this area, back around 1860s, we had to keep an eye and ear out, for the train that crossed the roadway. The rail spur carried ice from the ice-storage houses, to the main rail line, which ran between Salem and Ipswich. The narrow-gauge train would sound its horn, before crossing Main Street.⁸ The golf green, next to Main Street, is the 5th hole, of the Lakeview golf course. The path leading from it, to the next hole, is about where the rail spur once ran.

The commemorative stone marks the approximate spot of the knoll, where Rev. Hugh Peter gave his Sunday sermon, in 1638. The conical knoll was about 35 feet high. The knoll, later called Peter's Pulpit, was removed by the ice company, in 1844.⁸

Today, this area, at the foot of Pond Hill, is about ten feet higher than it was in the mid 1800s. First, this marshland area was raised by covering it with the soil and rocks that had been Peter's Pulpit. This was done to lay the track for the rail-spur running from the ice houses.

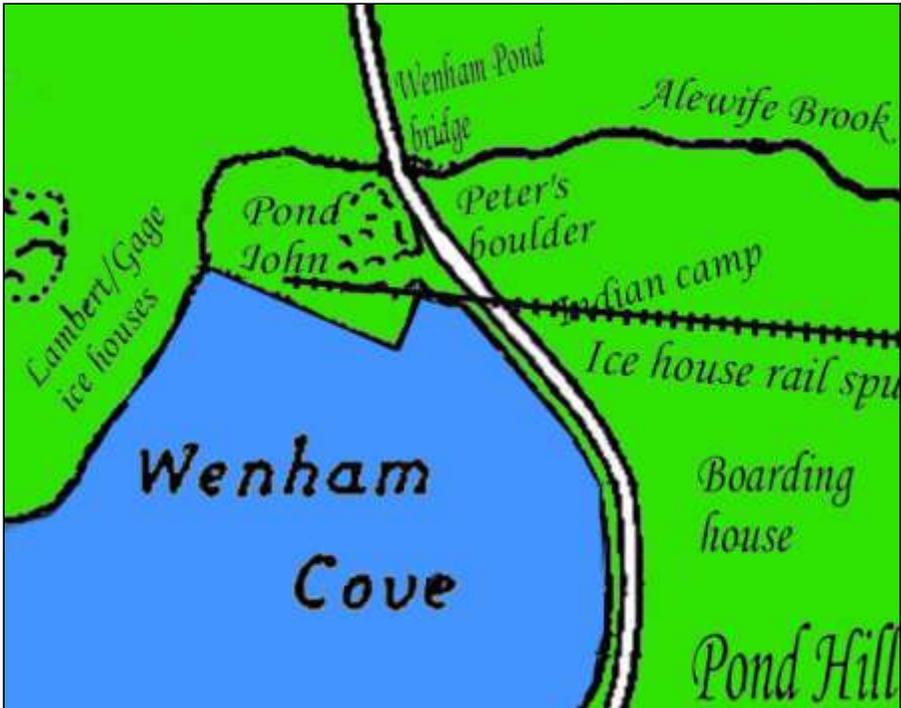
Next, in 1896, the area was made still higher, when fill was brought in to create the rail-bed electric trolleys.⁸



Path leading from 5th hole of Lakeview golf course is about where a rail spur once ran. Photo J. Hauck



Rev. Peter's Memorial Stone.
Photo J. Hauck



Historical locations in the Wenham Cove area of Main Street. Drawing J. Hauck

In the mid 1800s, not far from Peter's Pulpit, we would have seen the home of "Pond John" Dodge. He had little money and would have fared badly, if his neighbors had not fed him, in return for his telling tales about the history of Wenham Lake.

According to Rupert Lillie's pictorial map of 1776 Wenham, there was, during the mid 1600s, a malt mill across the road from John Pond's home.¹² Likely, it was next to Alewife Brook. This was one of several malt mills in Wenham: beer was an important staple.

At the bottom of Pond Hill, before crossing Alewife Brook, there is an area of Main Street, where Lt. John Dodge lived, in the mid to late 1600s. He was a delegate to the 1754 Albany Plan of Union.¹⁴ Delegates from many northern colonies, including Benjamin Franklin, and representatives from the six Iroquois Nations met in Albany, NY. There, they adopted a "plan of union," which was drafted by Franklin. Under the plan, each colonial legislature would elect delegates to an American continental assembly, administered by a President General, appointed and fully supported by the Crown. The plan was rejected; however, the Plan of Union contained many of the ideas, which would be adopted, some thirty years later, at the Philadelphia constitution meeting.¹⁵

Prior to Col. Dodge owning this property, it was a portion of a 1635 grant to John Balch, of 200 acres near the Great Pond. The area, 20 acres, was known as Balch pasture. Widow Mary Conant Balch, wife of John Balch's son, John, married Capt. William Dodge. For many years thereafter, Balch pasture belonged to Dodges. At the death of Dea. John Dodge in 1825, the pasture was appraised as a part of his estate.¹⁴

However, in 1842, the Town of Wenham declared it owned Balch pasture and sold lots of the wood to townspeople. Hewers quickly began to claim their purchase, but soon halted harvesting due to bad weather. The Dodges told others they were free to cut the wood and remove it. During the night of the storm, they cleared the land. The next day, when the purchasers came to resume their cutting, not a single tree remained.

The courts afterwards decided against the validity of the town's title, which was based on a lost Indian deed. The court ruled, in effect, that possession was nine tenths of the law.

Today, there are no bridges on Main St., but there once was a wood bridge, just before where Peter's stone stands. The Pond Bridge was over Great Pond Brook, also called Alewife Brook, which fed the Great Pond.¹²

Alewife Brook is still there. It passes through the golf course and a culvert under the road. When the alewife would spawn, in this area, and the brook was much deeper and wider, we would have heard sea gulls, as they dived down, to snatch the fish. In this general area, in the mid 1600s, there was, according to Rupert Lillie's pictorial map, an Indian burying ground.¹²

About where Bill Flynn's Lakeview Golf Course is located, there likely was a large Indian camp. Many artifacts were found, in the area.⁸ What we call Wenham Lake, the Indians may have called "michigamea," meaning Great Pond.

Today, about where the Indian camp once may have been, there is a section of a golf course.



Possible original route of the highway coming out of Beverly. Drawing J. Hauck



56 Main St., in 2009. Photo J. Hauck



56 Main St., in 1893.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum.



57 Main St., in 2009. Photo J. Hauck

At this point of our history walk, things become quite confusing with regard to the original route of the road. Several sources state that the highway ran a different course in the mid 1600s.

On Nov. 13, 1664, the General Courts ordered the laying out of a highway between Salem and Ipswich. According to Dr. Allen, The highway passed alongside the Great Pond and then, “along a valley somewhat to the east of the present road where it now lies;” up over the hill at the rear of the cemetery, then over the knoll behind the Henry Tarr house, and upon which the church was built; from there, past the Claflin-Richards house; and, then, along the area now behind the town hall and out to the current path of Main Street.^{6, 19}

There are some problems with this description: In particular, the initial section of the cemetery, a low hill, faces onto the present route of Main Street, and does not face the rear of the hill.

We will stick with walking the current route of Main Street and not venture to seek out any possible original route.

Next to the 5th tee, at Lakeview Golf Course, we come to 56 Main St. The house here was built in 1868, by Joseph Lafayette Batchelder.⁹

Originally, Samuel Fiske and John Porter probably owned the land. It was called the Lower Fiske Pasture. Na-

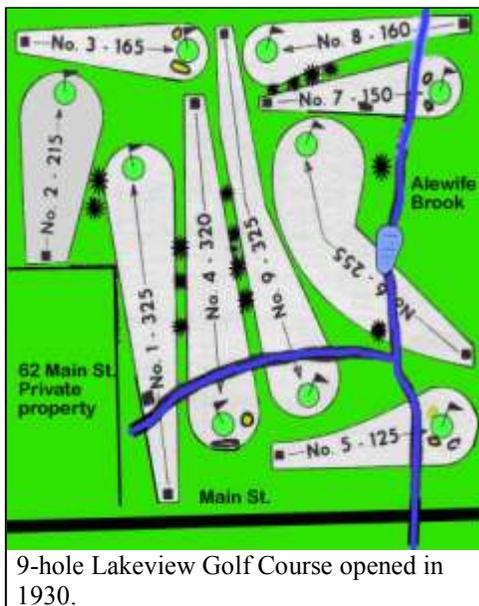
thaniel Kimball acquired the land, from John Fairfield, who willed it to his daughter, Nancy Batchelder. In 1863, Nancy and Joseph Batchelder deeded the property to their son, Joseph Lafayette Batchelder.⁹

When Joseph Batchelder died, in 1906, the property had a house, barn, carriage house, shed, tillage land of 15 acres, a pasture of 6 acres, and a meadow of 2 acres.

Frederick Chase Batchelder, who was a well-known source of information about Wenham's history, lived here, as did his father Frederick M., who was one of the co-founders of the original Wenham Golf Club.¹⁵

Across the street, there is 57 Main St. It was built in 1941. The property once was part of a large land holding of selectman Samuel Porter,⁹

At the front of this house, there is a fire hydrant. It's the first on Main St., coming from Beverly. Before Wenham installed water mains, here were, beginning in 1888, buried cisterns, filled with water, for use by the fire company. There were quite a few along Main St. In 1923, each cistern cost about \$320.³



Next to 57 Main St. is Fiske Road, which was created in 1885.²⁹ The street likely is named after John Fiske, the town's first pastor and also its first doctor. At present, the oldest house on the street is #11, built in 1885.

Just a little ahead on Main Street, on the right, we pass some more of the Lakeview golf course. Before the settlers came, the field was where Indians grew corn.¹⁴

The first settler to own the property was Roger Conant. Following owners were: Dr. Samuel Dodge; Isaac Hull, a Dodge family member - the property was called the Hulls; and Nathaniel Kimball, the grandfather of Frederick M. Batchelder, who owned the property.⁹

In 1924, the Wenham Country Club leased part of the Batchelder property, in order to expand the course to 18 holes. The leased land, owned by Mary Ann Batchelder, widow of Frederick M. Batchelder, was mostly behind the cemetery. Four of the Wenham club's 18 holes (7, 8, 11 and 12), as well as the 9th tee and the 10th hole, were on Batchelder land.

In 1929, when the lease expired, Frederick M. Batchelder, Jr. had a heated dispute with the Wenham Golf Club, which led to his closing access to the portion of the course that was on his property.¹⁵ There are all kinds of reasons reported for the separation.

Frederick M. Batchelder, who was the son of Mary Ann Batchelder, and a prominent Wenham Golf Club member and, later, was president of the club. Following the previously mention disagreement with the Wenham club, Batchelder built a new golf course. To make a nine-hole course, he used the existing holes, and added five more. Lakeview Golf Course began operation in 1930: a round of golf cost 50¢.¹⁷

The course was run by Frederick M. Batchelder and his sister, Ethel B. Wentworth, and later by Frederick Chase Batchelder, who was part owner and president of the course. At the time, many people would refer to playing a round at Ethel's.

In 1973, William Flynn, of Danvers, bought the course. It is now Bill Flynn's Lakeview Golf Course.

Moving up the street a short way, we come to the Lakeview golf shop and registration house, at 60 Main St: it was built in 1963.¹⁰

Across the road is 61 Main St., which was built in 1892, by Samuel K. Evans. He was a cordwainer and made brogan work boots, which he sold at Wenham's Union Block, in the town center. Previously, Evans lived at 108 Main St., a house he had built in 1859.⁹



Lakeview golf shop, 2009.
Photo J. Hauck



61 Main St., shown here in 2010, was built in 1892. Photo J. Hauck



61 Main St., 1972.
Photo 1972 Historic District Study

Frederick M. Batchelder, son of Joseph Lafayette Batchelder, owned the house, in 1910. Prior to this time, no houses were anywhere on this side of the road from Wenham Lake up to the old Samuel Porter house (*today 79 Main St.*).

The land, at 61 Main St., likely was part of the large estate of William Porter I, who lived at 79 Main St. The land was divided sometime after 1884.⁹

The next house, 62 Main St., sits back from Main Street. A wood fence encloses the property, which is an island, in the midst of Lakeview Golf Course.¹⁸

In 1899, Joseph Lafayette Batchelder gave the property, just under 2 acres, to his son, Thomas Wilson Batchelder, who built a house, at 62 Main St. In 1911, the house burned. It was replaced, in 1912, with the current house.

Just across from the north end of the golf course, you once - late 1800s and early 1900s - could see the Massasoit Hotel, near the edge of Wenham Lake.

The hotel was at the end of Lake Avenue, then called Enon Ave.⁸ During the day, the hotel was quiet. But, walk along Main Street, in the evening, and you would probably hear loud voices and a lot of laughing coming from the open veranda. Seems that the hotel entertained men looking for a good time, with a particular feminine crowd.¹³



Thomas Wilson Batchelder house, at 62 Main St., shown in 1894.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



62 Main St. built in 1912. Photo J. Hauck



Massasoit hotel, built in 1893, was destroyed by fire in 1924.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum.



Since 1971, 67 Main St. has been a sporting goods shop. Photo J. Hauck



67 Main St. has been the site of many restaurants. Photo unknown

Wenham Lake no longer is visible looking down tree-lined Lake Avenue.

67 Main Street, originally a pasture, was owned by the Porter family. It was not until 1893 that there was a house at this site.⁹

Today, right alongside Lake Avenue, there's a sporting goods store, which was opened in 1971. Previously, the site had several different restaurants.

The first was called the Green Roof.⁹ The next was Dutch Land Farms: a fire destroyed it in 1965. There was a replica of a Dutch windmill, out front.²⁰ Next, there was the Witch Toast.⁹

Last, before the sporting goods shop, was Chop Stick House, a Chinese restaurant, which was built in 1952.⁴⁰ How these businesses got into a historic residential area is not known.

Next along our walk on Main Street, on the right, we pass Wenham Cemetery.

The small eminence, at the front, was given, around 1640, to the town, as a place of burial.¹⁷

John Gott's burial stone calls out:

*Behold all you who do Pass by
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so you must be
Prepare for Death, and follow me.*

There is more to tell about the cemetery, but that is a whole chapter of its own.

Today, tucked into the stone wall, at the front of the cemetery, is a mile stone. It is the first milestone, still standing this side of Boston. It originally, 1710, was alongside the road. Up until 1971, we might have heard the



Marker, originally, was alongside Main Street, where it was hit several times by cars.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



Mile marker moved, in 1971, into cemetery wall. Photo J. Hauck

sound of a car crashing into the marker: this happened quite often. To protect it from damage, it was moved to its current spot, in the wall.¹⁷

Because it originally stood by the road, outside the cemetery, there was an oft-told, apocryphal story that it was the grave of a sinner, Foster Williams, who killed John Hoddy, on Pond Hill, in 1673. Williams was hung, for the crime, but not buried, at this spot or in the cemetery.^{9, 19}

At this point, let's take a break in our tour of Main St. We can continue another day.

We'll start off at the Wenham Country Club and go up to the town center. Hope to see you again.

Updated: 12-30-2012

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