

A History of
Main Street

Wallis St. to Linden St.

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Jack E. Hauck



MAIN STREET

Wallis St. to Linden St.

Most of the houses in the final section of our walk along Main Street were built in the 1800s. Some replaced earlier houses. But, for the most part, the area prior to the 1800s was open farm land.

Please let me alert you that we will not be looking at houses in their numerical order, rather we look at them as they are located along Main Street.

Let's start off with a look at 190 Main St. In the last presentation, we looked at 175 and 179 Main St., which are shown on this aerial view.

190 Main St. once was the *Mary Luscomb* house. Elbridge Anderson built the house, between 1910 and 1918, for his daughter.

During World War I, Anderson was the Chair of the *Public Safety Committee*, serving Wenham and Hamilton. In her book, *Notes on Wenham History, 1643 – 1943*, Adeline P. Cole said, "By this most effective organization, the two towns did a great job, working, in *perfect accord*." ¹¹

The property at 190 Main St., at one time, was called the Parsonage Lot. It was, for many years, owned by Rev. Joseph Ward, preacher at the First Church, from 1750 to 1792. ¹¹ In earlier times, this property had a large apple orchard. In 1855, there were 3,500 apple trees in Wenham, most of which were Baldwin's.



Mary Luscomb house, 1918, 190 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



190 Main St., 2009
Photo J. Hauck

Around 1720, Rev. Robert Ward bought 5 acres on corner of the Way to Ipswich (*now Main St.*) and the Way to Manchester (*now Larch Row*). At the time, he lived at what now is 188 Main St. By 1727, being in debt, he sold the 5 acres to the town. The property was called the "Parsonage Land," and meant for use by the pastor as a garden, grazing area or orchard.¹⁴

The Luscomb house now has a two car garage added to the left side, but the house per se is essentially unchanged.^{1, 10} However, the front of 194 Main St. no longer has the charming lich-gate and fence.

The *George Patch house*. **194 Main St.** was built in 1903 by George Elliot, on property once part of 196 Main St. The Patches lived there until 1937. After his wife died, George Patch went to live with his niece, Mrs. Fred Campbell, on Patch Ave.

Next, Richard T. Kilham owned the large lot. By 1865, John Kilham, whose house was at 196 Main St., also part of the parsonage land, owned it.

The *George Patch house* was renovated, in 1939,¹ to a design similar to the houses at 157 and 161 Main St. St. All are the basic Victorian style.



George Patch house, 1904. 194 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



194 Main St. 2010
Photo J. Hauck



Richard Hutton house, 1893. 185 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



185 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

Continuing along the west side of Main Street, we now come to **185 Main St.**, the *Richard Hutton house*. It was built about 1679.

Originally, it had a single room, with a chimney on the east end. Later, an east section was added, which placed the chimney in the middle; the entrance also was in the middle. In 1726/27, an upper floor was added to the house. A cellar probably was also built under the house.¹⁶

Around 1745, two rooms were added on each floor, across the back of the house, increasing its size to a four room plan, with a central chimney. Larger windows replaced smaller windows.¹⁶

In 1842, center rooms were created by removing the center chimney, and adding chimneys at both sides of the house. Also, the old entrance door was removed and a vestibule entrance was added, deepening the entry, with an open circular stairway to the second floor.¹⁶

By 1856, the Hutton house belonged to Charles E. Killam; by 1865, the owner was Capt. Josiah Perkins Cressey; and later the owner was Henry B. Abbott. By 1884, Edmund Kimball owned the property, at 187 Main St.

In 1910, the giant lot, which included what today are 185 and 187 Main St., as well as the large meadow behind the houses, was owned by Clarence Kimball. His niece, Marcia Perkins Wallis, inherited the property. She willed the property to her two daughters, Elizabeth and Francis. In 1951, Elizabeth (*Wallis*) Dodge purchased the property from her sister.⁵

The house was rented for many years, before Susan (*Dodge*) Hall and her husband, Doug, moved there, in 1994.

There have been some changes to 185, since 1993. The entrance was remodeled, and there were some renovations at the back of the house.

This lot is especially noted for its large size, and its several acres of flat meadow land. For a time, it was the nursery of A. Winslow Dodge, who ran a well-known tree service business, in Wenham, for many years.



James Perkins, Jr. house, 1890. 187
Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



187 Main St., 2009
Photo J. Hauck

The property was big enough that in the early 1920s, George Wallis had a small, private golf course built on the open land behind 185 and 187 Main Street.³ The large meadow was sold, in 2007, for building The Boulders.

In 1887, the Killam property was subdivided to allow the building of the *James Perkins Jr. house*, at **187 Main St.** James H. Perkins, Jr. had married Edmund Kimball's daughter, Mary.

On a small corner of the property, a Victorian-style dwelling, with a corner tower, was built. The larger portion of the lot became 185 Main St. Both properties were willed, by Edmund Kimball, to James H. Perkins, Jr.,^{1, 10} who for many years ran an apothecary shop, in the town center at 154 Main St.

Originally, the large lot at 187 Main St. was owned by Richard Hutton. He built a house, about 1679, on a section that today is 185 Main St. In 1856, Charles E. Killam owned the property.

In 1865, the property passed to Capt. Josiah Perkins Cressey, and later to H. B. Abbott.^{1, 10} Cressey was a sea captain. His wife Nellie, was his navigator. He was master of the clipper ship *Flying Cloud*, the fastest-sailing ship to San Francisco.⁷ They retired to Wenham, and lived at 185 Main. During the Civil War, Capt. Cressey came out of retirement to serve in the Navy.

The Albert W. Dodge and his wife, Betty, moved to 187 Main St., in 1940. In the years to follow, Al was the Wenham tree warden for 54 years, a Wenham Selectman for 12 years, as well as being on the committee for the building of the Hamilton-Wenham High School. For 30 years he ran the Dodge Associates tree business. (*See Chap 19 for more information.*)

His wife, Betty, along with her sister, Frances, inherited the property from her father, George Wallis. In 1951, Betty bought out her sister's share of the property. Like her husband, Betty was very active in many Wenham programs. She was a member of the library committee for 12 years.

In 1997, after the death of his wife, Al Dodge moved next door, to live with his daughter, Susan, and her husband, Doug, at 185 Main St.



Mildram-Hillham house, 1894. 196 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



196 Main St., 2010

Across the road is the *Hillham/Mildram house*, at **196 Main St.** Originally, it was the Miss Rebecca F. Hillham cottage, a farmhouse. It was built well before 1856. Hillham also owned property at 194 and 190 Main St. The 1850 Wenham census shows a Rebecca Hillham, age 50, unmarried, living in Wenham.

In 1865, the house passed to John A. Mildram, a shoemaker. He and his wife, Nancy, had 5 children. The 1872 D. G. Beers map shows J. Mildram owned the property, with his house on the northwest corner.

After 1884, Alden Mildram owned the house.

Next, George Patch owned the property. He had built a house, in 1903, on a sub-division of the property. Records are not clear as to who lived in the house during the many years that George Patch owned it. In later years, it was rented.¹⁰

George Patch's niece, Louise Patch Campbell inherited the property. She lived on Patch Ave. and rented the 196 Main St. house.¹⁰

The property, at one time, had three barns, presumably for storage of produce grown on the large lot of land, which included an orchard, at the corner of Larch Row and Main St.^{1, 10}

In looking at early Wenham maps, it appears that on the south side of Main Street, from Larch Road to the Hamilton town line, there were no houses, until about 1850. Most of the houses were built in the early 1900s.

The 1872 Beers map shows houses only for John Mildram (*196 Main St.*), George Dodge (*200 Main St.*), Francis W. Merrill (*206 Main St.*), and Thomas Pingree (*214 Main St.*). (*Note: At the time, 1872, the central road was called Elm Street.*) The 1910 Walker map shows only one more house built along this stretch of the central road, then called Main Street, was #206, the James Pickett house.



Photo Bing.com/maps

It is now time to go back up for an aerial view of the next group of houses. At this point of Main Street, there is a slight bend to the west.

We will start with **200 Main St.**, the *Charles Mildram house*. Between 1910 and 1916, it was moved to the western part of 200 Main St. from 202 Main St., by Lester Libby.

Between 1856 and 1864, the house from 202 Main St. was owned by George Dodge, who also owned the 200 Main St. property. Next, George H. Woodbury owned it. Subsequent owners were Edward H. Osgood, Henry O. Wendt, and Henry G. Woodbury.

Today, 200 Main St. has a large 2-story extension on its east side and a single level extension on its north side, the back of the house. ^{1, 10}



Charles Mildram house, 1894, 200 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



200 Main St. Photo J. Hauck



Lester E. Libby house, 1916. 202 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



202 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

The *Lester E. Libby house*, at **202 Main St.**, was built sometime between 1910 and 1916. Libby, the developer of Monument Street, built the house on the site of the former Mildram house, which was moved to 200 Main St.

The house, a colonial replica, is located on a rise and has fertile lands lying in the rear, and served by a circular driveway.^{1, 10}

In 1925, Lester Libby was one of a group of concerned Wenham citizens, who donated money to purchase the car barn property, when there was talk of it becoming a gas station. The lot was donated to the town, with the provision that it become a park, library or public buildings.^{1, 18}

In 1856, John Mildram owned the property at **191 Main St.** Previously (1679), it was the site of the Richard Fowler house, and later Killam families, and Nathaniel Fairfield. 1981 Wenham Walking Tour, R. Lillie

In 1862, Abraham R. Fisk (*also Fiske*) acquired the property. He built a shoe factory on the south end of the site, where shoes for the civil war were made. Fire destroyed the shoe factory Jan. 10, 1878. Wind-blown cinders set the house on fire.¹⁰



Abraham Fiske house and shoe factory, c1875. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



Frederick Perkins-Elbridge Anderson house, 1891. 191 Main St.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



Eldridge Anderson house 1907 191
Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



191 Main St., 2012
Photo J. Hauck

Sometime between 1872 and 1884, the *Frederick Perkins-Elbridge Anderson house* was built, on the site, by Perkins. With his brother, Henry, he ran a meat and fish business. From Wenham to Beverly, they sold meat to people from their horse-drawn wagon. On the way back to Wenham, they sold fish they bought in Beverly.^{1, 4}

As shown in the 1891 photo (see pg. 8), the house is another example of the modified farm cottage. To the left there was an imposing barn.

In 1907, Elbridge R. Anderson, a lawyer, bought the house.

The house was remodeled. The previous open front porch was removed and an open side porch added; the single dormer on the front was replaced by three small dormers. It remained in the Anderson family, until 1944. Today, 191 Main St. is set back from the road, with a circular entry driveway.

195 Main St. is the *Thomas Garvin house*. Built before 1856, probably in 1840, it was the Garvin family home, until around 1910. A barn, once behind the house, was used by Garvin, a shoe maker and a cabinet maker.



Thomas Garvin house 1894. 195 Main
St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



195 Main St., 1918
Photo 1971 Historic District Study



195 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

Conant's 1894 photo (see page 9) shows the house sitting on raised ground and that it had no basement. A 1918 photo (see page 9) shows that the size of the house was significantly increased, and the side porch was enclosed.^{1, 10}

Stylistically, the Garvin house is an example of the Gothic revival in Wenham. In the mid-1800s, wood-framed Gothic Revival homes became America's dominant style. Gothic Revival style houses have a

steeply pitched roof; steep cross gables; windows with pointed arches; vertical board and batten siding; and a single-story open porch. The house at 197 Main St. is very similar to the Garvin house.

A barn on the property is no longer present. The barn was used by Thomas Garvin, a shoe maker. A cabinet maker also worked out of the barn.

Around 1910, George F. Norris owned the property. Norris was the former chairman of the Wenham Civil War Monument Committee that erected the monument in 1878.

John Crediford later owned it. His daughter, Brenda, inherited the property and lived there with her husband Silas P. Campbell, a Wenham policeman.

A 1918 photo (see page 9) shows the original porch having been removed. The porch later was restored making the house look much as it did in 1894. The tower on the roof peak was not restored.

The *Warren Peabody house*, at **197 Main St.**, was built before 1856. A farmer, he served as a Wenham selectman from 1833 to 1836.

In style, the Peabody house is similar to several houses built on Main Street, including: 163 Main St., 191 Main St., 195 Main St., 201 Main St. and



Warren Peabody house, 1891, 197 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



197 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck



Charles Merrill house, 1892, 206 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



James Pickett house, 1903, 206 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



206 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

the house formerly at 161 Main St. (*George A. Lummus house*). They are the same basic box-design, one and a half story farmhouses, built as small farm cottages, on earthworks slightly raised above the ground, probably to provide dry cellars. In later years, they were enhanced with the addition of dormers, decorative tracery and enclosed porches.

Subsequent owners of the 197 Main St. property were: 1865, Capt. Joseph Harrington; 1873, Thomas P. Pingree; 1878, John T. Dodge; 1905, his daughter, Mrs. Marion Dodge Callahan.

Next door, the *Charles Merrill house*, shown at left in 1892, originally was at **206 Main St.** In 1906, the house was moved to Hamilton. His son, Leveret Merrill, was a well-known singer, in Boston, for many years.

Before the coming of overhead power and telephone lines, people often moved their houses. The main difficulty was traversing the uneven dirt roads.

In 1906, James Pickett next built a house on this site, alongside the Pingree estate.^{1, 10} The *James Pickett house*, at 206 Main St., a spacious turn-of-the-century wood-frame, Victorian house is similar to other houses built about the same time, in Wenham. (*157, 161 and 194 Main St.*)

Around 1950, Frederick and Minnie Ashworth lived at 206 Main St. Their son, Frederick (*Dick*), was the

U.S. Navy officer who served as the weapons officer on the B-29, nicknamed Bockscar that dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, on Aug. 9, 1945,

His parents lived in Wenham for the rest of their lives.¹⁵



Marian Dodge Callahan house, 1919 208 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



208 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

Next door, the *Marian Dodge Callahan house*, at **208 Main St.**, was built in 1917, by Marian Dodge Callahan, for herself. She was the daughter of John T. and Harriet P. Dodge, who lived across the street at 197 Main St.

The house was built on land separated from the large acreage belonging to her paternal aunt, Mrs. Thomas P. Pingree, who at that time had a residence and stock farm on the site at 214 Main St. The acreage set aside for 208 Main St. formerly comprised the George Dodge property.^{1, 10}

James Owens/Amos Hobbs house, at **201 Main St.**, was built circa 1840, by an unknown builder. In 1856, James Owens, a shoemaker, owned the property. It was next, 1884 to 1910, owned by Amos F. Hobbs, a shoemaker.

The house was situated on property large enough (2.62 acres) to contain an apple orchard, in the front yard, and a barn in the rear, with sufficient land for a large vegetable garden.^{1, 10}

The 1906 Conant photo shows a cast-iron, front-stair-railing and cast-iron fence, along with decorations on the edge of the roof.

The dormers, now on 201 Main St., were added after 1906.



Owens/Hobbs house, 1906. 201 Main St.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



201 Main St., 2012
Photo J. Hauck



S.B. Nichols-Abbott Johnson house,
1891. 205 Main St.
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



205 Main St., 2012
Photo J. Hauck

S.B. Nichols-Abbott Johnson house, at **205 Main St.**, was built before 1856. It subsequently, 1865, came into the possession of Abbott Johnson, who retained it through 1910.^{1, 10}

Johnson was very active on town committees, serving on the Civil War Monument Committee and librarian at the town's public library.

205 Main St., like several other houses in this section of Main Street, was built as a simple farm house, without dormers and a very plain front. The house was enlarged through the addition of a central dormer, which extended down to give a front entrance hall, as well, in 1903, and later small dormers were added as well as the front porch extended the width of the house to make it its present size, and modern Victorian design.

Properties on the west side of Main Street, from #195 to #205, as shown on the 1910 Walker map, were long, narrow rectangles.

The house at **214 Main St.**, the *Thomas P. Pingree house*, was built circa 1861. It is similar in architecture to the town hall. Additions include the two-story back section, the side porch and the two front dormers that were added in later years.



Thomas P. Pingree house, 1903. 214
Main St. Photo Courtesy Wenham Museum



214 Main St., 2010
Photo J. Hauck

There is a lot of history behind 214 Main St.

At present, 2012, the property size is 13.33 acres. It is a relatively small part of what was a much larger land grant established soon after Enon (*now Wenham*) was first settled in 1635. Over the years, sections were transferred to family members, and some sold by descendants.

In 1639, the Salem selectmen granted John White, then an inhabitant of Salem, 60 acres near Samuel Smith's farm of 200 acres.¹⁹ From 1642 to 1643, White, then living in Wenham, acquired several other properties, totaling 54 more acres.¹⁹

John⁽¹⁾ White lived in Wenham until 1652, when he moved with most of his family to Lancaster, MA. He gave his son Thomas⁽²⁾ the Wenham property. Thomas died in 1672. His wife, Ruth, and family continued to live on the property.¹⁹

John⁽¹⁾ White's, in his will, allowed "his daughter-in-law, Ruth, sometime wife to his late deceased son, Thomas White, shall have and enjoy the said farme (*one half*) during her natural life and the other halfe until her son, Thomas⁽³⁾ White, com to the age of twentie one years and, then, he to enter to possession of one halfe, and at the death of said widow, the two daughters are to enter possession of the other halfe."¹⁹

The will of John⁽¹⁾ White shows he had: 100 acres of upland and 6 acres of meadow with buildings lying within bounds of Wenham.¹⁹

Exactly determining the boundaries of the original White property is not possible. In the 17th and 18th century boundary markers were not permanent. For example, in 1729, when the selectmen walked the bounds between Wenham and Ipswich (*today Hamilton*) they set the line, "Beginning at the brier bush at the end of the stone wall at the west side of an apple tree in the last row in Nathaniel Brown's Orchard with a heap of stones about it and so on to a white Oak tree Standing in Nathaniel Fairfield's pasture ..."²⁰

Ruth Haffield, Thomas⁽²⁾ White's second wife (*married 1632*) may have owned the half of the White property on the east side of the Miles River, as shown on Connant's 1890-1910 map of Wenham. She died in 1713, 41 years after her husband died. They had 5 children: Thomas⁽³⁾, died young; Ruth⁽³⁾, married John Dennis; Thomas⁽³⁾, married Martha Fiske; Martha⁽³⁾, died infancy; and Martha⁽³⁾, married Joseph Dodge.¹⁹ The daughters inherited their mother's half of the property in 1713/14.

In accordance with John⁽¹⁾ White's will, Thomas⁽³⁾ White inherited half the property, when he became 21, in 1685 (*died 1737*). This likely was the half of the White property on the west side of the Miles River, as shown on Conant's 1890-1910 map of Wenham.

Thomas⁽³⁾ White's property included both sides of the Salem to Ipswich highway (*now Main Street*) from Walnut Road in Hamilton to Larch Road, in Wenham. On the east side, it reached back across to the Miles River. On the

west side, it included what is now Pingree Park, as well as back to about 201 Main Street.

Later, the land belonged to Walter Fairfield, who lived in the west part of Wenham. When he died, 1723, his son, Nathaniel (*d* 1771) who owned land across the street, inherited the property.

In 1787, Andrew Cole, a mariner, owned the property, on which there was a house and large barn, both thought to have been built in 1769. The house was removed, circa 1860, to make room for building the current house. The original foundation was used to build the present house.

Subsequent owners of the White property included: Peter Dodge, Sr.; 1795, Peter Dodge, Jr. and Jonathan Dodge; John Gardner, of Boston (*until 1805*); his wife, Elizabeth Pickering Gardner (*until 1823*); and George Gardner (1809-1884) of Boston, who inherited the property from his grandmother, Elizabeth Pickering Gardner. Their daughter, Elizabeth Blanchard Gardner inherited the property when her mother died. She married Robert Charles Winthrop. Living in Boston, they summered at the Wenham property.

In 1900, Sarah Bradbury Merrill recalled "An old artistic dwelling with its marble walk reaching from the street to the front door that faced the south. In front of it a lovely garden, with its walks bordered by green box and shaded by magnificent trees. This was the home of a much beloved young lady, Miss Lucy Blanchard."²¹

Winthrop was very involved in state and national affairs. He was president of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a Massachusetts Representative in congress, served as the Speaker of the House during the 30th Congress. Winthrop is a great-great-grandfather of John Kerry, and a seventh generation descendant of the founding governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, John Winthrop.⁸ Robert Winthrop inherited the property from his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1816.

In 1845, Thomas Perkins Pingree, of Salem, acquired the White homestead from the heirs of Peter Dodge. The property became known as the Thomas Pingree Stock Farm. Thomas died in 1876.¹⁹ His wife, Harriet E. Dodge Pingree, continued living at the estate until she died in 1915. During the time she lived there, an addition was built behind the house. A 1910 Connant map shows six structures on the property, in addition to the main house. The property was inherited by their son David Pingree. He likely had the side porch built.

Around 1920, Randolph Bradstreet Dodge (1889-1924) acquired the property. In 1924, Randolph Bradstreet Dodge, Jr. (1918-1996) inherited the property. In 1929, Gordon Prince purchased 214 Main St. On Mar. 30, 1985, Joseph and Anna P. Haley of Beverly acquired the property from the Gordon Prince, Jr. estate. They had the barn behind the house modified.



On the property are some remnants of an old road from the highway to the Miles River, where White's mill stood, at the edge of Walnut Road, near the old bridge. The road was laid out before the laying of the Road to Manchester, now Larch Row.

We will now next take a look at Main Street from Pingree Park to the Wenham Hamilton town line.

Pingree Park, today, is not at all what it has looked like in the past. Or many years it was an apple orchard.²²

This field, at one time a part of the eighteenth century Gardiner-Winthrop property, was owned by George Dodge, during the Civil War period. From 1862 to 65, Dodge rented it to the government for use as an army camp. It was called Camp Lander.

The camp was named for Frederick W. Lander, a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, originally from Salem. Lander was most famous as an explorer, surveying transcontinental wagon routes in the 1850s. In the Civil War, he was a brigade commander and division commander. He died in early 1862.¹³

In 1865, the regiments left the camp and the buildings were put up for sale. The property once again reverted to peaceful uses - growing crops and pasturing cows. During the 1890s, it was used as a polo ground, before there was a Myopia field.

Mrs. Thomas Pingree was the last private owner. Upon her death, the field (14 acres) was given, Mar. 6, 1916, to the town for "playground and recreation purposes."¹⁷

In the late 1930s, the WPA built the stone wall, at the front of Pingree Field.⁵



Pingree polo horses, 1892
Photo courtesy Wenham Museum.



Pingree Park entrance, 2010
Photo J. Hauck

In the late 1950s, there was some interest for building a regional high school on the site. At the 1957 Wenham Annual Town Meeting, the Selectmen stated that there was a “need to husband very carefully our parkland, on Pingree Field. Discussions ended for building the regional high school on the Pingree property.”⁵

In 1972, the baseball field at the Porter Street end of the park was named Cheeseman Field, with a memorial marker and flag pole dedicated in memory of Capt. Alan B. Cheeseman, U.S.A.F., who grew up in Wenham, and was killed in the Vietnam War. There are two other baseball fields in the park. In 1984, the town dedicated the middle baseball field to George Wildes, long-time superintendent of the park.⁵

The tennis courts, four, on the southern edge of the park were donated.



Pingree Park. Photo Bing.com/maps



Mile marker at Pingree Park, 2009
Photo J. Hauck

Before moving up the street, we will take a look at the third **mileage stone** on Main Street. Now near 205 Main St., it originally was across the street. However, in the winter of 1989, it was struck by a skidding car and pulled out of the ground. Fortunately, it was not badly damaged. It was relocated to its current location. So far, so good.

As for the inscriptions, the “I” indicates it is 6 miles to Ipswich, and the “B” indicates it is 21 miles to Boston.

This milestone differs from the others in Wenham: it has the initials “D D.” Milestones often were purchased and erected by wealthy individuals. In some cases, the individual’s initials were carved on the milestone.¹²

OK, which Dodge do you think donated the mile marker? The stone is dated 1710, so it may have been

Daniel Dodge.

He was a graduate of Harvard, class of 1700, and the grandson of Richard Dodge, a Wenham pioneer. In 1718, Daniel Dodge was chosen to keep school in Wenham. He received sixpence per week, for each student.¹¹



Capt. Edmund Kimball house, 1904. 225 Main St. Photo courtesy Wenham Museum



225 Main St., 2009
Photo J. Hauck



231 Main St., 2010. Photo J. Hauck



225 Main St., 2007. Photo Bing.com/maps

The *Capt. Edmund Kimball house*, at **225 Main St.**, was built before 1856. The land previously was owned by John Gardner, Jr., of Boston, who died in 1805, was married to Elizabeth Pickering. Originally, the property was part of a very large estate owned by Thomas⁽³⁾ White.

As previously described in the section covering 214 Main St., in the 17th century, Thomas⁽³⁾ White owned property on both sides of the Salem to Ipswich highway (*now Main Street*) from Walnut Road in Hamilton to Larch Road, in Wenham. On the west side, it included land from Linden Street back to about 201 Main Street.

Capt. Kimball, who acquired the property circa 1850, was a wealthy merchant and ship owner. He previously lived in Marblehead, and was a veteran of War of 1812. He died in 1879. Kimball family descendants lived in the house until 1910.^{1, 10}

The original Federal-design house had two stories and a main entrance on the east side. Around 1904, a columned, two-story portico was added to the Main Street end of the house. At the same time, an enclosed side-porch replaced an open-terrace, on the west side of the house^{1, 10} These changes created the Greek Revival style, which was common of many “ante-bellum” mansions in the South.

In 1910, Sidney C. and Eva Gould acquired the property.^{1, 10} He owned a country store in the Smith Block building, on Railroad Avenue, Hamilton. The next owner, in 1969, was Arthur Lindsley, son-in-law to the Goulds.

Dennis M. White III bought the property in 1975. At the time, the house had only one bathroom and the ceilings were very low.²²

White completely remodeled the house. On the first floor, he built a living room, sitting room, sunroom, dining room, an office, kitchen and a mud room. On the second floor, he built three bedrooms, a side dressing room, a laundry room and a bathroom. Later, he converted the dressing room into another bathroom. In the attic, White built two rooms. He also remodeled the basement.²²

The Whites began a tradition of placing a Christmas wreath on the front of the second floor balcony and shining a flood light on it. Other houses on Main Street soon began doing the same.²²

In 1985, the Whites decided to convert 225 Main St. into an office building. Dennis White built an apartment in the carriage house, so that he and his wife, Ellen, would have a place to live during the transition of the main house. A few years later, White expanded the carriage house on the east side.²²

The Main house was converted to office space in the fall of 1986. The Whites managed the property until Dennis died in February 1994.²²

Not wanting to remain in the carriage house after her husband died, Ellen White had an apartment built in the attic of the main house, in 1994.²² Ellen died in November 2000.

The White children, Dennis M. and Melissa Ellen inherited the property and managed it until they sold it in August 2009,²² sold to David Cutter.

The first tenant at 225 Main St. was Hugh Collins, Jr., a landscape architect: he is still a tenant.²²

In 1997, an apartment was added to the main house, by remodeling two offices. The offices originally were the kitchen and mud room.²²

Behind the building at 225 Main St., are two buildings addressed as **231 Main St.** There are several offices in the buildings. There previously was, in this area, a very large barn with high ceilings and a very large sliding-door.²²

Before the garage was built, there where stables in the area.

As with the house, Dennis White did considerable remodeling of the original barn. He moved it to the left. To the right of the barn (*toward Linden Street*) he added an addition, to be his shop. Later, he moved this section to the other side of the barn and built a new section where it had been.²²

Today, there's only one gas station in Wenham. It is at **233 Main St.**, on the Hamilton-Wenham town line. The station began in the early 1900s, when SOCONY (*Standard Oil of New York, now Mobil*) brought the property, from Earl Johnson, to build a gas station.

This was not the first business at this site. Previously, there was a fish market.

The first to lease the SOCONY station may have been Chester Janes. He continued to run the station through WW2. Later owners included Al McCurrah, Bill Wallace and Henry Stelline. In 1952, Stelline sold his lease to Al Mazzetta.²³



At the time, the station had one maintenance bay, with a pit for changing oil and doing car maintenance, and a pump at the front. Later, a second bay was added. It had an enclosed car-wash system, which provided much needed additional income. On Saturdays, 15 to 18 cars typically were washed. The station also had a contract for washing the mail trucks for the Hamilton and Wenham post offices.²³

In 1972, after having leased the station for 20 years, Mazzetta bought the station from Mobil.²³ In 1985, Mazzetta added a canopy-covered pumping island. The improvement initially was resisted by the Wenham Historic Commission, but the Commission lost the battle.²³ In 2000, Mazzetta sold the station to John Fallon, who previously had a station in Beverly.²³

Now, let's cross over Main Street to what the sign out front says is 300 Main St. Be careful, for there's no pedestrian crosswalk area.

But, wait a minute. If you don't mind, let's take a look at a special house on Linden Street, which is now in Wenham.

There are two houses on Linden Street that are in Wenham, in this area.

The *General Joseph Andrews house*, at 4 **Linden St.** originally was on Bay Rd., just over the Wenham-Hamilton line, in South Hamilton, now the site is the Salem Five Bank. In the early 1960s, the house was moved to its current site.

Built around 1849, the house originally was much larger and was an inn.²⁴ Its architecture was inspired by designs and writings by Andrew Jackson Downing, after a visit to England and seeing the English cottages. A number of houses that he designed still exist in the Hudson River area in New York. The style is often termed "Hudson River Gothic."

The use of open-work carving, on the house gables as well as the gables of the dormers gives a light touch and airiness to the whole. The deep windows and the bay on each end of the house bring much light into the house.

The gothic touch is seen in the pointed arch over the central window and

just under the gable on the second floor. This also is seen in the crenellation along the roof lines of the two bays. Above the windows on the sides of the main house (*first floor*) are gothic moldings, sometimes called "window heads." These are also seen above the window bays.¹⁰



General Joseph Andrews house,
4 Linden St., 2009. Photo J. Hauck

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