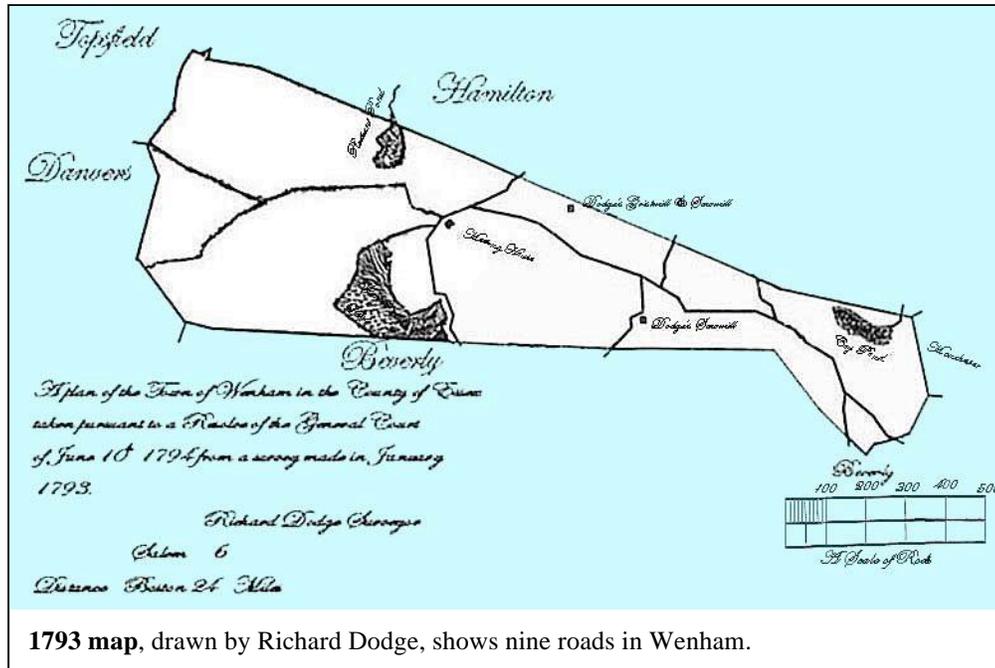


A History of
Wenham's Streets
Why & When Ways Became Roads

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1793 map, drawn by Richard Dodge, shows nine roads in Wenham.

History of Wenham's Streets

Why & When Ways Became Roads

Originally, Wenham's roads were little more than cart paths and lanes leading to the various farms. With time, footpaths were worn through the woods, which then became bridle paths, as horses became available.

Louis Dodge wrote, in 1963, "Col. Porter has informed me that his mother told him when she first came to Wenham, which must have been about 1750, they were obliged to trace their way by marks upon the trees."⁶

Established roads soon became a necessity. The General Court, in 1640, ordered a way to be laid out, from Salem to Ipswich through Wenham: "It is ordered that the selectmen shall laye out, according to their discretion, what highways they think necessary for the use of the town."⁵

The word *highway* has its origin in the elevated path of the Roman road – agger – made by earth thrown from the side of ditches toward the center. In old England, the highways were under the protection of the King's peace and open to public travel, unlike byways and private roads.

Many early roads that were created in a town, from time to time, were not public roads, but a way from the county road to a particular settler's house.

When the town established a road, the owners of the land, through which the road passed were paid or given land in other parts of the town as compensation. Sometimes, a land owner was allowed to put a gate on the road where it entered his property. But, they could not collect a toll.⁷

The town had Surveyors of the Highways who were responsible for inspecting roads and directing that repairs be made, at the landowners expense.

Sidney Perley wrote, in 1924, "If Minister Gerrish (*Joseph Gerrish, third minister of Wenham's First Church*) or John Fiske (*First minister of Wenham's First Church, also Wenham's first doctor*) should come back to Wenham, they would have no trouble finding their way around simply because the paths, or roads so called, are the same today as they traveled. There has been practically no difference in the layout either in length or location simply because some of our new roads have only taken the place of older roads that had been abandoned and went into disuse."⁵

Perley's optimism, in 1926, may not hold true today. Rupert Lillie's map of Wenham, as it may have been in 1776, shows many paths without names. They were byways off of town streets to homes of the early settlers.¹⁰

Slightly over a hundred years later, at the 1888 town meeting, a specially appointed committee described twenty streets in Wenham.²¹ There were other roads, but they had not been accepted as town roads.

In 1910, Wenham had less than 20 roads. By 1930, there were 26. Now (2012), there are 99 "accepted" streets in Wenham.¹³ However, 15 only have one or two houses. The term "accepted" refers to roads that the town has approved to be public roads, and for which the town assumes the responsibility for maintenance and monitoring. Of the current 99 streets, 5 are streets originating in surrounding towns and which extend into Wenham. Since 1924, there are 55 new streets in Wenham. And, 6 of the old streets no longer exist.

Certainly, ministers Gerrish and Fiske would be surprised to see that all the roadways are covered with asphalt concrete, as are the sidewalks. They'd also wonder what the signs are at the intersections. It was not until the Wenham Village Improvement Society (*WVIS*) began posting guide boards, in 1893, that Wenham streets had street signs. As late as 1901, the *WVIS*, and not the town government, still was placing "guide boards," on the street corners.¹⁷

The *WVIS* was not only placing street guide boards, but at a 1901 Town Meeting *WVIS* was allowed to rename all streets that "should be thought best, except Main Street."¹⁷

The streets had names, however it was not until 1948 that the houses had numbers.⁴⁶ Up to then, houses were known by the current or original residents.

Another surprise for Gerrish and Fiske would be the streets lights. Wenham did not have street lights until 1895, when the *WVIS* began erecting them. The *WVIS*

purchased a couple dozen oil-lamps, for Main St. home owners, who promised to light and extinguish the lamp, in front of their house, and keep the wick trimmed, replace the oil, and clean the globe. Then, other home owners wanted the lamps, and the WVIS supplied them.¹⁷

Now, Wenham has just about every name that can be used to describe a street: Ways were the most common name for paths in the 1600s. There now are only three "ways," in the town.

The most common name is street: there are 25.

Road is the next: there are 22.

Close behind is Lane: there are 18.

Other names are: Avenue, now 8 in the town; Drive, now 7 in the town; plus other roadways are called: Circle (2), Court (1), Park (1), Place (1), Route (3), Highway (1) and Row (2). There no longer is a Path.

Wenham, in 2010, has 33 miles of roadways. The town is not responsible for maintaining Main St., which is a state road. Both routes 22 and 97 have signs indicating that they are county roads, but they are town roads. There also are a few private roads, including: Old Country Rd., Patch Ave., and Wallis Dr.

M A P 1



Main Street, established in 1644/5, was the first roadway in Wenham.⁵ It followed an old Indian path leading to what is now Ipswich, from Salem. The original name given, by the settlers, was the Way to Ipswich. Over the years, the road has had many other names, including: County Rd., Country Rd., Bay Rd., Elm St., and State Highway 1A. In Perley's book, a 1700 map shows the road, in Beverly, called "The Road to Wenham."⁵ In a Plan of Old Planters Farms, the road is just called "The Highway."²⁶

In his "History of Wenham, Civil and Ecclesiastical, from Its Settlement in 1639, to 1860," Dr. Myron O. Allen, in 1860, wrote that, "*The road passed from the pond along a valley somewhat to the east of the present road, where it now lies, and was carried directly over the eminence upon which the church was built and nearly over the spot now occupied by the town house.*"⁶

In 1969, Joseph Harrington, Jr., gave a talk, "Historical Outline First Church in Wenham, Congregational," in which he said, "*In the mid 1600s, the Salem to Ipswich highway (now Main Street) ran alongside the Great Pond; then, along a valley somewhat to the east of the present road where it now lies; and over the knoll behind the H. 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.*"⁴²

An explanation for the question of the original route may be found in an General Court ruling, on Nov. 13, 1644, by which it ordered "*that the comission's for laying out the roade way between Ipswich & Salem shall have power to alter the way layde out beneath Wenham towards the east, & to lay it through y' towne.*"⁵

The town's first meeting house was just off the highway, on a knoll behind what today are 104 and 106 Main St. It was built circa 1641. Obviously, houses of the first settlers were erected before this date, on the Salem to Ipswich highway.

The oldest current house on Main Street, #132, is the Claflin-Richards House. It was added to the National of Historic Places in 1973.²⁵ The Historic District Commission dates the house c. 1662 and 1673. The Wenham Village Improvement Society purchased the house in 1921.⁴¹

2011 tax assessor records show that 12 houses on Main Street were built in 1900. When the first study of the age of houses was done, 1965, many home owners could not say when their house was built. Therefore, 1900 was arbitrarily set as the date. The same applies to many houses on other streets.

Great Pond Road was accepted as a town road in 1963.⁵² What we call Wenham Lake, the Indians likely called "mi chi ga mea," meaning Great Pond.

Massachusetts law defines a great pond "as any pond or lake that contains more than 10 acres, in its natural state."

Wirling Drive, a Beverly street, extends slightly into Wenham, east of the Great Pond Road. There is just one house in Wenham, #35.

Fiske Road, was created in 1885,²⁹ but not accepted as town road until 1963.⁵²

The street likely is named after John Fiske, the town's first pastor and also its first doctor. The family name originally was spelled "Ffiske."

At present, the oldest house on the street is #11, built in 1885.

Lake Avenue, around 1888, was called Enon Avenue. The name was changed to Lake Avenue in 1890, when Joseph Kilham purchased land, on the shore of Wenham Lake. He laid out an ambitious 64-lot plan, and put them up for sale, calling the development Massasoit Park.¹²

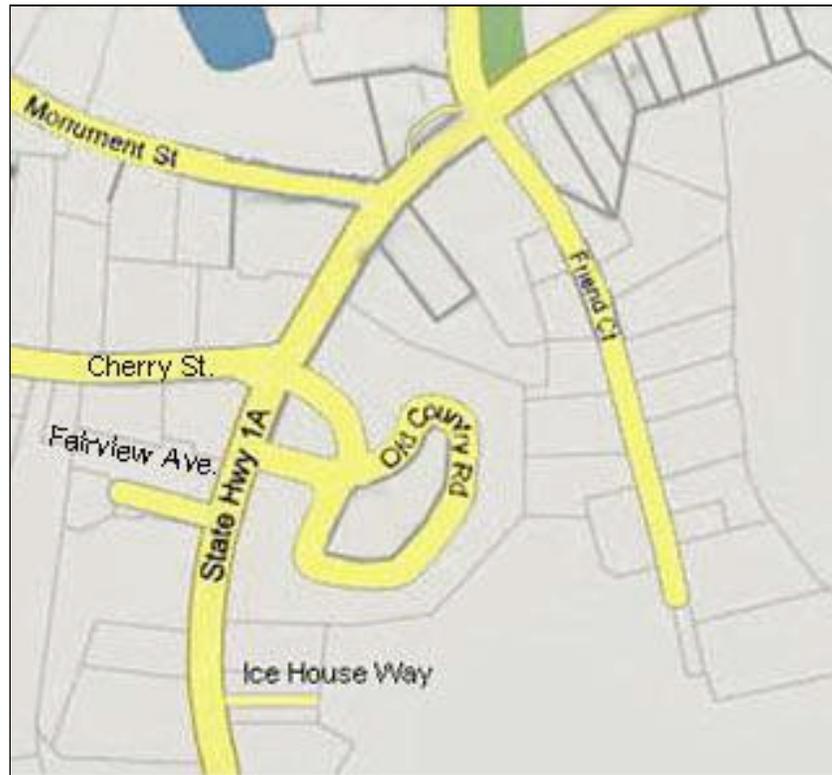
Several lots were sold, but apparently only one cottage was built, by Ulysses G. Haskell, a well-known Beverly lawyer. He erected a 10-room hotel, calling it the Massasoit House. The hotel burned, in 1924.¹²

The 1910 Walker map shows Lake Avenue running past the E. Hatch house and out to Wenham Lake.

There now (2012) are fourteen houses on Lake Avenue, the oldest of which, #13, was built in 1830.

Patti Lane was accepted as a town road in 1963⁵². It is named after Anthony Patti, who built the houses on this street.

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Ice House Way* The driveway between 104 and 106 Main St. originally was a path leading to the first meeting house, in Wenham. In the beginning, it was called Meeting House Lane, for it led to the first Wenham meeting house; later, it became known as Ice House Way. ¹⁸

Fairview Avenue was accepted as a town road in 1940. ²⁹ Originally, the property was part of the Kemble estate, across the street.

Old Country Road, a private way, was created in 1991. The road, which leads into The Maples, was supposed to have been *Old County Road*, but a mistake was made in spelling the name.

On the property, there are eight residences, in which there are a total of fifty-five dwellings. The brick building on the hill at the front of the property was built in 1921, by John Proctor. About 230 years earlier, in 1692, a Salem court convicted John Proctor's ancestor, John Proctor, as being a witch. (*Convicted as the first male witch: he was hung.*)

Kent's Avenue, named for James Kent, according to the 1876-7 directory of Wenham streets it was off of Cherry Street.

* Names shown in italics either are no longer used or no longer exist or have new names.

Monument Street, established in 1911, originally was a dead-end street on the Tilton property. In the mid 1800s, the Putnam/Fowler store, also the town post office, was on the street. The building was destroyed by a fire. In 1909,

Lester Libby bought the property from the estate of George Tilton. He laid a road, New Street, to provide access to the land between Main Street and Cherry Street, for development of houses. ⁴ It became Monument Street in 1911. At a town hearing, residents and landowners on the new street chose the name.

The earliest houses on Monument Street, as shown by a 1912 Rupert Lillie photo, belonged to Arthur Trowt, Benjamin Smith, Ralph Smith, and Orpheus Woodbury. Two current houses, numbers 20 and 29, are recorded, by the tax assessor, as having been built sometime before 1900.

Friend Court was an unofficial town way for many years, before being accepted as a town street in 1860. It was named after John P. Friend.

There was a time in the 1930s, when some locals called this path Battle Axe Alley. A widely-known, angry woman lived on Friend Ct.

The oldest current house on the street, #16, the John P. Friend house, was built in 1856. ⁹

Killam Way, which runs from the corner of Monument St. and Main St. to the corner of Arbor St. and Main St., originally was a path to Austin Killam's farm. On Jan. 1, 1665/6, the town made a land trade with Selectman Austin Killam. He received "all that land more or less that lyeth betwixt his farm and meadow, upon condition that the town shall forever enjoy all that parcel of land, which the meeting house stands upon, except a passage from his property directly to the highway." ²

The street in front of the Hobbs house and the fifth meeting house is a portion of the original *right of way*, which Killam was given to get to his farm. ⁶³ Killam Way wound in front of Judge Nathaniel Brown's house (*now the Hobbs house*), behind the north side of the second meeting house, and then turned out to Country Road (*now Main Street*).

Central Square was, in the early 1900s, at the intersection of Main St., Arbor St. and Friend Ct. ¹⁵ The name no longer is in use.

M A P 3



Arbor Street was laid out, between 1843 and 1845. ¹² It went as far as what today would be 75 Arbor St.

In a 1963 talk, Louis Dodge said that, when he was a boy, the section of Arbor Street beyond 75 Main St. “was simply a path leading to Mingo's Corner, which was up at Asbury Grove. Mingo was a colored servant of Ebenezer Lovering, and lived somewhere near the junction of Asbury and Highland Streets. ²⁵

When the entire length of Arbor Street was macadamized, in 1930, a tunnel was made under it. The tunnel allowed cattle to pass under the road. ^{61, 67} Al Dodge would later tell people that the creation of the Arbor St. tunnel was “Wenham's Big Dig Project.” ¹⁸

The previous year, 1929, a permanent side walk was built from Main Street to School Street, and from School Street to the school yard. ⁶⁶

In 1921, the state planned to rearrange the intersection of Arbor Streets and Main Street. There were to be a fork at the end: one way passing next to the end of Memorial Park and heading west on Main Street and the other way passing alongside the car-barn lot and heading east. An island was to separate the two ways. The plan was dropped.

The oldest present house on the street is #19, was built in 1840. ³⁵

Another house of interest is #21 Arbor Street. Built in 1850 at the back of the car-barn lot on Main Street, it was moved in 1898 to its current site.

Arbor Street is one of fourteen of Wenham's current streets that have names related to trees.

Settlers' Lane, a new street off of Arbor Street and, draws its name from the long history of the Perkins family in Wenham. At the entrance to the street, there is a plaque commemorating the Perkins family, one of the first settlers in Wenham.

Juniper Street, which was built in three stages, was accepted as a town road in 1942.²⁹

Eddel Avenue was accepted as a town road in 1946.³⁷ It is named after Ed and Delmar Kavanaugh, who once owned the property.

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1959.³³

Ellis Avenue was accepted as a town road in 1947.³² It is named after James Ellis, who was one of the early settlers in Wenham.

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1959.³³

School Street was established in 1906, in preparation for the new Wenham central school, replacing the neighborhood schools.

There is just one house, #7, on School St., and it was built in 1948.

Also on School Street, #4, is a building that was moved, in 1947, from the corner of Maple Street and Topsfield Road. This structure, from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, was the Mapleville Association Chapel.

In 1949, it became a community center, and later a veterans' center, the Lieutenant Norman Prince Post No. 182 of the American Legion,³⁷ and in 1950, the headquarters for the Director of Civil Defense.

From 1961 to 1963, the police station was at the Ellis Avenue side of the building. Today, the building also serves as the Wenham Council on Aging Center.

Bruce Lane was accepted as a town road in 1951.³⁸ It is named after Percy H. Bruce, who was a building contractor involved with development of the street.

The oldest house on the street, #4, was built in 1928.³⁵

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1957.⁴⁸

Porter Street was established circa 1890. A Conant photo, # 321, taken November 13, 1891, shows the Trask/Kinney/Shannon House, 1 Porter St., being constructed.

John¹ Porter moved to Wenham, from Danvers, about 1680. In 1712 and 1726, he represented Wenham in the Provincial Legislature, and at different times held various duties in the town. He died in 1753, when he was 95.⁶

In 1900, Porter Street was extended to the Hamilton line.

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1957.⁴⁸

Perkins Street "In the late 1600's, Sergeant John Perkins, applied to the town for a right of way, to get to his land-locked property."¹¹

On Lillie's map of how Wenham looked in 1776, John Perkins' house is shown as having been built in 1692.¹⁰

The oldest house, #24, was built in 1800; however, in 2011 it was razed.

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1957.³³

Way to Horse Island was an extension of Perkins St. It stretched through The Great Swamp, to Horse Island.¹⁰

Wallis Drive, created in 2007, leads into The Boulders, off Main St. A private drive, it was named after Elizabeth Wallis Dodge.

Foster Street was accepted as a town road in 1954.³⁴ It likely is named after Moses Foster, who was an early settler in Wenham.

Howard St., which extends into Hamilton, was established circa 1925²⁹. Originally called Howard Way, it became Howard Street in 1935.⁶²

The street was extended from Stanton Street to the Hamilton town line in 1949.

⁴⁵ For many years, there was a short section of the street beyond the Wenham town line that was unpaved. In 1959, Joseph Harrington, Wenham's Town Moderator, had Wenham pave it.¹⁸

There are 13 houses in Wenham.³³ The oldest, #14, was built in 1920.

Savoy Road, a Hamilton street, extends slightly into Wenham, where it intersects Lois Street. There are three houses in Wenham. There was a path, at the middle of Savoy Road that connected to Stanton St. The path still can be seen, although there is a wood fence across it.

Lois Street, a Hamilton street, extends slightly into Wenham off of Stanton Street. There is one house in Wenham, # 1.

Stanton Street, accepted as a town road in 1950,²⁹ was named after Frederick Stanton, a local merchant and post master from 1886-1897. There was a plan to extend Stanton Street to Porter Street, but a homeowner refused to sell his land that would have been crossed by the extension.

Linden Street originally was Daniel Killam Way.

The oldest house on the street, #4, was built circa 1849. Originally, the house was on Main Street, in Hamilton, just across the Hamilton/Wenham town line. It was to its current location circa 1965.⁴⁴

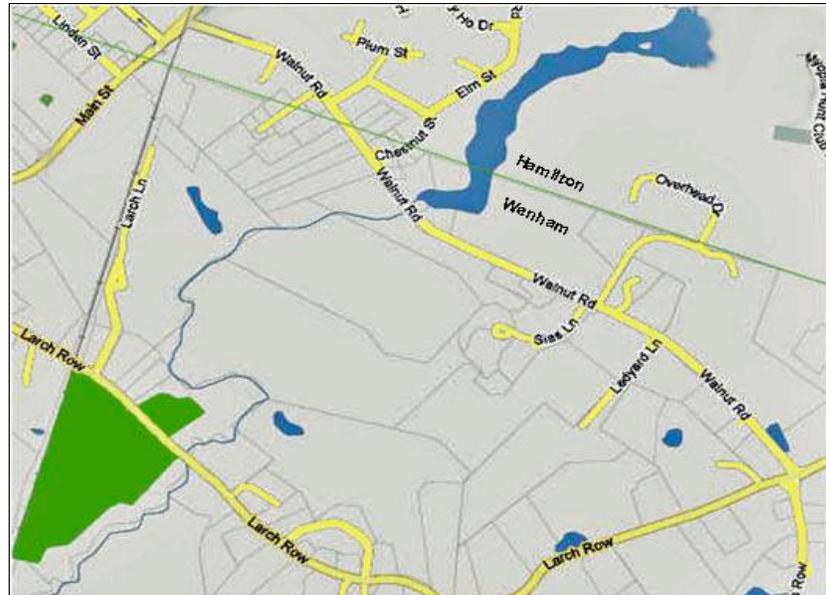
Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1957.⁴⁸

Patch Avenue, a private way, is a left-angle street connecting Main Street and Larch row.

Today, there are two houses on the street. Originally, there was only one, which was built circa 1835, for Charles W. Patch. He purchased the property from Paul Barnes, Mary Barnes and Charles Williams.

On Dec. 18, 1912 the Patch estate was divided into two lots: one deeded to Charles, Jr. and Nancy Patch, and the other to Austin and Mabel Patch. At that time Patch Avenue was created in its current configuration. The original path was to the Charles W. Patch, Sr. house (*today #10*) from Main Street; it was extended at a right angle to Larch Row past the Austen Patch house (*today #8*).

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Larch Row, along with Grapevine Road and Larch Row, was known, in early history, as the way to Manchester, or Captain West's farm. Captain West lived in Beverly and owned the land between Manchester and Pride's Crossing.¹¹

The first mention of a road to the eastern part of Wenham is in the Jan. 20, 1687/8* town record. At a selectmen's meeting, they "layd out a waye to our metting house for the Inhabitants of the East end of our towne cald the neck &c. where we Judg it most conveyant for them to Ride or goe to meeting. ... This was don with the Allowance of the owners of the land, it is to be understood that the petitioners are to make Gates Conveinant & to bridg upon their owne Cost & to maintaine them from time to time."¹⁹

The road was altered on May the 26th 1696, when the selectmen voted there should be "a convenient cart way laid out from the meeting house to the Neck through the land of Joseph Fowler and Zacheus." The land owners, Fowler and Goldsmith agreed to the plan for "a convenient cart way for the inhabitants of our Town to pass to and from the Neck over their land "where the way hath for many years last pass gone and which way shall still be continued provided the town be at the cost of making and maintaining convenient gates for the inhabitants to pass through gates."²³

* Old Julian calendar year began March 1.

The oldest house on the street, #38 the Larch Farm, was built in 1700.²⁵ The house also is known as the Pickering House or the Goldsmith-Trevett-Pickering-Reynolds House.²⁵ It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.²⁵

Henry Alley, who published many books and about bees, lived at 14 Larch Row. He invented many devices associated with caring for bees. There is an Alley memorial stone in front of the house.

Another notable Larch Row resident was Jim Bartlett. He developed the Wenham Grape: it is sweeter and earlier than the Concord Grape, from which it was crossed.

Another notable Larch Row resident was Colonel Timothy Pickering. He was a Revolutionary War officer; the country's first Postmaster General; and was Secretary of State and Secretary of War.

In 1806, Thomas Pickering had Larch trees shipped from England and planted on his grounds, and on the road leading to it.¹²

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1955.⁴⁷

In 1974, Walnut Road was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁴⁹

Low's Avenue was named for Jeremiah Low. According to the 1876 Wenham Street Directory, it was off Larch Row near Low's B. & M. railroad crossing.

Walnut Road, Lewis Dodge said, in 1973, "is a modern name. When I was a youngster, (1890s) we called it Depot Street; before that it was Captain Ezra Dodge's Lane, and before that it was Peter Dodge's Lane, and simply went to the foot of the hill and turned to the left to Peter Dodge's sawmill."¹¹ Rupert Libby's map of how Wenham may have looked in 1776 shows it to be "The Way to the Mill."¹⁰ The mill was owned by Peter Dodge.

Several houses on Walnut Road were built in the late 1800s.

In 1966, Walnut Road became the first street in the United States to have cat-eye reflectors built into a roadway. These glass reflectors served as guides to vehicles at night.^{30, 73}

In 1974, Larch Row was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁴⁹ Walnut, Dodges Row, Cedar and Wenham portion of Grover.⁴⁹

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Way to White's Mill was a road that ran from where Walnut Road crosses the Miles River to the Salem to Ipswich Highway (*now Main Street*). There was, in the 1600s a mill, owned by John White, near an old bridge on Walnut. The road was laid out before the laying of the Road to Manchester, now Larch Row.⁷²

Larch Lane was accepted as a town road in 1976.²⁹ It leads into Enon Village.

Sias Lane was accepted as a town road in 1987.²⁹ The street is named after Charles D. Sias, who owned the large tract of land, upon which Sias Lane is located.

Ledyard Lane, a private way, draws its name from the nearby Ledyard Farm, which was owned for most of the 20th century by Hilda and Frederick Ayer. There are two houses on Ledyard; however, they are listed as 82 and 88 Walnut Road.

Walnut Lane became a town road in 1964.²⁹

Chestnut Street, a town road since 1925,⁶⁴ is one of 6 streets, with just 2 houses.²⁹ Town voted to establish street from Walnut to Hamilton line.⁶³

What may appear to be streets leading off of Larch Row, and having no name, actually are long drive ways.

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The area is known as Lord's Hill. The name comes from the original owner, William Lord. The hill, which is the highest elevation (*about 175 ft.*) within Wenham, affords a view as far Salem harbor, as well as many miles around.⁶

Laurel Drive became a town road in 1981.²⁹

Main Drive accepted as a town road in 1955.⁷ Originally this was the driveway, i.e., main drive, leading to the Mary C. Burnham house.

Burnham Road was accepted as a town road in 1958.⁵¹ The road is named after Mary Clark Burnham, who purchased Lord's Hill in 1920.⁷

Enon Road became a town road in 1958.⁵¹ Enon is the original name of Wenham.⁷

Hilltop Drive became as a town road in 1961.⁷

Should you want to know more about Lord's Hill, there is an excellent book. "Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill Wenham, 1637-1983, Wenham, Massachusetts," by Rupert B. Lillie, 1984.

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Cherry Street is one of the original roads established in Wenham. It stretches between Main Street and Topsfield Road. The street once was known as “The Way to the Great Meadows.”⁷⁰ A portion of Cherry Street, from Pleasant Street to the Audubon property, was long known as “the Straits” or the “Straights.”¹² Straights Hollow is now Cedar Pond.

The oldest current house on the street, #162, the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House, was built in 1658. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.²⁵

In 1893, the Wenham Village improvement Society (*WVIS*) created the first triangle at Wenham Neck. Thus began the development and care of the “triangles,” which the *WVIS* continued to create and care for until 1918, when the town assumed responsibility for them.¹⁷ The Cherry Street intersection with Main Street still has a triangle with floral plantings, provided by businesses in town.

Up until 1922, when heading toward Topsfield Rd on Cherry St. the road turned to the right just before reaching 162 Cherry St. and meandered out to Topsfield Rd. When Henry A. Erhard bought the property (*then 50 acres*), Cherry St. was changed to its current route.²⁰

In 1925, the State highway department removed a traffic signal at the intersection of Cherry and Main streets. It was offered to the town for \$265, but not accepted.⁶⁴

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1953.⁵³

In 1975, a sidewalk was completed from Morgan Street to Topsfield Road.⁶⁸

The traffic island at the intersection of Cherry Street and Maple Street was created in 1962.⁵⁸

In 1975, the Cherry Street sidewalk, from Morgan Street to Topsfield Road was completed.⁶⁰

In 1974, Cherry Street was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁴⁹

The Highway. Established before 1776, it was a path leading through The Great Swamp to Fowler's Island. The name comes from this once having been the old way to lots owned in the swamp.

When the canal was dug through the swamp connecting Wenham Lake with the Ipswich River, in 1917, The Highway was severed. The section from Cedar Street to a pumping station was renamed Old Town Way.

Porter Lane was off of Cherry St., near where the Gott house once stood. It led to the house of John³ Porter.¹⁶

Regwill Avenue was accepted as a town road in 1939. However, it had existed for many years prior and is shown on a 1910 map. The name comes from first names of the builders, Reginald and William, of the first homes on the street. The property been part of the Currier estate.

Stage Hill Road was accepted as a town road in 1986.²⁹ The original name was Joseph Poor Drive.

Joseph Poor, who lived at 155 Cherry St., previously owned all of the property where houses were built, starting in 1986. Residents did not like living on Poor Drive, so they got the town to change the name to Stage Hill Dr.

Kimball Ave. was accepted as a town road in 1963.⁵² The Kimball family was one of the early settlers in Wenham.

Morgan Street, accepted as a town road in 1973,⁵⁹ likely was named after William Morgan, who was a key player in the development of the Mapleville Chapel.⁹ The street was extended, in 1973, beyond Kimball Avenue.⁵⁹

Flint Street was an extension of Bomer Street that connected to Cherry Street. The street likely was named after a "Mr. Flint," who had a leather tannery in the 1770s.⁵

Since it passed through several properties, the proprietors were allowed to set up gates, at each point where the road passed through their land.¹⁶ In 1954, Bomer St. was extended to the end of Cherry St., Flint St. was closed.³⁴

Eaton Road was accepted as a public street in 1954.³⁴ The Eaton family was one of the early settlers in Wenham.

Virginia Place was accepted as a town road in 1987.²⁹ It is named after the wife, Virginia, of the developer, James Curto.

William Fairfield Drive was accepted as a town road in 1979²⁹, on the Tucker property. Originally, this was the William Fairfield estate, and is the site of the Fairfield Cemetery.

The first burial in the cemetery was in 1722/3: Esther Fairfield. The last burial was in 1856: Harriet Matilda (*Woodberry*) Bomer.

Speakers Lane was accepted as a town road in 1981.²⁹ The name comes from the fact that in 1641, William Fairfield, was speaker of the Massachusetts House. Fairfield owned the property on which Speakers Lane was built.

Daniels Road was accepted as a town road in 1964.²⁹ It is named after Francis P. Daniels, who once owned a large tract of land off of Topsfield Road.

Topsfield Road, another of the very early of roads in Wenham, it was first called County Street. From about 1834 until May 31, 1921, was known as Bomer St. or Bomar Road., for it passed through land owned by the Bomer family. The entire road between Beverly and Topsfield became Topsfield Road. In the 1800s, the road between the railroad crossing and the Topsfield line was called the Wenham Causeway.^{16, 24}

The oldest house on the street, #31, was built in 1810.²⁹

Various sections of Topsfield Rd. have paved sidewalks. In 1967, the town built a paved sidewalk from Conrad Circle to Maples St.⁵⁵

Bomer Road/Street, Topsfield Road, in Wenham, from about 1834 until May 31, 1921, was known as Bomer Street or Bomer Road, for it passed through land owned by the Bomer family.¹⁶

Trask Street, named after Edward L. Trask, was the original highway, with many curves, in North Beverly. It ran a short distance into Wenham.

In July 1834, a straight road was laid out, in North Beverly. However, Trask Street, continuing in Wenham, still had many curves. Some years later, the road was straightened. From then on, it has been called the Road to Topsfield or Topsfield Road.⁷

Conrad Circle was accepted as a town road in 1963.⁵² It is named after the Conrad family that previously owned the property. They lived at 207 Topsfield Road.

Mayflower Drive was accepted as a town road in 1966.²⁹

Meridian Road was accepted as a town road in 1959.³³ Being a semicircle road off of Topsfield Road., the name Meridian is easy to understand.

Maple Street originally, 1689, was a "convenient highways at the westerly end of said town of Wenham." Called The Way to Salem Village," the "cart-way" crossed over the lands of several "proprietors," each man was granted a parcel of "common land," in recompense or for "satisfaction" for land taken over by the way. Each "proprietor" could keep and maintain gates, wherever the road crossed his land.^{16, 22} It became Maple Street in 1888.²¹

The oldest house on the street, #26, the Solomon Kimball House, was built in 1659.²⁵ It was added to the National of Historic Places, in 1990.²⁵ The lot is a little over 147 acres.

In the 1930, there was an ice cream making plant off of Maples Street at about #67. Andrew Schlechuber owned the business. He also owned a luncheon shop at 162 Main St. that served his ice cream. Today, the shop is the Health & Wellness Center.

At the south-west corner of Maple Street and Topsfield Road there were two buildings: the Mapleville Chapel (*built 1889*) and the West Wenham District school house (*built 1739*). The school was removed in 1924, and the chapel in 1948.

In 1965, a permanent surface was applied on Maple Street, leaving only one street, Hull Street, which did not have a permanent surface.⁵⁶

Reconstruction of Maple Street was completed in 1976, when the intersection at Topsfield Road was changed.⁶⁸ In 1983, a flashing light was installed at the intersection.⁶⁹

In 1978, Maple Street was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁵⁰

Way to Bartholomew Dodge was a path to the house of Bartholomew⁴ Dodge. The path, created in 1744, is still there: it leads to #9 Maple Street.¹⁶

Puritan Road was accepted as a town road in 1963.⁵² The name, as with Mayflower Dr., comes from the first colonists who landed at Plymouth, MA.

MAP 7

Old Town Way was accepted as a town road in 1964.²⁹ Previously, it was a much longer road, The Highway, leading to Fowler Island, in the center of the great swamp. Old Town Way is one of four streets in Wenham, on which there is only one house.

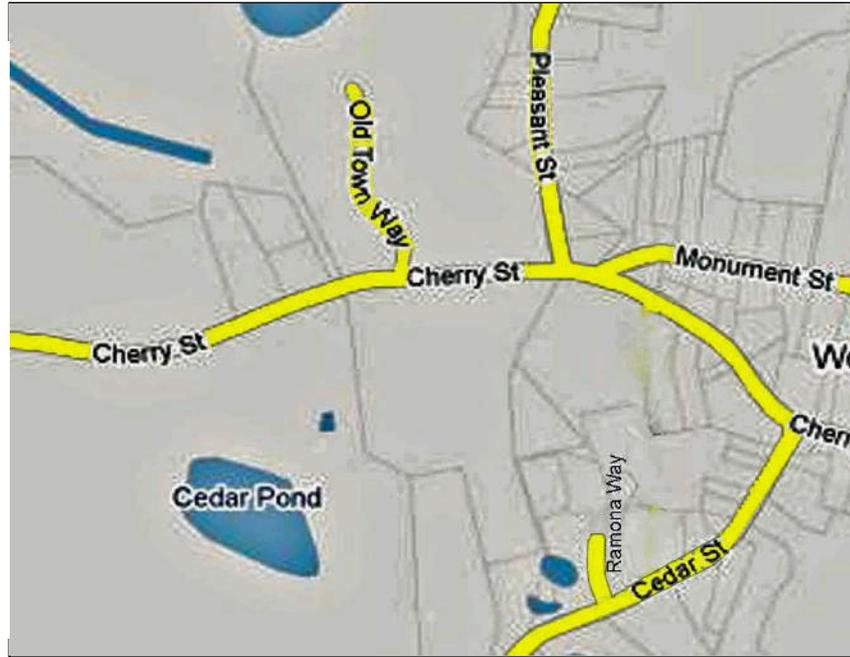
Ramona Way was accepted as a town road in 1982.²⁹ The street's name comes from Ramona French, who owned the property. There is only one house on the street.

Cedar Street originally this was a road that only ran to Israel Batchelder's house alongside Wenham Lake: it was called The Way to Batchelder's.

It became Cedar Street in 1861, when the road was extended to Bomer Street. (*now Topsfield Road*).⁷

There was a path from his house to an area called Egypt. The year, 1816, is known to historians as "eighteen hundred and froze to death" or the "year without a summer." Snow fell all across New England, in June and July, killing most of the corn.

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The following spring, a Batchelder, who lived in the western part of Wenham, off of Topsfield Road. (*then Bomer Street*), was about the only man that had any corn for seed; farmers went to Batchelder to buy corn; the area became known as Egypt, in reference to the Bible story of Joseph, in Egypt. ¹²

The oldest house on Cedar Street, #114, the James Friend House, was built in 1699.²⁵ It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. ²⁵

In 1974. Cedar Street Row was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. ⁴⁹

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Birch Road, which runs near the Danvers town line, was accepted as a town road in 1968.²⁹ It comes to a dead-end at the Danvers/Wenham town line.

Burley Street was created in 1705, but it was not a town road until 1872. The Wenham Town Record of 1705 reports that “Burley Street is a road ordered to be laid out by the selectmen, accommodate Joseph (3) and John (3) Herrick to come to the “Way to Salem Village” (*Maple Street*

Street may have been named after William Burley, who owned large tract of land covering portions of Salem and Wenham.¹⁶

The oldest house on the street, #29, was built in 1885.

About 1760, Ebenezer (5) Porter built a large house, on the east side of the street, “in the manner of the houses then being built in Salem, by well-to-do merchants and sea captains.” It was a 2 ½ story house, facing south, with a garden on the south side. There were two front living rooms with a central hall.

On the west side, there was a long barn, barnyard, shed, and well.⁴³

At the end of the Wenham section of Burley Street, there is a Beverly Airport runway.

Orchard Lane was accepted as a town road in 1979.²⁹

Nathaniel Circle, which runs parallel to the Wenham/Beverly town line, was accepted as a town road, in 2001. Angelina Perkins, of 28 Burley St., sold the land in 2000 to Jacqueline J. LeVie. The property was divided into two lots: the first house was built in 2001. The street may have been named after Nathaniel Perkins, a prominent Wenham resident in the 1800s.

Remington Road, originally a driveway, was accepted as a town road in 1985. There is only one house, which was built in 1985. The road was named after the Remington family, who own a 19-acre property, in the area. In 1984, Richard Remington sold a section to Edward Evans, his brother-in-law, so that he could build a house. In order to provide frontage for the dwelling, the driveway had to be turned into a road. David Remington, Richard's son, lives at 40 Pleasant St.

Two town wells are at the end of Remington Road.

D'Ambrosio Way was accepted as a town road in 1987. There are only two houses on the street. The name comes from the D'Ambrosio family that lives there.

Longfellow Road was established in 1914. The street was not named for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, but rather the Longfellow family of Wenham.

Bryant Street, a continuation of Longfellow Road, was named after William H, Bryant. He owned a couple of hotels near the common in the mid 19th century.

Pine Street was shown on the 1910 Beers map as branching off of Pleasant Street.

South Street, which intersects both Longfellow Road and Pleasant Street, was established in 1920.²⁹

Oak St., is what is known as a paper street. Previously, it was called Idlewild Rd. There are no houses on this street. The name comes not from the tree, but from Larry Oak, who owns the property. There are no houses on this street.

Hickory Lane was accepted as a town road in 1970. There are only 2 houses on the street.

Juniper Street, which was built in three stages, was accepted as a town road in 1949.⁴⁵ Previously was a private way owned by Roe McKenzie.

Permanent finishing (*hot-topping*) of the street was done in 1959.³³

Leigh Road, a Hamilton street, has only a tip of its length in Wenham, on which there are 3 houses.

Knoll Road begins in Hamilton and extends a short way into Wenham. It was established in 1925.²⁹

The Great Path, created in 1704,⁶ was one of several ways into Wenham's Great Swamp.

When settlers first ventured into the Great Swamp, they found that its many islands had very wide and tall trees. Also, many smaller trees grew in the marsh areas. These resources were important, since most of the trees on dry land had been harvested or were on private land.

The selectmen divided Swamp Common into nine divisions, each fifty feet wide and 200 feet long. Companies, with eight people in each, were formed. Each company drew a marker to indicate which lot they would own. This was done November 18, 1705.⁵

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Dodges Row originally was called The King's Highway. Later, it became The Way to Chebacco. Then, circa 1850, it became Dodges Row, owing to the many Dodge families living along it.

The oldest house on the street, #96, was built in 1736.

From 1854 to 1930, the Neck School was on Dodges Row, near the intersection of Walnut Rd. and Larch Row. The intersection is known as Four Corners. Previously, the school was on the northwest corner of Walnut and Larch Row

From 1826 to 1969, the Wenham Baptist Church was alongside the Neck School. The church building now is a private residence.

A notable resident at the Four Corners was Frank Macomber Dodge, father of Adeline Cole. He was a selectman, an overseer of the poor; a member of the school committee, and for many years, the lead deacon of the Wenham Neck Baptist Church.

In 1953, permanent paving of the street to the Beverly line was done.⁵³

In 1974, Dodges Row was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁴⁹ Cedar and Wenham portion of Grover.⁴⁹

Grover Street starts in Wenham, off of Dodges Row, but most of its length is in Beverly. It is named after Capt. Peter Grover, who had a large farm at the eastern end of Wenham, in the late 1700s. There are no houses on the Wenham portion of the road.

In 1974, the Wenham portion of Grover Street was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁴⁹

Thaxton Road, a Beverly street, extends slightly into Wenham. It is off of Grover Street., another Beverly street. There is one house in Wenham, #10.

Grapevine Road and Larch Row were known, in early history, as a highway leading to Manchester, or Captain West's farm. Captain West lived in Beverly and owned the land between Manchester and Pride's Crossing; therefore, you could go to Captain West's farm.¹¹ It later was called was called The Way to Manchester and later The Grapevine.

In 1624, Thomas Graves, was a member of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, wrote about the Salem area, "Vines do grow here plentifully, laden with the biggest grapes that I ever saw. Some I have seen four inches around."³¹

The original path of Grapevine Road began off of Dodges Row and ran alongside the Miles River, to where the Miles River now passes under Grapevine Road. Paths often were made alongside streams that once were used for travel.

The current route of Grapevine Road was created in the late 1600s. With the original route running near the Miles River, it would often be inaccessible due to flooding and, therefore, the route was changed.

Another change to the route of Grapevine Road happened in the mid 1950s when its sharp S-curve was changed. The project ran into a major problem in 1957 when the amount of peat to be removed from the relocated roadway was far greater and deeper than engineering plans had estimated.⁴⁸

The oldest house on the street, #349, was built in 1800.

In 1978. Grapevine Road was designated as a Scenic Road, per Section 15C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁵⁰

Rubbly Road, which is a section of Rte. 22, is only a part of the originally highway that came out of Beverly, and which was established well before 1776. In Hamilton, it becomes Woodbury Street.

The original road ran from Beverly, where Essex Street now intersects with Old Rubbly Hill Road, across a marsh, up over Rubbly Hill and across Grapevine Road.

The oldest house on the street, #36, was built sometime before 1900.

Chebacco Street ran from Grapevine Road, opposite old Rubbly Hill Road (*now Essex Street*), to the Hamilton line near Jacob Brown's house. It had been called Maple Street, until 1888, when the name was changed.²¹

Danes Way was accepted as a town road in 1984. The first to buy a house on the street was the Cronin family. They asked the developer, Bill Rawls, to name the street their oldest son, Dane. Coincidentally, the next family to move to Danes Way was Lana and Robert Danish.

By the way, the name should be spelled “Dane’s Way.”

Essex Street, which also is part of Rte. 22, and like Rubbly Road is a town road, and not a county road. On old maps, the road is called “The Way to Rubbly Hill,” which sits on the Wenham-Beverly line in the Wenham Neck area.

The original path of Essex Street ran from just across the Beverly town line directly into the section of Essex Street in Wenham. The route was changed to its current path in 1896, for a new street car route to Ipswich. The previous path crossed a marsh area and was not strong enough to handle the heavy street cars, and a hill was too steep for the cars to handle.

A portion of the original Essex Street still exists in Beverly: it is called Old Rubbly Hill Road.

Appleton Rd. is shown on Walker’s 1884 and 1910 Wenham maps, without a name. Al Dodge recalls it having been an old road that was closed when Essex St. was extended to Grapevine Rd. Its former intersections with Grapevine and Essex are still visible. Its path avoided passing over the Miles River. It was named for Major Samuel Appleton. No information was found for when Appleton was created or ended.

Iron Rail Road became the name of the road leading into the former Girls Club of America property, in 1974, when the Town of Wenham bought the property. The name Iron Rail came from an actual iron rail fence that stood in front of the main house on the property up to 1941, when it was taken down and donated to the war efforts.¹²

For sixty years, the Iron Rail Vacation Home was a summer camp for young women working in the mills in New England textile mills.

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Charles Davis Drive, accepted as a town road in 1989,²⁹ is named after Charles Davis; Wenham selectman from 1950 to 1963. The land previously was owned by the Davis family.

Gussett Road draws its name from the triangular shape of the lot on which it runs. They were accepted as town roads in 1989.²⁹

Boulder Lane existed well before 1776. It runs parallel to Rte. 128, for just over a half mile, in Wenham, and dead ends in Beverly.

Hull Street also was established well before 1776. A few old maps show the road also called Hull Lane. It is likely that it was named after Isaac Hull, one of the early settlers in Wenham. The oldest house on the street, #5, was built in 1890.

The East District School, also called Dishwater Academy, was at the corner of Hull Street and Grapevine until 1925.

In 1971, Hull Street was permanently paved, thus completing the permanent surfacing of all of Wenham's streets.⁵⁷

The area west of what now is Rte. 128 used to be called Little Comfort. The story goes that a young woman, a Miss. Comfort, lived in the area.

Toppan Lane, accepted as a town road in 1999,²⁹ has just 2 houses. It is named after George Toppan, an early settler in Wenham.

Parsons Hill Road was accepted as a town road in 1997.²⁹ The name does not come from any specific person. Rather, it refers to the religious history of Gordon College and the hill which dominates the area.

Horse Hill Lane is an extension of Parsons Hill Road, in Beverly, to the east of where Grapevine Road becomes Hart Street., in Beverly. There are four houses on the street.

A 1932 map shows this road exiting off of Grapevine Road. When rte 128 was built, Horse Hill Lane was cut in two. ³⁹ The section coming off of Grapevine Road is now the entrance to Gordon College.

Dexter Lane, a circle, was accepted as a town road in 1998. ²⁹ The Dexter family owned the house at the entrance to Gordon College, before it was acquired. The house is now a dormitory, Dexter Hall.

Stockwell Lane was accepted as a town road in 2000. ²⁹ The name comes from the middle name of the mother of Richard Gordeau, who built the homes in this area.

Princemere Lane was accepted as a town road in 2000. ²⁹ It is named after the Frederick Henry Prince estate, which is now Gordon College.

Onion River Drive was accepted as a town road in 2000. ²⁹ The Onion River is shown on old maps of the area on the Manchester, Wenham border, near the streets' end.

Lafayette Lane was accepted as a town road in 1997. ²⁹ The name recognizes the son of the Prince family who died in WWI, while flying in the Lafayette Escadrille.

Nicole Avenue, a Beverly street, has one house, #7, in Wenham.

Preston Place, a Beverly street, extends slightly into Wenham, to the east of where Grapevine Road becomes Hart Street, in Beverly. Two houses, #s 78 and 86, are in Wenham.

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Wenham's Streets

Street	Began	Map #	Houses #, 2010
Arbor St.	1836	03	33
Batchelder Park	1903	09	13
Birch Rd.	1968	08	10
<i>Bomer Rd.</i>	1834	06	0
Boulder Ln.	<1776	11	0
Bruce Ln.	1951	03	13
Bryant Ln.	---	09	1
Burley St	1705	08	17
Burnham Rd.	1955	05	27
Cedar St.	1697	07	37
<i>Central Sq.</i> ¹	1900	03	0
Charles Davis Dr.	1989	11	6
Cherry St.	1648	02	59
Chestnut St.	1950	04	2
Conrad Cir.	1961	06	11
D'Ambrossio Way	1987	09	3
Danes Way	1984	10	4
Daniels Rd.	1964	06	19
Dexter Ln.	1998	11	6
Dodges Row	<1776	10	20
Eaton Rd.	1954	06	12
Eddel Ave.	1944	03	15
Ellis Ave.	1945	03	6
Enon Rd.	1958	05	6
Essex St.	<1776	10	6
Fairview Ave.	1940	02	3
Fiske Rd.	1885	01	12
<i>Flint St.</i>	<1700	06	0

Foster St.	1947	03	10
Friend Ct.	1860	02	14
Glendale Ave.	---		3
Grapevine Rd.	<1700	10	41
Gray Ln.	<1910	09	0
<i>Great Path, The</i>	<1700	09	0
Great Pond Rd.	1963	01	13
Grover St.	---	10	0
Gussett Rd.	1989	11	7
Hickory Ln.	1970	09	2
Hilltop Dr.	1961	05	30
Horse Hill Ln.	1965	11	1
Howard St.	1925	03	12
Hull St.	<1776	11	15
<i>Ice House Way</i>	<1800	02	0
<i>Idlewood (Oak St.)</i>	<1900	09	0
Iron Rail Rd.	1975	10	0
Juniper St.	1942	09	23
Kimball Ave.	1963	06	14
Knoll Rd.	1925	09	3
Lafayette Ln.	1997	11	6
Lake Ave.	1830	01	14
Larch Ln.	1976	04	14
Larch Row ²	1699	10	68
Laurel Dr.	1981	05	3
Ledyard Ln.	2000	04	1
Leigh Rd..	1940	09	3
Linden St	<1700	03	5
Lois St. (Ham.)	1947	03	1
Longfellow Rd.	1914	09	18
<i>Low's Ave.</i>	<1850	04	0
Main Dr.	1955	05	8
Main St.	1644-5	01	65
Maple St.	1689	06	44
Mayflower Dr.	1966	06	14
Meridian Rd.	1960	06	15
Monument St.	1911	02	26
Morgan St.	1973	06	15
Nathaniel Cir.	2001	08	2
Nicole Ave. (Bev.)	---	11	1
Oak St.	<1900	09	2

Old Country Rd.	1991	02	8
Old Town Way	1964	07	1
Onion River Rd.	2000	11	8
Orchard Ln.	1979	08	2
Parsons Hill Rd.	1998	11	31
Patch Ave.	1856	03	2
Patti Ln.	1953	01	6
Perkins St.	<1700	03	17
<i>Pleasant Rd.</i>	<1700	09	0
Pleasant St.	<1700	09	47 or 42
Porter St.	1890	03	29
Preston Pl. (Bev)	---	11	2
Princemere Ln.	2000	11	4
Puritan Rd.	1958	06	20
Ramona Way	1982	07	1
Regwill Ave.	1937	06	5
Remington Rd.	1985	09	1
Rubbly Rd.	<1700	10	6
Savoy Rd. (Ham)	---	03	3
School St.	1906	03	1
Settlers' Ln.	2010	03	2
Sias Ln.	1987	04	4
South St.	1920	09	7
Speakers Ln.	1981	06	4
Stage Hill Rd.	1986	06	3
Stanton St.	1950	03	8
Stockwell Ln.	2000	11	6
Thaxton Rd. (Bev)	---	10	1
Toppan Ln.	1999	11	2
Topsfield Rd.	<1700	06	69
<i>Trask St.</i>	1834	06	0
Virginia Pl.	1987	06	4
Wallis Dr.	2007	03	11
Walnut Ln.	1964	04	4
Walnut Rd.	<1700	10	19
<i>Way to Horse Is- land</i>	<1700	03	0
<i>Way to Rubbly Hill</i>	<1700	10	0
Will'm Fairfield Dr.	1979	06	43
Wirling Dr. (Bev)	---	01	1
Woodside Ln.	>1910	09	9