

History of Asbury Grove

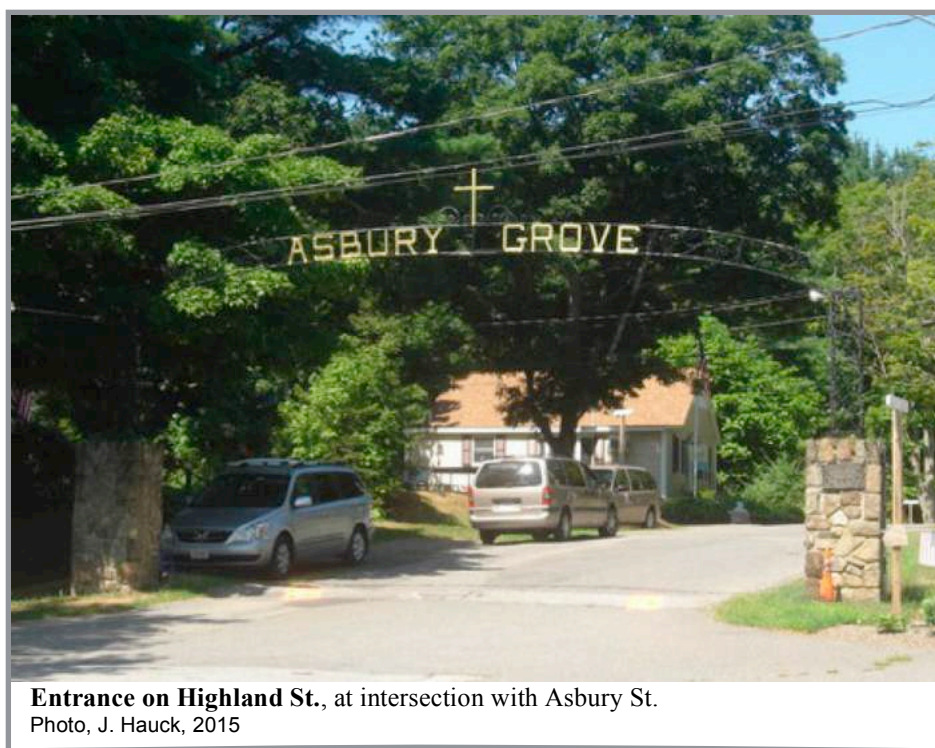


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Jack E. Hauck



Entrance on Highland St., at intersection with Asbury St.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Asbury Grove

Everybody seems to know where Asbury Grove is located. It is that place at the intersection of Asbury and Highland streets, in Hamilton. “You know, that place across from the low-price gasoline station.”

But, not many people really know what is inside the Grove.

Some have vague ideas about its history.

Isn't it private land owned by a church?

Isn't there a large swimming pool there?

Doesn't it only have summer cottages?

Wasn't most of it once destroyed by a fire?

Can you drive around or are there only footpaths?

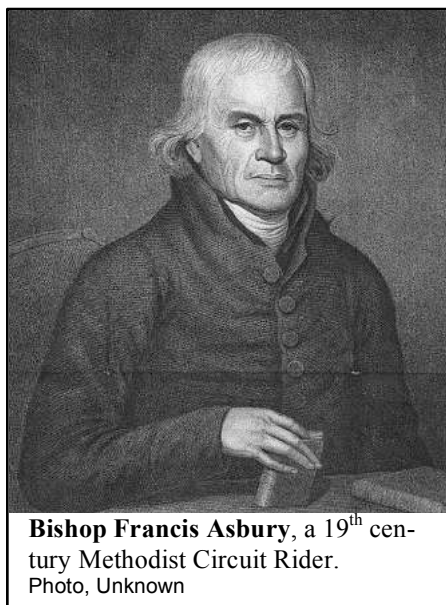
Let's take a walk around the Grove and learn what is there today, and what has been there in the past.

Committee members were instructed to select and secure, "by lease or otherwise, a suitable grove in the eastern part of the Lynn District, preparing such grounds, so far as they may be able for the purposes of a camp meeting and with the consent of the presiding elders of Boston and Lynn Districts, cause a camp meeting to be held there the next summer or autumn." ²⁷

Further, the committee was to find a site that could "accommodate the laboring and poorer classes in our communities, who cannot afford to pay high prices for conveyances, or may not be able to attend but part of the time of the meeting." ²⁷

The committee met, in late March 1859, at the Joseph F. Dodge house in Hamilton. After walking the nearby pine grove, the committee adjourned for a week. At its next meeting, at the Common Street church in Lynn, the committee voted only to hold the camp meeting in Hamilton "for the present." ²⁷

At a meeting held Apr. 27, 1859,



again at the Dodge farmhouse, the name Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Association was adopted. ²⁷ Rev. Erastus O. Haven, the editor of Zion's Herald a Methodist Newspaper in Boston, suggested the site be named Asbury Grove, in honor of Bishop Francis Asbury, a 19th century Methodist Circuit Rider. ^{9, 10}

The ministers and lay leaders formed an Association to govern the camp meetings. The Association elected officers, and chose Edward F. Porter of Boston as its first president. ²⁷ The Association also formed standing committees to develop plans for the various camp-ground requirements: Grounds, Transportation, Victualing, Straw, Police and Tents. ¹⁰⁴

On the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, Jun. 17, 1859, the Association decided to hold the camp meeting from Monday, the 22nd of August, to Saturday, Aug. 27. ²⁷

At the planning meeting, the Association did not discuss holding the meeting through. Items discussed included whether ice cream, confectionary or clam chowder should be sold on the grounds, at any time, during the meeting, and whether barbers should shave, and how cheap rent could be made "in order to get the poor within the reach of the preacher's voice." ²⁷

The Dodge farm was off of Highland Street, at the intersection of what was then called Topsfield Road (now Asbury Street). The property abutted the Great Wenham Swamp. At the front on Highland Street there was a farmhouse and a large barn. Most of the property was a thick forest of pine and deciduous trees. Some of the land alongside Highland Street had been cleared for farming.

For guidance in planning the camp meeting, the Association relied on Rev. Barlow W. Gorham's "Camp Meeting Manual," published in 1854.¹¹ The manual provided some basic matters to consider in selecting a campsite.

✓ Is there a bountiful supply of good water at hand? *There was only one well. Two small brooks were close by, but not suitable for drinking.*

✓ Is it in a neighborhood of Methodists, or among people who will be likely to sympathize with, and sustain order in a meeting? *Two large churches in the area were Congregational. Methodist churches were in nearby towns: Beverly, Ipswich, Topsfield, Essex, and Manchester.*

When you enter a grove peopled with ancient trees, higher than the ordinary, and shutting out the sky with their thickly intertwined branches, do not the stately shadows of the wood, the stillness of the place, and the awful gloom of this doomed cavern then strike you with the presence of a deity?" Seneca

✓ Are there adequate pasture grounds near by? *Many local farmers allowed wagons and horses to be kept on their property.*

✓ Is the canopy of shade nearly complete? *The tall pine trees provided very good shade.*

✓ Is the ground easy of access from principal thoroughfares? *The only access to the farm, from the railroad station, was a narrow, dirt road. For those campers coming from the west there was a narrow, not well-maintained dirt road. It was more than a mile from the station to the campgrounds.*

✓ Is it central in the district? *Asbury Grove was much closer than the campground on Cape Cod.*

✓ Can lumber for a stand and seats be easily procured? *There were several wood mills in the area.*

✓ Will the owner of the ground, or of contiguous woodlands, allow the cutting of poles for tents, and the use of wood for fuel? *Dodge allowed campers to use downed trees for firewood and small trees to be cut for poles. Other landowners did not allow this, for they needed the wood.*

✓ Is the surface a dead level, or very little inclined? *The farm was not "dead level," it had several flat areas.*

✓ Is the land free from cradle knolls? *This referred to large mounds at the foot of trees that storms knocked down.*

✓ Is there considerable extent of forestland, or any other fact by which the ground will be screened from the wind? *It was a dense pine forest.*

✓ Not listed as a concern by Rev. Gorham was if the area was totally dry. Dodge's farm, being next to a swamp, meant that there would be many insects, mosquitoes in particular. There also was the concern about dampness.

✓ Rev. Gorham strongly held to the precept that camp meetings were to bring people away from worldly attractions and cares. There, for several days, the mind could disentangle itself of worldly care, and "rise to an undistracted contemplation of spiritual realities."¹¹

Hamilton was a very small town and had few places to buy supplies. Campers had to bring everything they needed with them, which included tents, lanterns, extra clothing, food, bedding, blankets and various other items. One other important



Many going to Asbury Grove arrived by train at the railroad station at the Hamilton Wenham town line, where horse-drawn wagons, called barges, brought them and their gear to the campground. Photo Benjamin Conant, 1894

item was a bucket: every campsite had to keep a bucket of water outside their tent, for use in case of a fire.¹⁷

It was a heavy load to carry the 1.3-mile trek to the camp. Locals were quick to offer transportation, at a slight fee, to those going to the campgrounds from the train station.

Starting in the spring of 1859, the committee began preparations for opening Asbury Grove (*the Grove*). The Association distributed notices to north shore Methodist churches. Announcements also appeared in newspapers.

Much had to be done to prepare the site for the camp meeting.

The first project was marking the property lines, so that campers would know where they could pitch tents. This meant that paths had to be cut through the forest. A large meeting tent, with a platform for speakers, was erected. Around the property, 3 wells were dug.⁶¹

On the perimeter of the Grove, there were numerous paths, called "walks" that led to latrines (*closets*). There were separate paths for ladies and gents. Shrubs in front of the closets provided privacy.¹³⁸ One of these paths still has a sign at its entrance, but this is only shown for historic reference.

Each morning, an unofficial "committee on offal" brought "thunder jugs," from outside the tents, to the closets and emptied them.¹⁹²

At the entrance, a registration area was setup to register campers and to instruct them about rules, regulations and daily programs. When first opened, the Dodge farmhouse likely was used to register campers.

Prior to opening day, about 100 people from most of the Methodist churches in the Boston and Lynn districts travelled to Asbury Grove to purchase tent sites. About \$400 was obtained.⁶²

Getting There

Getting to the Grove in Hamilton from the greater Lynn and Boston area was not easy, but not as inconvenient as reaching the Methodist campground on Cape Cod.

The most convenient transportation was by train. In December 1839, the Eastern Railroad Co. extended its track from Salem to Ipswich. However, at first, there was not a stop in either Hamilton or Wenham. The first reference to Hamilton and Wenham, as an official timetable stop for the railroad, is in the Salem Register of 1856.¹

Through an agreement with the railroad and the Association, campers bought tickets at half the normal rates.⁶⁸ Trains left Boston's Haymarket Square station for the 23-mile trip to the Wenham/Hamilton station (*It became Hamilton-Wenham Station in 1905*¹). Along the way, there were branch lines that connected with this route. There were about 30 stops from Boston to Hamilton.² At the height of the season, 11 trains a day arrived from Boston.⁵

Upon arrival at the Wenham/Hamilton depot, campers used horse-drawn farm wagons, "barges" as they were called, for the 1.3-mile ride to the Grove. They brought their tents, bedding and provisions that they would need for the week.¹⁰ The barges, for which the fare was 5¢ each way,⁶⁸ were uncovered flatbed wagons with fixed sidewalls. About 12-ft. long and 8-ft. wide and had steel-rim wheels and did not have springs. They were designed for carrying cargo, not people.

Remember you cannot serve GOD alone; you must therefore find companions or make them; the Bible knows nothing of solitary religion. Rev. John Wesley

Some campers going to the Grove traveled on their horse-drawn wagons. There were roads, but once outside the greater Lynn and Boston area, they were less maintained. The principal route from north of Boston followed what is now Route 1a and ran through Chelsea, Malden, Saugus, Lynn, Swampscott, and Salem, where there was a ferry to Beverly, and then roads to Wenham and Hamilton.

As it does now, Hamilton had 4 roads connecting with adjoining towns.

Main Street connects on the south with Wenham and on the north with Ipswich. From Main Street, campers took Topsfield Road to reach the Grove.

Highland Street, which passed in front of the Grove, connects on the south with Wenham and on the north with Ipswich.

Topsfield Road brought campers

from the west to Highland Street, near the entrance to the Grove.

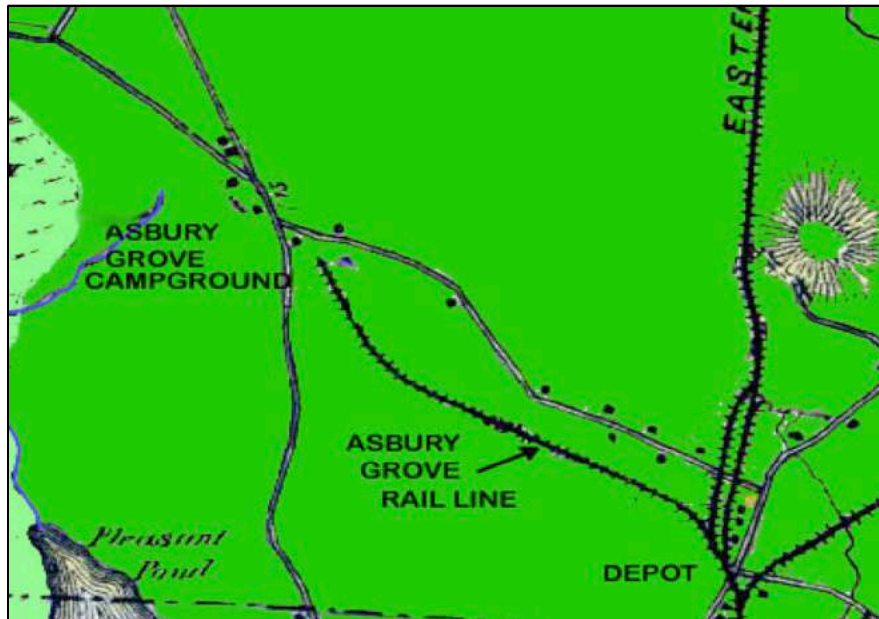
Essex Street connects on the south with Wen-

ham and on the north with Essex.

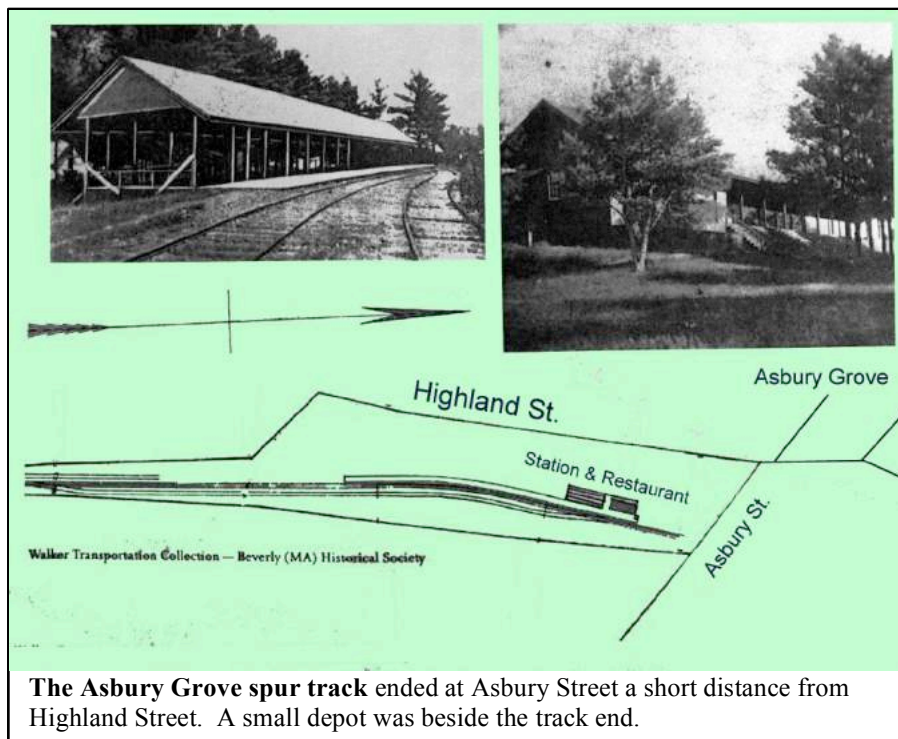
Coming from Wenham, campers took Walnut Road from Essex Street to Main Street to Topsfield Road (*now Asbury St.*) to reach the Grove.

From Essex, campers took Bridge Street to Main Street to Topsfield Road to reach the Grove.

Once at the Grove, the hundreds of wagons and horses used by the campers were kept at nearby barns and stables and on fields, in Hamilton and Wenham.⁶³



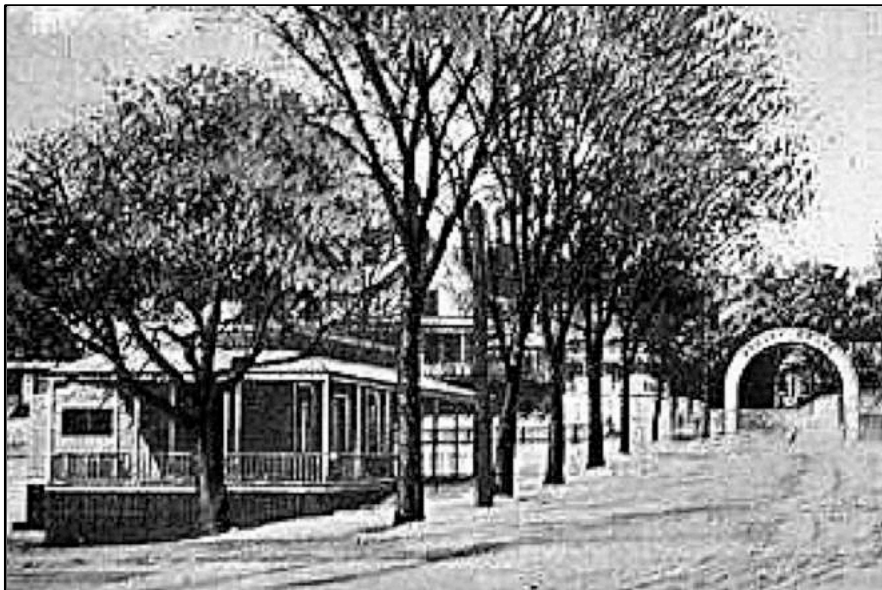
In 1870, Eastern Railroad built a spur track from its main line at the depot, in the center of Hamilton, out to the Grove. Map, J. Hauck 2015



The Asbury Grove spur track ended at Asbury Street a short distance from Highland Street. A small depot was beside the track end.



In 1886, Horse-drawn streetcar service began to the Grove. Electric streetcars started making the trip, circa 1898, Map, J. Hauck, 2016



Streetcar service ended in 1931. The station was close to the Grove entrance. Photo, Post card 1920.



Centenary House campers, in 1870. While at camp, people wore formal attire, not casual clothing. Photo, Asbury Grove Historical Society

Campers

At the time of the first camp meeting, 1859, Methodism was going through a split of its members. Free Methodists were leaving the Methodist-Episcopal Church. They wanted slaves to be freed, church pews to be free not owned, and church services free from formality. (*There are no mentions, in historic documents, of black campers at the Grove.*)

One thing was common to all of them, they were Methodists and revivalists at heart. It was a time historians called the Third Great Awakening, when religious activism energized many people to gather together in prayer and to study the Bible, at camps, such as Asbury Grove.

The people going to the Grove were a diverse group focused on religious devotion and not convenient accommodations. As Eli Stanley Jones would say, many decades later, it was "victorious living."⁴¹

For many, the Grove was their first camping experience. Prior to going, it likely was exciting to think about getting out of congested towns to spend a few days living in a forest. Here they could hear rousing preachers and sing their favorite hymns, passionately pray, and be grateful to be in God's presence.

The campers largely were laborers, tradesmen and merchants. Few were landowners and wealthy merchants. They were carpenters, store clerks, teamsters, tin manufacturers, dry goods dealers, oil dealers, life insurance agents, furniture dealers, a net manufacturer, watchmen, pastors, and shoe salesmen.⁵¹

Some campers were recent immigrants to the United States. There were Brits, Scots, Irish, French, Dutch, Germans and Scandinavians, mainly Swedes. Some campers came from nearby rural towns, including Beverly, Hamilton, Wenham and Ipswich. However, for the

most part, they were from the crowded towns north and west of Boston, including, Lynn, Charlestown, Chelsea, Saugus, and Newton.

Attendees at these meetings were of all age ranges. In most age groups, women were the more numerous. Pious wives often brought unconverted husbands to the campground, in hopes of bringing them to Christ. For women, the combination of the dress codes of the time and being out in the woods was more of a problem than it was for the men. Locals attending the meetings helped the tenters by providing laundry services.

Children came with their parents, even though there were no programs designed for them. Parents would be at services most of the time, therefore campers took turns watching after the children.

With them, the campers brought the barest of essentials: few changes of clothes, and little to no supplies. Meals were provided. All brought their Bibles. Women wore several layers of clothing and shoe-top length dresses with neck collars and full arm length sleeves. Men wore wool suits with vests, heavy shirts, and knee-high socks.

To reduce the number of items they brought, campers wore, the day of their travel to the Grove, all the clothes they were to wear during the coming week.⁶⁵

No one brought alcoholic beverages. Methodists saw alcohol as the root of many social ills and sought to persuade people to abstain from wine, beer and whiskey. However, several persons, at the first meeting,

were arrested and sentenced to the Essex House of Correction for selling intoxicating liquors.²⁷

Also prohibited on the grounds was tobacco.⁹⁰ Further, campers were not allowed to bring their dogs with them,⁹³ although photos taken at later summer meetings show dogs with campers.⁹³

A newly explored world of inexhaustible enjoyment within, but undisturbed by a world of turmoil and care,
The Forest, Caroline Kirkland

As people arrived at the Grove, other campers, including those from their church, greet-

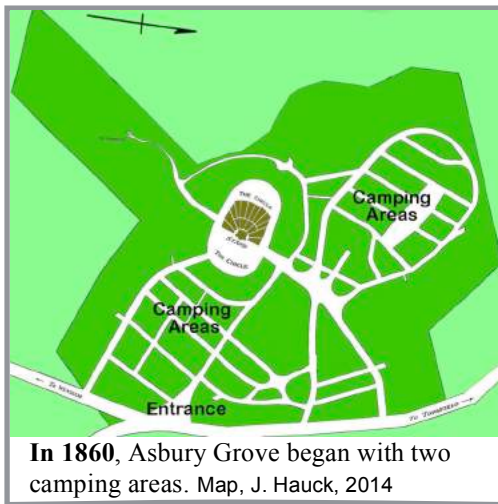
ed them and assisted them in setting up their tents. They arrived on a Monday, with many not getting there until early evening. The earlier arrivals told them where there was water, where the privies were, where they could be fed and when the next service would start.

Knowing that most of those coming to the Grove had very little money, the Association kept costs low. Campers paid a low fee for tent lots, and for their 3 meals. In 1860, the annual rent for a family tent lot was \$1; for permanent lots (18-ft. x 25-ft.), the rent was \$3/yr.; and for transient lots, it was \$2/yr.⁸⁵

Layout

The 10 acres leased by the Association had a front on Highland St. that extended from about what is now Asbury Ave. to Hedding Ave. It extended back to about what is now Central Pl. A marshland (*Wenham Swamp*) was on the south side. A farm owned by Daniel A. Lovering was on the southeast side and Zachariah Standley owned a farm on the northeast side.¹⁵⁶

From the entrance on Highland St., the land descends slightly to what for the most part is level. A low



hummock (*a.k.a. knoll*) is near the center of the property.

The first service was held, at 3 p.m., at an area facing a low slope, where worshipers sat on blankets. A low preacher's platform was at the foot of the slope.²⁶

Rev. Gorham's "Camp Meeting Manual," strongly influenced the Grove's layout. Gorham, a Methodist minister, believed that camp meeting grounds should be kept very simple, with modest, cloth tents and a plain preachers' stand. He also recommended a circular layout for the central worship area.¹¹

As recommended, the worship area, called the circle, was surrounded by large tents that served as dormitories and where member churches could hold private prayer meetings. The society tents had wood walls, 6 ft. high, and a peaked-canvas roof. Straw covered the bare ground inside.^{5, 9}

The original family tent areas were at the front of the property, on small lots laid out along a series of paths that were connected to the entrance path.

Several elevated areas are in the Grove. Near the east side of the circle, is a knoll that became known as Mt. Zion, after the hill outside Jerusalem. Another knoll, Mt. Moriah (*Jerusalem hill where Solomon built a temple*), is at the back of the circle.

A small stream is at the back of the property and another runs into the area. Marshland, which stretches to the west and south of the property, eventually reaches the Ipswich River. Pleasant Pond, then called Idlewood Pond, is about a half mile south of the Grove.

Several large farms were to the east and north. These included those owned by: Levi Riggs, his wife, Rachel, and their 3 sons; John Trow, his wife, Hannah, and their 3 children; and Herbert Dodge, his wife, Mary, and their 3 children.⁸¹

Paths

Originally, the 10-acre campground likely only had paths in the area at the front of the property. All were narrow, dirt footpaths cut through a dense under growth of shrubs and other plants and fallen branches.

The first paths were what later were named Fisk, Central and Pleasant.¹⁷⁴ In August, there was daylight from about 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Grove had lights on its paths, almost from the start. This was to allow people to walk during the night to the privies.

Around the perimeter of the Grove, there were numerous paths, called "walks" that once led to privies (*called closets*). There were separate paths for ladies and gents. Shrubs in front of the closets provided privacy.¹³⁸ One of these paths still has a sign at its entrance, but this is only shown for historic reference to visitors.

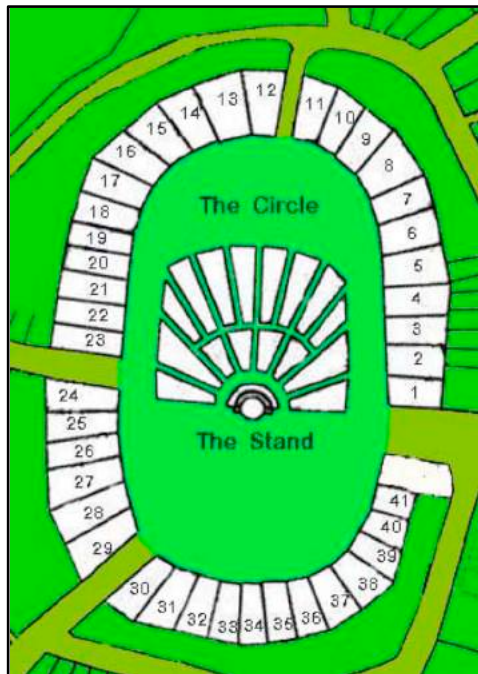
The Stand

Although Rev. Gorham suggested the "preaching stand should be at the north end, so the audience would not face the sun," the stand at the Grove was built at the east end of the worship area.⁵ This likely was due to the topography of the property.

The original preacher's platform was very simple, as Rev. Gorham recommended. There was only enough room for a small choir and a pulpit. An 1859 newspaper article mentioned a canopy above the platform. A preacher's tent was behind the stand.⁶⁷

The Circle

The circle, actually an oval, originally extended from the front of the stand about 120 ft., and was about 60-ft. wide. A section behind the stand reached what now is Asbury Grove Memorial Park. Assuming 6 sq. ft. as the seating area per person,



In 1865, there were 41 Society Tents around the Stand and the seating area.

5,000 worshippers would have required 30,000 sq. ft. of space, or an oval 60 ft. wide and 500 ft. long.

Straw covered the ground within the circle. Benches, without backs, were in front of the stand. Those gathered behind the stand, sitting on the ground and standing, likely had no problem hearing the preachers, or the loud singing.

Running straight back from the stand was a 7-ft. wide center aisle. In front of the stand, there was an area with no seating. The wide aisle and open area accommodated the many people that came forward to express their religious beliefs.

For evening services, kerosene lamps hung from poles at the sides of the seating area. The lamps must have been a major draw for flying insects, not to mention a fire hazard.

Besides being called "The Circle," the area has been known as the "vesper circle" and the "auditorium."

Society Houses on Circle

01	Boston St.	22	Malden
02	Common St.	23	Saugus
03	Maple St.	24	Swampscott
04	South St.	25	Rockport
05	Ipswich	26	Groveland
06	Medford	27	N. Andover
07	Topsfield	28	Gloucester
08	Trinity	29	Purchase St.
09	Cambridgeport	30	Newburyport
10	Walnut St.	31	E. Cambridge
11	Winthrop	32	
12	Bromfield St.	33	Bellingham
13	Dorchester St.	34	Peabody
14	Meridian	35	Marblehead
15	St. Paul	36	Neponset
16	Salem	37	Union
17	Melrose	38	Church St.
18	Centenary	39	Central
19	Highlands	40	Worthen St.
20	Saratoga St.	41	Winthrop
21	Riverdale		



Medford tent on the Circle. At night, a curtain separated men and women when sleeping. Photo, Zion's Herald, 1873.

Society Tents

Around the periphery of the circle, district Methodist churches erected community tents, called society tents. At the first meeting, there were 35 society tents on the grounds.²⁵³ In addition to providing sleeping accommodations for church members, the society tents held both afternoon and evening prayer services. Some of the society tents came from the Methodist campground in Eastham.⁶⁰

Initially, many of the society tents had wood sidewalls and roof framing. A peaked canvas covering was over the roof framing. Some of the coverings, along the roof gables, had cut-outs to simulate gingerbread trim. At the end of summer, in later years, the canvas sheets were removed and stored at the Grove's office, at the entrance to campgrounds.⁴⁵

Society houses were on bare ground.⁵ A committee provided straw to cover the ground inside the structures. The committee also placed a pile straw in front of the tents, for the filling sleeping ticks.¹⁰

Housing both men and women, the society tents were, at night, divided with a canvas curtain, to provide separate areas for the sexes.⁵

Some campers brought collapsible cots, but most slept on blankets they spread on the straw-covered ground.

Family Tents

Individual campers pitched their tents wherever they could find an open, level and dry area. Early arrivals took spots close to the Circle.

Grace Thurston, in her History of Asbury Grove, wrote that her uncle and two aunts, in 1859, pitched their tent on the top of the hill on Central Ave. and called it Mount Moriah.²⁶

Through the 1860s, canvas tents were the principal shelters at the Grove.⁵ Many family tents conformed to the design shown in Rev. Gorham's guide to camping.³⁴ The tents were 8–10 ft. wide and about 10 ft. long. At the center peak, the tents were about 7 ft. high. Straw covered the ground inside. A shallow gully, dug around the tent, prevented rainwater from flowing inside.



Many family tents conformed to Rev. Gorham's design. Seen here is an Indian family from Maine that sold baskets.¹⁹⁷ The dog is unusual for the Grove had a strict no-dog policy. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.

Community Tents

A number of structures were erected to serve the general community. The Association, in erecting structures (*tents*), was guided by the understanding that the Grove was a temporary site: the District Camp Meeting Committee had voted only to hold the camp meeting, in Hamilton, "for the present."²⁷

By the preacher's stand there was a police tent. Based on experiences at previous camp meetings in the state, the Association hired officers from other towns and had the assistance of the State Police.¹⁴⁸

There was a committee tent on Skinner Ave. The Grove's standing committees (*grounds, transportation, victualing, straw, police and tents*) often met, during the 1859 camp meeting. Also on Skinner Ave., there was a bakery and a clam chowder tent, with its try pots.⁸³

Clam chowder, at the time, was the common meal. As Herman Melville wrote in *Moby Dick*, there was

" Chowder for breakfast, and chowder for dinner, and chowder for supper, till you began to look for fish bones coming through your clothes." In 1864, the Association closed the Skinner Ave. clam chowder shop.²¹³

Several dining halls (*large tents*) were at the end of Pleasant Ave. The Association hired caterers to prepare and serve the meals. A cooking tent was next to the dining tents.

Expecting about 2,000 campers, the caterers supplied, during the week:²⁷ 100 lbs. beef, 20 ham, 40 tongues, 15 lamb legs, 14 bushels of shell beans, 4,200 ears of corn, 600 qts. of pudding, 2,000 qts. of tea and coffee and 800 qts. of milk.

None of the caterers had "the miraculous power of turning what was provided for 2,000 into what was needed by more than twice that number."⁶³

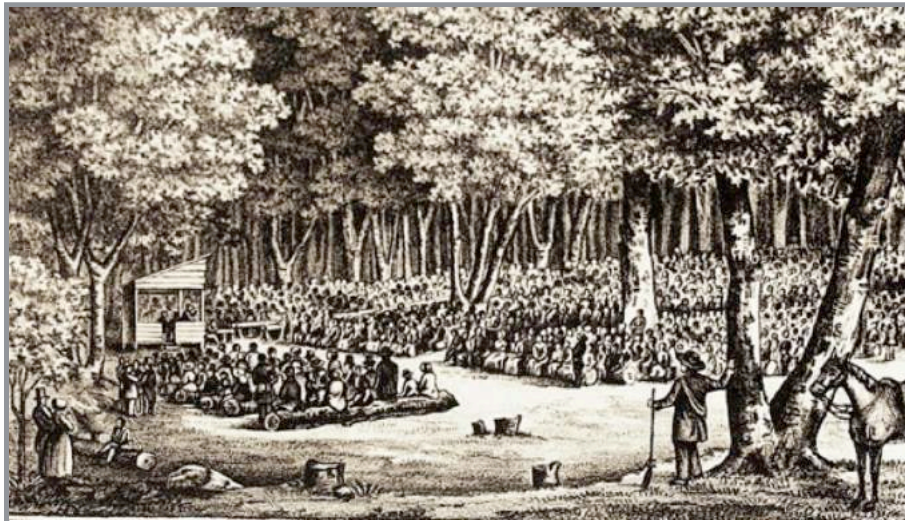
A bakery, next to the cooking tent, each day produced 400 loaves of brown bread, 7,200 biscuits, and 8,000 qts. of baked beans

The next year, 1860, the caterers provided:⁶⁴ 2,000 lbs. of meats, 15 barrels flour, 3,000 ears of corn, 900 weight sugar, Hogshead molasses, 30 bushels potatoes, 500 squash, 4 barrels apples, 2 barrels port, 500 lbs. butter, 100 doz., eggs, and 400 lbs. cheese.

The bakery produced 600 loaves of white bread and 100 loaves of brown bread/day.⁶⁴



Community tents, 1859: 1-Police, 2-Dining, 3-Cooking, 4-Committee, 5-Bakery, 6-Clam chowder, Map, J. Hauck



1859 meeting at Asbury Grove reportedly drew 12,000 to 15,000.

Drawing Lexois World Press

First Camp Meeting

Rumors of the coming of the Methodist campers probably spread about Hamilton, which did not have a Methodist church. New Englanders often scorned their Methodist neighbors for their inordinate behavior at church. During services, worshippers loudly proclaimed their thanks and joy. They also loudly sang hymns.

The first camp meeting began on Monday, Aug. 22, 1859.²⁵³ The meeting only ran through Saturday: Methodists did not believe it proper to travel on the Sabbath.

The first public service, attended by perhaps 2,000 people, began at 3 p.m. Rev. Abram D. Merrill of Salem, NH gave the sermon on the "Nature of Spiritual Worship."^{27, 66} Rev. Merrill, like many pastors of the time, was a very passionate speaker, sometimes called "fire and brimstone" preachers.

His selection as the opening preacher spoke loudly about the issue of slavery confronting the country. Rev. Merrill was a strong

abolitionist and very involved in the Great Secession Movement that began in the mid 1840s. Two months later, on Oct. 16, 1859, the United States Armory at Harper's Ferry, VA, now WV, was taken by men led by abolitionist John Brown, a Calvinist.

The meeting's Monday night service began with singing led by a preacher. Many of the songs were simple, familiar hymns. For subsequent meetings, there were pamphlets with hymns. Instruments did not accompany the singing, in conformance with Genesis 4:21.

Only adults attended the services. As recommended by Rev. Gorham, men and women sat on separate sides. Volunteers watched over the children, who were gathered away from the meeting area.¹¹

Exhortations from the congregation followed the singing of a song. These brought forth cries of "Amen!," "Glory!," or "Jesus Saves!" Penitents came forward. Pastors and others encouraged them to pray and give their hearts to Christ.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

Around 10 p.m., the day's activities ended. Visitors left and campers retired to their tents, and church tents, where individual prayer meetings or counseling of converts continued late into the night.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

Long Days

The second day began at 5 a.m., before the sun was up.⁶⁷ The ringing of a bell awakened campers; the first order of the day for was family prayer. After breakfast, a bell alerted the worshippers to the morning service. Singing continued until the pastors moved to the stand. With the people kneeling, at their seats, the pastor offered a prayer.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

Around 11 a.m., there was a sermon at the Circle. In addition to pastors, elders or lay preachers also preached. This was the only time, at a camp meeting, when a prepared presentation might be read instead of the usual extemporaneous sermon. A song followed the sermon. After this, the people left for their noon meal.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

Outsiders were first allowed on the grounds about 2 p.m., when a bell called the people to afternoon services.⁶⁰⁻⁶³ During the afternoon sessions at the society houses, there was loud singing, preaching, praising, prayer, all at the same time. A spectator standing in the center of the Grove would hear a comingling of the many sounds.⁷⁵

Around 5 p.m., there was a break for the evening meal. The clergy met at society tents or at the stand with small groups for prayer, song, and encouragement.⁶⁰⁻⁶³



Daily meals. Caterers prepared and served meals in dining tents having long tables.

Photo: Asbury Grove Historical Society.

There was very little free time during the day. Attendees were not compelled to work at chores, but were encouraged to help out when assistance was needed.⁵ Meals had to be prepared, cleanup was needed following the meals, and children to be watched.

About 7:30 p.m., an evening service began. It had the largest attendance, as there were many visitors, in addition to the campers.⁶⁰⁻⁶³ This service was the most expressive. Many people proclaimed their conversion or gave testimony.

There also likely were disruptions by outside elements, which objected to the physically expressive nature of the Methodists. In addition, around the campground, peddlers hawked their wares. In later years, some of the aggressive protestors were brought to a holding area, until a constable arrived.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

During the night, a watchman patrolled the Grove to ensure that everybody was in the tents, all lights were out,⁹ and visitors had left the grounds.

The following days of the camp meeting repeated this pattern.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

Love feast

At week's end, on Saturday morning, Aug. 27, pastors baptized the converts. There was a "love feast," at which there was an official induction of new members to their respective churches. There also were singing and prayer, after which the converts gave testimony. The meeting concluded with the collecting of the names of the newly saved and a celebration of the Lord's Supper.²⁷

The camp meeting week ended with all participants lining up, in front of the altar, where they said goodbye and gave thanks to the various preachers. The oldest minister blessed the assembly, of campers and guests and everyone departed for home.⁶⁰⁻⁶³

In his 1910 book, "History of the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1796-1910," Rev. James Mudge, editor of Zion's Herald, wrote that from the start conversions were a focus of the camp meetings. In 1870, 300 were "saved" and a very large number received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.²⁴

At the time, it was considered to be sacrilegious to travel on the Sabbath. Further, local law banned travel on the Sabbath. The town's Tythingmen, official law enforcement officers, patrolled the towns looking for offenders of the travel restriction, who they would arrest.

The first week's weather was fine, except for Thursday when there was heavy rain that caused suspension of services. The Hamilton Selectmen offered the meeting hall to campers flooded out of their tents and many town residents invited campers into their homes.⁷¹

The meeting was a major event for Hamilton. Townspeople and officials knew in advance of the meeting, but likely did not expect the very large crowds. The population of Hamilton, in 1860, was less than 800.

According to an 1859 Gloucester Telegraph article, about 5,000 people sat and stood facing the stand, on the first day.⁶⁸ The Salem Register reported the seating capacity in the pulpit area was about 2,500 and that there was ample room for standing.⁶⁹ The Boston Traveler reported that more than 10,000 visited the Grove on the first day, Aug. 22.⁶³

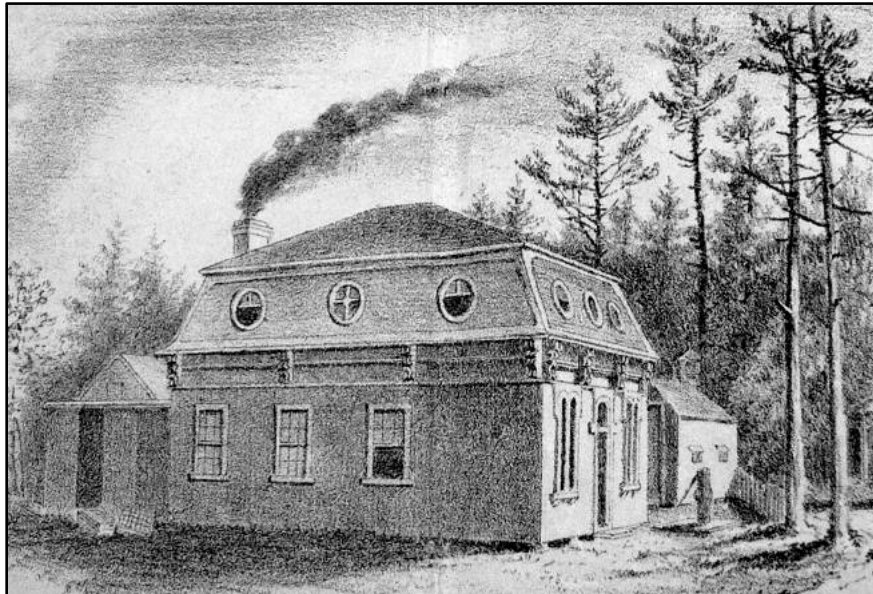
The Association reported that 12,000 to 15,000 were present on Friday, Aug. 26.²⁵³

On Saturday Aug. 27, the Salem Register estimate was that a massive 20,000 people were at the Grove, during the event.⁷¹

Shortly after the close of the first camp meeting, the treasurer reported that the expenses for the meeting were \$75.52 less than the total receipts, \$1,377.44.²⁷ Since the Grove did not allow public collections at its services,¹⁰⁹ the receipts came from the modest charges for food and the low campsite fees.

There was no count of the number of converts.

"Great spiritual victories have been won on this hallowed spot, and it may be that, as its friends think, "more souls have been emancipated from sin here than in any other place in New England." Whether this is so or not can hardly be determined, but it is certain that great multitudes will have reason to all eternity to thank God for Asbury Grove.
Rev. James Mudge, 1910



Bakery, on Hedding Ave. across from Lee Park, was built in 1870. Workers slept on second floor. Photo, 1870 Asbury Grove plan

Changes with Time

Despite the rough living conditions experienced during the first camp meeting, a great many campers must have told their pastors they wanted to return in 1860. The Association realized that many changes were needed. Clearly, the grounds were too small, food service inadequate; children needed supervision, accommodations insufficient, as was crowd control.

To supplement the existing 10 acres leased, the Association bought, in August 1860, an adjoining part of the Dodge property, about an acre. It was in the area of what now is Essex Ave.¹⁵²

The following year, the Association had a plan drawn of the Grove that showed the location of its tents and those of the societies.²¹²

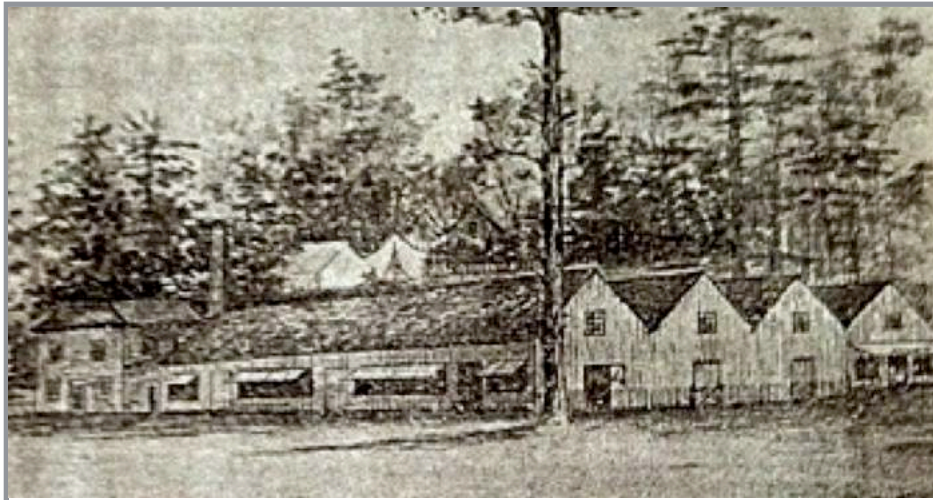
There were no major disruptions at the 1859 meeting, but the Association wanted more police presence. At the second meeting, 1860, there

were 30 officers on the grounds under the direction of Charles Merrill, Deputy Sheriff, of Lynn.⁷⁵

With the large crowds in 1859, there were many children, far more than anticipated. At the second camp meeting, the Association had special services for the children.²⁴

For men spending a week at the Grove, there was a grooming problem: shaving. In 1860, a barbershop opened at the Grove. However, unlike today's barbershop, the one at the Grove did not cut hair: the barbers only did shavings. The barber-shop was a tent on an area called Oak Grove, the intersection of Skinner and Hedding avenues.

In 1865, a formal pulpit was built and the seating area changed. Wood benches, with back supports, replaced the previous benches. Being on a slope in front of the stand, the benches were fixed to frameworks so that they would remain in position and be stable.



Barracks, center 3 buildings, on Pleasant Ave. were dining halls in 1869. Cook-house, left, had sleeping quarters for help. On the right, a former store became the treasurer's office. Photo, Salem Register

The semicircular seating area was divided into 16 sections, separated by aisles running toward the stand.⁷⁴

Also about 1865, the Grove built a grocery store, at the entrance.²⁶ Previously, it was the Beverly church house on Asbury Avenue that was near the southern end of Hamlin Ave. Open during camp meeting week, it was on a platform and had wood walls and a canvas roof.²⁶

Initially, the Association provided hay for more than 200 family tents at the Grove. Hay was fine for making the ground softer to sleep on, but it was a problem after a rainstorm: the hay did not dry quickly. Thus, campers, about 1865, began building platforms on which to erect their tents.⁵ The platforms also provided a level surface for campsites located on inclines.

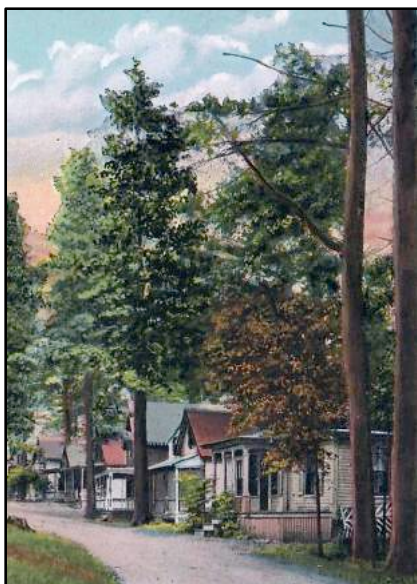
Weather also affected food service. Up to 1869, campers ate at dining tents. There were several. Diners filed by serving tables and then sat at long tables. The tents

handled as many as 1,200 at each meal^{63, 67} When it rained, moisture dripped through the canvas and the ground became muddy.

For use as dining halls during inclement weather, the Association bought and moved to Pleasant Ave., in 1869, former civil war barracks from Camp Lander, in Wenham. The Association bought the wood frame buildings for \$75.⁹⁸ These were the first wood buildings at the Grove and an indication that the Grove was going to be a permanent campsite.

While weather was a problem for diners, it apparently did not affect worshippers. Rev. James Mudge wrote that, in 1871, an 8-day camp meeting was held, and, "despite the furious storm, which raged on Sunday, some 500 penitents knelt at the altar, during the week's services."²⁴

Behind the barracks, the Association built a 2-story cookhouse and bakery. Sleeping quarters for the staff were on the second floor.^{26, 27, 28}



Asbury Ave. Photo, Postcard 1935.



Fisk Ave. Photo, Postcard 1913.



Simpson Ave. Photo, Postcard c1935



Hamlin Ave. Photo, Postcard c1910

Paths ... Then



Evening stroll to Idlewood Pond..
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1870.



Fletcher Ave. Photo, Postcard c1910

During the week, the bakery made hot corn muffins, doughnuts, and jellyrolls. On Saturdays, campers came with a small pail or bowl to buy Boston baked beans and brown bread ²⁶ This was a traditional meal on Saturdays in Massachusetts.

The store at the entrance was moved to Pleasant Ave.. next to the barracks. It became the treasurer's office. ⁹⁸ A shingled, wood roof replaced the canvas roof.

As the end of the Grove's first decade neared, the Association had to decide on renewing its lease with Joseph Dodge. The 10 acres were bought for \$4,000. ¹⁰⁰

This purchase began an ongoing program to expand the Grove. Over the next few decades, through a series of land acquisitions and sales, Asbury Grove reached its current size, 83 acres. ¹⁰

No longer under the restriction of the Grove being a temporary site, the Association began planning permanent structures and for expanding

Property Bought 1860-1884 Asbury Camp Meeting Assn.

Yr.	Seller	Acre	Deed*
1860	Abram D. Wait	0.75	Bk. 609, pg. 295
1860	Henry Patch	1.6	Bk. 609, pg. 222
1860	Joseph D. Dodge	1	Bk. 630, pg. 146
1866	John B. Wendell	10	Bk. 721, pg. 15
1868	Frederic A. Oliver	10	Bk. 745, pg. 232
1868	Lewis P. Dodge	10	Bk. 745, pg. 221
1869	Caleb W. Dodge	4	Bk. 788, pg. 11
1869	Joseph D. Dodge	11	Bk. 773, pg. 222 & 223
1870	Henry P. Lovering	14	Bk. 808, pg. 99
1870	Lucy M. Warner	1	Bk. 798, pg. 296
1871	John Trow	8	Bk. 832, pg. 201
1871	Oliver Porter	15	Bk. 819, pg. 84
1883	Adelia Riggs	0.75	Bk. 1114, pg. 271
1884	Adelia Riggs	4	Bk. 1125, pg. 76
1884	Asbury Grove Camp Meeting	0.2	Bk. 1,129, pg.37
1893	AG Assn. to AG Corp.	91	Bk. 1,408, pg. 415

* Salem Registry of Deeds

camp week programs.

The Association removed the police tent, ¹⁰³ and built a 2-story police station on the east side of circle, where there was a path into the circle. ⁴² The station had prisoner cells for holding those arrested until they were transferred to the county jail.

The police station also had other functions. Ringing of a bell, atop the building, at 10 p. m., was the signal for everyone to return to their lodging. A policeman made rounds to ensure that no one was on the avenues and all lights were out. ¹⁰⁸

During the day, ringing the bell alerted everyone to both church services and meals. ⁵ The police went to the dining halls, where, at the entrances, they collected meal tickets. ¹⁰⁸



Store, on Pleasant Ave., moved in 1869, from entrance. Photo, A. B. Norton, 1910,



Stand, 1865, was elaborate and beneath a protective netting. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Second Decade

1869, the 10th anniversary, saw many changes at the Grove. This was especially the case with regard to structures on the circle.

A more elaborate platform replaced the original preacher's platform and tent.⁸³ The stand was identical to one designed, in 1859, by Perez Mason for the Wesleyan Grove (*now called Oak Bluffs*), on Martha's Vineyard.⁵ Mason was an architect known for his design embellishments, characteristics not in accordance with Rev. Gorham's

call for camp meeting grounds to be kept very simple and modest.

The wood, octagonal structure stood on a concrete base. It had segmental arches, with lattice facing, narrow spans, chamfered posts, forming an open, arcade of 5 arches on the west side. The backside was enclosed. The stand had a shallow pitched, octagonal roof, with deep overhanging eaves. Originally, it had a low, lattice fence on the west side. The pulpit was at the front of the platform.

A bench for speakers was against the back wall. Steps, at the front, allowed worshippers to come forward to witness their faith.⁵

The Association built a new preacher's house on the Circle, on the lot where there previously was the police tent.¹⁰³ To make enough space for the larger house, the size of the adjoining Winthrop House was reduced.⁸³

In 1869, the Association replaced the committee office tent with a new office building, serving both committees and the treasurer. The office was on the circle, next to the Boston Street House.^{42, 7,}

Up to 1869, paths had not been laid out in the area east of the entrance path, Pleasant Ave.⁵ At the time, only Fisk, Central and Pleasant were in use. The back area was a dense wood and the ground covered with thick underbrush, making the area almost impenetrable.



Circle, 1908, had many trees among seats. . Photo, A. B. Norton, 1908



Bakery on Lee Park, built c1905, later was a recreation hall and next a thrift shop. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society.



Bakery, in 1989, became a coffee shop. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

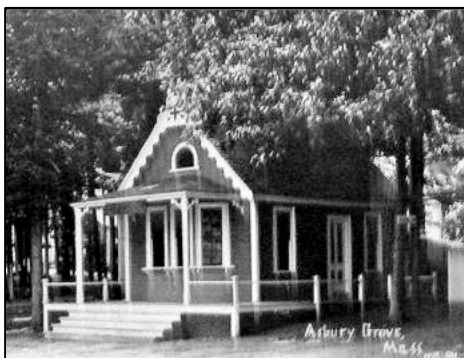
However, from then on, the Land Committee created many new paths and staked camping lots. The paths often were named for prominent Methodist clergy: Hamlin Ave. (for Rev. Cyrus Hamlin) and Haven Ave. (for Rev. Erastus O. Haven), Essex Ave., Olin Park (for Rev. Stephen Olin), Hamilton Park, Oak Ave., Hedding Ave. (for Rev. Elijah Hedding) and Prospect Ave. Development along Haven, Maple and Essex came a bit later.⁵

Nearly all of the Grove's paths are called avenues, a name generally applied to a wide street or main thoroughfare. However, the Grove's Avenues are narrow, as they originally were only to be footpaths. Wagons

were not allowed inside the Grove.

Campers coming to the Grove in 1869 saw a new 7-ft. high wood slat fence across the full length of the entrance. There was a gate on Pleasant Ave. The intent of the fence likely was to have visitors interviewed before entering the Grove.

There was a large, new bakery on Hedding Ave.¹⁰³ The bakery was in a single-story brick structure, 3 bays deep, 2 bays wide, and enclosed by a very shallow gable roof, with a corbelled, brick cornice. It was strong demonstration that the Grove had become a permanently located in Hamilton.



Committee building, in 1908, was very similar to original design. Photo, A.B. Norton



Committee building, built in 1869, was on the Circle, but later moved. Drawing, Asbury Grove Plan, 1870

The building's interior had painted, exposed, brick walls, and exposed wood roof framing. It also had painted wood columns in the center, perpendicular to the roof ridge.^{5, 1}

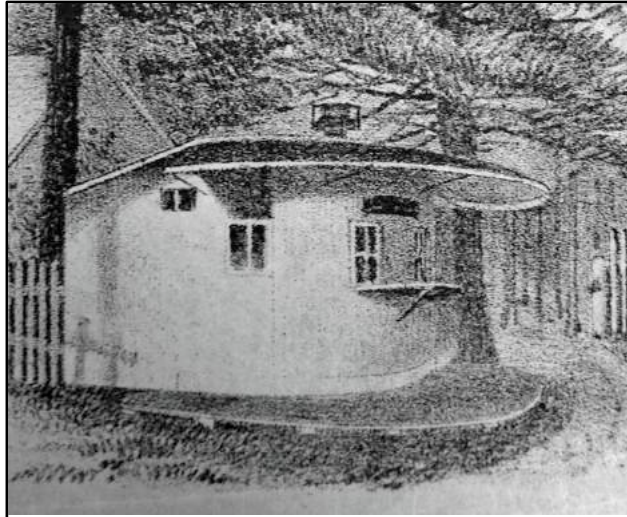
1869 was the first year that the Grove had a superintendent. However, establishing a superintendent's position had a rocky start. The first superintendent, Benjamin F. Stone, served only a year.¹²¹ He was followed by Charles O. Putnam, who also served a short time¹²⁹ Both had 1-year contracts.

Next, the Association switched to hiring a superintendent for 6 months, May to November.¹²⁹ This did not work: in 1891, the Association went back to a yearly contract, when it hired George Wright.¹³⁶ He was followed by John C. Lord, in 1893, also given a contract for a year.¹⁴⁵

The hectic years of 1868 and 69 were culminated with a tornado. On Sep. 8, 1869, a twister uprooted 30 trees. Fortunately, very few people remained at the Grove following the August meeting and there was little damage to buildings by the "September Gale."⁸³

Late summer storms were not unusual for New England. A local resident recalled that the Great September Gale, of 1815, leveled many trees in the Grove area.⁷¹

In 1870, the country was trying to recover from the civil war. Abraham Lincoln was the President. Hamilton's population was still well less than 1,000. The summer camp meeting remained very large.



Train ticket office, built 1870, replaced in 1902 by arts and crafts shop. Photo, 1870 Asbury Grove Plan

The 1870 Asbury Grove Camp Meeting was held from Tuesday Aug. 16^d to Wednesday the 24th. On Saturday evening, gates were placed across the entrances to prevent people from entering or leaving on Sunday.^{10, 66}

At the Association's General Meeting, attendees unanimously voted to have the next meeting, 1871, last through Sunday and to keep the gates open on the Sabbath.⁹⁰

Service to the Grove became easier, in 1870, when the Association obtained a charter from the State to build a spur from the main station in Hamilton to the Grove. Eastern Railroad built the spur in one week. People going to Grove had to switch trains.¹⁰¹

A small depot, painted red, was built at the corner of Highland and Asbury streets.^{5, 90, 101} The Association opened a restaurant at the depot. The branch eliminated problems of the many barges going back and forth from the depot to the Grove.



Central Ave. a narrow way with cottages and tents. Photo, Zion's Herald, 1884



Central Ave. remains a narrow way. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Paths...
Many still narrow
Some long gone



Cars parked close to cottage fronts to allow others to pass. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Morris Ave. north end not replaced after 1927 fire. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



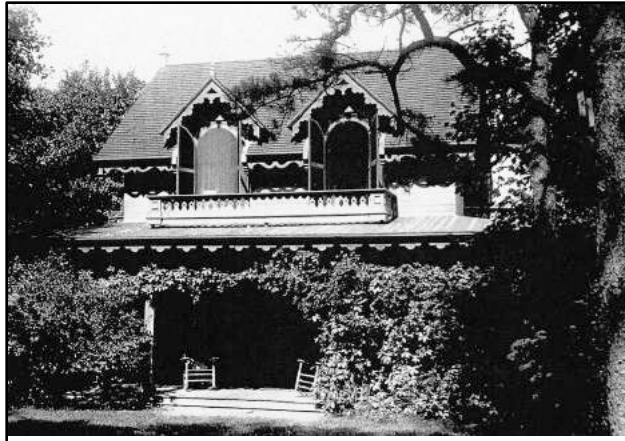
Baker Pl. now only passable on foot. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

To meet the needs of Grove attendees, the Boston and Maine Railroad built in 1870, a ticket office inside the Grove at the corner of Hedding and Central (*now, the corner of Lee Park and Central*).^{42, 26}

An 1875 photo of the stand, rebuilt in 1870,¹⁰⁵ shows netting above the stand. The netting protected the congregation from falling pine needles, and branches.⁹⁵

Around the stand, in 1870, there were 36 church structures:²⁶ 21 were in front of the stand and 15 behind it. This arrangement made it easy for church members to attend services held at the stand.

Needing more space, a few of the society houses later moved to avenues east of the circle: Beverly was on the south side of Asbury Ave., across from Hamlin Ave.; South Street, Lynn, and Wesley Church, Salem were directly across from the Beverly house, on Asbury Ave.; Bay View of Gloucester was one block west, on the corner of Asbury Ave. and Fletcher (*Rev. John W. Fletcher*) Ave.; also on Asbury Ave., across



Wrieth cottage, 4 Pilgrim Rest Park, was the first cottage built. Photo 1892, Hamilton Historical Society

from Haven Ave., was the Essex House.⁷ Swampscott House was on Sunnyside Ave.⁸⁷

With the campsite being permanent, a major change began. During the 1870s, cottages replaced the family tents. William Wrieth, of Salem, built the first cottage. It was on Pilgrim Rest Park.^{5, 27}

Next, construction spread eastward to Fletcher Ave. and northward along the series of avenues bound by Mudge and Morris Ave. (*Mt. Zion, Clark, Thompson, McClintock, Baker and along Lee Park*).⁵

Local carpenters erected the structures. Each brought his own quaint and distinctive adaptations to building a forest retreat. Most of the buildings were only designed for sleeping, for they did not have a kitchen or dining room. Camp meeting programs kept attendees active most of the day.

Unlike a tent, a cottage remained after the meeting closed. Therefore, building a "permanent" cottage



Wrieth cottage had a comfortable sitting room. Photo c1900, Hamilton Historical Society

meant renting a lot for a year instead of a week. While the annual rent for an 18 x 25 ft. tent lot was \$3, compared to \$1 for a week, the cost to build a small cottage was about \$100, which was a lot for laborers, who in 1870, earned less than \$10 for a 60 hr. week.

The Grove had become a summer residence, not just a campground for a week. Refinements to cottage construction were described in an 1871 Boston Journal Article. There were 2-story structures, with separate rooms on both floors. Some had a cooking area, dining room, awnings, balconies, shrub-enclosed lawns and earth closets (*toilets*). Cottages were described as being "commodious," "most homely," and "remarkably convenient."¹⁹⁰

More than 200 cottages were built in the 1870s,⁵ the largest period of growth. In just the five years between 1873 and 1878, more than 100 cottages were built.

Most of the cottages were on avenues closest to the circle. (*Mudge, Merrill, Sunnyside, Fisk, Kingsley, Central, and Simpson*).⁵

Furthest away was Rev. Abram Merrill's cottage. It was at the end of the Ipswich Path, near what later became Mudge Ave. Some thought the location was unsafe, being so far from the circle.⁹⁴

In 1874, the first cottage was built on Hamilton Park. Cottages also were constructed on paths in the area (*along Hedding, Highland, Oak and Prospect Ave.*).⁵

In 1876 construction began on Hamlin, (*for Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, originally misnamed Hamline*), Morris (*Rev. Thomas A. Morris*), and

Cottage Growth in 1870s

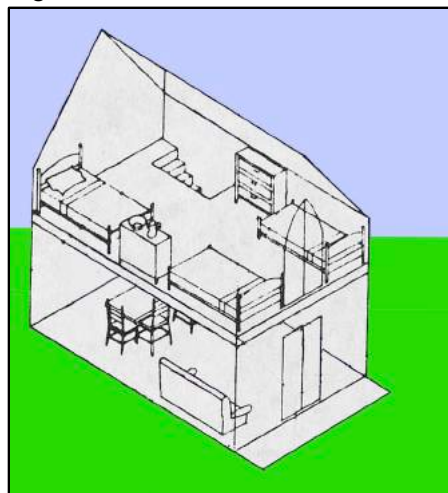
	1870	1872	1873	1878
Cottages	123	166	186	300
Tents	179	70	70	70
Society tents	47	55	56	
Lots	362		452	
Reference #	131	24	89	24

Pleasant Ave., and Wesley Park (*Rev. John Wesley*).⁵ By 1878, there were 300 cottages and 70 tents.²⁴

The rapid escalation in cottage construction was good for local carpenters, but not for the Grove's barbers. Around 1875, the barber-shop was discontinued. Shaving in a tent was not practical, but easily done in a cottage.

A significant change, in 1870, was extending the meeting through Sunday.^{26, 27} This decision came after years of ardent discussions supporting and denying such a move.

While the annual camp meeting had become a 7-day event, the Association did not relax in its travel restriction on the Sabbath. To this effect, in 1870, the Association built a guard station at the entrance.



Early cottages had beds on upper floor . Drawing Lester Walker

On Saturday evening, a guard closed the gate on Pleasant Ave. to prevent anyone from entering or leaving the Grove on Sundays.¹³ The guard also restricted anyone from riding a bicycle within the Grove on the Sabbath.¹⁸

In subsequent years, the Association continued to vote to have the summer meeting last past Sunday. However, board members also often voted to keep the entrance gate closed on the Sabbath.

Another development stemming from the large number of families coming to the Grove was the creation of an Asbury Grove Missionary Society. Its members were teenagers, called the Glean-

ers, it began in 1872.¹ The Gleaners raised money to help home and foreign missionaries. The Gleaners disbanded in 1899.^{8, 17}

The large number of campers also continued to put a strain on how to feed them. In 1872, the Association converted the dining hall into 2 buildings and created space to possibly build a third dining hall on the same site.¹¹⁸

Five years later in 1887, the Association replaced the 1872 dining halls with a 2-story structure.¹¹³

Likely to reduce the time diners were waiting for their food, the Association, in 1873, increased the number of caterers to 6.¹¹⁶ Another matter concerning the Association



Baker Pl. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Paths Now



Central Pl.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 2015

was whether to allow workers to serve of food on the Sabbath. They approved the store and restaurant, as well as the caterers to serve food on Sundays.⁸¹

With the summer meeting being held past Sunday, many campers called for the Grove to have a chapel for the Sabbath worship services. There was dissatisfaction with the "make-do" arrangements where services were held in the various society tents surrounding the circle, none large enough to accommodate a large number of worshippers. The fact that the camp meetings lasted only a week may have been a factor in not building a permanent chapel.

At an 1873 Association meeting, members agreed that a chapel could be built in the Oak Grove area, on the lot formerly occupied by the barbershop. The construction would be allowed, providing the project did not require Association funds and that the chapel be owned by the Association.¹⁰⁵

The following year, 1874, the Association increased the original number of committees (*grounds, victualing, tents, hay, land, transportation and police*). A standing Religious Services Committee was added.⁹¹ It had it charge of the chapel and all public and social religious services.⁹²





Police station and jail, built 1869, was moved behind the dining hall in 1929. Photo, 1908, A.B. Norton

Anecdotes of misbehavior during camp week are in several histories of the Grove. Campers were not a cause of problems, but outsiders occasionally were. The Association established a police force of 12 men, in 1873. When public services were held, 6 officers were placed on duty to maintain order.¹¹¹

Another concern was fire. The Association, in 1873, created a Fire Committee of 3 members. The Committee had power to enter and examine all buildings to make all necessary provisions for protection from fire. The Committee was to establish measures needed to prevent and put out fires.¹²⁵ At the time, the Grove only had water buckets. In 1874, the Association bought ladders and fire hooks.¹¹⁴

The need for police and fire services was not only needed for the annual

camp meeting: the Association allowed other religious groups to hold meetings at the Grove. In 1874, the National Holiness Camp Meeting Association, which was formed in 1867, were on the grounds for 10 days before the regular gathering and aroused a great deal of interest.²⁴

Not just the family campers were switching to wood structures. Beginning in 1875, 2-story, wood structures gradually replaced the original canvas covered, society structures. The First Methodist Church of Lynn built the first, the Lynn Common House (a.k.a. *Jesse Lee house*).²⁸ It was erected on the former Trinity House lot.

Although society buildings were not identical, they were similar in form, being long, narrow, 2 stories, with front-facing gable roofs. For the



Lynn Common house, a.k.a. Jesse Lee house, was first society house to be built as an all wood structure. Photo, Postcard, 1930.



Wakefield and Jesse Lee houses, 2015

Photo, J. Hauck

Society Houses



Jesse Lee, Lafayette and Northeast houses (left to right). Photo, Postcard, c1910.



Lafayette House, c1910

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Swampscott House now a private residence. Photo, J. Hauck, 2014



Circle and Central Pl. 1) Wesley , 2) Jesse Lee, 3) Wakefield, 4) Arts & crafts, 5) Beulah, 6) 32 Central, and 7) 12 Central.
Bing maps

Circle & Central Pl.



Arts & crafts and Tax office
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Beulah Land
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Cook house, 26 Central Pl.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2012



Cook house, 32 Central Pl.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2012

most part, they were utilitarian structures, with little in the way of architectural detailing.⁵ The largest of these rectangular buildings, the Lynn Common House, is 56 ft. long.

The Lynn Common and East Boston houses were built with Victorian style front porches. A variety of exterior sheathings were used, including flush vertical boards, wood shingles, and horizontal joint shiplap (*overlapping*) siding.

The Association contributed (\$200) to the cost of building the Lynn Common house, in order to have a chapel on the first floor.¹⁰²

Several societies also erected outbuildings or additions for use as cookhouses. The former Charles-town cookhouse and dormitory (*now 26 Central Pl., built c1880*) now is a private residence and 32 Central Pl. (*built c1880*), now known as Beulah Land, is a meeting hall for youth activities. The latter likely was an outbuilding for the Lynn Common house. Both structures retain vertical board siding and simple flat windows and have no trim.⁵

The ongoing construction of society houses to replace the tents provided the Association with a source for income. The Association rented the previously used society tents to other campgrounds. In 1877, the Association made a profit on tent rentals.⁹² However, some years not all tents were returned, nor did all the renters pay for using the tents.¹²⁰

The Association began discussing having a post office in 1877. The Post Office Dept. agreed to have an office at the Grove, from May 1 to Nov. 1.¹²⁷ This move was an indication that there were a significant number of summer long residents and many visitors.



Post office opened at entrance in 1879.
First Postmaster was Ella Rankin.
Photo, 1907, A.B. Norton

In 1879, the Association acquired the Rankin's cottage next to the Dodge farmhouse (*now 3 Pleasant Ave.*).^{5, 95} The first floor was the post office.⁹⁵ Daily, the Hamilton post office brought mail to the Rankin's cottage.



3 Pleasant Ave., a private residence, originally it was a post office.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2012

The first Postmaster was Ella Rankin, who served until 1883.⁷⁸ She was Hamilton's first female Postmaster. (*Postmistress* is not used because the "master" part of "Postmaster" refers to a person of authority and not gender.)

The Association made several other changes in 1879. A sales office was opened in the bakery building.⁹⁵ No reason was given for choosing this location. However, the bakery was a place where many people went, not just from the Grove, but also the surrounding area.

Another move was relocating the restaurant from the train depot to the end of Pleasant Ave. It was combined with the store that had been at the train station.^{95, 112} The store was on the second floor.

Third Decade

The Grove's third decade began with renewed efforts, on the part of some campers, to cease having the annual meeting extend through the Sabbath. In 1879 and again in 1880, the naysayers prevailed.

In 1880, the Massachusetts Camp Meeting Association passed the following resolution: "That our Presiding Elders be requested to submit to their first Quarterly Conferences the question whether our camp meetings shall be held on the Sabbath, and that they send the result of the vote to our Associations and request that they be guided by the voice of the church."²⁴

The "voice of the church" was loud and very clear. Members of the Lynn District voted 246 against, 70 in favor, with 38 not voting.²⁴

Methodists, at the time, held strongly to Lev. 23, 3. The original objective of Asbury Grove was to revitalize the Christian spirit among Methodists, particularly with regard to living closely in accordance with the Bible. For campers, the days were highly structured and the programs were intense and focused on God's word.

Campers at the Grove were iso-

lated from the difficult times of the mid and late 19th century. To survive, people moved to crowd-

ed towns and cities, where there were better paying jobs. Family life suffered. Religious life suffered. Health suffered. Revival camps, such as the Grove, briefly took people out of the crowded and grimy urban areas.

However, the "mountaintop" experiences at the Grove could not last. The sense of *Communitas* became weakened as the separation between sacred time and the worldly matters faded away.⁴

The Sunday meeting restriction did not last long. Beginning in 1881, the camp meeting was held past Sunday. The 1881 meeting began Tuesday, Aug. 22 and ended Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Meeting on Sunday was not the only change in the nature of the Grove camp meeting from its original operation. The switch from tents to cottages provided more comfort for those living at the Grove, but the switch also resulted in people devoting less time to the religious programs. More time was being spent relaxing at the cottages and on improving the cottages.

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD. Lev. 23:3

The building of cottages that began in the early 1870s led to the to owners wanting to own the land, not rent it. Not owning the land hampered the sale of cottages .

An answer to this problem came in 1880. Cornelia B. Jones of Bridgewater bought an 8-acre lot across from the Grove's entrance.¹⁷⁹ It was on the corner of Topsfield Rd. (now Asbury Street) and the Asbury Grove railroad lines.

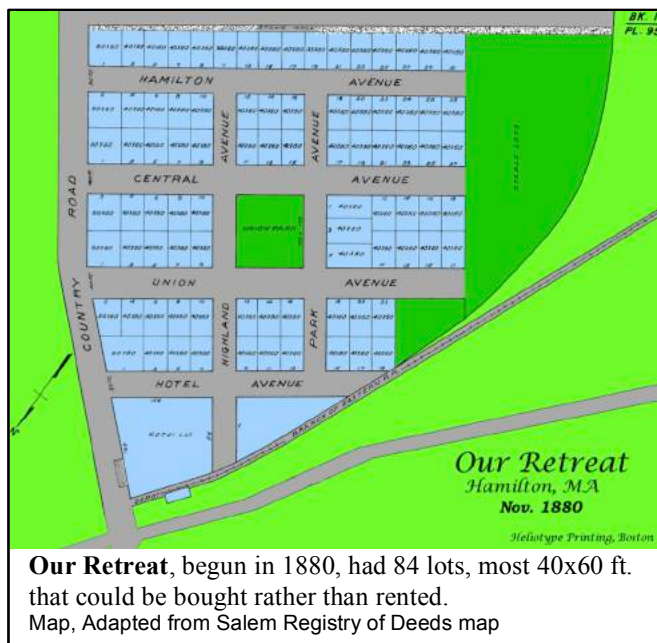
Called "Our Retreat," the site had 84 lots, most 40x60 ft. that could be bought rather than rented. The Retreat had 6 avenues: Hotel, Union, Highland, Park, Central and Hamilton. In the center of the Retreat, there was a small green, "Union Park."¹⁸¹

The Retreat had a large lot across from the Grove's railroad station that was intended to be the site of the Retreat Hotel. On the southwest side of the Retreat there conveniently was a large area for stabling horses and carriages.¹⁸¹

William H. and Lucinda W. McCausland of East Boston bought the first lot, in August 1880. It was lot #9, located on the corner of Hotel Ave. (now Boston) and Highland Ave. They paid \$35. Among restrictions that came with the purchase, the owner: had to build a cottage for not less than \$500; could not stable horses; and could not sell intoxicating liquor.¹⁸⁰

Association member, Franklin J. Stratton, the sales agent for the Retreat,¹⁰⁷ held an auction on the day after the 1880 camp meeting closed. He sold 3 lots and another in September, all to people that had been renting in the Grove. By 1890, more than 60 lots were sold.¹⁸²

The Association was not pleased with this venture, saying remarks made by the developer and the agent depreciated the Grove. It was also suggested that the Association member, Stratton, should have resigned as a board member before "entering this enterprise."¹⁰⁷



The Retreat became known as Hamilton Park¹⁸⁴ and Asbury Park. The lot intended for a hotel never had one. In 1897, Dr. James E. Blaisdell of Chelsea bought it,¹⁸⁴ and built a house, where he and his wife, Colena, summered for 40 years. They previously had a cottage on Mt. Zion.

The Retreat was the beginning of a much larger section of houses for people attending the Grove's summer meetings. From about 1885 to 1930, Western, Lincoln and Spring avenues

were built and, on the other side of Asbury Street, as were Washington, Roosevelt, Grant, Garfield and Arthur avenues. Most of the avenues were named for presidents, not for Methodist clergymen.

With many campers being at the Grove on Sunday there was a need for a place to hold Sunday services. Continued calls for a chapel led the Association, in 1881, to use the restaurant on Pleasant Ave. as a chapel.¹⁴⁹ A permanent Lord's house came in 1884. The Association built a chapel, at the north end of Lee Park. It cost of \$800.¹²³

A year later, Sunday school began in the chapel, under the guidance of Mrs. Charles L. Eastman.¹⁷

A Queen Anne style building, the



Chapel, erected in 1884, became E. Staley Jones Chapel in 1956. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society,

chapel has a steep front gable, clapboards and decorative patterned wood shingles. A shallow, gabled porch, supported on square posts with brackets, covers the double-door, main entry.⁵ There is a small

cupola with a bell on the roof peak, at the front of the building. A cross stands above the cupola.

The sanctuary has a central aisle flanked by wood pews, an altar at the east end, and a small balcony at the west end, over the main entry.⁵

There are 14 stained-glass windows, each in memory of a former resident that made significant contributions to the Grove. Above the entrance is a stained-glass rose window, in memory of the second president of the Association, Thomas P. Richardson, who served from 1869 to 1881.



E Stanley Jones Chapel has 14 stained-glass windows in memory of former residents that made significant contributions to the Grove. Photo, J. Hauck. 2015.

A later change to the original building is a clock below the bell tower (*added in 1915 by the Ladies Aide Society*^{14, 65}). In place of numbers for the hours, the clock has 12 letters for STANLEYJONES.

Other changes were: granite entrance steps, and low hedges leading to the entrance. The chapel is not winterized and has unpainted exposed wood framing.⁵

Beginning in 1884, no longer was the summer camp meeting devoted solely to religious matters.

A source of recreation was made available: the Association built a croquet court alongside Morris Ave.⁵

Entertainment was provided in 1885, when the very popular Troy Praying Band, from Troy, NY, was the special feature at the Grove.¹²²

In April 1885, the Association met to review preparations for an August camp meeting. The Grounds Committee reported the cookhouse was



Barn, on Asbury Ave, in early 2000s, was the Asbury Grove thrift store. Photo, J. Hauck, 2014

in an "unsafe condition." The Association ruled it was "expedient" to erect a new cookhouse.¹¹²

Also in 1885, the Association built a new barn. The construction had been approved in 1876, but other matters prevented building it. Construction became urgent, when the original barn, struck by lightning, burned.³⁴ The barn was built on Asbury Ave., near the Highland Ave. entrance.⁸⁴



Second barn, stable and well tower built in 1885.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

The barn was needed to assist the campers that came to the Grove by wagon and carriage. However, the Association did not want to be involved in running the barn business. Soon after the barn's construction, the Association began efforts to sell it.¹²⁹ However, no reasonable offers were made.⁸² Since then, the barn has had various uses. For many years, it was a thrift shop. Now, it is for storage.

Beside the barn, the Association built a stable. Next to the stable, there was a wind-powered water tower, about 30 ft. high. The wind-pump made it easier for people to get potable water.

Getting to the Grove became much easier in 1884. At the request of the Association, the Eastern Railroad connected its main line to the track from the depot station to the Grove.⁸⁸ Special trains made the direct trip to the Grove. As many as "fifteen or twenty railroad cars came in on the spur track filled with people from the various churches in the Boston and Lynn districts."²⁶

A challenge to the railroad came in 1885. The Naumkeag Street Railway built a rail line for its horse-drawn streetcars.¹²² The streetcars made the trip from the depot down Railroad Ave., along Willow Street, down Asbury Street ending at a station close to the Grove's entrance. The station was on what now is the green. The tracks extended to within 10 ft. of the entrance.¹¹⁰

The Association, which referred to the service as the "horse rail road," at first, promoted the service,¹¹² for it ran at no cost to the Grove and it "relieved the Association from the barge

business, always a source of unpleasantness and it gave more frequent service."⁹⁴

However, residents living along the route disliked the horse railroad (*it interfered with traffic and was noisy*) and they let the Association know this.⁷⁶ The reaction of the neighbors to the streetcars may have been a factor in the Association's consideration, in the late 1880s, of publishing a weekly newspaper that would proclaim merits of the Grove. However, no suitable person was found to edit the paper and it did not get started.¹²⁶

During the summers, along Asbury Street, there was a lot of traffic bringing people to and from the Grove. An 1888 directory of the Grove listed 251 renters, of whom 52 were from Lynn, 33 from Boston, and 32 from Chelsea. The total number of those staying with the renters was not reported.³⁰

Many of the summer residents were women, both married and single. The most crowded avenues were Mudge Ave. (28) and Central Pl. (19).

Ten pastors were at the Grove, including one from Brooklyn, NY. There also were some residents from out-of-state (NJ, NY and ME).³⁰

Increased calls began for the Grove to build a large structure, a tabernacle, to accommodate religious and social events, beyond what the chapel could handle. However, the projected cost was an overriding factor against this action.



Naumkeag Street Railway, in 1885, built a rail line, to Grove from Hamilton depot, for its horse-drawn streetcars. Photo, courtesy Wenham Museum

In 1889, the Association bought a large tent from the Lynn District. Also purchased were 500 chairs. The canvas tent, framework and chairs cost \$80.¹³²

Originally, the tabernacle was to be on the northeast side of the circle, between the Lynn and Ipswich tents. Later, the Association changed the site to be close to the chapel on Lee Park.¹³³

Inside the tabernacle, there was a dirt floor, covered with wood chips. For those that went forward to "give their life to Christ, "it was said that they walked "the old sawdust trail,"²⁸ a term often used by the popular evangelist Billy Sunday.

The canvas sides could be raised to provide better airflow, for the people.²⁰ This was very important, since the services were long during the very warm August meetings.

Each year, following the camp meeting, the grounds committee

stored the canvas roof, sides and chairs. The wood frame was left standing.

In 1894, the Grounds Committee built a permanent tabernacle. The wood building had a seating capacity of 2,000. Heavy wood framing, including columns, beams, and bracing replaced the lightweight framing. Permanent wood sidewalls replaced the canvas curtains. A broad, shallow, hip roof replaced the canvas top. A square monitor, also having a hip roof, was added above the roof.⁵

The floor was crushed stone covered with pine needles. In the late 1940s, the floor became macadam.

And this, our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.
As You Like It, William Shakespeare

A third of the cost of about \$3,100 was pledged when the tabernacle was dedicated, in late 1894.²⁴⁵ The tabernacle name remains, despite this not being a portable worship structure.

The physical size of the Grove came to the attention of the Town's tax department, in 1889. Hamilton assessed the Grove, at \$15,100. The Finance Committee reported the Grove property was insured at a value of \$19,100.³² (*Equal to more than \$400,000 in 2016.*)

The first mention of a non-Methodist group coming to the Grove was in 1890. The Association allowed the East Baptist Society of Lynn to have a picnic on July 5th.¹⁴⁷



Tabernacle was built in 1894.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1910.

Fourth Decade

As the close of the 19th century neared, some churches began to abandon their houses. The Corporation took ownership. Some became summer dormitories. These were; the East Boston House (*a.k.a. the Johnson House, built in 1875*), Lynn Common House (*a.k.a. Jesse Lee Hall, built in 1875*), Tapleyville House (*a.k.a. Wesley House, built in 1894*).⁵¹

The Association, in 1890, notified several churches that their tents had to be repaired or they would be removed. By 1905, only 13 of the 41 society houses remained. Maintenance of the remaining society houses also declined.

Various factors led to a gradual reduction in the number of society houses. Principle was that church members no longer went to the campgrounds. This led their church to discontinue use of their building and removing it from the Grove. The Corporation urged churches outside the circle to move to the open sites.²⁰² Five made the change.

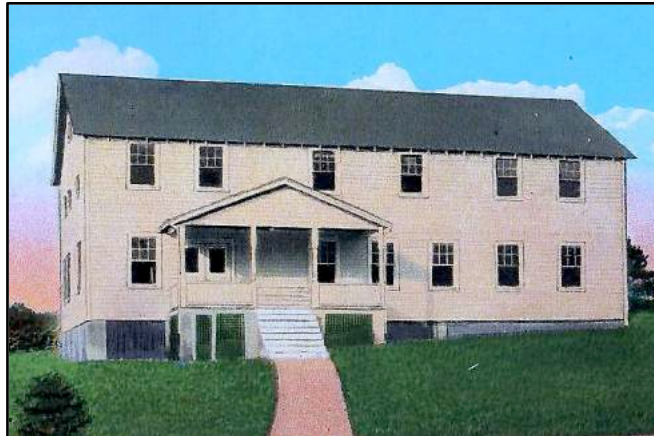
An 1898 map shows that 18 society houses were no longer around the circle. Further, Maple Street became Wakefield, Trinity became Lynn Common, Cambridgeport became St. Luke, Salem became Lafayette, and Saugus became Reading.⁷ The Wakefield house was



Society houses, abandoned by churches, became summer dormitories run by the Corporation.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1934

built by a group of families,²⁶ as was the Wesley House that was built by several families from Tapleyville, in 1894.²⁵⁰ In 1920, the Corporation bought the Tapleyville Building and the Lynn District Epworth bought it soon after.²⁵⁰ For a number of years, it was called "Lyndel," in recognition of the many people from the Lynn district that stayed there.²⁸

Another new society house was the Swedish tabernacle on Skinner Ave. Built in 1928, it replaced a tabernacle destroyed in the 1927 fire. The previous tabernacle, built in 1892 replaced a tent.²⁵⁵



Swedish Tabernacle on Oak Ave. was built in 1862.
Photo, postcard, c1935



Hydrants came to the Grove in 1953.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Many Swedish Methodists came from New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. All services were held in Swedish.⁷⁰ Swedish-born Theodore (Ted) Johnson helped build the 1928 tabernacle.²⁰⁵

The matter of better fire protection led the Corporation, in 1890, to have Wheeler and Parker of Boston, design a water supply system.¹³⁵ Earlier that year, fire destroyed the cookhouse at the corner of Pleasant Ave. and Lee Park.



Rebuilt hotel (*left*) and store (*next*) on Pleasant Ave.
Photo, 1910, A. B. Norton

The Wheeler and Parker system was not installed. The Association, in 1892, appointed another committee to consider the water supply problem.¹⁴² An offer for a buried system and hydrants, at a cost of \$18,000, was received. The offer was filed for future consideration. The Association chose to have every cottage owner place a bucket of water in front of their cottage.¹⁴⁶ About 20 years later, in 1912, the Corporation offered to pay the cottage owners half the cost of buying handheld fire extinguishers.²¹⁶

The cottage owners continued to draw water from the wells at various locations in the Grove. Some owners hired young boys to daily bring buckets of water to their cottage.¹⁸⁹

Not all the Grove's visitors wanted to stay in tents or cottages. In 1895, the Association built a hotel, at the corner of Pleasant Ave. and Lee Park. It replaced the barracks that were torn down.²⁸

The 2-story Asbury Grove Hotel, according to an 1897 Sunday Herald article, was a "great convenience," offered "very reasonable rates," and "excellent cuisine."²⁰ The comforts of the hotel did not last long. A July 1899 fire destroyed the hotel and restaurant, before summer attendees arrived in August. Also destroyed were a bakery and a few other buildings in the area. The fire might have spread further if there wasn't a very heavy rainstorm at the time.²⁵⁷

The religious campground, as originally conceived, was a place for getting away from the outside involvement in order to focus on biblical teachings. However, the outside world slowly worked its way into the Grove.

In 1890, the Association requested Hamilton officials not to allow the building of a restaurant near the Grove, unless the Association accepted it.¹³⁴

Outside the Grove, beginning about 1890, there was a grocery store on the triangular lot, at the intersection of Asbury and Highland streets. Ambrose E. Peatfield ran the store. It also had a bakery, run by Joseph N. Walker (1897) and later by Amos B. Norton (1908).^{32, 79} (*The same A. B. Norton who took many glass-plate photos of the Grove.*)

The closeness of the bakery might have been significant, in 1892, if those wanting to halt all work on the Sabbath had been successful in closing the Association's bakery on Pleasant Ave. The bakery was a vital source of bread for many staying at the Grove. Loud objections prevented this happening.¹⁴⁴

In 1891, discussions began about

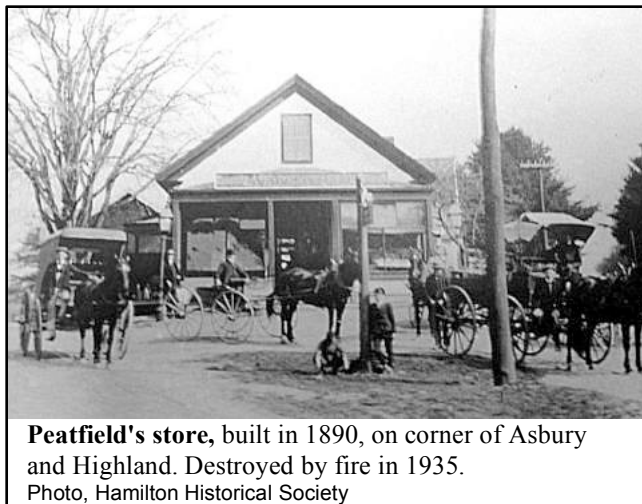
having the cottage owners involved in the Grove's management. The Association stated "the best interests of the Association would be secured by giving the cottage owners representation in the administration of its affairs."¹³⁷ The cottage owners formed a committee to meet with the Association.^{140, 132} There were discussions, but nothing changed.

Perhaps the Association wanted to focus on another matter: the liability of members of the Association. In 1892, the Massachusetts Legislature issued the Grove a charter of incorporation. By this act, the Grove exists as an entity recognized by the state. The Grove can own and transfer property, in its name. Also, the Grove can borrow money from banks directly, without requiring guarantees of the membership. Members of the Grove have a shield of liability rendering them not personally liable for the acts of other members. The Grove can enter into contracts or agreements as a corporation.

The members of the Corporation consisted of 7 ministers and 10 laymen.²⁴ The Asbury Camp Meeting Association sold all the property to the Asbury Camp Meeting Corp.,

which consisted of 15 lots acquired between 1860 and 1884.^{150 - 165}

1892 also saw increased involvement of the Grove with Hamilton's selectmen.¹⁴² A year later, 1893, the Association requested the selectmen place an article in the town warrant for Hamilton to provide police protection for the Grove.¹⁴⁵ (*Note: This did not happen.*)



Peatfield's store, built in 1890, on corner of Asbury and Highland. Destroyed by fire in 1935.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

A recurring problem during the camp meeting week was what Board members called "huckstering." With the gathering of so many people, it was not surprising that hucksters came selling their wares.¹⁹⁹

Various merchants began offering various items, at or near the entrances. Those selling alcoholic beverages were asked to leave. Candy sellers could stay, as could those selling newspapers, milk and books.

In 1891, the Association added lights to most of the paths and had them kept lit through the night.¹³⁸ There were as many as 200 kerosene lamps. In 1895, the Ladies Aide Society paid for putting up electric light poles.³⁴

To control dust on the dirt paths, the superintendent spread them with calcium chloride.²³⁰

While as yet not directly involved in management of the Grove, women were hands-on assistants in much of the Grove's activities. The Ladies Aide Society began in 1894, when the Association formed it to raise funds for building a chapel.¹²⁸

Also in 1894, for the first time since the Grove began, expenses exceeded income. This was due largely to a drop-off in the 1893 camp meeting attendance caused by bad weather.¹⁹⁶

Greeting campers, in 1895, was a new, widened entrance roadway and there was a new fence and entrance gate.²⁴⁵

Also in 1895, an Epworth League Chapter began. It "sought to train young church

members for their personal religious life and future church leadership." Following the League, at the Grove in 1935, was the Young People's Christian Assembly.¹⁷

In addition to the large number of campers, there were a great many visitors, some coming to visit the campers. The Corporation considered numbering the cottage and tent sites and posting a list at the post office.²⁵⁵ However, the time needed to prepare and maintain such a list may have dissuaded the Board in completing the project.

Getting to and from the Grove became easier, in 1898. Electric streetcars began making the trip.¹ Three years later, in 1901, the greater use of the electric streetcars caused the demise of the Boston & Maine branch to the Grove. The train depot, no longer in service, was moved, in 1902, to the Cummings Livery Stable, in downtown Hamilton. In the mid 1930s, it was torn down.¹³

Trips to the Grove were a great outing for Salem people. Round-trip tickets cost 30¢. Getting from Salem to the Grove, took just under 2 hrs.



Trips to the Grove were a great outing for Salem people. Round-trip tickets cost 30¢. Photo, Postcard, 1935

Special cars, with a seating capacity of 50, ran on Sundays and holidays. The cars, called "rounders," had their seat backs turned over, after arriving at the Grove, for the return trip.¹

Not all those riding the streetcars were going to the Grove: some were cutting through the Grove to reach Idlewood Lake. A perimeter path, Sunnyside Ave., connected the Grove to Idlewood Lake. At the end of Sunnyside, there was a path, with wide wood planks, that led through the marsh to the north end of the pond, a distance just over a half-mile. It no longer exists.

Interest in the lake became high enough that in 1892, the Association closed the Sunnyside path on Sundays.¹⁴⁴

In 1884, the Association began renting Idlewood Lake for a week, during its annual camp meeting.^{109, 124} This continued for 10 years. (*In the mid 1900s, the name Idlewood Lake was changed to Pleasant Pond.*)

1896 was a very active year at the Grove. The Corporation built: a new restaurant on Pleasant Ave., a new preaching and choir stand on the

circle, and added toilets to the hotel. While no new cottages were built, more than 50 cottages were enlarged and repaired.²⁵⁶

In 1896, a new avenue, Pine, was built on the east side of the stream that runs into the Grove from the Ipswich River. It was laid out to provide larger lot sides and, thereby, avoid cottage crowding.¹⁹⁹

Pine Ave. was beyond Merrill Ave. and intersecting Mudge Ave. near McClintock Ave.⁴² The Grove's minutes contain no reference to cottages ever being built on Pine Ave. However, in 1917, a bridge was constructed on the road leading to a field off of Merrill Ave.²³⁶

In 1896, the building of a new meetinghouse by the Swampscott church was seen as a sign that other societies might do the same and not discontinue their involvement with the Grove.¹⁹⁹

The possibility of having telephone service, first discussed in 1862, became a reality in 1899. The Corporation installed a telephone, in the president's cottage, for use by Grove residents. Shortly after, following the death of the president, the Corporation transferred the phone to the foreman's cottage.^{142, 198}

Looking back at the Grove in the 19th century, William Thurston wrote that since the first meeting, "considerably over a million people have heard the gospel there. Hundreds of preachers have exhorted attendees to repentance."²⁷ His wife, Grace, in her history of the Grove, wrote that as many as 20,000 came, on one day.²⁶



Pine Ave., built in 1896, was to have larger lots, but no cottages were ever built on it. Map, J. Hauck, 2015

20th Century

The year 1900 was seen by many as the beginning of an age of technology. There was talk of automobiles, airplanes, photography, submarines, X rays, electricity and pneumatic tubes.

For the Grove, the 20th century had a very practical beginning.

The Association built, in 1900, a new restaurant where the hotel had been on Pleasant Ave.^{5, 13, 209} A 2-½ story structure, with a steep gabled roof, it was 3 bays wide and 7 bays deep. A porch, with bracketed posts, covered the main entry.⁵ The lower level was a dining hall. The upper level was a residence for staff. Behind the restaurant, there were a kitchen and bakery.²⁵⁶

At the other end of Pleasant Ave., the entrance, the Corporation decided, at its January 1900 meeting, that the original Dodge farmhouse no longer was habitable. It was quickly completely renovated and²⁵⁷ ready for an April Board meeting.²⁵⁸

The first attempt at distributing a newsletter to campers came in 1901. Justine A. Riggs, wrote the Asbury Mentor.²¹¹ However, this was the only year for the Mentor.

Railroad service to the Grove ended in 1901. The ticket office, at the corner of Hedding and Central, was replaced with an arts and crafts shop.⁷⁴ This was the first location for the arts and crafts

activities. Later locations included the committee building on the circle and the bakery building on Lee Park.

There no longer were any tents at the Grove. Everyone had a cottage: there were 299. There were 33 streets. There also were 2 cottages outside the Grove: they were on the property across from the entrance, called the Riggs lot.¹⁹¹

In 1899, a financial blow hit the Grove. The town of Hamilton began assessing the property for taxes.²⁰⁰ Starting from about \$95 in 1899, town taxes increased almost every year. In 1904, the amount was \$473 and by 1922, the amount was more than \$2,400. The Corporation, in 1923, asked the town to reduce its taxes, since it was a religious organization.²²⁸ An adjustment was made. However, by 1927, town taxes were about \$3,800.²⁴¹



Dining hall on Pleasant Ave., built in 1900, replaced a hotel and restaurant. Photo, J. Hauck, 2012



Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Photo, J. Hauck, 2012

*Library, no longer
in regular use,
still has walls
packed with books.*



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1910

Religious study no longer lasted the entire day at camp meetings. There also were recreation and entertainment programs.

The Grove's chaplain had charge of the recreation and amusement efforts. In 1901, he said, "People cannot attend religious services all the time. They need recreation and amusement. as well." ²¹¹

In addition to the available recreation areas, the chaplain suggested a golf course be considered on east side of the Grove. A committee was appointed to consider this, but nothing happened. ²⁵⁸

The call for more recreation and amusement was somewhat muted in 1909, when Presiding Elder Joel M. Leonard, at the annual Corporation meeting, stated the Board had to "sustain this institution not as a place of recreation or as a sanatorium, but for soul and character building." ²⁴⁴

Indeed, the Grove had become a popular attraction. Visitors mailed postcards to let people back home know about their trips. There were many different cards with color-tinted pictures of the Grove. Several of the postcards show a new wood arch and gates at the entrance. These were erected about 1905.

Handling the mailing of the

postcards was Anna Mann. She became the Postmaster, in 1902, and served until 1940. ^{78, 15} Anna was the last Postmaster at the Grove: she was followed by Mary Hawkins, who became the Officer in Charge. ⁷

There also was a new sign on Fiske Ave.: the name, misspelled for nearly 50 years, was changed to Fisk Ave. ²¹⁷ Soon after, the Hamline Ave. sign was corrected to Hamlin. Ave.

The Corporation, at the end of 1906, acquired a 1-ac. lot on Topsfield Rd., (*now Asbury St.*) from Wilhelmina W. Dodge. ²⁶¹ However, it was until 1953 that the first house was built on this land.

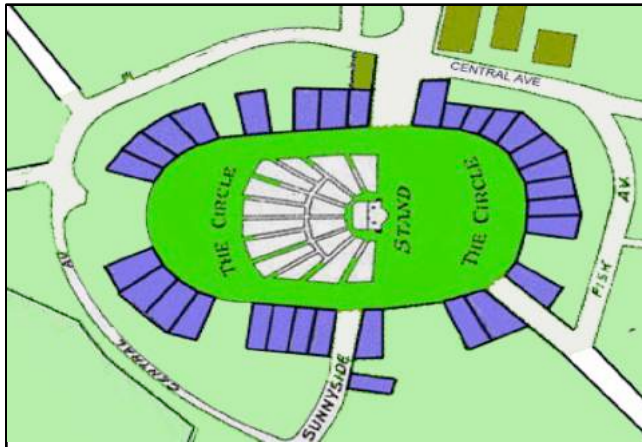
The decrease in society houses continued. In 1910, only 12 were around the circle: Wakefield, St. Luke, Walnut St., Winthrop St., St. Paul, Melrose, Centenary, Reading, Swampscott, Groveland, Bellingham and Peabody. ⁹⁴

Storms damaged some society houses, resulting in churches abandoning their structures. By 1915, only 6 were around the circle: Swampscott, Lynn Common, Boston Bethel, Epworth League (*former Tapleville House* ²²⁹), Saugus and Medford. None were behind the stand.

The storms also damaged cottages. Some were not rebuilt. Adding to the decline was the moving of some cottages to other parts of Hamilton and Wenham. A cottage, at the corner of Haven and Pleasant, was moved, about 1910, to 41 Porter St., In Wenham. ²⁵¹ The Corporation could not keep cottages from moving, but it did prohibit the removal of trees to allow their removal. ²¹⁹

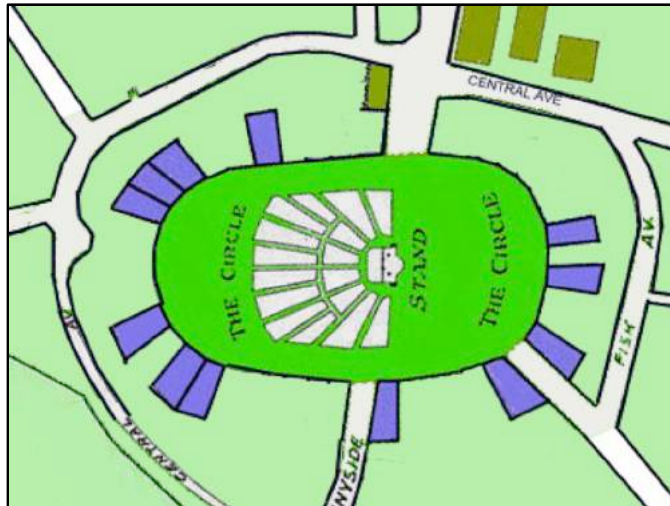


Cottage on Haven Ave, with mansard roof, was moved to 41 Porter St., Wenham in 1910. Photo, c1907, A. B. Norton.

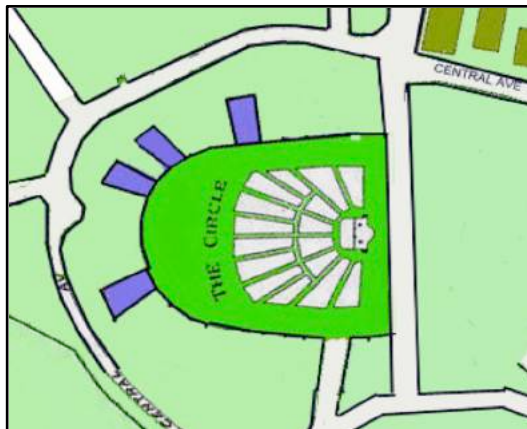


29 society houses remained around the Circle in 1898.

*Number of
Society Houses
Around the
Circle Began
Dwindling in
Late 1890s.*



14 society houses were around the Circle in 1910.



4 society houses were on the Circle in 2016.

In addition to storms and fires destroying the Grove's trees, they were attacked by leaf-eating insects. Serious outbreaks began in the late 1800s. There were two main problem moths: gypsies and brown tails. In 1914, the Grove acquired a spray machine to kill the moths. Within a few years, both types were greatly reduced.^{231, 232}

Not decreasing was the interest, in the greater Boston area, in baseball. In 1903, the Boston Americans beat the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first World Series. The Americans were led by pitcher Cy Young, who had 28 wins.

A few years later, the Grove had its own baseball team, which played on a field alongside Highland St., across from the entrance to the Grove. The lot, owned by the Grove, was more than 500 ft. long. (*Now, it's the site of a gas station.*) The Grove team played teams from surrounding towns. Many fans often filled a bleacher stand.²⁶ The Grove sold the property in 1952.¹⁶⁹

The Grove, also in 1952, sold 2 other properties: the former Riggs land, on Highland St.;¹⁷³ and the former Lovering land, on the corner of Highland St. and Asbury St.¹⁶⁸

Sports were not the only attraction for those living at the Grove. Reading had become a favorite past time for the general public. In the late 1890s, many new book-publishing companies offered inexpensive novels.

The Ladies Aide Society and the Corporation built a library, in 1910, at the north end of Lee Park. Rev. Lewis B. Bates, from Taunton, gave 2,500 books to the library.¹⁴ It became the L. B. Bates Memorial Library (*He was the Grove's first chaplain.*²⁶). Ida Johnson was the first li-

brarian and served until her death in 1914.

The library has a hip roof, with deep eaves, lined by exposed roof rafters. It has wide, horizontal-board siding, trimmed with flat wood stock. A porch is around 3 sides,. Above the recessed front porch is an overhanging section of the roof. Steps are at the front of the porch.

For maximum interior lighting, the library building has large windows on all sides.⁵ The interior is a single, open room with low bookcases lining the lower walls. The building is not winterized.⁵

Rev. Bates also was commemorated, in 1913, by the planting of 2,500 white pine seedlings on a knoll named for him (*located behind tabernacle*). Also that year, the Corporation planted 100 Maple trees along the Topsfield Rd. (*now Asbury St.*) side of its property.²¹⁷

The tree planting may have been done because the Grove no longer was a thicket. Many trees had been cut down and the wood sold by the Corporation. In 1913, the Grove received \$153 from wood sales. This income peaked, in 1919, reaching \$819.

Another source of income was the sale of hay. In 1913, the Corporation received \$229 from the sale of 12 tons of hay.²³¹ Hay sales peaked, in 1918, at \$347. In 1925, sales were down to \$40.

Fire struck the Grove in 1915. On Feb. 26, flames destroyed 5 cottages and damaged several others on Mudge Ave.²²¹ Fire again struck the Grove in April 1918: the barn and stable were destroyed.²⁵²

Following a review of the Grove's fires, the Corporation notified cottage owners that only fire-resistant shin-

gles could be used in future roof repairs. Also, the Corporation prohibited the use of metal chimneys.²⁵²

The barn was rebuilt, in 1919, using lumber from trees in the Grove.²³⁴ The quick rebuilding of the barn was necessary since it was used for storing the hay to be sold.

Not only hay was stored at the barn: during the summer, pigs were kept in the basement. In 1915, to appease cottages owners living near the barn, the Corporation ceased this "noisy and odorous practice."²²²

Coming to the aid of the "tired" society houses, in 1922, was the Ladies Aide Society. Ranging in age the 90s, the energetic women refurbished the Jesse Lee Hall. Further, they became its "inn keeper."⁷⁷

Also in decline were the Grove's cottages. Some were abandoned and cottages destroyed by storms and fires were not replaced. By 1923, about 280 cottages remained.

While fewer in number, the cottages no longer relied on candles for light. In 1913, cottage owners and the restaurant had electricity.^{263, 269} This was 18 years after electricity first came to the Grove to power its streetlights.

Cottage owners paid \$5 to be connected to the streetlight lines. A distribution system in the superintendent's house, at the entrance, monitored electricity consumption of each cottage. Some on Pleasant Ave. were the first to make the connection.²¹⁵

This arrangement continued until 1954, when hurricane Carol wiped out the wires and many poles

Afterwards, the Grove switched to electrical power from Essex County Electric.²¹⁰

The cottages still did not have very good heating, relying on oil stoves. Fireplaces were not possible since the cottages could not have brick chimneys. A provision in the lot lease was that cottages could not be tied to the property.²²

In 1900, in place of the grounds super-intendent, the Corporation created the foreman position. The first foreman was John V. Emerson.^{115, 239} He received a salary \$500/yr., also the farmhouse for his residence and income from the post office.²⁴⁰

In 1902, John R. Mann became the foreman, a position he would hold until 1947.²⁴⁷ Mann began working at the Grove in 1900, as a carpenter. Mann's duties included grounds maintenance, policeman, hiring laborers managing the post office and telephone services, and ringing the police station bell.²⁵⁷

John, along with his brother, Jesse S. Mann, who was a building contractor, helped rescue and enlarge many buildings in the Grove.^{15, 26}



Stove pipes, (*far left*) were on sides of many cottages. Chimneys were not allowed. Photo, Salem Evening News,

Post WW1

A significant 20th century change at the Grove was in the preachers invited to the summer meetings. Method replaced message in their sermons.

The preacher receiving the most accolades, in 1926, was Christian Reisner, a well-known and, according to the Zion Herald, an "undisputed pioneer in the modern business-like method of drawing people to the gospel." The Methodist newspaper, praised him for his "witty remarks" and "fully illustrated messages."⁴

For use by those attending events at the tabernacle, the Grove built a public restroom, a. k. a. comfort station, in 1924. It is at the rear of the bakery on Lee Park.²⁴⁸

A change that took a long time to come was the involvement of cottage owners in the Grove's affairs. What was first discussed in 1881 was achieved in 1926. The Asbury Grove Cottage Owners Association was organized, to cooperate with the Corporation "for the welfare and betterment of the Grove."²⁶

The Corporation acquired a large property on Highland St., in Sep. 1926. It bought the 8-ac. property of Mary B. Hobbs.²⁶²

The great fear of the Corporation was realized in 1927. There was a major fire. Buckets of water were not enough to extinguish the 1927 fire. It began on Asbury Ave. on Mothers Day.¹⁹

It was a dry, windy day. Flames soon



Restrooms built in 1924.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2014

spread north through the campground. The fire stretched from Asbury Street to Highland Street, and back to the hotel on Pleasant Ave. It stopped at the stand.^{5, 10, 14}

Many of the cottages destroyed in the fire had been enlarged from their original modest construction. When some cottage owners began spending the entire summer at the Grove, they added bedrooms, porches, kitchens and stoves. These aggrandized cottages lined the narrow avenues allowing the fire to quickly spread.

The fire destroyed 175 cottages, including the William Wrieth cottage, and many of the pine trees. Gone were nearly all the cottages on



1927 fire destroyed almost every building from Asbury Ave. to Hedding Ave. Map, J. Hauck, 2017



Fires



Pleasant, Asbury, Haven, Fisk, Essex, Fletcher, Hamlin, Hedding, Highland, Skinner and Olin. Of the original 12 cottages on Hedding Ave. only 1 remained, the Francis Flagg cottage.^{5, 10, 14}

The stand, library, chapel, and tabernacle survived,^{5, 10, 14} but the community building, near Fisk Ave., did not,³¹ nor did some society houses on the Circle: Boston Street, Newburyport (*became Community House* earlier in year²²⁷) and Peabody.³¹

Firefighters drew all the water from the small reservoir created, in 1921, by grounds foreman John Mann.²²⁷ Following the 1927 fire, the town built a large cistern on Highland Street, near the Grove's entrance.¹⁸⁷

Another fire, two years later in 1929, destroyed 3 more society houses, East Boston House, Lafayette (*Salem*) House and the Melrose House.¹

The massive destruction at the Grove resulted in many people doubting it could continue. Income from cottage renters dropped; as did income from services, such as meals and donations. For the year 1926, the Grove's total income was about \$10,400; in 1928, it dropped to about \$7,660, a loss of over 25%.²²³

On account of the fire, land rents were about \$2,350 lower. Further, with fewer people attending the summer meeting, the income from the stores greatly declined.²²³

Some of the damaged structures were rebuilt, but many were allowed to fall into further disrepair and many lots remained empty.⁹ In 1930, Frederic Norton and John Mann built

cottages on the vacant Pleasant Ave. lots; and Charles Eldridge of Boston built a bungalow on Pleasant. Two owners from the back of Grove moved their cottages to the burned area at the front,²²⁰

Following the two devastating fires, summer campers, perhaps responding to Psalm 55:16 (*"I cried to God, and he heard me in the evening,"*) began holding summer evening services, in 1930.²⁶

Near the end of 1930, the Corporation president, Rev. Charles

C. P. Hiller told a board meeting he believed "the tide had turned" and that the Grove would continue and "be better than before" the fires.²²⁵

As more cottages began to be upgraded, the Corporation became concerned that owners might consider year-round habitation. With this, there would be greater danger of fires. In 1930, the Corporation prohibited habitation in the Grove from Dec. 1 to Mar. 1.²²⁴

About 1931, a strong sign that Grove attendance had declined was that streetcars stopped providing passenger service to the Grove.¹ Soon after, the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway removed the depot at the front.²⁰⁰

But, not all was lost. The Grove had a new sign above the Pleasant Ave. entrance. It was the former sign above the streetcar station that was at the front of the Grove.²²⁴

In 1929, the Board transferred the police committee duties to the grounds committee.²³³

Be not anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Phil. 4, 6

With Grove attendance declining, electric cars service halted about 1931.¹ Soon after, the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway removed the depot at the front.²⁰⁵

The 20th century saw much more attention being given to children and young adults. In the 1930s and 40s, there was a youth program, sponsored by the Lynn District Epworth League, for young adults, aged 18 to 35. The name comes the English village Epworth, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley: members known as Epworthians, met in the Wesley House.¹⁰

The decline in the Grove's attendance also may well have been due to a national depression. Unemployment kept many families from going to the Grove. However, a few families, which had lost homes, moved into some summer cottages, and lived in them year-round.²⁰⁰

In April 1935, buying food became more difficult for the Grove's families. Fire destroyed the nearby grocery store, at the intersection of Asbury and Highland. Ambrose Peatfield opened the store in 1918.^{193, 52}

Another fire, in 1937, destroyed several society houses on the circle and in the Mudge, McClintock, and Clark Ave. area.¹⁹⁸

The following year, a greater supply of water became available than the cistern at the front entrance. Under the W. P. A., a water pipe line was laid, in 1938, to the Grove's entrance.⁷³ Also, the city-water did not have contamination problems associated with the Grove's well water.

All the news in 1938 was not good. A hurricane (*the Long Island Express*, 1938) blew down many of the remaining tall pine trees behind the stand and damaged many of the cottages.⁵ A few cottages were rebuilt, but many lots remained empty.

The strong pride of the Grove's residents was demonstrated again in 1940, when they added a stage to the tabernacle. Several plays were held, including H. M. S. Pinafore, the Wizard of Oz and Peter Pan, as were singing groups, auctions, talent shows and weddings.²⁰⁶

Some residents formed a musical band. Led by Harold Brooks, assisted by his wife, Mary, and Clarence and Ethel Beard, Mrs. and Mr. Erwin, and August Sander. The band, consisting of a piano, violins and a mandolin, played for parties, entertainment and receptions.²⁶

The band was quite a change for the restrained Methodists. In the early 1800s, the American Methodist Conference banned musical instruments at camp meetings. The ban did not hold for long: in 1815 organs were officially allowed.



1954 Hurricane Carol knocked down many trees behind the Circle. Photo, Asbury Grove Historical Society

After WW2, attendance for the tabernacle events steadily declined. Within a few years, the tabernacle was unused, except for the winter when Pleasant Pond boat owners rented space to store their crafts.³⁵

In 1941, with its hosting of many social and religious events, the Grove began publishing its own newspaper, the Asbury Grove News. Written by Chestley Tilley, it was issued weekly through the summer. A year later, it was renamed Pine Tree Echoes. Following WW2, the paper was abandoned. In 1951, the newspaper resurfaced: the Grove began publishing Pine Echos.¹⁷⁹

By the 1940s the Hamilton police department appointed the superintendent and a few other residents as "special police." This gave them legal control over any wrongdoing.⁵ Around 1955, this arrangement ended and the Hamilton police department began responding to resident calls for assistance, at the Grove.¹⁸⁴

Groceries were not the only products being offered to the Grove residents by outside sources. The Grove was one of the early areas to have natural gas service. In 1942, Ipswich Gas laid pipes into the Grove and offered to connect cottages to the line for heating and cooking.^{14, 28}

Also in 1942, several of the Grove cottages were winterized. This was done to provide housing for families of men serving in the military. John Mann, the Superintendent, did the refurbishing work.³⁷


The lean years of summer camp meeting attendance continued during WW2. Following the war, life in America greatly changed. Urban life improved. Many people moved to the



The tabernacle hosted several plays, including H. M. S. Pinafore, Photo, Linda Graves


suburbs. Many people had a car. Many had paid vacations. Many resorts opened, offering entertainment. All of which affected Grove attendance, during the summer.

In 1948, the Grove rebuilt the stand's foundation.²⁰⁵ The structure was not changed, but the low fence around the front was removed, as were the steps at the front. It was painted yellow and green, as was the 1865 stand.



Pine Echos

Week of July 24th



Schedule of Events

July 24 8:00 am Coffee Shop open until 10:30 am
10:00 am Jr. & Sr. Chapel
7:30 pm Mid Week Service

July 25 8:00 am Coffee Shop open until 10:30 am
10:00 am Jr. & Sr. Chapel (St. Ch. Miss Gail)
7:30 pm Talent Show

July 26 8:00 am Coffee Shop open until 10:30 am
10:00 am Cottage Owners' Meeting
10:45 am Joseph's rehearsal in Chapel
6:30 pm Lobster Bake

July 27 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages
4:00 pm Vineyard Service with Rev. Wesley Wilkins, UMass Minister, N.E. Conf.
7:30 pm Hot Cross & Cake
7:30 pm Hymn Sing

July 28 10:00 am Jr. & Sr. Chapel
1:45 pm Road Race for all ages
7:30 pm Bible Study "A Survey Of The Gospel"

July 29 9:30 am Bible Study "The Gospel Of John"
10:00 am Jr. & Sr. Chapel
7:00 pm Cottage Refreshment
Jr. Chapel Pool Party

July 30 9:30 am Ladies Aid Meeting, coffee
10:00 am Jr. & Sr. Chapel

Happy Birthday!
After vesper on Sunday, Samly and Juliet Allen invite you to share ice cream and cake in honor of Allen Cough's 30th birthday! Come and celebrate 30 years of faithful service to Asbury Grove as tax collector.

Talent Show
The annual Asbury Grove Talent Show will be held on Friday, July 27th at 7:30 pm. To enter an act, see Susan Monte or Bill Crowell! Don't hide your talent under a bush!

Cottage Owners' Meeting
The mid-summer Cottage Owners' meeting will be held on Saturday at 10:00 am. Bring any concerns to a BRIEF meeting in the chapel.
NO REPORTS WILL BE GIVEN!!

JOSEPH'S REHEARSAL

Joseph rehearsal will take place immediately after the Cottage Owners' meeting, hopefully at 10:45 am.

Clean-Up Help Needed!
Assistance with clean-up is needed each Saturday so that Joseph rehearsal can have all of the cast available! Please Volunteer!

Lobster Bake!
The annual Asbury Grove Lobster Bake will be held on Saturday at 6:30 pm.

*Lobster Dinner.....	\$11.00
*Warm Lobster.....	\$7.00
*Hot Dog Dinner.....	\$4.50

Reservations by Friday at Noon:
Linda Young.....468-4565
Reatha Farley.....468-5935
Allen Cough.....468-4375
Mary Jane Lewis.....468-4735

Dinner includes.....Clam chowder
Cann Ch-The Gals
Dessert
Punch

Clean Up help needed after Lobster Bake!

Grove newsletter, Pine Echos, issued weekly during summer, beginning 1942.



Unpainted, 8 Clark Ave., blends into the forest surroundings. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Screened porches, 26 Mudge Ave., began about 1890. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Other places of interest



Tall trees, 2 Merrill Ave., like sentries, stand very close to many cottages. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Platform, 8 Baker Ave., allowed cottage to be built on slope. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Bungalow architecture, 22 Hamlin Ave. began in 1930s. Photo, Hamilton Property Information

Post WW2

Following the war, the Grove had a new superintendent. In 1945, the Corporation hired Theodore E. Johnson to be the superintendent. Ted, who came to the Grove as a child in 1901, continued in this job until 1973. He was the longest serving superintendent and was held with great appreciation by both those living in the Grove and the summer inhabitants. Johnson died in 1998.⁸

One of the first projects overseen by Johnson was the paving of roads. This began in 1946. Previously, many roads were oiled. The first path paved was Pleasant Ave.

Following WW2, many service members needed affordable housing. Relatives, owning cottages in the Grove offered them to the veterans. Some were quick to accept, in order to move from the Quonset Huts in which they were living, in nearby towns.

The first winterized cottage was 18 Pleasant Ave. and others followed on Maple Ave. The veterans and their relatives converted the cottages to year-round use.²⁰⁰

By 1950, the Grove had become religiously diverse: it was not strictly a Methodist community. Members of several other Protestant denominations purchased cottages.¹⁶⁷

More year-round residents came to the Grove, in the early 1950s. Looking for inexpensive housing in the Hamilton area, they included married students at Hamilton's Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

Ted Johnson had a few of the summer cottages, on Asbury Ave.,

converted by a builder to year-round use: the street became known as Gordon Alley.²⁰⁰

1950 also saw the first cottage built on the Grove's northern boundary: none of them were Victorian style cottages. A ranch style house was built at 358 Asbury St. Next, in 1953, a colonial style house was erected at 356 Asbury St. Three more houses followed on Asbury Street: #354, a Cape Cod, 1960; #426, a Ranch, 1963; and #424, a Cape Cod, 1983.

A rare occurrence for New England happened in 1952. During Sunday school, on July 27, a tornado

touched down at the back of the Grove. The storm snapped the tops off about 100 trees and damaged a

couple dozen cottages. No one was hurt. The trees were not replaced.³⁴

Further destruction came in September 1952. Hurricane Able caused major damage along a section of Central Pl. that reached Sunnyside Ave.¹⁹⁵ About 2 dozen cottages were lost.²⁰⁵

Superintendent Ted Johnson said he removed more than 80 downed pine trees.³⁷ Some were over 100 ft. tall and over 100 years old.

There was some good news in 1952, at least for the Grove's children. Stephen Zagorski, a cottage owner, gave the Grove equipment for a children's playground that replaced one of the tennis courts on Morris Ave.^{14, 26}

Another hurricane, Carol, struck the Grove in 1954. A category 3 storm, it caused considerable damage to trees and cottages. The town declared a "state of emergency," after the storm passed.²⁶⁷

I hear the wind among the trees
Playing the celestial symphonies;
I see the branches downward bent,
Like keys of some great instrument.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In 1953, Hamilton extended its water supply system into the Grove. A connection was made on Highland Street to supply the Grove with water for domestic use and fire protection. The Association paid for the installation to 34 summer and 6 year-round cottages and 3 hydrants.¹⁸³

To pay for the new water system, the Association sold some of its land, in 1952. Lots sold were on Highland St., which included 4 ac. across from the Grove's entrance.^{194, 195, 177}

At this time, when the town showed support for the Grove, the Methodist General Conference, in 1953, decided to close the Grove. It seemed the Grove would not live to be 100 years old. The Conference sent Rev. Dr. Willis P. Miller, with instructions to "close the place as gently as possible."^{18, 10}

Rev. Miller had been the pastor of the Cliftondale Methodist Church in Saugus.¹ When he and his wife Mildred (Jay) arrived at the Grove, it looked every bit of its age: 94. Fires, storms and lack of attention had left many buildings and cottages in poor shape. What might Bryant have said about the Grove, one of God's first temples?

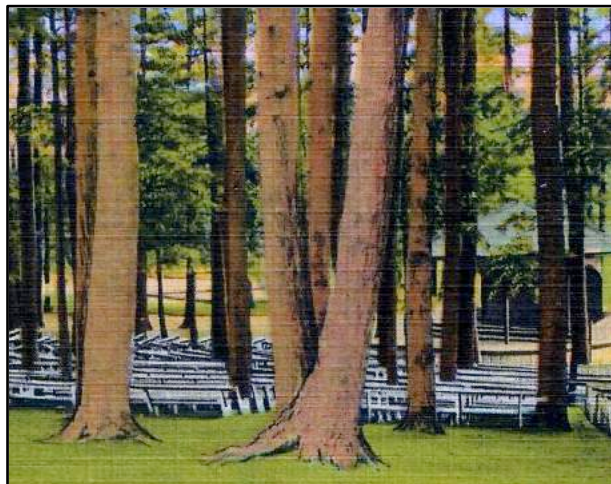
Rev. Miller, born in Everett, came from a strong religious family. There were 23 ministers on his mother's side, so it was assumed that Willis would share their calling, which he did. A



Hurricane Carol, 1954, downed most of the pine trees in the circle. Superintendent Ted Johnson viewed the damage. Photo, AG Historical Society

graduate from Asbury College, KY, Rev. Miller also attended Asbury Seminary, Gordon Divinity School and Boston University School of Theology.⁵

Rev. Miller had a life-long fascination with magic. When he was 8, he attended a performance by The Great Howard Thurston.³ As a preacher, Rev. Miller occasionally used ventriloquism and sleight of hand to bring his "Magic with a Message" to audiences.



Circle had many pine trees among benches. Photo, Postcard, c1935



Rev. Willis P. Miller, chaplain from 1953 to 1993. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

He met his future wife at the Ted Hilton Hideaway Resort, at Bashan Lake, in Moodus, CT, where she was in charge of canoes and boats. He was the entertainment director.⁸⁰

For someone expected to close the Grove, Rev. Miller's first action was the opposite: he led efforts to bring telephone service, in 1954, to the Grove.³⁴ This was about 60 years after a committee was formed to investigate telephone service.¹⁴³

Along with his wife, he continued to encourage a great many new families to move to the Grove. On Sundays, with his fire and brimstone sermons, he ignited the beliefs of the congregation that the Grove could continue and grow stronger.¹⁸



424 Asbury St., built 1983, one of 4 houses erected on northern boundary of Grove. Photo, Zillow, 2017

Early in Rev. Miller's time at the Grove, the library grew to have a record number of books. It had, in 1953, about 3,200 books, which was almost as many books as the town library had.¹⁴ However, in subsequent years, the library did not continue to add new books. Shelves along the library's walls still have many of the original books. Some were placed in the former society buildings on the Circle.

The library was last open for the summer in 2004: Barbara Kinnie was the librarian. Since then, it is opened occasionally as a library and for committee meetings and reference purposes.²⁰⁴

In 1955, the Grove took ownership of the Swedish tabernacle and renamed it Fletcher Hall.²⁰⁰ (*Rev. John W. Fletcher, a close associate of Rev. John Wesley.*) Rev. Miller planned to change the name of several avenues to the names of prominent Methodist clergy.²⁰⁰

REW Fire again visited the Grove in 1956, destroying the grocery, meat and fish store on Pleasant Ave.⁴⁰ Originally, it was the Beverly Church Houses on the Circle.⁴⁰ In 1972, this store also burned.²⁰³

Service at the Grove's post office was halted on Oct. 31, 1957. Ruth T. Tilson was the last Officer in Charge.⁷⁸

All the boxes in the post office were moved to the Asbury Street Market at 275 Asbury St., which became the pseudo Asbury Grove post office, with Ruth still handling the mail. The Post Office Department stopped bringing mail to the market about 1964.²⁰⁰ The Railroad Ave. office began handling the Grove mail.

And, Then It Was 1959.

The Grove was 100 years old.

A lot had changed since 1859. The most significant change was that the Grove no longer was just an annual summer religious event: the Grove had become an established religious community.

- Cottages replaced tents.
 - Summer cottages were modified to be year-round houses
 - Paved roads replaced wood chip and straw covered paths.
 - Sunnyside Ave. was extended, behind the stand, to connect with Lee Park.
 - Electric streetlights replaced lanterns.¹⁴
 - Nearly all the society houses were gone.
 - A chapel was built for church services (*built 1884*),¹²³
 - A tabernacle for large meetings (*created 1889*),¹³²
 - Cottages had electricity (*began 1891*),¹⁴
 - A dining hall (*began 1900*),¹³
 - Children attended the Hamilton schools (*began 1904*),¹⁸²
 - Library (*opened 1910*),²⁶
 - Asbury Grove News weekly newspaper (*began 1941*)¹⁷⁹
 - Heating and cooking gas service (*began 1942*).¹⁴
 - Water system (*began 1953*) replaced well-water,¹⁸³
 - Telephone service (*began 1954*),³⁴
 - Various services from the town (*police, fire, ambulance, garbage*),
 - Large picnic area (*built 1955*)²⁰⁰
- Some places had come and gone, such as:
- Barber shop, closed 1873,¹⁰⁵

- Bakery, closed 1889,¹³
- Clam chowder house, closed >1880,
- Hotel, 1899 fire destroyed²⁶
- Croquet court, closed 1900,³⁴
- Post office (*opened 1879*) at the entrance⁵ closed in 1957.
- Train ticket office, removed 1901.¹³
- Train service and a station, closed 1901,¹³
- Streetcar service ended 1931²⁰⁰
- The police station moved; became a storage house in 1915,¹⁹
- The storage house, In 1947, was torn down and its lumber used as firewood in the dining hall kitchen.²⁰⁰ and
- The store at entrance destroyed by fire in 1951.¹

The Grove had 43 year-round residences, in 1959. About 10% of the people were 70 or older, 35% were in their 40s or younger. A husband and wife occupied nearly all the residences. Most of the men were current or former tradesmen.⁵⁵

The Grove's second century began with a major achievement: in 1959, the Grove built an Olympic-size swimming pool and a children's wading pool.¹⁰ Located on the north side of the Grove, in the recreation area at the end of Morris Ave., the pool is 85 ft. long and 42 ft. wide; 12 ft. deep at the diving end. Volunteers nearly built all the pool. At time, this was largest pool in New England.

Tennis courts were added to the recreation area in 1964,^{5, 58} and, a year later, a basketball court was added. Rev. Miller formed a Boosters Club, in 1953 that helped build the pool and basketball court, and relocate the tennis courts.⁷⁷

E. Stanley Jones Chapel



Chapel altar. Photo, R. Perham, 2017



Inside chapel. Photo, R. Perham, 2017



Stained-glass rose window for Thomas P. Richardson is above chapel's entrance.
Photo, R. Berham, 2017



Organ installed in 2009, once was at Fenway Park. Photo, R. Perham, 2017

The following year, 1954, Rev. E. Stanley Jones preached at the Grove: he was there for 2 weeks. Rev. Jones was a strong advocate of forest retreats. However, he began his retreats programs in India, not the United States.

His concept was to bring men and women together for several days of in-depth study of their spiritual natures and what different faiths offered individuals. He believed different denominations could unite as they were, each preserving its own distinctive emphasis and heritage, but accepting one another and working together.²³

Impressed by Jones' compassionate message, the Grove named the chapel the E. Stanley Jones Chapel.

Returning to the Grove, in 1955, was an entrance sign above Pleasant Avenue. It was the former streetcar station sign, "Asbury Grove." It replaced a sign erected in 1930²²⁴ that replaced an arch removed in 1927, when firemen knocked it down to allow their trucks into the Grove. The arch was built in 1905.²⁰⁰

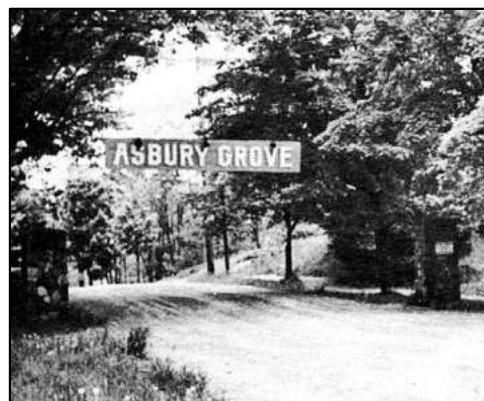
In 1964, Edgar and Mary Case donated a new banner for the entrance. The banner has 2 steel bars on which are the words "Asbury Grove." A cross is above the banner.⁵⁸ Originally, the words and cross were painted white; in 2016, they were covered with gold leaf.²⁰⁴

The banner height was not a problem for fire trucks in 1968, when a fire destroyed 5 cottages at the back of the summer cottages area, near the tennis courts. The fire was thought to have been intentional. Unlike 1927, firemen were able to draw water from nearby hydrants that were installed in 1953.⁵

Entrance



Entrance main arch, built 1905, was removed, in 1927, to allow fire trucks to enter. Photo, A. B. Norton, 1907



Entrance, c1935, sign that replaced 1905 entrance came from streetcar station when it was removed. Photo, Postcard



Entrance sign, 2015, donated by Edgar and Mary Case, in 1964. Photo, J. Hauck



Entrance donated in 1964 by Edgar and Mary Case has fieldstone pillars on each side of road.
Photos, J. Hauck, 2016

ENTRANCE



The former post office building was refurbished in 1960. There were a few minor exterior changes: decorated verge boards along the roofline and the front porch, more ornate front porch supports and removal of the two side entrances.

The Corporation allowed Ted Johnson to rent the farmhouse and apply the income towards his salary.²⁰⁵

In 1965, a cottage owner's expansion plan raised the problem of adequate septic systems in the Grove. The owner wanted to add a bath and shower; however, the small property size prevented the building of a septic tank and leaching field.⁵⁹

Many questions arose: could a septic system be built for multiple cottages? What about the community buildings? How much might a system cost? Where could it be built?

Looking to draw people into the Grove and also provide another source of income, a group of residents, in the early 1970s, helped the Grove join the ranks of New England summer theatres. The first production was in 1974, at the tabernacle. Grove resident Linda Graves Young, directed Gilbert and Sullivan's *H. M. S. Pinafore*.²⁰⁶

The Pinafore was repeated the next year, and subsequent shows included the *Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan*. For these productions, a larger front stage was added, in 1979, in front of the original stage.

Curtains, lighting and other stage paraphernalia also were provided. The *Peter Pan* show included a fly system of rigging and weights to allow Peter and three other characters to "fly."²⁰⁶

The Grove's summer theatre continued until 2004. The last production was the *Wizard of Oz*.²⁰⁶

The greater involvement of women in the Grove was a very significant change to occur during Rev. Miller's time at the Grove. They were not just involved in social events. They were on management committees. While Methodist had long been singing the hymns of Fannie Crosby (e.g., *Blessed Assurance*), leadership roles were denied women.

In 1972, the Ladies Aide Society refurbished the recreation hall to be a thrift store, the House O' Treasure N' Trash.¹⁶⁷ Originally a bakery. In 1989, it became a coffee shop.⁴⁷

1980 – The Society was very involved in opening of the Tilley playground, on Morris Ave.⁵¹

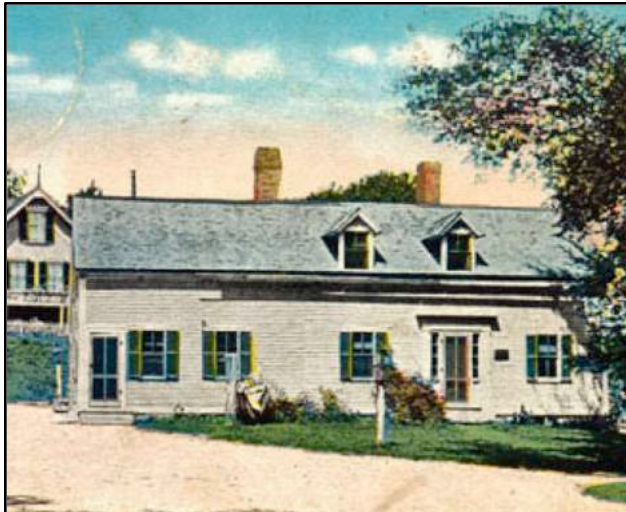
1983 – A dozen women, in advance of the Grove's 125th anniversary, led efforts to refurbish several of the Grove's historic buildings. They began by restoring the Wesley House. They went on to restore dormitories and cottages. Public buildings rehabilitated included a minister's cottage and a youth director's cottage.⁵

1985 – The Society helped refurbish the former post office that was being rented. Exterior changes included: decorated verge boards along the roofline and the front porch, more ornate front porch supports and removal of the two side entrances.

1989 – The Society helped move the thrift store back to the barn on Asbury Ave., where access by people outside the Grove was better than its previous location inside the Grove on Lee Park.

The average age of the sedulous volunteers was about 70. They were known as the "A Team,"⁵ for like the TV characters, they were "always acting on the side of good and helping the oppressed." The "A Team" disbanded in 1994. Its last project was refurbishing 12 Kingsley Ave.²⁰⁵

Another of the Grove's hard workers, Rev. Miller, decided to retire in 1993. Though in 1953, instructed to "gently close" the Grove, he magically gave it new life. He saw the possibility of better things for the community. He toiled for 40



Foreman's cottage, c1935, former Dodge farmhouse, 2 chimneys, 2 dormers, 2 front doors. Photo, Postcard

years to make his vision of a vibrant Grove come true.¹⁰

On Sep. 12, 1993, the President of the Board of Global Ministries, Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, preached at a vesper service. At the service, Rev. Miller tendered, his resignation.

Three years later, in 1998, Rev. Miller died: he was 78. His wife, affectionately known as Aunt Jay, remained at the Grove, where she died in 2016 (*she was 92*).⁸⁰



Refurbished, former Dodge farmhouse, 2015. 1 chimney, 3 dormers, 1 front door. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Circle



2016 the Stand. Much like the 1865 stand.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.



1917. Many trees, pine, in and behind
Stand. Photo, Courtesy Wenham Museum



2017. Fewer trees, no pine, beside the
benches. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



2016, amphitheater benches retain original layout.
Photo, J. Hauck



Entrance off of Highland St. a familiar sight to drivers passing by. Photo, J. Hauck.2017

21st Century

2000, a.k.a. Y2K, brought concern to the world about computers being able to change data from 1999 to 2000.

In the Grove, the concerns were far more mundane: how to bring the charm of the 1859 campground into the new century. Repairs were needed to cottages, community buildings and facilities, roads, and how to comply with State and town regulations and laws.

In 2000, the Grove held its 141st consecutive summer campground meeting. There were daily prayer meetings, daily meals served in the dining hall and people came from across New England.

Then, the repair work began.

In 2002, after more than 40 years of use, the Grove rebuilt its pool and children's wading pool. The pool's lining was replaced, the water system upgraded, and the bathhouse refurbished.

Also in 2002, the septic matter came to the attention of the State. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued an Administrative Consent Order requiring the Corporation, by the end of 2007, to upgrade septic systems in all the Grove's summer cottages and its community-owned buildings. The DEP said failure to do so would result in a fine of \$100 per day, for each failed house and building.^{14, 36}

The septic system repairs were a major financial burden for Grove residents. They had to pay for their own systems, and the Corporation assessed the cottage owners for septic system installed in the community buildings.^{14, 36}

Cottage owners, particularly the summer residents, were shocked. They only leased their residences for one-year, at a time.³⁶

What followed were many meetings involving the Corporation, cottage owners, town officials, lawyers and State officials.



Tabernacle, shown here in 1975, was updated in 2006. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society,.



Tabernacle can seat up to 2,000. Photo, R. Perham, 2017



Tabernacle stage built 1940 and updated in 1979 and 2006. Photo, R. Perham, 2017.

Tabernacle



Tabernacle became part of National Historic Places in 2009. Photo, J. Hauck, 2012

Cottage owners began holding various forms of income generating events. The Ladies Aid Society held several rummage sales.

The Grove did not meet the deadline, but the State granted it an 8-month extension.^{14, 36}

Concerns were not just about meeting State and town requirements. The tabernacle, located in the center of the Grove, by 2000, was in a very sorry state. Water damage was everywhere. Windows were broken. Tall weeds surrounded the building. The roof and cupola needed a lot of work.³⁵

In 2006, work began to refurbish the tabernacle.¹⁸ Improvements included: a new drainage system around the building; a new roof; reroofing the cupola; interior and exterior walls painted; windows reglazed and frames painted, clearing the area around the building of weeds and planting new shrubs; walkways repaired; new interior and exterior lighting; and the storage area rebuilt.^{21, 35}

Many volunteer hours went into restoring the tabernacle. Money came from many sources, including the Essex County National Heritage Foundation (\$5,000), the Hamilton Community Preservation Committee (\$26,000), many private contributions and there were pro bono engineering services.³⁵

In 2008, two streets were renamed. To eliminate confusion with Central Ave. in the former Our Retreat area off of Asbury St., the Corporation changed the name of Central Ave., in the Grove, to Central Pl.

For the same reason, Baker Ave. became Baker Pl.

In 2009, the Grove again had an organ.²⁰⁴ The matter of having an organ at the Grove was first mentioned in 1872.⁷³ An organ was added to the chapel following its construction in 1884. However, by 1916, it was "in very bad shape."²³⁶

Originally from Boston's Fenway Park, the organ was a 50-yr. old Hammond X66 electromechanical organ previously at the Grace United Methodist Church in Lynn. The organ's construction is ideal for the unwinterized chapel. Generator oil lubricates and protects the mechanical generator parts in the tone wheel.

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of continuous annual camp meetings, the Asbury Camp Meeting Corporation, in 2009, renovated several of the common buildings, including dining hall and the kitchen.⁹ The building's interior, not winterized, has unpainted wood framing, including a central row of chamfered wood columns, supporting a central horizontal beam. The walls are unpainted vertical boards.⁵



Dining hall was refurbished in 2009.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

A highlight of the 150th anniversary celebrations was the opening, by their owners, of 14 summer cottages to visitors. Also in 2009, the Asbury Grove Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, "in recognition of the religious, architectural, and cultural significance of its long history and strong heritage."³⁹

Delivering mail became much easier for the Postal Service in 2013, when it installed a one-stop, central mailbox station, with individual boxes for each residence. It is on Pleasant Avenue, next to the dining hall. Residents no longer had direct mail delivery to their residence.

In memory of George G. and Leafy M. Wallick, the Corporation created, in 2006, Wallick Memorial Park, in the area behind the Stand.²⁰⁴ The Wallicks were active for many years on various committees and coedited the Grove newspaper, Pine Echos.

A group of residents, wanting to preserve the Grove's history, documents and ambience, in 2012, formed the Asbury Grove Historical Society. It has a 4-member board of directors, cottage owners, and a 7-member board of trustees.¹⁹⁹ The Society became a 501 c3 organization, in 2015.

Not having a place to safely store its archival documents, the Historical Society, in 2012, arranged for the Grove's historical materials to be identified, cataloged and stored in a safe, controlled environment at the Boston University School of Theology Library, in Boston.

A vital service provided by the Historical Society is refurbishing abandoned historic cottages. Volunteers provide the labor and their skills. Money comes from donations and grants.

In 2012, the Historical Society restored 8 McClintock Ave. The Italianate cottage, built in 1893, originally was owned by the Harriet E. Currant.

In 2015, the Society began refurbishing 8 Baker Ave., the Victorian Gothic cottage of Theophilus H. Lewis, built in 1872. When done, the Corporation will sell the cottage.

The Society, from 2013 to 2016, refurbished the Victorian Gothic cottage at 9 Wesley Park into a museum. Built in 1880, the cottage provides an example of the interior of an early Grove cottage. It was dedicated in memory to the Jean Moody/Abbott/ Clough families.¹⁷⁵

In 2017, the Historical Society refurbished the Victorian Gothic cottage at 15 McClintock Ave. Built before 1880 and originally owned by Mrs. Archie L. Turner, it was sold that November.



Mail box center, built in 2013, on Pleasant Ave., eliminated home deliveries. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



11 McClintock Ave., refurbishing began in 2017 of the A. L. Prouty cottage. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



8 McClintock Ave., refurbished in 2012. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Refurbished Cottages



Interior of 9 Wesley Park, depicts how the interior of an early cottage appeared, before electricity. Photo, Asbury Grove Historical Society, 2017



Museum house, 9 Wesley Park, created in 2017, was named for Moody/Abbott/Clough families. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Fletcher Hall, former Swedish tabernacle, had major damage when snow-laden roof collapsed in March 2015. Building was later removed. Photo, AG Historical Society

In 2014, the Grove began re-furbishing the 87-year old Swedish Tabernacle on Hedding Ave. Improvements included: new heating, central air conditioning, enclosing of the front porch, and an upgraded septic system.⁴⁸

However, it all came to naught in March 2015, when the building, unoccupied, collapsed from the weight of snow on its roof.⁴⁸ "Inte bra," as a Swede might say.

Rescued from the collapsed

Ave. Taylor held this position until 2015.

The Corporation transferred the task of collecting property taxes from Grove residents to the Business Manager. The Treasurer previously collected taxes. The Business Manager, as part of the new position, hired people to work about the property, and oversaw the maintenance of rental buildings and cottages.²⁰⁵

Soon after Taylor became the Business Manager, he began having abandoned and deteriorated cottages removed and thereby improve the Grove's appearance. They were on Clark Ave. Kingsley Ave., Central Pl. and Morris Ave.²⁰⁵

In 2015, when Joan Wolkin became the Business Manager, the administration office moved to her house at 14 Essex Ave. The former farmhouse on Pleasant became a rental cottage.²⁰⁸



2 Essex Ave., became Business Manager's office in 2015. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Woodland Rest, Victorian style with gingerbread roof trim. Photo, A.B. Norton, c1909



Narrow cottages had steep roofs and elaborate detail. Photo, Postcard, c1910

Victorian Cottages



43 Central Pl., built in 1863.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



4 Clark Ave., built 1872.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



Asbury Grove, at front, has many year-round houses and summer cottages, top center, Photo, Bing maps, 2015

Today (2018)

As proclaimed on its website, "The purpose of Asbury Grove is to be a community which men, women, and young people come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This is to be accomplished through worship services, Bible study, youth programs, recreational programs and community life."

The front section of the Grove, as seen from Asbury Street and Highland Street consists of year-round houses. Most, formerly, were summer cottages.

To the left of the entrance and next to Highland Street is an open field. Originally, used as a paddock, it later became the streetcar station. Now it is used for yard sales and various other special summer events, including croquet tournaments, at which participants are dressed appropriately in white.

Asbury Ave., on the far left of the field, is a secondary entrance to the Grove. There also is an entrance on Skinner Avenue, off of Asbury Street.

At the back of the field is Maple Avenue. It has 3 year-round residences, built in the 1890s.

The main entrance has a wrought iron banner arching over Pleasant Avenue. It has the words "Asbury Grove." A cross is above the banner.

To the right of the entrance, there are two buildings: the former post office (*built >1879*); and a house that originally was the Dodge farmhouse (*built >1830*). Both now are rented residences.

Pleasant Avenue has a couple of speed bumps. Signs show a speed limit of 7 mph. Since the Grove does not have sidewalks, people walk on the streets.



All the houses on Pleasant Avenue are year-round residences. Most were built in the 20th century, the latest in 1982.

Intersecting Pleasant Avenue are narrow roads: Haven and Hamlin, on the left, and Essex on the right. Most of the residences were built following the 1927 fire.

At the end of Pleasant Avenue is the center of the Grove, the Lee Park area.

To the right of Pleasant Avenue, are the dining hall, coffee shop, Bates Library, E. Stanley Jones Chapel and the tabernacle. At noon, in this area, the chapel chimes play a chorus of hymns. In the center, there is a water pump in the middle of a small garden.

Across from the end of Pleasant Avenue, there are several year-round houses and intersections with 3 narrow roads, Mudge, Simpson

and Morris. Mudge and Morris bound the summer cottage section.

To the left, at the end of Pleasant Avenue, on Sunnyside Avenue, there are two parks. The first is where, until 1915, there was a police station and jail.²¹⁹ The police station was moved to the back of the grocery, where it was used to store wood and coal.²¹⁹ The area became a park with children's swings.²⁰⁰ Later, a wading pool was added. Next, a fountain with a light replaced the pool. Several years later, a flowerbed and benches replaced the lighted fountain.²⁰⁵

Behind the park is a dense stand of tall hemlock, reminiscent of how the entire Grove once looked.

On the south end of the park, there is the George and Leafy Wallick memorial stone. A streetlight, on the park, is a replica of kerosene lamps the Grove originally used.



Recreation field, created about 1965.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2014

Parks



Pleasant Park is about where police station was until 1929. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Memorial Park occupies what was part of Circle behind the stand until leveled by the 1927 fire. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



Wallick memorial stone
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Across from the Memorial Park, on the far side of Sunnyside Avenue, is the stand and the amphitheater seating area. The current capacity is about 400. Several hemlock trees are among the rows of seats, just as there were pines when the Grove began.

The circle originally around the amphitheater is now a circle only in name. All that remains is a short section. The major fire in 1927 destroyed everything behind the stand.^{19, 31} Further, there is no portion of the circle on the west side of the amphitheater.

There is only a portion of the circle on the east side. The first building is the former Wakefield House: it is now a private residence.

Next, there is the committee building. The committee office has been at several locations, during the many years. At first, in a tent on the Circle; next in a building on the Circle; and then in other buildings around the Grove, before returning to the Circle.

The building retains its Victorian Gothic detailing, front-facing gable, and decorated ornate verge boards. The porch has a hip roof over a bay window. Above the porch is a small, semi-circular window. Gone from the building's original design are: the raised porch, steps and railing. Also the entrance was switched from one side to the other.⁵

Next to the office building are the Jesse Lee (*a.k.a. Lynn Common*) House and the Wesley House. Both closely resemble the original structures. There now are 4 society hous-



Well at Lee Park was one of many in the Grove.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

es remaining in the Grove: Swampscott House (*built 1875*) now is a private residence at 32 Central Ave.; the Wakefield House (*originally known as Maple St. House, built 1875*) that is now a summer rental at 10 Circle; the Lynn Common House (*a.k.a. Jesse Lee Hall, built c. 1875*); and Tapleyville (*a.k.a. Wesley House, built 1904*). All the buildings have been updated with porches, side and rear additions, and other improvements.

A narrow road between the Jesse Lee and Wesley houses connects with Central Avenue.

The Grove's avenues are narrow and lined with colorful and quaint small cottages. From October 31 to April 15, chains bar vehicle travel on the narrow roads that intersect with the Lee Park area. While these roads are open to vehicle traffic the rest of the year, it is best to travel by foot, for there are no areas to park and the narrow avenues make passing oncoming vehicles very difficult. A few of the original avenues no longer are passable by vehicles.

In the woods, we return to reason
and faith. Ralph Waldo Emerson

There are no sidewalks. Neither is there a common parking lot; residents and visitors park their vehicles wherever they find space.⁴

There is little formal landscaping, either by individual cottage owners or by the Association. Some cottage owners add plantings to the common grounds and individual lots.⁵

There are 20 roads, paved for the most part. Nearly all are called avenues and basically follow the same pattern, as the original configuration. Many of the paths are gone: Bellingham, Fisk, Fletcher, Hamilton Park (*now Robson Circle*), Highland, Ipswich, Kibby, Olin, Pine, Pilgrim's Rest and Prospect.

Most were not restored following the 1927 fire. Paths destroyed by the fire, but rebuilt are: Asbury, Haven, Hamlin, Essex, Prospect, Skinner and Hedding.³¹ McClintock no longer reaches Morris; there is a break in the recreation area; Hamlin and Highland extensions are gone; Simpson Avenue now reaches Wesley Park; and the Ipswich Path, a way between Central and Morris is gone.



Reminder of the past. There were many outhouses around the property.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



5 Wesley Park, built 1872, has Mansard roof. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017.

All the Gents and Ladies walks are gone. A reminder of the former gents is a path off of Morris that leads to the recreation area;

New paths are: the extension of Asbury Avenue to Sunnyside Avenue; the extension of the path behind the stand to intersect with the extension of Asbury Avenue; and the extension of Simpson Avenue to McClintock Avenue

During the winter, Grove staff plow the avenues that are not in the summer section. Residents shovel their walkways and parking spaces.

There are 153 cottages in the Grove: 118 were built before the 1927 Mothers' Day fire. Since the fire, 29 cottages have been built. Most are on small lots, averaging 30x50 ft. Some occupy multiple lots.

There are about 90 summer cottages; some are rented. 63 cottages and houses are winterized for year-round use.⁹ All the year-round and seasonal cottages and houses have plumbing and septic systems.

Many year-round residents came to the Grove early in the 1950s. Looking for inexpensive housing in the Hamilton area, some were married students at Hamilton's Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Ted Johnson, the Grove superintendent, had a few of the summer cottages, on Asbury Avenue, converted to year-round use: the street became known as Gordon Alley.²⁰⁵

The use of Grove houses year-round was never foreseen by the original builders. The small cottages left little space for adding insulation. There were no electrical systems and few cottages had any form of heating. Foundations were for lightweight structures.

The initial attraction of the Grove was its idyllic nature. Reportedly, in 1858, Rev. L. R. Thayer upon first seeing the pine grove exclaimed, "This is the place!"²⁷

Pine trees once stood very tall at the Grove, many over 100 ft. high. The religious fervor of the 19th century campers also stood tall and proud. Inside the confines of the pine tree forest, campers felt free to openly exhibit their joy and excitement of being among many fellow Christian believers.

Slowly, with the shift from olive-drab tents, the attraction turned to the fanciful colors and designs of cottages. The Grove campground became a village.

Cottages began as more sturdy replacements for tents prone to the effects of rain and wind. They were called cottages, not cabins: at the time, cottage had the connotation of a holiday home.

Today's cottages retain the platforms on which tents once stood. The original cedar posts for the plat-



12 Central Pl., built 1871, one of several cottages with Mansard roof.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

forms have been replaced with concrete pillars. Trellis panels still cover the sides of most platforms.

Side-by-side, cottages now line the Grove's paths in the summer area. Some cottages are less than 10-ft. apart.

Since first built, cottages have been modified and expanded. However, many cottages retain elements of their original architecture and of changes made up through 1926.



R Blue Heaven, architecture of refurbished 50 Mudge Ave., similar to original design, although color scheme different.
Photo, Ruth Hager, 2014



3 Central Pl., built <1880.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



43 Central Pl., built 1871.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



4 Clark Ave., built c1872.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



37 Central Pl., built <1900.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Gingerbread Trim



6 Mt. Zion Ave., built 1872.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



36 Mudge Ave., built <1880.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Building a "permanent" cottage rather than erecting a temporary tent meant the added expense of renting a lot for a year instead of a week. The annual rent for an 18 x 25 ft. tent lot was \$3; for a week it was \$1. Laborers, in 1870, earned less than \$10 for a 60-hr. week.

Many of the earliest cottages had a 12-ft. width and some 14-ft. Most, such as 43 Baker Ave., had a steeply pitched roof, typical of Victorian Gothic architecture. This design provided standing room on the upper floor that served as a bedroom. Further, the steep pitch allowed winter snow to slide off, rather than pile up and cause roof collapse.

A few cottages had a Gambrel roof, typical of the Dutch Colonial architecture. Double pitched on each

side, this design also provided more headroom, as well as useful floor space on the upper floor and also adverted snow buildup. 12 Central Ave., built in 1871, has a Gambrel roof, also called a hip roof.

A very different roof is on 17 Thompson Ave., which was built in 1874. It has double-pitched surfaces on all 4 sides. Called a Mansard roof, it is typical of the 2nd Empire architecture that became popular around the time the Grove began to have cottages.

Wood shingles covered the roofs. Low-cost shingles had recently become available with a new manufacturing method, steam-powered saws. It was not until 1910 that Asphalt shingles were used.

Dormers, of various designs, were a later addition to some cottages. They provided light and ventilation to second floor rooms. The narrow dormer on 12 Central Ave. has an extended roof overhang and an arched window above a single casement window.

The first cottages were of utilitarian design. However, another new manufacturing technology, band saws, allowed carpenters to give cottages a special charm, by adding the so-called "ginger bread" verge boards. There are numerous designs. More elaborate examples are: 43 Central Ave., 4 Clark Ave., 13 and 23 Mudge Ave.

Running trim also was on horizontal lines, including eaves, and both window and door casings. Railing systems on porches had decorative balusters.



Side-by-side, cottages on Kingsley Avenue were less than 10-ft. apart.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1974



50 Mudge Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck



12 Central Pl.
Photo, J. Hauck



17 Thompson Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck



15 Central Pl.
Photo, J. Hauck

Front Doors

Many of the roofs had deep eave overhangs. Generally, the large overhang was to keep rain water off the exterior walls: the cottages did not have gutters. The extended eaves, such as those on 4 Clark Ave., built about 1872, have ornate verge boards. Besides being functional, the extended eaves allow shadows of the ornate verge boards to be more prominent on cottage fascia.

Gable peaks on some cottages also were decorated. Examples that remain are: 6 and 33 Mt. Zion Ave., 23 Mudge Ave., and 5 Wesley Park.

The narrow width of many of the early cottages affected window sizes. In place of the standard 24-in. wide triple-pane window were narrow, 19-in. wide double-pane windows.

Adding prominent hoods gave an

appearance of larger size. As did decorative window surrounds and shutters. Examples of this are at 27 Mt. Zion Ave., 9 Thompson Ave., and 8 McClintock Ave. A few cottages have double 19-in. windows, e.g., 4 Clark Ave., 27 and 33 Mt. Zion Ave., and 28 Mudge Ave.

Of particular note among cottages with narrow windows are 46 Morris Ave. and 15 Central Ave. Both have Lancet windows: tall, narrow windows with a pointed arch at the top. The design was characteristic of Victorian Gothic architecture.

9 Thompson, Italianate design, has an Oriel window on the upper level. It protrudes from the cottage face and is braced underneath by decorative corbels (*brackets*). The cottage also has a bay window of similar design, on a first floor side.



15 Central Pl.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



17 Thompson Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



43 Central Pl..
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



9 Thompson Ave. .
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Windows



48 Mudge Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Doors for most of the early cottages did not have glass panes. The entry design was fairly simple. Some cottages had decorated sideboards and bracketed or pediment hoods, such as Blessed at 50 Mudge Ave. A unique design is the lancet shape that surrounds the front door at 15 Central Ave. It corresponds to the cottage's lancet window surrounds.

Cottage windows and front doors, did not have screens until the 1890s. During the Civil War, the modern window screen was invented by a Connecticut company. Homeowners nailed the wire cloth to the wooden window and doorframes. By the end of the 19th century, E. T. Burrowes & Co., Portland, ME, was the largest manufacturer of window screens.

An early addition to the 1870s cottages was a front porch. Fairly simple and narrow, at first, a porch was a place to sit and enjoy the wooded surroundings and also to converse with people passing by. Flat and low-pitched roofs were common. Later changes were the introduction of intricately designed railings and

brackets, and turned posts. These are seen on the cottages of Victorian Gothic and Second Empire architecture. Porches were not enclosed.

With the Grove's uneven grounds, the front of many cottages was elevated above the street. Steps generally were 5 or less. An exception is 2 Maple Ave.: 7 steps.

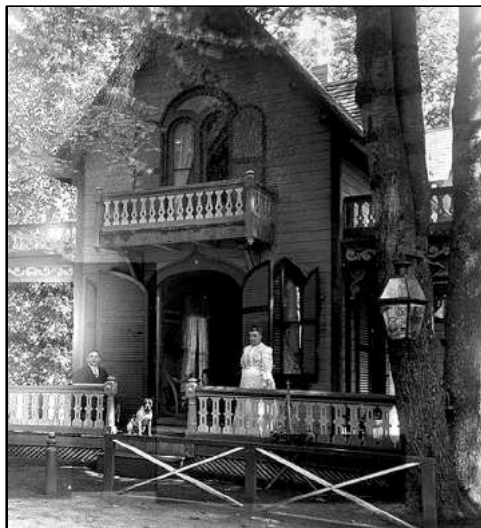
The standard siding for the early cottages was over-lapping clapboards. Some cottages, particularly Gothic designs, had wide vertical, tongue-in-groove boards, a few with batten to cover the spaces between the boards. Vertical siding was less expensive than horizontal siding.

Examples of vertical siding are: 5 Thompson Ave., 4 Clark Ave., 26 Central Ave., 21 and 28 Mudge Ave. The vertical siding on 43 Central Ave. has upper and lower sections,

Wood shingles were used to side some cottages. For the most part, the shingling was not the elaborate designs of Queen Anne architecture; however, 9 Essex Ave. has some decorative shingling on the upper front fascia.

Owners of some early cottages, wanting to blend into their forest surroundings, did not paint them. The first to be painted likely used muted colors, including red-rust, dark gray, sometimes pale yellow or stained a dark hue, such as 8 Clark Ave.

However, as a greater number of paint colors became available, but still expensive, they were used in a limited way to highlight the trim. Then, as paint costs declined, cottage owners, perhaps as a way to exhibit their joy of being with friends in worship, painted their cottages in many different bright hues and shades of each: yellow, red, blue, green, purple, orange, brown, pink,



Elaborate cottages were built in early 1900s. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society, 1907



Greek Revival, 57 Mudge Ave.,
built 1882. Photo, J. Hauck 2017



Italianate, 16 Clark Ave., built 1870.
Photo, Asbury Grove Corp.

Many Styles



Italianate, 9 Thompson, built 1871.
Photo, Asbury Grove Corp.



Victorian Gothic, 33 Mudge Ave., built 1870.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015.



2nd Empire, 17 Thompson Ave.,
built c1874. Photo, J. Hauck, 2015.



Queen Anne, 9 Essex Ave. built
1892 . Photo, J. Hauck, 2016.

grey and cream, and sometimes used multiple colors, including one hue for the fascia and another for the trim.

Nationwide, the use of different colors to paint houses became known as the "painted lady style." In the Grove, an example is 33 Mudge Ave.

Cottage names, in some cases, are linked to their color: yellow 10 Mt. Zion Ave. is Butter Cup; and blue 2 Merrill Ave. is Blue Note. Other winsome names are: , 2 Mt. Zion Ave. Heaven Scent, 6 Mt. Zion Ave.; Happily Ever After, 39 Mt. Zion Ave.; Angel's Rest , 57 Mudge Ave.; Rejoice, Wee Ouse, 14 Lee Park; Ave.

Cottages did not have chimneys. Only to be occupied during the summer, there was no need for heat and the Grove provided cooked meals. Later, cottages began to have wood-burning stoves and exterior ventilating pipes.

As the use of the cottages grew from a week or less to the entire summer and, then, to year round, the size of cottages became higher, wider, and more complex with additions, and more like houses than cottages. In some cases, the changes made the original cottage hard to discern.

The oldest cottages remaining are 13 and 33 Mudge Ave., built in 1870. Not all the residences in the Grove are 19th and 20th century structures. There are a few relatively new houses. The most recently built houses are at 11 Asbury Ave. and 17 Hedding Ave., both in 2010, and 2 Haven, in 2011.

There are a few bungalows in the Grove. They are single-story buildings, with a low-pitched roof and a



Recreation Area has pools, tennis courts, basketball court, ball field and more.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

porch across the front. These include 61 Morris Ave., built 1950, and 22 Hamlin Ave., built 1930.

Following the 1927 fire, many cottages were built. Town records show 38 built in 1930,⁷² but the year is an approximation. Most were erected on previous cottage lots and they basically retain the Victorian style. However, a few, such as 22 Hamlin Ave., are bungalows. Most of the 1930 cottages were built outside the summer section.

Not only were there fewer cottages. Most of the very tall pine trees are gone. There are shorter pines and a large hemlock stand to the left of Pleasant Avenue. Scattered about the property are other hemlock and maple and oak trees.

With the disappearance of the tall pines, many areas now are open to the sun. This has allowed an introduction of more flowering trees.

In the early years of the 1900s, the Grove sold apples grown on a small orchard on the Asbury Street side of the property.²⁴⁴ The last report of an apple crop was in 1917.²⁶⁷



9 Central Pl., built 1873.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



28 Mudge Ave., built 1870.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

Many Colors



26 Morris Ave., built 1902.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



10 Mt. Zion Ave., built 1873.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



32 Mudge Ave., built 1876.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

In 2017, the Asbury Grove Historical Society, in memory of Rev. Miller and his wife, Jay, planted a dogwood tree on the Circle, in front of the former youth chapel called Beulah Land (*Isaiah 62:4*). The Millers spent a lot of time in the former cook-house working with youth programs. Jay Miller was a leader in gathering money to refurbish what originally was the Grove's tax office and later an arts and crafts shop.

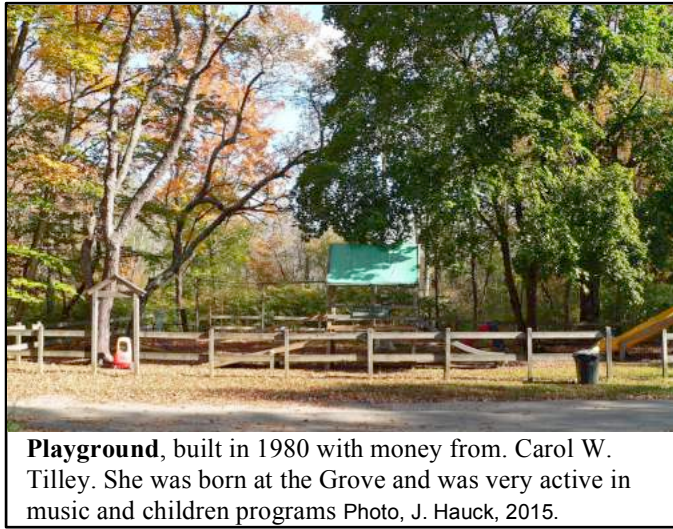
Maintaining the charm of the buildings in the Grove's old section will become more difficult with the passing of time. Being more than a hundred years old, the cottages require ongoing repair and updating.

The cottages do not have the amenities of life that people want when vacationing. Some of the year-round houses have air conditioners, but none of the summer cottages. They do not have the proper electrical requirements.

A significant difference of the current Grove, from the Grove of the 1860s to 1880s, is the number of recreation facilities now available. Intersecting Lee Park, at the west end, is Morris Avenue. A short way along this road, on the right, is a road to the Jay Miller Recreation Area.

This section has a large swimming pool, wading pool, a basketball court, tennis courts, a volleyball court, horseshoe pits and a large picnic area and sports field.

The pool is open every afternoon on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For small children,



Playground, built in 1980 with money from. Carol W. Tilley. She was born at the Grove and was very active in music and children programs Photo, J. Hauck, 2015.

there is a large wading pool. Non-Grove residents, who pay an annual fee, can use the pool.

In 1980, the family of Carol W. Tilley gave money for expanding and refurbishing a new children's playground on Morris Avenue. She was born at the Grove and was very active in music and children programs.

The Long Green Line

The history of the Grove is more than the history of places and structures. While not always living in the same cottage, several generations have made the verdant Grove their home and a better home for others.

Ethel S. Joslin (1901–1992) said, in 1976, her grandfather, Frederick Stetson, pitched the family's first tent in 1859. In 1866, Clarabel Stetson, her mother, was 6 months old and slept on a straw filled tick, during services.³⁴ Later, the Stetsons summered at 8 Baker Ave.

Clarabel married Arthur W. Joslin, in 1898. He was a well-known builder. They lived in Boston and came to the Grove for the summer camp meetings, living at 9 Essex Ave., which Joslin Built.²⁰⁴



Participants, 1930s, no longer separated by sex, but still formally dressed at services held in the Circle.
Photo, Past Times

There is a long history of the *Johnson family* erecting and refurbishing buildings in the Grove. In the late 1890s, Erik T. and Olga M. began coming for summer camp meetings. Born in Sweden, they lived in Malden, where he was a builder. In 1901, the Johnsons brought their infant son, Theodore E., to a meeting held by Swedish families at the Swedish Tabernacle on Skinner Avenue.²⁰⁵ After it burned in the 1927 fire. Erik basically built, a year later, the second Swedish tabernacle.²⁰⁴

In 1945, Theodore (*Ted*) Johnson became the Grove's Grounds Superintendent. He lived with his family in the former Dodge farmhouse.

After his wife, Ella, died Johnson moved to his daughter's house, at 354 Asbury St.²⁰⁵

A few years later, 1950, Johnson moved back to the Grove. He lived at 5 Pleasant Ave., on the lot of the Arthur H. Plumer house, destroyed in the 1927 fire.²⁰⁵

Johnson, beginning in 1956, took over directing the Grove's annual cantata. The hour-long program involved 25 people. As a child coming to the Grove, Johnson first heard a

cantata performance.²⁴⁶
The superintendent for 28 years, he was the longest serving. He died in 1998.²⁰⁵

His daughter, Karen Zagorski, moved to at 5 Pleasant Ave., where she lived until her death in 2018. Five of her children and their children live in and near the Grove. In 2014, her son Stephen Zagorski helped refurbish the Swedish tabernacle, then called

Fletcher Hall.

Albourne F. (1855–1913) and Annie E. (Carnes) (1857–1930) Furbush began coming to the Grove, from Nahant, in the early 1890s. The first of their 12 children Albourne (1877–1967) came with his parents for summer camp meetings, as did the others, with the family staying at a society house.²⁰⁴

Six of the Furbush children eventually owned Grove cottages. Albourne wed Eliza (*Elizabeth*) (1879–1962) P. Garland in 1898 and lived at 16 Morris Ave.; Effie M. (1882–1977) wed Guy Hall (1882–1968) and lived at 22 Lee Park; Grace G. (1892–1986) wed Arthur Anderson and lived at 14 Lee Park; Zelma R. (1894–1965) wed Lee Farnsworth (1893–1954) and lived at 18 Lee Park; and Marjorie L. (1900–1997) wed Harold P. Gard (1900–1977) and lived at 5 Mudge.²⁰⁴

Several Grove families are descendants of the Furbush families.

Effie and Guy Hall had two children, Marjorie L. and Wendell P.

Marjorie (1904–1968) wed Harold Gard (1900–1997), in 1924. They summered at 5 Mudge Ave.

Wendall (1909–2000) wed Annie M. Parsons (1910–1989), in 1931, and lived at 3 Thompson and later 5 Mudge. Their daughter, Priscilla (1931), wed William Crowell (1924–1908). They bought 6 Kingsley Ave., in 1959, and soon after moved to 48 Mudge Ave. They had four children: Gail, Susan, William and Robert.

Gail (1952) wed Edward T. Holland. She lived 48 Mudge Ave.

Susan L. (1959) wed Daniel J. Moniz. They bought 6 Lee Park, in 1996.

Albourne and Eliza Furbush daughter Shirlie (1889–1964) wed Robie Annis in 1909. They lived at 1 Wesley Park.

Shirlie and Robie Furbush had five daughters: Frances, Grace, Wilma, Carol and Natassa V., who wed Herbert E. Walsh. They summered at 26 Lee Park and later moved to 11 Mt. Zion Ave. Their son, Stephen, married Carolyn Lucas, in 1962. First living at 11 Mt. Zion Ave., they had three children: Nancy, Richard and Linda.²⁰⁴

Richard wed Tiera A. Zanuccoli, in 1988. They rented 3 Thompson Ave. Son Jeffery wed Dallas M. Niedzwiecki in 2014. In 2016, their son Ford became the 7th generation of the Furbush family.²⁰⁴

Shirlie and Robie Furbush's daughter Carol W. (1924–1994) wed Chestley Tilley (1921–2010), in 1949. They bought 8 Hedding in 1962. Bradford (1950), Brian (1953) and Beth (1958) are children of Carol and Chestley Tilley.²⁰⁴

Members of these families were very active in the Grove's management and its services. They served as Corporation officers (*Robie W. Annis, Vice President*), and participated on many committees, including vespers, grounds, finances, Ladies Aide, worship, legal, and the newsletter. Some also performed in talent shows at the tabernacle.²⁰⁴

During the years Shirlie Furbush lived in Lynn, her best friend was Leafy M. Wynaught. She married George G. Wallick and about 1952 they bought 27 Central Ave. Their son George A. and his wife, Zelma, lived at 424 Asbury St. and then at 29 Central Ave.; son Thomas E. and wife, Maria A., live at 14 Pleasant; another son, George A. Jr., lives at 51 Robson.²⁰⁴

Traditions have played a key role in building the strong family relationships between generations at the Grove, which is the oldest operating Methodist camp meeting ground, east of the Mississippi.⁵ (*Note: Lake Creek Camp Meeting, in Missouri, began in 1843.*)



Crowell cottage, 48 Mudge Ave., built 1873.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



Unusual decorations are on a few cottages, here farm animals and flowers, and a dragon.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

The tradition of prayer meetings remains strong at the Grove. In addition to the regular Sunday vespers, at the stand, there are Thursday evening prayer meetings, Sunday evening hymn sings, Sunday school, men's class, ladies' class, and a Ladies Aid and Bible Study.¹⁰

While the Grove is no longer a Methodist community, the emphasis on religion remains and new residents must be an active member of a Christian church. Each summer, cottage owners return to the Grove, although in dwindling numbers (*about 150 regular attendees*), for a short retreat from their everyday lives.⁵

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is both mainline protestant and evangelical. Founded in 1968 by the union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the UMC's beginning traces back to the revival movement of John and Charles Wesley, within the Church of England.

Late in the 18th century, Methodism, in the colonies, separated from the Anglican Church. In the 20th century, the UMC emphasis centered on "con-

nexion." The UMC website defines "connexion" as the principle that: all leaders and congregations are connected in a network of loyalties and commitments that support, yet supersede, local concerns.

People Difference

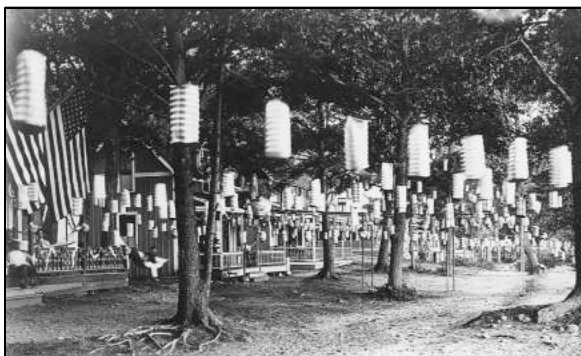
The world outside the Grove is not the same as the 19th century age of industrialization. Now, large numbers of people do not flee to the Grove to escape the trials of crowded city life. They mainly come to participate in religious activities in a community of fellow believers.

The vocations of current residents are similar to many those of the early campers. There are retired tradesmen, business people, doctors, teachers, lawyers, accountants, and shop keepers,

No longer are the summer residents predominantly from the greater Boston to Lynn area. Many are from various parts of New England; however, there also are those from other parts of the country, including Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Minnesota, Virginia and Georgia.

Religious services, discussions and testimony do not dominate the days. Cottage life replaces tent life and its closeness to nature. Many summer residents work on their cottages to bring them back to their old charm. Volunteers assist on abandoned cottages that the Historic Society refurbishes.

Formality is gone. The 19th and early 20th century rigid observance of rules of convention or etiquette have faded away. Religious services do



Lanterns night was held the Saturday before the camp meeting began. Japanese lanterns or other sources of light hung at front of cottages.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

not have large numbers of worshippers dressed in their "Sunday best." Appearing at services is more important than appearance.

People do not wander about the narrow avenues, as was common in the past, occasionally stopping to talk with people sitting on porches. However, residents often speak out, with friendly greetings, to people they do not recognize.

The Grove's summer section opens Apr. 15 and closes Nov 1.

The Saturday before the camp meeting begins, there is an illumination night. Residents light their cottages with white or colored Japanese lanterns, candles or other sources of light. This event began when the Grove did not have electrical lights.

No longer is there, in the summer, a huge influx of people to the Grove, but the camp meetings are still held, for one week. They include daily worship services, and guest speakers. Weekly public worship services are held during the summer months at the stand.

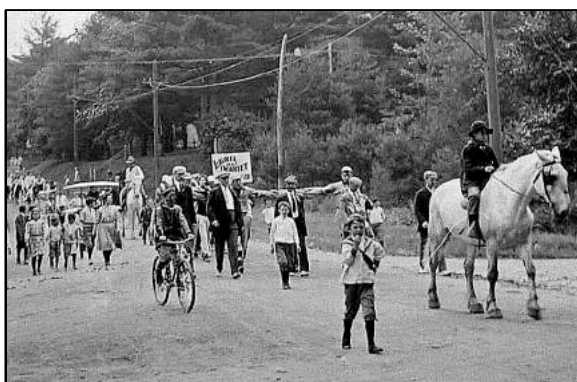
Daily community dining during the summer is gone. However, on Saturday evenings, during July and August, many people gather for dinner at the dining hall.

Throughout the summer, the Grove sponsors a variety of social events, in addition to their religious activities.⁵ The "big event" is a lobster bake, sponsored by the Association. Held, the last Saturday of July or first Saturday of August, on the green next to the dining room, it is open to visitors.

On July 4, at 1 p.m., the Grove hosts a parade that includes costumed children and adults. The Grove parade began in 1900.³⁴ In the 1920s, it was held on Governor's Day, when the governor came to the Grove. At one such event, it was said of Governor Alvan T. Fuller that, "No old-time evangelist could have pleaded the cause of righteousness with more passion and religious sincerity than did the governor of this commonwealth."⁴

Also in July, the second Saturday evening, there is an auction.

The "official" end to the Grove's summer season is a Labor Day Cookout.



Parade on July 4th, began in 1900.
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



27 Asbury Ave., built 1950c.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



23 Pleasant Ave., built 1959.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



2 Maple Ave., built 1930 .
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



4 Asbury Ave., built 1978.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Year-round Houses



19 Pleasant Ave., built 1950.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



41 The Circle, built 1935
Photo, Hamilton Assessors



1 Haven Ave., built 1895.
Photo, Hamilton Assessors



14 Lee Park, built 1871.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2015



5 Pleasant Ave., built 1950c.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



3 Haven Ave., built 1930.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2013

Year-round Houses



2 Lee Park, built 1878.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



61 Morris Ave., built 1950c, has deco-
rated verge boards on roof.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Year-Round Residents

Of the 153 cottages, 63 are year-round houses that surround the summer-cottage area. Many of the houses retain elements of their original cottage construction.

Since the end of WW2, 28 houses have been built, 4 since 2000.

In 2017, 180 people were year-round residents in the Grove. During the summer months, about 170 more people live there.²⁰⁸

What began as a brief summer campground in Hamilton has become a major source of tax income for the town. Hamilton, in 2016, assessed the property in the Grove at \$8.1 million.⁷² This covered the land, Corporation buildings and facilities and the privately owned houses and cottages.

None of the private residences in the Grove are assessed above \$500,000; only 31 are assessed above \$100,000. Most residences are assessed well below \$50,000.⁷²

At the 2006 Hamilton Annual Town Meeting, a resident inquired if the relatively low assessed value of housing units in the Grove allowed them to be counted towards the town's affordable housing requirement, as established, in 1969, by the Massachusetts Comprehensive Care Act, chapter 40B.

Towns are required to have a minimum number of affordable residences. (*Affordable housing is a unit that can be*



Dragon parade. In October, residents carry a dragon along the Grove's streets. The dragon, in Chinese culture, is believed to possess qualities that include great power, dignity, fertility and wisdom. After the parade, the dragonhead is placed on the roof of a cottage on Mudge Ave. that has the dragon's body on its sides (*see below*).
Photo, L. G. Young

purchased or rented by a household making up to 80% of the median income of the area.)

If a town has less than 10%, developers can build projects that do not comply to the town's building requirements.



Dragon house – 57 Mudge Ave.
Photo, J. Hauck 2017

Hamilton, in 2015, had about 2,700 total housing units, but less than 3% (72) met the requirements for being affordable.⁷⁷

A major problem with the Grove's cottages being eligible for the town's affordable housing is that they are affiliated with an organized religious group. Further, cottages cannot be sold or rented without approval of the Asbury Grove's Admissions Committee. Besides removing this agreement, owners would have to agree to resale price restrictions.

Initially, Hamilton provided the Grove with weekly garbage pickup from a central location. The service included trash, recycling and compost pickup. The Corporation placed dumpsters on Asbury Avenue, by the barn. Residents brought trash to the dumpsters.

In 2016, garbage began to be collected directly at all the year-round buildings and from May to October at all the summer, cottages. (*Quite a task considering the large size of the truck and the narrow roads.*)

Overseeing the Grove's operation is the Asbury Camp Meeting Corporation Board of Directors. The Corporation has: 4 officers and 5 classes of 6 lay persons and 1 pastor each, and the District Superintendent of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. The chaplain, the Business Manager, the President of the Cottage Owners Association, and the President of the Ladies Aid participate, as ex-officio members. The Corporation meets



Garbage collection, weekly, throughout the Grove, began in 2016. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017.

twice a year, in June and October.²⁰⁸

The Board of Directors includes the 4 officers, the chairs of committees, 3 at large members, the chaplain and the Business Manager. The directors serve 1-year terms and are elected at the annual meeting.²⁰⁸

Standing committees include: Grounds, Admissions, Finance, Safety and Security, Ways and Means, Recreation, Public Worship, and Nominating. The Board meets quarterly, or as needed.²⁰⁸

Paid employees include the Business Manager, grounds superintendent, Chaplain, treasurer, secretary, and, during the summer, the youth directors, pool administrator, lifeguards and a Massachusetts Certified Pool Operator.²⁰⁸

Cottage owners pay the Corporation a land rent based on the 'foot print' of their cottage, not the size of the lot. Owners are allowed to use the land on which their cottage stands for gardens, parking and patios. The owners pay for their utilities directly to the suppliers.²⁰⁸



17 Hedding Ave., built 2010, has basement and garage.
Photo, J. Hauck 2017

21st Century Houses



1 Skinner Ave., built 2009, replaced cottage of Mrs. Augustus Rutherford built before 1880, Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



11 Asbury Ave., built 2010.
Photo, Hamilton Assessors



2 Haven Ave., built 2011.
Photo, J. Hauck 2017

Hamilton sends a single tax bill to the Corporation. The bill includes the tax for each cottage and the Corporation-owned properties. The residences pay the tax bill to the Corporation, which sends all the tax payments to the town. In 2016, the Grove paid \$482,290 in taxes. A decade earlier, in 2005, the Grove paid \$81,176, in taxes.

The Corporation quarterly, charges the cottage owners an operating fee that is different for year-round and summer residences. The fee covers administrative costs, maintenance of the Corporation buildings, roads, and public areas. It also includes water charges for the summer residences. Year-round residences pay their own water bills.

The Corporation has a lease for each property and establishes rules and regulations for cottage owners and the operation of programs. When cottages are sold, no covenants go along with them. However, all owners must have a 3-year lease of the land, which stipulates that they will abide by the rules of the Corporation.

Before a cottage can be rented or purchased, either as a summer cottage or a year-round residence, the buyer or renter must go before the Admissions Committee. All interested parties must be a Christian to apply to live in the Grove.

All cottage owners belong to the Asbury Grove Cottage Owners Association. Meetings are held the Saturday closest to July 4, and the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. The Association president brings issues of the cottage owners to appropriate Corporation committees. Following the Labor Day meeting, the cottage owners and the members of the Corporation meet together.

The Asbury Grove Grounds Committee's duties include maintaining lighting on the property, sale or lease of cottages owned by the Corporation, road repair, and use of Corporation buildings for special events and approving cottage septic systems.

Cottage owners are encouraged to adhere to the Victorian cottage theme when undertaking any work, although there are no preservation incentives or regulations.



Sunday Service, 2004 – "Great spiritual victories have been won on this hallowed spot, and it may be that, as its friends think, more souls have been emancipated from sin here than in any other place in New England. Whether this is so or not can hardly be determined, but it is certain that great multitudes will have reason to all eternity to thank God for Asbury Grove." Rev. James Mudge, 1910

Photo, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle

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- 153 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 721, pg. 15
- 154 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 745, pg. 221
- 155 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 745, pg. 232
- 156 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 773, pg. 222
- 157 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 773, pg. 223
- 158 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 808, pg. 99
- 159 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 798, pg. 296
- 160 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 808, pg. 49
- 161 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 819, pg. 84
- 162 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 832, pg. 201
- 163 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1114, pg. 271
- 164 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1125, pg. 76
- 165 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1408, pg. 415
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- 169 – Asbury Grove, Bev Even Times, Aug. 25, 1914.
- 170 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jan. 9, 1884
- 171 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Sep. 26, 1883
- 172 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jan. 1, 1878
- 173 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Feb. 21, 1887
- 174 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jun. 12, 1887.
- 175 – Asbury Grove Historical Society.
- 176 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1,088, pg. 135.
- 177 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 3,917, pg. 82
- 178 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jan. 9, 1889
- 179 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1,042, pg. 79
- 180 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1,044, pg. 27
- 181 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1, plan 95
- 182 – Search of buyers Salem Registry of Deeds
- 183 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 3,165, Bk. 259
- 184 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 2,441, pg. 117

- 185 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jul. 3, 1876.
- 186 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jun. 21, 1885.
- 187 – 1905 Hamilton Annual Report.
- 188 – Ted Johnson, Times Past, 1988.
- 189 – Frank Newall, Times Past, 1989.
- 190 – Grove changes over time, Hamilton–Wenham Chronicle,
- 191 – Victorious Living, Eli Stanley Jones, Abington Press, New York, NY. 1936
- 192 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Corp.
- 193 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 2,899, pg. 583
- 194 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk 3,937, pg. 528
- 195 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk 3,900, pg. 30
- 196 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Jan. 8, 1894
- 197 – Celebrations, Setbacks & Survival, Hamilton–Wenham Chronicle, Aug. 19, 2004.
- 198 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, May 4, 1899
- 199 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 13, 1896
- 200 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Sep. 26, 1899.
- 202 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 8, 1894
- 203 – Leigh Keyser
- 204 – Stephen Walsh
- 205 – Karen Zagorski
- 206 – Linda Graves Young
- 207 – Bill Zoldak
- 208 – Joan Wolkin
- 209 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 2, 1900
- 210 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 8, 1901
- 211 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 29, 1901
- 212 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Oct. 11, 1861.
- 213 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Aug. 1, 1864.
- 214 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 11, 1912
- 215 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 23, 1913
- 216 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 11, 1912.
- 217 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Oct. 9, 1912.
- 218 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 18, 1913
- 219 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 25, 1915
- 220 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 28, 1913
- 221 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, May 31, 1915
- 222 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jul. 17, 1915
- 223 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, May 30, 1927
- 224 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1930
- 225 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Nov. 10, 1930
- 226 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 31, 1921
- 227 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 31, 1927
- 228 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1923
- 229 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 21, 1919
- 230 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 18, 1913
- 231 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 15, 1914
- 232 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, May 31, 1915
- 233 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1929
- 234 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 22, 1919
- 235 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 18, 1920
- 236 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 25, 1917.
- 237 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Oct. 3, 1905
- 238 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jul. 17, 1916
- 239 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Sep. 17, 1900
- 240 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 25, 1900
- 241 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 30, 1928
- 242 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 10, 1899
- 243 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 30, 1929
- 244 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 14, 1909
- 245 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 14, 1895
- 246 – Hamilton man still organizes cantatas, Hamilton–Wenham Chronicle, Sep. 4, 1991
- 247 – Employment contract, Asbury Grove Corp. & John Mann, 1902
- 248 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 20, 1925
- 249 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 30, 1930
- 250 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 26, 1920.
- 251 – Caption for A. B. Norton photo #3, c1907

252 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1918.
 253 – Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Minutes, Aug. 22, 1859
 254 -
 255 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 13, 1896
 256 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 11, 1897
 257 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 9, 1900
 258 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 12, 1900
 259 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 18, 1930
 260 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Sep. 20, 1901

261 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 1,859, pg. 458.
 262 – Salem Registry of Deeds, Bk. 2,696, pg. 113.
 263 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 28, 1913
 264 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Aug. 30, 1919
 265 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1924
 266 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 21, 1927
 267 – Hamilton Annual Town Report, 1954.
 268 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Jan. 28, 1918
 269 – Asbury Camp Meeting Corp. Minutes, Apr. 19, 1913

Asbury Grove Historic Dates

Yr.	Nature	Location, Style 1 st owner, Comment
1830c	Community	Dodge farmhouse, Pleasant Ave., #1, built
1840<	Community	Barn, Asbury Ave., built,
1859	Community	First camp meeting, Aug. 22, 1859
1859	Community	Preachers stand, first, Circle, built
1859	People	First Association president, Edward F. Porter
1859	People	First chaplain Rev. Lewis B. Bates
1860	Community	Bakery, Hedding Ave., built
1860	Community	Barber shop, Skinner Ave., built
1860	Community	Clam chowder house, Skinner Ave., built
1863	Community	Barber shop, Skinner Ave., removed
1864	Community	Clam chowder house, Skinner Ave., removed
1865	Community	Preacher's stand, original, replaced
1865	Community	Store opened at entrance,

		former Beverly House
1865	Society House	Beverly House, built Asbury Ave., #17
1866	Community	Barracks, Pleasant Ave., purchased for dining hall
1868	Community	Police station tent, Circle, removed
1869	Community	Committee building, Circle, near #1 lot, built
1869	Community	Committee office tent, Circle, removed.
1869	Community	Grounds Committee, formed
1869	Community	Treasurer's office opened Skinner Ave., next to dining hall.
1869c	Cottage	First cottage built, William Wrieth, of Salem Pilgrim Park, #4 Destroyed 1927 fire
1869	People	First superintendent Benjamin F. Stone
1869	Weather	Tornado, Sep. 8, 1969, brought down 30 trees
1870	Community	Railroad ticket office, Hedding Ave., built

1870	Community	Restaurant opened at train depot, Highland St.
1870	Community	Train depot, built, corner Highland & Asbury streets
1870	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #13, built, Vernacular, John L. Lewis cottage
1870	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #33, built, Victorian Gothic, George Wright cottage
1870c	Cottage	Simpson Ave., #08, built, Vernacular, William W. Shepperd cottage
1870<	Path	Asbury Ave., created, named for Bishop Francis Asbury
1870<	Path	Baker Ave., created, named for Bishop James Baker, destroyed 1927 fire.
1870<	Path	Central Ave., created
1870<	Path	Clark Ave., created, named for Davis W. Clark destroyed 1927 fire
1870>	Path	Essex Ave., created
1870<	Path	Fisk Ave., created, named for Wilbur Fisk destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Path	Fletcher Ave., created, named for Rev. John W. Fletcher, destroyed 1927 fire
1870>	Path	Hamilton Park, created, destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Path	Hamlin Ave., created, named for Bishop Leonidas L. Hamlin
1870>	Path	Haven Ave., created, named for Rev. Erastus O. Haven
1870>	Path	Hedding Ave., created, named for Elijah Hedding

1870<	Path	Ipswich Path, created
1870<	Path	Kibby Ave., created, named for Epaphras Kibby, destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Path	Kingsley Ave., created, named for Bishop Calvin Kingsley
1870<	Path	Lee Park, created, named for Jesse Lee
1870<	Path	Maple Ave., created,
1870<	Path	McClintock Ave., created, named for John McClintock
1870<	Path	Merrill Ave., created, named for Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Path	Morris Ave., created, named for Bishop Thomas A. Morris
1870<	Path	Mt. Zion Ave., created, named for hill in Jerusalem
1870<	Path	Mudge Ave., created, named for Enoch Mudge
1870>	Path	Olin Ave., created, named for Stephen Olin removed 1927 fire
1870<	Path	Pine Ave., created,
1870<	Path	Simpson Ave., created, named for Mathew Simpson
1870<	Path	Skinner Ave., created, named for Ernest M. Skinner
1870<	Path	Sunnyside Ave., created,
1870<	Path	Thomson Ave., created, named for Bishop Edward Thomson
1870<	Path	Wesley Park, created, named for Rev. John & Rev. Charles Wesley, Originally a park
1870<	Society	Bellingham House,

	House	Circle, #33, built, removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	Boston St. House (<i>Lynn</i>), Circle, #01, built, destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Society House	Bromfield St. House (<i>Boston</i>), Circle, #12, built, removed 1883
1870<	Society House	Cambridgeport House, Circle, #09, built, Became St. Luke's removed about 1900
1870<	Society House	Centenary House (<i>Attleboro</i>) Circle, #18, built, removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	Central House (<i>Lawrence</i>), built, Circle, #39 removed 1952 hurricane
1870<	Society House	Church St. House Circle, #38, built, moved to Asbury Ave., #27 1895c, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Dorchester House, Circle, #13, built
1870<	Society House	E. Cambridge House Circle, #31, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Gloucester House Circle, #28, built, removed before 1898
1870<	Society House	Groveland House Circle, #26, built, removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	Highland House Circle, #19, built, removed before 1898
1870<	Society House	Ipswich House, Circle, #05, built, removed c1900
1870<	Society House	Malden House Circle, #22, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Maple St. House (<i>Wesley</i>) Circle, #03, built,

		became Wakefield House 1875
1870<	Society House	Marblehead House Circle, #35, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Medford House, Circle, #06, built, removed c1900
1870<	Society House	Melrose House Circle, #17, built, destroyed 1929 fire
1870<	Society House	Meridian St. House (<i>Winchester</i>) Circle, #14, built., removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	N. Andover House Circle, #27, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Neponset House Circle, #36, built, removed 1898–1910
1870	Society House	Newburyport House, built Circle, #30 destroyed 1927 fire
1870<	Society House	Purchase St. House (<i>Newburyport</i>) Circle, #29, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Riverdale House Circle, #21, built, removed before 1898
1870<	Society House	Rockport House Circle, #25, built, removed before 1898
1870<	Society House	Salem House, Circle, #16, built, became Lafayette House, destroyed 1929 fire
1870<	Society House	Saratoga St. House (<i>E. Boston</i>), Circle, #20, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Saugus House, Circle, #23, built, Replaced by Reading House, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	South St. House, (<i>Lynn</i>) Circle, #04, built

1870<	Society House	South St. House, (<i>Lynn</i>) Circle, #04, moved to Asbury Ave. 1895
1870>	Society House	St. Luke's House (<i>Lynn</i>), Circle, #09, built, Replaced Cambridgeport removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	St. Paul House (<i>Ludlow</i>) Circle, #15, built, removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	Topsfield House, Circle, #07, built, removed c1900
1870<	Society House	Trinity House* (<i>Springfield</i>), Circle, #08, built, became Jesse Lee House, 1875
1870<	Society House	Union House (<i>Boston</i>) Circle, #37, built, removed 1898–1910
1870<	Society House	Walnut St. House (<i>Newton</i>), Circle, #10, built, removed after 1910
1870<	Society House	Wesley Church House (<i>Salem</i>), #08, built
1870<	Society House	Winthrop St. House, Circle, #11, built, removed after 1910
1870	Transportation	Railroad track built from Hamilton depot to Grove.
1871	Cottage	Central Pl, #04, built, Victorian Gothic, Mrs. E. Downing cottage Youth director's cottage
1871	Cottage	Central Pl, #08, built, Victorian Gothic, James N. Lindsey cottage
1871	Cottage	Central Pl, #12, built, Victorian Gothic, William & Mary Childs cottage
1871	Cottage	Central Pl, #45, built, Victorian Gothic, James W. Leary cottage
1871c	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #09, built, Vernacular. Cardell cottage

1871	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #16, built, Italianate, Atkins cottage
1871	Cottage	Lee Park, #02, built
1871c	Cottage	Lee Park, #10, built, Victorian Gothic
1871c	Cottage	Lee Park, #14, built
1871c	Cottage	Lee Park, #22, built, Second Empire
1871c	Cottage	Lee Park, #24, built
1871	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #05, built, Victorian Gothic, Rev. Ezra D. Winslow cottage, lived in Newton
1871	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #01, built, Italianate, Henry H. Chandler cottage, lived in Charlestown, dry goods
1871	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #02, built, Italianate, John D. Kidder cottage lived in Chelsea, teamster
1871	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #23, built, Victorian Gothic, John Moulton cottage
1871	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #27, built, Victorian Gothic, H. Hurd cottage
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #05, built, Victorian Gothic, J. H. Musso cottage
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #11, built, Italianate, George B. Parrott cottage
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #16, built, Victorian Gothic, George L. Babb cottage lived in Lynn, expressman
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #17, built, Victorian Gothic, Angel's Rest
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #26, built, Vernacular, Charles W. Peterson

		cottage
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #27, built, Victorian Gothic, James Blaisdell cottage
1871	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #28, built, Victorian Gothic, Abram D. Wait cottage lived in Ipswich, life insurance
1871	Cottage	Simpson Ave., #07, built, Vernacular, Peter M. Sanborn cottage
1871	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #09, built, Italianate, R. Sanderson cottage
1871	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #12, built, Italianate, Rev. Edward A. Manning, cottage, lived in East Boston
1871	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #16, built, Victorian Gothic, William Burrows cottage, lived in Ipswich, net maker
1871c	Cottage	Wesley Park #01, built, Victorian Gothic
1872	Cottage	Baker Ave., #03, built, Victorian Gothic, King Cottage
1872	Cottage	Baker Ave., #08, built, Victorian Gothic, Theophilus H. Lewis cottage
1872	Cottage	Central Pl, #51, built, Vernacular, Charles Ingersoll cottage
1872c	Cottage	Clark Ave., #04, built, Victorian Gothic, Mrs. Henry E. Avery cottage
1872	Cottage	Clark Ave., #08, built, Victorian Gothic, George Barker cottage lived in Malden, carpenter
1872	Cottage	Clark Ave., #16, built, Italianate, Columbus Moulton cottage

		lived in S. Boston, teamster
1872	Cottage	Clark Ave., #18, built, Italianate, William W. Redding cottage
1872	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #08, built, Victorian Gothic, Francis Flagg cottage lived in Lynn, shoe factory
1872	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #06, built, Vernacular, Leland cottage
1872	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #08, built, Italianate, Rev. A. J. Hall cottage
1872	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #12, built, Italianate, Stark cottage
1872c	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #02, built, Mrs. M. J. Withen, Vernacular
1872	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #12, built, Italianate, Arthur P. Rollins cottage
1872	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #06, built, Victorian Gothic, Mrs. E. Stevens cottage
1872	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #11, built, Italianate, James Blaisdell cottage lived in Chelsea, oil dealer
1872	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #29, built, Vernacular, Benjamin T. Norris cottage lived in Lynn, carpenter
1872	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #24, built, Victorian Gothic, Charles W. Peterson cottage
1872	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #18, built, Italianate, Joseph H. Bowen cottage, lived in Lynn, private watchman
1872c	Cottage	Wesley Park #11, built, Victorian Gothic
1872	General	Missionary Society, began, comprised of teenagers,

		called Gleaners, ended 1899.
1873	Cottage	Central Pl, #05, built, Victorian Gothic, Thomas P. Richardson cottage
1873	Cottage	Central Pl, #09, built, Italianate, Daniel Clark Cottage
1873	Cottage	Central Pl, #15, built, Victorian Gothic, Hon. Fred Wilcomb cottage lived in Ipswich, auctioneer
1873	Cottage	Central Pl, #19, built, Victorian Gothic, Dodge Archer cottage
1873	Cottage	Clark Ave., #09, built, Victorian Gothic, Charles R. Tuck cottage lived in Hamilton, store clerk
1873c	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #29, built, Victorian Gothic,
1873	Cottage	Lee Park, #18, built, Victorian Gothic, Horace Brown cottage lived in Saugus, tin manufacturer
1873	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #07, built, Italianate, William N. Learned cottage lived in Lynn, shoe factory
1873	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #10, built, Victorian Gothic, Augustus T. Chase cottage
1873	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #14, built, Vernacular, Joseph E. Hodgkins cottage lived in Lynn, shoe dealer
1873	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #28, built, Italianate, Sherman Stone cottage lived in Charlestown, carpenter
1873	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #46, built, Victorian Gothic, Lemuel L. Katon cottage lived in Chelsea, tin ware

		dealer
1873	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #50, built, Victorian Gothic, Rev. Samuel Jackson cottage. lived in East Saugus.
1873	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #55, built, Vernacular, Ivory Quinby cottage
1873	Cottage	Wesley Park #18, built, Victorian Gothic, Amos F. Breed cottage
1873	General	Fire Committee began.
1873c	Path	Oak Ave., created,
1873c	Path	Prospect Ave., created, removed 1927 fire
1874	Cottage	Clark Ave., #11, built, Vernacular, Arthur Hobbs cottage
1874c	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #09, built, Vernacular
1874	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #17, built, Second Empire, Rev. James F. Mears cottage unknown when removed
1874c	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #04, built, Altered, C. P. Witham
1874	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #05, built, Vernacular, Wakeman Davis cottage, lived in Rockport, sold furniture
1874c	Cottage	Wesley Park #03, built, Second Empire
1875c	Cottage	Lee Park, #26, built, Victorian Gothic
1875	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #51, built, Victorian Gothic, J. Norwood cottage
1875	Society House	Beverly House, Asbury Ave., #17, became store at entrance,
1875	Society House	E. Boston House, Circle, #12, built, a.k.a.

		Johnson House
1875	Society House	First all-wood society house built. Lynn Common House
1875	Society House	Jesse Lee Hall, Circle, #08, built, a.k.a. Lynn Common First wood society house. winterized, 1963
1875	Society House	Johnson House, Circle, #12, built, a.k.a. East Boston House
1875	Society House	Lynn Common House, Circle, #08, built, a.k.a. Jesse Lee House
1875	Society House	Swampscott House, Sunnyside Ave., #24, built, Now a private residence
1875	Society House	Wakefield House Circle, #3, Replaced Maple Street House
1876	Community	Barn, Asbury Ave., #23, built
1876	Community	Barn, original, Asbury Ave., burned.
1876	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #32, built, Victorian Gothic, Edward W. Pratt cottage
1876	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #35, built, Victorian Gothic, Rev. F. Furber cottage
1878c	Cottage	Essex Ave., #03, built, Victorian Gothic,
1878	General	Bicycles banned
1878	People	First Postmaster Ella Rankins
1879	Community	Post Office, former Rankins house moved to Pleasant Ave. #3
1879	Community	Restaurant moved from train depot on Highland St. to end of Pleasant Ave.
1879	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #11, built,

		Italianate, A. L. Prouty cottage
1879	Cottage	Morris Ave., #22, built, Vernacular, Timothy B. Ross cottage
1879	Cottage	Wesley Park #05, built, Victorian Gothic
1879>	Path	Highland Ave., built
1880	Community	Ice cream parlor, opened entrance on Highland
1880<	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #01, built, Mrs. Hannah Russell destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #05, built, Mrs. Adrianna Pierce destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #09, built, Hon. Frederic Willcomb destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Baker Ave., #04, built, John G. Robinson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Baker Ave., #05, built, unknown when removed
1880	Cottage	Baker Ave., #14, built, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #03, built, Mrs. Thomas P. Richardson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #06, built, James N. Lindsey, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #13, built, Mrs. C. S. Cummings, unknown when removed
1880c	Cottage	Central Pl, #23, built, John A. Enos Victorian Gothic
1880c	Cottage	Central Pl, #26, built, Vernacular, Charlestown cookhouse

1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #31, built, Alden, Mrs. Lucy A. L , unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #08, built, Howard E. Norton, destroyed 1927 fire
1880c	Cottage	Central Pl, #32, built, Vernacular, Former cookhouse	1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #11, built, Mrs. B. P. Hodgdon, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #35, built, Lizzie M. Wait, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #12, built, Mrs. Susan L. Clark, destroyed 1927 fire.
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #39, built, E. Perkins, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #17, built, T. F. Hunnewell, removed when unknown
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #41, built, John Moore, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #03, built, William D. Pool, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #49, built, Pliney N. Ryder, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #05, built, Charles W. Dudley, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #52, built, Mrs. Elia M. Libby, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #07, built, N. H. Hovey, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Central Pl, #53, built, Sarah M. Holland, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #09, built, Mrs. William M. Jenks, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Clark Ave., #03, built, Mrs. Elizabeth Fell, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #12, built, Mrs. Mary Shirley, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Clark Ave., #12, built, Catherine Karcher, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #14, built, Ira Mansfield, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Clark Ave., #15, built, John W. Goodwin, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #16, built, Charles Lakeman, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Clark Ave., #19, built, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #18, built, M. D. Grace, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #02, built, Mrs. S. G. Cassidy, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #20, built, Mrs. Emma Bragdon, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #05, built, George E. Morrill, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fisk Ave., #22, built, Charlotte A. Learned. destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Essex Ave., #06, built, E. Frank Caswell, destroyed 1927 fire	1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #09, built, Mrs. Obediah George,

		destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #10, built, M. B. Jackson, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #11, built, W. C. Staples, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #12, built, H. F. Folsom, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #14, built, J. C. Currier, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #15, built, Mrs. B. H. Osgood, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #16, built, J. R. Tarr, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #17, built, Miss. Frances E. Gardner, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #18, built, D. F. Woodbury, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #19, built, John Wood, Jr. destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #20, built, M. Ida Prince, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #21, built, W. H. Tarr, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #23, built, Fred Whitehouse, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #24, built, Mrs. Dorcas H. Eldridge, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #25, built, Charles Stillman, destroyed 1927 fire

1880<	Cottage	Fletcher Ave., #26, built, Mrs. L. M. Stiles, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamilton Park, #13, built, George E. Wright, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamilton Park, #17, built, Nelson J. Innes, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamilton Park, #19, built, Mrs. Dr. Dudley, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #03, built, Mrs. S. H. Stillman, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #12, built, W. F. Gardner, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #17, built, M. J. Downs, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #18, built, Thomas G. Smith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #22, built, George Griffin, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #27, built, Benjamin R. Collins, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #31, built, Mrs. E. J. Dudley, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #35, built, W. C. Morrison, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #36, built, Ann J. Butters, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #42, built, E. G. Davis, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #46, built, Alfred Lincoln,

		destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Haven Ave., #08, built, W. P. Radford, destroyed 1927 fire
1880	Cottage	Haven Ave., #10, built, Victorian Gothic
1880<	Cottage	Haven Ave., #13, built, Rev. S. B. Sweetser, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Haven Ave., #23, built, Mary A. Hazlett, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Haven Ave., #27, built, Mrs. John A. True, destroyed 1927 fire.
1880<	Cottage	Haven Ave., #31, built, Charles H. Merick, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #03, built, E. W. Blanchard, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #07, built, H. N. Macomber, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #09, built, Mrs. Martha A. Chase destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #10, built, George Graves, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #11, built, L. B. Cordell, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #14, built, Albert Ellis, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #15, built, Benjamin A. Smith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #17, built, J. Knowles, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #18, built,

		Mrs. James P. Magee, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #21, built, Mrs. Edwin Fogg, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #27, built, M. A. Genchner, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #29, built, Mrs. J. P. Colver, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #01, built, Rev. Joseph Scott, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #02, built, James F. Almy, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #03, built, William I. Wait, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #08, built, John Moses, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #09, built, D. G. Adams, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #13, built, E. G. Davis, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #18, built, L. L. Ryerson, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #19, built, Charles Butler, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #20, built, Thomas Gale, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Highland Ave., #24, built, J. C. Langworthy, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Ipswich Path, #01, built, Mrs. Kate Bell, destroyed 1927 fire

1880<	Cottage	Ipswich Path, 04, built, Mrs. Lucy A. Perkins, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #04 built, S. B. Richmond, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #01, built, Mrs. Luna V. Quimby, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #05, built, O. N. Chase, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #02, built, Mrs. G. G. Carlton, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #06, built, Mrs. Lizzie P. Newhall, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #05, built, Mrs. J. W. Marston.	1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #07, built, Mrs. Eliza M. Brown, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #10, built, George A. Higgins, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #08, built, William H. Hutchinson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #11, built, Mrs. T. E. Lewis, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #02, built, Lucy M. Caldwell, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #15, built, Mrs. Martha A. Lewis, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #04, built, Henry R. Valpey, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #17, built, William Guthrie, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #07, built, altered, C. H. Ramsdell, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #18, built, A. F. Breed, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #14, built, Mrs. E. M. Bagnall, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #19, built, George E. Stanely, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #15, built, Mrs. Archie L. Turner,
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #21, built, D. C. Smart, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #18, built, L. J. Morgan, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #22, built, Miss. A. Burnham, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #22, built, A. Wonson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Kingsley Ave., #26, built, R. G. Bennett, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #25, built, S. Smith, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #01, built, Mrs. I. Newhall, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #26, built, W. H. Wonson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Lee Park, #03, built, William H. Reynolds, unknown when removed	1880<	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #01, built, Mrs. Mary Wait, unknown when removed

1880<	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #04, built, Mrs. Elizabeth Gallathy, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #06, built, Rev. E. A. Blake, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Merrill Ave., #08, built, Mrs. B. L. Ball, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Morris Ave., #02, built, Mrs. Frances Taylor, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Morris Ave., #04, built Mrs. E.L. Hilton, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Morris Ave., #12, built, Almira L. Shattuck, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Morris Ave., #16, built, B. B. Smith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #04, built, Richard Breed, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #05, built, S. Gale, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #09, built, John Middleton, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #12, built, Edward Dickinson, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #24, built, H. H. Smart, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mt. Zion Ave., #25, built, Mrs. Abigail B. Osborne, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #06, built, George B. Parrott, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #07, built, William W. Leonard,

		unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #08, built, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #09, built, Horace A. Roberts, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #12, built, Mrs. Mary J. Melvin, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #14, built, J. E. Hodgkins, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #15, built, E. J. Brown, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #31, built, J. H. Bubier, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #34, built, Mrs. George P. Phinney, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #36, built
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #38, built Rev. C. L. Eastman, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #42, built, Rev. E. Brown, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #44, built, Lemuel L. Katon, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #47, built, Lucy M. Caldwell, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #49, built, S. Whitney, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #54, built, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #59, built, Rev. Samuel Jackson, unknown when removed

1880c	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #62, built
1880<	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #63, built, Mrs. Mary E. Emery, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Oak Ave., #01, built, Mrs. George McBride, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Oak Ave., #03, built, J. B. Nichols, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Oak Ave., #05, built, C. S. Hilton, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Oak Ave., #08, built, James E. Smith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Oak Ave., #09, built, John Gavney, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #05, built, Mrs. A. H. Plumer, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #08, built, B. Snow, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #09, built, Mrs. Abigail B. Osborne, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #10, built, Thomas Williams, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #11, built, Thomas Appleton, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #12, built, Mrs. C. M. Howe, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #14, built, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #17, built, Hiram Learned, destroyed 1927 fire
1880c	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #18, built,

		Vernacular
1880	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #19, built, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #21, built, Yeaton, George M. destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Prospect Ave., #05, built, Mrs. George P. Cox, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Prospect Ave., #09, built, W. Reith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Simpson Ave., #04, built, Mrs. D. J. Crosby, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Simpson Ave., #05, built, J. A. Davis, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #01, built, Victorian Gothic, Mrs. Augustus Rutherford cottage, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #03, built, George E. Bennett, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #05, built, Charles Lakeman, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #07, built, Mrs. Mary D. Stevens, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Sunnyside Ave., #03, built, D. C. Smith, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Sunnyside Ave., #07, built, Kendall Pearson, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Sunnyside Ave., #08, built, William Eling, destroyed 1927 fire
1880<	Cottage	Sunnyside Ave., #11, built, E. R. Downes, destroyed 1927 fire

1880<	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #07, built, Fred Choate, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #13, built, Thomas F. Pedrick, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #22, built, A. F. Harvey, unknown when removed
1880<	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #23, built, unknown when removed
1880	Cottage	Wesley Park #09, built, Victorian Gothic, became museum 2016
1880	General	Our Retreat community created across from Grove on corner of Topsfield Rd. & Highland St.
1880c	Society house	Central Ave., #26, built, Vernacular Charlestown cook house & dormitory
1881	Community	Restaurant on Pleasant Ave. converted into chapel.
1882	Cottage	Central Pl, #37, built, Victorian Gothic, E. Perkins cottage
1882	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #57, built, Greek Revival, Mrs. Rachel A. Smith cottage, unknown when removed
1882	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #03, built, Victorian Gothic, Rev. John Chapin cottage lived in Wenham
1883	Cottage	Central Pl, #43, built, Victorian Gothic, William M. Shedd cottage,
1883	Cottage	Morris Ave., #20, built, Vernacular, Edward S. Rose cottage
1884	Community	Barn, Asbury Ave., #23, burned, struck by lightning.
1884	Community	Chapel, Lee Park, built,

1884	Community	Croquet courts, Morris Ave., built, replaced by tennis court 1900
1884	Community	Ladies Aid Society began
1884	Programs	First Sunday School, guidance of Mrs. Charles L. Eastman.
1884	Programs	Grove began renting Idlewood Lake for week.
1884	Transportation	Railroad connected main line to Grove track
1885	Community	Barn, Asbury Ave., #23, built
1885	Cottage	Baker Ave., #20, built, unknown when removed
1885	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #11, built, Vernacular, Michael J. Downs cottage
1886	Cottage	Baker Ave., #18, built, unknown when removed
1886	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #30, built, Vernacular, F. Ball cottage
1886	Transportation	Naumkeag Street Railway began horse-drawn street-cars
1889	Community	Bakery, Hedding Ave., closed
1889	Community	Tabernacle erected, bought from Lynn District.
1889	Cottage	Haven Ave., #07, built, Victorian Gothic, Samuel B. Hart cottage
1890	Community	First mention of non-Methodist group at Grove East Baptist Society picnic
1890	Community	Restaurant, built, Pleasant Ave., #35
1891	Grounds	Electric street lights replaced kerosene lamps
1892	Community	Incorporated as Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Corp.

1892	Community	Swedish tabernacle, built, Skinner Ave., #03
1892	Cottage	Essex Ave., #09, built, Queen Ann Franklin J. Stratton cottage
1893	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #08, built, Italianate, Harriet E. Currant cottage
1893	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #39, built Italianate, T. C. Halloway cottage
1893	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #04, built, William H. Hodgkins cottage Victorian Gothic
1893	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #26, built, Vernacular, Frank D. Snow cottage
1894	Community	Tabernacle, Lee Circle
1894	Society House	Tapleville House (<i>Danvers</i>), Circle, #08, replaced Trinity House
1895	Community	Dining hall barracks, Pleasant Ave., torn down,
1895	Community	Electricity extended into Grove
1895	Community	Epworth League Chapter began
1895	Community	Hotel, Pleasant Ave., #35, built
1895c	Community	Police station & jail, Pleasant Ave., built
1895	Cottage	Haven Ave., #01, built, Victorian Gothic, Charles E. Tarr cottage,
1895	Cottage	Maple Ave., #02, built, Victorian Gothic, Helen E. Welch cottage
1895c	Society House	Bay View House (<i>Gloucester</i>) moved to Asbury Ave.
1895c	Society House	Essex House, built, Asbury Ave., 1895c

1895c	Society House	Wesley Church House (<i>Salem</i>), #08, moved to Asbury Ave.
1898	Cottage	Maple Ave., #06, built, Victorian Gothic, George & Annie Oakes cottage
1898	Cottage	Maple Ave., #08, built, Victorian Gothic, George Stanley cottage
1898<	Society House	Common St. House (<i>Belmont</i>), Circle, #02, built, removed c1900
1898<	Society House	Dorchester House, Circle, #13, moved to Central Ave.
1898<	Society House	Lafayette House replaced Salem House, Circle, #41, destroyed 1929 fire
1898<	Society House	Northeast St. House (<i>Hull</i>), Circle, #40, built, replaced Worthen St. removed 1898–1910
1898<	Society House	Reading House, Circle #23, replaced Saugus House removed after 1910
1898<	Society House	Worthen St. House (<i>Lowell</i>), Circle, #40, built, replaced by Northeast St. House, removed 1898–1910
1898	Transportation	Electric streetcar service began
1899	Community	Hotel Pleasant Ave., #35, burned
1899	Cottage	Central Pl, #29, built, Italianate, Charles Cummings cottage
1899	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #06, built, Italianate, H. S. Cassidy cottage
1900	Community	Dining hall, Pleasant Ave., #35, opened, replaced hotel
1900	Community	Parade began
1900	Community	Store moved from entrance

		to 2 nd floor restaurant, Pleasant Ave., #35	1905c	Grounds	Archways built at entrance.
1900	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #11, built, Victorian Gothic unknown when removed	1908<	Community	Committee office, replaced arts & crafts, corner Central Ave. & Hedding Ave.
1900c	Cottage	Baker Ave., #10, built, unknown when removed	1910	Community	Library, Bates Memorial, Lee Park, built
1900c	Cottage	Baker Ave., #24, built, unknown when removed	1910c	Cottage	Morris Ave., #61, built, Bungalow
1900c	Cottage	Central Pl, #11, built, unknown when removed	1910c	Cottage	Mudge Ave., #57, built
1900c	Cottage	Central Pl, #20, built, unknown when removed	1910	People	First librarian, Ida Johnson
1900c	Cottage	Essex Ave., #07, built, Vernacular	1915	Community	Chapel, Lee Park, clock Ladies Aid Society added
1900>	Path	Ipswich Path. removed	1915	Community	Police station & jail, moved to Pleasant Ave.
1900<	Path	Pine Ave., removed	1920c	Cottage	Essex Ave., #02, built,
1901	Community	Railroad ticket office, be- came arts & crafts building, Hedding Ave.,	1920	Society House	Tapleyville House bought by Corporation.
1901	Community	Train depot, moved to Cummings Livery Stable, downtown Hamilton	1921	Society House	Tapleyville House bought by Lynn Lynn District Ep- worth.
1901	Transpor- tation	Train service ended.	1924	Community	Restrooms, built, Pleasant Ave.
1902	Community	Arts & crafts building, built, Hedding & Central Ave. replaced ticket office	1926	Community	Cottage Owners Associa- tion, formed
1902	Cottage	Morris Ave., #26, built, Second Empire	1927	Fire	Destroyed: 175 cottages, 2 community buildings, 3 so- ciety houses.
1904	People	First child to attend Hamilton school.	1927	Grounds	Archways at entrance removed to allow fire equipment on grounds.
1904	Society House	Tapleyville House replaced Wesley Church House, Asbury Ave., destroyed 1927 fire	1927	Society House	Newburyport House, Circle, #30 became Community House
1905c	Community	Bakery, Lee Park, built Became coffee shop 1989.	1927	Society House	Peabody House Circle, #34, built, destroyed in 1927 fire
1905c	Community	Baseball field, Highland Ave., built	1928	Cottage	Essex Ave., #11, built, Astylistic

1928;	Path	Robson Cir., created, named for Matthew Robson Formerly Hamilton Park
1929	Community	Police station and jail, Pleasant Ave., moved behind restaurant,.
1929	Fire	Destroyed East Boston House, Lafayette (<i>Salem</i>) House & Melrose House.
1930c	Community	Pleasant Park, built, Pleasant Ave., former site of police station
1930	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #21, built, Victorian Gothic
1930	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #31, built, Altered
1930	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #20, built, Vernacular
1930	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #22, built
1930	Cottage	Hamlin Ave., #24, built, Astylistic
1930	Cottage	Haven Ave., #03, built, Queen Anne
1930	Cottage	Haven Ave., #09, built,
1930	Cottage	Lee Park, #06, built
1930	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #10, built,
1930	Cottage	McClintock Ave., #14, built,
1930	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #03, built, Astylistic, unknown when removed
1930	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #14, built, Astylistic
1930	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #03, built, Victorian, Altered
1930	Cottage	Thompson Ave., #17, built
1930	Programs	First Summer evening services
1931	Transportation	Electric streetcar service

	tation	ended.
1935	Programs	Young People's Christian Assembly began
1937	Fire	Destroyed several society houses on circle & cottages in area
1938	Community	Town water began.
1938	Weather	Hurricane blew down many tall pine trees behind stand & damaged many cottages
1941	Community	First newspaper, Asbury Grove News
1942	Grounds	Ipswich Gas laid gas pipes into Grove
1945	Community	Recreation hall opened, Lee Park, #24, former bakery
1946	Grounds	First road paved, Pleasant Ave.
1948	Cottage	Essex Ave., #13, built, Astylistic
1950c	Community	Baseball field, Highland Ave., removed
1950	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #27, built, Astylistic
1950	Cottage	Asbury St., #358, built, Ranch
1950	Cottage	Essex Ave., #14, built,
1950	Cottage	Essex Ave., #15, built, Astylistic
1950	Cottage	Essex Ave., #21, built,
1950	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #11, built, Vernacular
1950c	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #20, built, Vernacular
1950	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #05, built, Theodore Johnson
1950	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #19, built, Astylistic

1951	Fire	Destroyed grocery, meat & fish store & restaurant Pleasant Ave.
1952	Cottage	Baker Ave., #33, built, unknown when removed
1952	Weather	Hurricane Able blew down many tall pine trees behind stand & damaged many cottages
1953	Community	Town water system, built
1953	Cottage	Asbury St., #356, built, Colonial
1953	General	Boosters Club formed by Rev. Miller.
1953	People	Rev. Dr. Willis P. Miller began as chaplain.
1954	Grounds	Telephone service
1954	Weather	Hurricane Carol blew down many tall pine trees & damaged 2 dozen cottages
1955	Community	Fletcher Hall, Skinner Ave., #3, created, former Swedish Tabernacle
1955	Community	Hamilton police department began responding to calls
1955	Community	Swedish tabernacle became Fletcher Hall; Skinner Ave., #03
1956	Community	Chapel, Lee Park, named E. Staley Jones Chapel
1957	Community	Post office, Pleasant Ave. #3, closed
1957	Community	Store opened at entrance. Originally, it was Beverly Church Houses on Circle. Burned in 1972.
1957	Cottage	Baker Ave., #29, built, unknown when removed
1958	Community	Thrift store, opened Asbury Ave., former Freeman Murray cottage

1959	Community	Swimming pool, built, Morris Ave. at time, largest in state
1959	Cottage	Pleasant Ave., #23, built,
1960	Community	Bath house, Morris Ave., built
1960c	Community	Cookhouse, # 32 Central Pl., became Beulah Land.
1960	Community	Wading pool, built, Morris Ave.
1960	Cottage	Asbury St., #354, built, Cape Cod
1960c	Cottage	Robson Circle, #51, built, Altered
1960c	Cottage	Robson Circle, #77, built, Astylistic
1963	Cottage	Asbury St., #426, built, Ranch
1964	Community	Tennis courts, built, Morris Ave.
1964	Grounds	Fieldstone entrance built. donated by Edgar & Mary Case.
1965	Community	Basketball court, Morris Ave, built.
1966	Cottage	Baker Ave., #09, built, unknown when removed
1968	Fire	Destroyed 7 summer cottages.
1970c	Cottage	Sunnyside Ave., #05, built, Astylistic
1972	Community	Thrift store, House O' Treasure N' Trash, opened, Lee Park, #24, replaced recreation hall
1972	Fire	Destroyed store, entrance,
1978	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #04, built, Astylistic
1980	Community	Tilley Playground, built, Morris Ave.

1980c	Cottage	Oak Ave., #04, built Astylistic
1983	Cottage	Asbury St., #424, built, Cape Cod
1989	Community	Coffee shop, Lee Park, #24, opened, replaced arts & crafts shop
1990	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #19, built, Astylistic
1993	People	Rev. Dr. Willis P. Miller retired
2001	Community	Wading pool, rebuilt, Morris Ave.
2002	Community	Swimming pool, rebuilt, Morris Ave.
2006	Community	Fletcher Hall, Skinner Ave., #3, razed following collapse due to roof snow
2006	Community	Mail boxes, Pleasant Ave., beside dining hall, built
2006	Community	Tabernacle, Lee Circle, refurbished

2006	Community	Wallick Memorial Park, built, Sunnyside Ave.
2009	Community	Became Member National Historical Places
2009	Community	Chapel, Lee Park, organ installed
2009	Cottage	Skinner Ave., #01, built, Victorian Gothic.
2010	Cottage	Asbury Ave., #11, built Astylistic
2010	Cottage	Hedding Ave., #17, built
2011	Cottage	Haven Ave., #02, built
2015	Community	Asbury Grove Historical Society, formed
2016	Community	Museum, Wesley Park, #09, opened