



Houses on Willow St (green), commercial properties (yellow). Map, Hamilton Assessors Office. 2017

History of

South Hamilton's Business Center

Part 5: Willow Street

Willow St. is one of the oldest roads in Hamilton. It was created before 1850.

Traffic along the dirt road between Daniel Killam Way (*now Linden Street*) and Ipswich Road (*now Asbury Street*) increased significantly in 1860, when a Methodist campground opened in the western part of Hamilton. People going to the Asbury Grove Campground arrived by train at the Wenham-Hamilton depot. They would cut across a field opposite the depot, then go along Willow Street to the Way to Topsfield to reach the Grove.

A faster and more convenient way to reach the Grove began in 1871. The number of people going to the campground became large enough to warrant construction, by the Eastern Railroad,* of a spur rail track from the main railroad line, at the center of town, out to the Grove (1.3 mi.). Rail service ran only during the week in August when the campground held its religious meeting.⁵ The track bed (17 ft. wide) cut across Willow Street on the south side of what is now the driveway for 300 Mill St.

Ease of reaching the Grove was further improved in 1886, when the Naumkeag Street Railway built a streetcar route to the Grove. The horse-drawn streetcars

passed along Willow Street. Tracks were laid on the east side of the street, which, with the 8-ft. wide streetcars on them, reduced the space accessible by other vehicles on the 32-ft. wide road.

Around 1898, the streetcar line switched to electric service.¹ Poles were installed for hanging overhead power lines.

Soon after (1901), with most people preferring to use the streetcar, the railroad service to the Grove ceased. The B&M Railroad began selling its Asbury Grove track land, which included land on both sides of Willow Street.

A major landowner along Willow Street was Carrie P. Porter. An 1897 property plan shows she owned both sides of Willow Street, from Railroad Avenue to the railroad tracks that crossed over Willow, just past Hamilton Street. The map shows Hancock Street (*it became Hamilton Street in 1903*) crossing over Willow Street, but this did not happen. Also, the plan shows a Highland Avenue that, in 1905, became Rust Street. Years later, this area became Prospect Park.

* Boston & Maine Railroad acquired the Eastern Railroad in 1890. Pictures & Prose

In 1887, Porter began selling off lots, the first to Thomas McCaffrey (*now 202 Willow St.*).⁷³

With this area becoming a large residential housing district, the town built a gravel sidewalk, in 1898, on the west side of Willow Street between Railroad Ave. and Asbury St.,¹¹² and added a similar sidewalk on the east side, in 1904.⁹²

The town rebuilt Willow Street, in 1909. The flat dirt road was made into a permanent road by adding drainpipes, grading and covering with gravel, i.e., macadam. This was done the full length of the street, from Linden to Asbury.⁹³

In 1927, the town rebuilt the street by covering it with bituminous concrete,⁹⁸ now known as asphalt. Prior to this, the railroad removed the train tracks that crossed the road.

Streetcar tracks still were on the street. Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway electric car service to the Grove continued to around 1931.¹ The town removed the tracks in 1935 and rebuilt the street. The 1932 Emergency Relief Act (*E. R. A.*) paid for removal of the tracks.⁹⁹

A significant change came to Hamilton's streets in 1938. The town began to number properties on its streets.¹⁰⁰ However, for many years after, most people continued to refer to properties by the owner's name.

Willow Street saw little in the way of upgrading following the 1935 track removal project. During WW2, the town upgraded a portion (559 ft.) of the sidewalks, by adding an asphalt surface.⁹⁹

In 1957 that Willow Street was substantially rebuilt. It cost about \$20,000, of which the State provided \$16,000.¹⁰⁵

Another long period of inattention followed. It was not until 1994 that the town resurfaced Willow from Linden to Asbury.¹⁰⁷ This was done as part of a major street rebuilding program in the town. The Willow Street sidewalks were not resurfaced until 2006.¹⁰⁸

In 2018, the town again resurfaced Willow from Linden to Asbury.

Good for businesses?

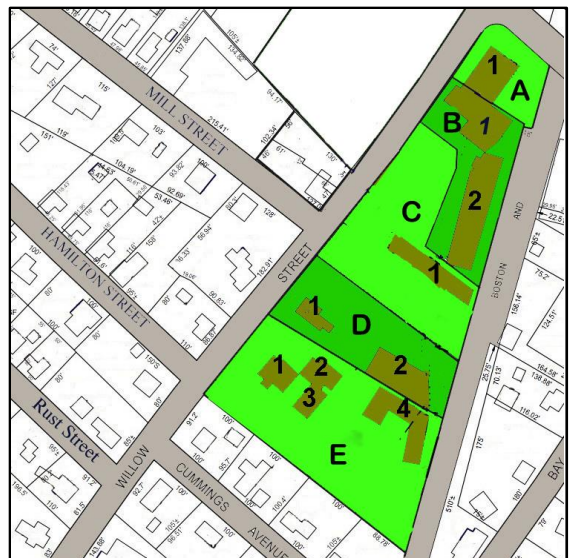
The opening of businesses along Willow Street started soon after it became part of the wagon route to Asbury Grove from the railroad station on Liberty Street (*now Bay Road.*)

Town committees and officials, since the 1920s, have sought to bring more businesses to the downtown area that includes Willow Street. An oft-cited problem facing such efforts is the lack of funds.

In 2004, Massachusetts created The Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District Act, to encourage communities to create dense residential or mixed-use "smart growth" zoning districts, including a high percentage of affordable housing units.

The overlay districts are to be located near transit stations, in areas of concentrated development such as existing city and town centers. Such districts are eligible for funds from the State's Smart Growth Housing Trust Fund, as well as other financial incentives.

Voters, at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, approved the establishment of a Willow Street Overlay District from 203 Willow St. to Asbury Street.



Willow Street Overlay District, established in 2010, includes: A: 323 Willow St., B: 305 Willow St., C: 281 Willow St., D: 227 Willow St., and E: 203/205 Willow St.

Map, Adapted from Hamilton Assessors map

300 Willow St.

Since 1986, the west corner of Willow and Asbury has been a residential condominium, 300 Willow St. There are 7, 2-story units, each with 3,584 sq. ft. of living space, including 3 bedrooms, and an attached garage.

Northern Hamilton Corp. of Danvers, in 1985, bought the property (1.6 ac.) from Dr. George J Sullivan.⁷⁰ NHC also acquired, at the time, the former B&M railroad bed (17 x 205 ft.) along the south side of the Sullivan property. This became a driveway,

Prior to building the condos, the property was designated 296 Willow St. From 1941 to 1985, Dr. Sullivan ran an animal hospital in a long, narrow building close to the street. His home, 1-1/2 stories, was at the back of the property.¹⁸

During WW2, Dr. Sullivan allowed the town to have space at his animal hospital for an air raid communications center and for meetings of the Public Safety Committee. The communications center, District

A, Region 4, Control Area 3, was open all-day, every day. It provided service for both Hamilton and Wenham.¹¹⁴

The center handled communications with Air Raid Wardens responsible for enforcing regulations, in particular night time lights. Planning and supervision of blackouts was handled by police chief, Leland D. Thompson. During the first years of the war, blackouts were held at stated times: this allowed people to be prepared to cooperate. Later, the blackouts were held as surprise tests.

Dr. Sullivan, in 1941, bought the property from Dr. George S. Thomas,⁵² who ran the Endcliffe animal hospital and kennels for nearly 40 years.

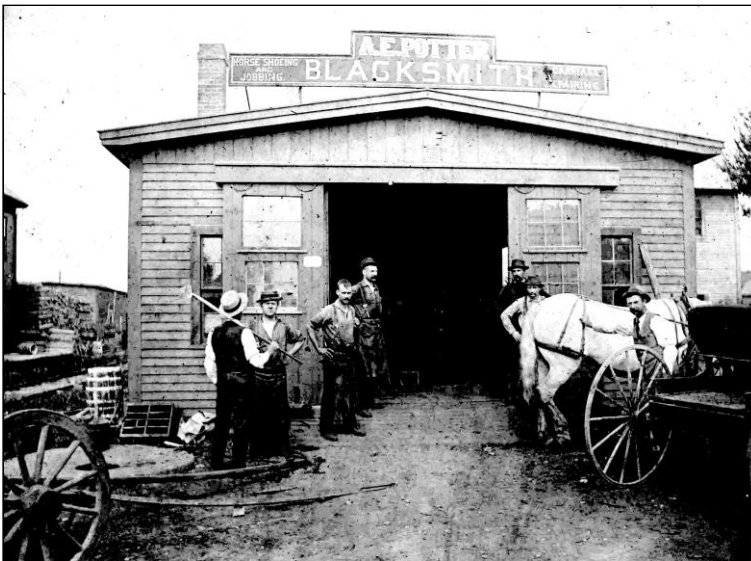
In the 1910 fire, Thomas' house and barn were destroyed, as were his animal kennels. He was able to save all his animals, except for one, a Boston Bull. This was the only fatality from the fire.^{2, 13} Thomas rebuilt his home, kennels and animal hospital.

A very well-known dog breeder, particularly for Pomeranians,¹⁵ Dr. Thomas bought the property from Charles N. Symonds, in 1902.³⁷ Symonds bought the property in 1898.¹⁸ An earlier owner was George G. Creamer, who acquired the property from Daniel C. Smith, in 1892.¹⁷



300 Willow St., since 1986, is a residential condominium. There are 7, 2-story units, each with about 3,600 sq. ft. of living space, and an attached garage. Photo, Bing Maps, 2015.

Dr. Thomas also owned the land to the east of his kennels. An 1895 Benjamin Conant photo shows a 3-1/2 story tower-like structure on the corner of Willow and Asbury, then Topsfield Rd.²⁰ With windows on all 4 sides, it may have been a railroad switch tower.



Potters blacksmith shop. at its peak, had 11 workers.
Photo, 1910, Hamilton Historical Society

"292" Willow St.

The driveway into 300 Willow St. is alongside the track bed of what was the Asbury Grove Railway, until 1905. There was a lot on the north side of the track. Until the 1910 fire, a laundry and a house were on the lot that had a 37-ft. frontage on Willow Street.¹³²

A year later, 1911, Pearl Thomas bought the property from Charles A. Hayward of Ipswich.¹³² It became part of the adjoining George S. Thomas property (now 300 Willow St.). Hayward bought the property, at an auction following the 1910 fire.¹³¹ None of the previous structures were rebuilt.

The previous owner, Elbridge D. Lovett of Hamilton, ran a large laundry. In 1905, he converted a former blacksmith shop to be his new business. The single-story laundry building was 120 ft. long and 40 ft. wide.¹⁴⁰

Lovett bought the property from Oliver F. Kilham of Hamilton,¹⁴⁰ who acquired it in 1902 from Albert E. Potter of Hamilton, a blacksmith.¹⁴¹

Potter opened his shop in 1895.^{20, 90} He briefly co-owned the business with Daniel C. Smith of Hamilton, whom he bought out in 1895.¹⁷ A 1900 Beverly Cit-

izen newspaper article reported that Potter ran a very successful blacksmith shop that employed 11 workers, several of whom lived on or near Willow Street.⁹⁰ The 1901 town report showed there were 455 horses in the town.

Smith bought the business and property, formerly owned by George C. Creamer of Hamilton, in early 1894.^{90, 157}

George W. Kimball of Rowley, the previous owner, also had a blacksmith shop. Kimball, who ac-

quired the property, in 1849, from Daniel Homan of Wenham, may have built the blacksmith shop.¹³³

"284" Willow St.

Until 2002, the narrow open area, on the south side of the driveway leading into 300 Willow St. and next to 3 Mill St., was a separate property. The lot had a 34-ft. frontage on Willow and ran back about 130 ft.

In 2002, the town sold the lot to Eugene Wright.¹²⁹ The town took the property, in 1975, for failure of the owner to pay property taxes.²⁰

For nearly 70 years, the Samuel A. Malone family owned the property, which he acquired, in 1908, from Charles S. Gwinn of Hamilton.¹⁴⁹ It was part of a Gwinn property that included what are now 3 and 17 Mill St.

The Asbury Grove Railroad tracks were on the property's north side. Gwinn bought the former Asbury Grove railroad bed, 6.7 ft. wide, in 1906.¹⁵⁰

The lot was not always empty. Up to 1910, a 2-1/2 story building was on it. The 1910 fire destroyed the building.¹³ The fire started on Mill Street.¹⁶⁸

For many years, two businesses were in the building: a building materials store and a carpenter's shop. An 1895 photo (*right*) shows the building occupied by William E. Redlon's building supplies business and a carpenter shop run by Thomas Horne.

The 2-1/2 story, 40x60 ft. building likely was erected about 1872, shortly after the building of the Asbury Grove spur line.

323/325 Willow St.

The east corner of Willow and Asbury has been, for more than 130 years, the site of vehicle repair shops. The latest are: Asbury Street Motors, Patton Park Auto Body and Asbury Street Car Care.

In 2014, Sargent's Auto Service opened on the Asbury Street side of the building, but its address is 325 Willow St. Joe Sargent, who began in 1979, owns a vehicle towing service.

The longest to be here, Patton Park Auto Body moved into the shop at the south end of the building, in 1981. John "Sonny" Pasternak bought the business from Bruce Smith.¹²⁷



Albert Potter's blacksmith, (*right*) was destroyed in 1910 fire, as was Redlon's building supplies business and Horne's carpenter shop (*left*). Asbury Grove railroad tracks were between the buildings.
Photo, 1895, Hamilton Historical Society

2014. Owned by Samir Ayoub, the shop, which does automotive detailing and cleaning, occupies 2 bays and an office, on the building's Asbury Street end.

Previously, Ayoub owned, for 12 years, the Oliver Gulf station and garage on the corner of Bay Road and Walnut Street: now a Cumberland Farms station and convenience store.

The previous car repair shop here was



323/325 Willow St. has had auto repair garages since about 1910. Before it was a blacksmith shop and wheelwright. Photo, Google Maps, 2015

Asbury Street Motors: Gordon Lamson opened it in 1983. Gordon's father, Lawrence (*Larry*) Lamson of Hamilton bought the property in 1960 from John C. Back of Hamilton,⁴⁸ More commonly called "Joe," he had a car repair shop that he bought, in 1948, from Alexander C. Begg. He served in the navy during WW2. He bought the property, in 1948, from Frank I. Lamasney,⁸⁹ who bought it in 1920.⁷⁷ In this part of the building

Asbury Street Car Care, moved here in

in the early 1950s, Howard "Howie" M. Collyer ran a body shop. He lived nearby on Mill St.

Begg sold gasoline: there were 2 pumps in front of his garage (*today this would be behind the telephone pole on Willow Street*), where he did some work repairing cars. The pumps were removed about 1950.

Begg also had a blacksmith shop.¹¹⁷ By the late 1940s, there was not a lot need for blacksmiths.

During the time Lamasney owned the property, 1932, Hamilton took, by eminent domain, a small section on the corner of Willow and Asbury to round the corner. The corner on the other side of Willow also was rounded.⁴⁹ The modification allowed the large coal delivery trucks to more easily turn the corner going to and from the coal supply yards on Willow St.

Begg's predecessor, Philip Sculley, closed his blacksmith shop, in 1919.⁷⁷ He built the shop in 1911. The March 1910 fire that swept through the area destroyed his previous building. The day after the fire, Sculley bought out his partner Frank Morrow.⁷⁶ A Beverly Times article mentioned that the fire also destroyed a sawmill on the property.¹³

They bought the property, in 1906, from the Beverly Cooperative Bank,¹⁹ which held it when Charles S. Gwinn of Hamilton defaulted on his loan. Sculley and Morrow previously worked, across the street, at Potter's blacksmith shop.³

Previously, Samuel E. McGlauffin and Charles S. Gwinn had a teamster and contracting business. An advertisement said they did "excavating and grading, the building of roads, tank towers, and water works for farms, the making of concrete private walks, and the furnishing of rotten rock for walks and avenues."³

Gwinn, in 1901, bought the north end of Willow Street. It had been part of a larger property owned by the Beverly Coop Bank. The Gwinn lot ran 120 ft. along Willow Street and 60 ft. along Asbury Street,³⁶ the same as it is in 2017.

The bank gained the property in 1898, when Daniel C. Smith of Hamilton defaulted on a loan.¹³⁸ In 1897, Smith bought the property that previously was part of the George Kimball estate.¹³⁴

The Kimball property ran along Willow Street from Asbury Street to what is now 227 Willow St.¹³⁵



Patton Park Auto Body moved into the shop at the south end of Willow St., in 1981. **Asbury Street Car Care**, in 2014, moved into 2 bays and an office, on the Asbury Street end of the building.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

In 1888, the property had a store, stable, coal shed and several other structures.³⁵ Smith also owned property on other side of the road that now includes 300 Willow St. and 11 Mill St.³⁵

One of the earliest businesses on Willow was the Walter C. Bradstreet blacksmith and wheelwright shop, at the corner of Willow Street and Topsfield Road (*now Asbury Street*). It is one of the four trades listed as being on Willow Street, in an 1888 directory of Hamilton businesses.¹

The other tradesmen were: John H. Courtly, a well driver and George G. Creamer, a blacksmith (*both were at what now is the corner of Willow and Mill*); and Daniel C. Smith, a supplier of lumber and coal (*was at what now is 305 Willow St.*).¹

This was a good location for a blacksmith shop. Many horse-drawn wagons passed along Willow and Asbury going to and from the Asbury Grove campgrounds, at the west end of Topsfield Rd. (*now Asbury St.*) Also, there were many wagons hauling coal from the rail yard.

In 1881, George C. Rankins, began to develop the Willow-Asbury Street area, adjoining the railroad spur to Asbury Grove. He started a coal and lumber business.⁷⁹ Both the coal and lumber were brought there by the Eastern railroad.

305 Willow St.

The Welch & Lamson heating supplies and equipment business began at 305 Willow St., in 1946.¹⁶⁶ For more than 30 years, beginning in the 1950s, this also was the location of the Lamson School Bus Co.¹⁶⁷

Everett C. Welch and Lawrence Lamson bought the business and property from Timothy A. Moynihan.⁵⁵ Later in 1946, Welch sold his interest in the property and business to Lamson;³⁹ however, the Welch & Lamson name remained. When they began, coal, delivered on the siding, was the primary business for Welch and Lamson.

Both men previously worked for Moynihan,¹⁶⁶ who had been a general contractor and also sold coal, wood, hay, grain, lime and cement.¹⁶⁸

A railroad siding ran into the back building, where cement and oats were unloaded into bins on the second floor of a storage building. Later, they were bagged on the first floor.¹⁶⁸ Larry Lamson recalled Moynihan having pigs in the cellar of the front building.¹⁶⁸

There are 3 buildings on the property. Facing onto the street is a single-story office. Behind it is a 2-story building, which has an attached storage building and garage.

The buildings previously were barns moved to the property, in 1911, from a farm in the Myopia area. Another barn from the Myopia farm became a horse and wagon barn, at what is now part of 281 Willow St.¹⁶⁸

At the back of the property, stretching along the railroad bed is a row of garages and storage sheds.

In 1949, at the back alongside the railroad track, there was a large oil tank, 2 large coal bunkers and 2 sheds.



305 Willow became Welch & Lamson in 1946.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



305 Willow St., left to right, office building (*green*), storage building with garage, and 4 sheds, at back. Fenced area, front right, is part of 281 Willow St.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Moving the 2-story buildings to the property followed the 1910 fire that destroyed all the buildings on Moynihan's property. These included storage bins for coal, grain, and hay. About 3,000 tons of coal burned through the night and through the next day. Moynihan's house also was greatly damaged.^{2, 15}

Moynihan acquired the property alongside the railroad tracks, in 1908, from Charles S. Gwinn of Hamilton.⁴² It included what now is 281 Willow St.

In 1901, Gwinn purchased a large lot, below what is now 323 Willow St., from Jeremiah Underhill of Ipswich.^{83, 3} During the years Gwinn owned the property, the B&M RR built a siding off of its main line onto the property, to deliver coal and wood.

Gwinn expanded his property, in 1904, when he bought all the property below the former Underhill property on Asbury Street, from Emma C. Redlon.^{81 & 82} The Redlon property extended south to property owned by the Asbury Grove Railroad.

It was the transfer station for the spur that ran to Asbury Grove. In 1870, crowds at the annual camp meeting became large enough to warrant construction of a spur track from the main railroad line. Service ran every day. In 1901, Boston & Maine, halted its service to the Grove.

In 1897, Jeremiah Choate Underhill bought the property from Daniel Kimball of Rowley, who sold lumber and coal.¹⁶⁴ Underhill, in addition to coal and lumber, sold hay, grain, stoves and kitchen goods, as well as pumps and windmills.¹⁷³



Hansbury property, in 1948, had a 75 ft. frontage on Willow St. and extended back about 75 ft. In 1955, lots on the north side and south side were added.

Map, J. Hauck



281 Willow. Cleared area, at center, is site of former Hansbury Hardware store; building 1 is 5-bay garage; building 2 is an office. Photo, Bing Maps, 2011

281 Willow St.

Dodge Tree Service, owned by Kandis and Chris Cloutman, moved to 281 Willow St., in 2011. Previously, the company rented space at 305 Willow St.¹⁶

Dodge Tree Service began, in 1944, in Wenham. It bought the Willow Street property (0.9-acre)⁵⁷ to store its trucks and equipment, and to hold logs, before they are sold. In 1985, David Cloutman (father of Chris) acquired the business.

No business had been on the property since 2008. In 2011, Jeffrey Bunk, who bought the property, had it cleared of brush and trash, including more than 200 doors and windows, stored in a garage.¹⁶

Bunk also removed a 2,000 sq. ft., 100-year old, 2-1/2-story building that faced onto the street and an attached garage. the 2-1/2 story building originally was an old barn moved here from Myopia



in 1911, by Timothy A. Moynihan, to be a hardware store.

Remaining, at the back of the property, near the railroad track were a 5-bay garage and an office building. The area where the building stood was paved.

From 1948 to 2008, this was the site of Philip J. Hansbury hardware store. The property that now is 281 Willow St. is the result of 4 properties Hansbury bought between 1938 and 1955.

In 1948, he bought a lot from Lawrence Lamson. It had a 75 ft.

frontage on Willow St. and extended back about 75 ft.⁸⁵ Hansbury, in 1955, bought 2 small lots from Lamson that bordered his property: one on the north side and one on the south side of his property.⁸⁴

On the north side lot next to his hardware store, Hansbury built a 2-story extension. He also built a storage area on the south side of his store. This replaced a wagon shed.¹²²

Also in 1955, Lamson bought a B&M Railroad strip of land (55 ft. wide) abutting the south side of his property. It runs from Willow Street to the main track (about 220 ft.).⁸⁶ Previously, this was the Asbury Grove railroad bed.

Hansbury expanded his hardware business in 1956, when he built a 5-bay garage and an office building on the former railroad company property.¹²⁴



Hansbury Hardware faced onto driveway off of Willow and had an attached building. Back shown above. Photos, Hamilton Historical Society



227 Willow St. front building built in 2018, and back building in 1981. Photo, J. Hauck, 2018

building. There are parking spaces at the front of the building and on the side driveway.

A stairwell at the front right corner goes from the basement to the roof.

C. A. M. Holdings of Hamilton bought property in 2012. Construction began in 2016.

Occupation of the building was delayed a couple of years, due the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals objecting to its height, when, in 2013, C. A. M. Holdings was given

227 Willow St.

The lot at 227 Willow St. has a 118 ft. frontage on the street. It is 275 ft. deep on the north side and 309 ft. on the south side. At the back, it is 94 ft. wide.⁵⁸ A driveway extends along the north side.

At the front of the property, in 2018, a 3-story, commercial/residential building was erected. It joined a previous 2-story building erected, in 2013, at the back of the property.

The 1st and 2nd floors have space for businesses. The 3rd floor of the building is a private 5-room residence. The roof has a tiled patio and an elevator tower room.

The basement has parking spaces for 5 cars. The entrance is at the back of the

a special building permit, with a waiver of the town's typical building height restriction..¹⁷¹ The Boards state²⁴⁰

d the elevator tower above the roof was not shown in the original 2013 blueprints.¹⁷⁰

In March 2018, the Massachusetts Land Court rejected the town's cease and desist order citing that the building's construction was completed. C. A. M. Holdings received an occupancy permit for the building in 2020. Edward Jones Financial, in October 2020, was first tenant in the front building.

The building has an overall frontage of 71 ft. on Willow Street; at the back, it is 78 ft. wide; and it is 56 ft. front to back¹³⁰ The building, to the roof floor, is 47 ft. high, and about 60 ft. to the top of the elevator tower.

The 1st, and 2nd are each about 4,000 sq. ft. The 3rd floor is about 7,600 sq. ft. The basement is about 4,000 sq. ft. and the roof patio is about 3,900 sq. ft.¹³⁰

There are 2 elevators. One at the front of the building runs from the basement to the roof. It is for private use by the 3rd floor residents. The elevator at the backside of the building runs from the basement to the second floor: it is for use by businesses occupying the 2nd floor.



Hayes house, built about 1895, at what is now 227 Willow St. Photo, Hamilton-Wenham Patch, 2012

Stairs on the ground floor to the second floor are made of white oak from the original U.S.S, Constitution, built in 1797. When “old Ironsides” was rebuilt in 1855, planks replaced were stored in a salt water pond in ??.

In 2012, C.A.M, Holdings of Essex acquired the property, from Philip J. Hansbury. ⁶⁸ A 3-story house on the property, next to Willow Street, was demolished in 2013.

The 2013 2-story building, at the back, was the first approved by voters, in 2010, for the Willow St. Overlay District. ¹¹⁰

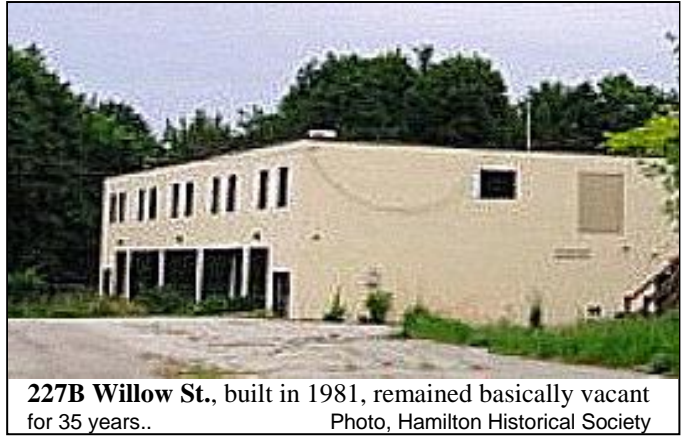
Each of the building's trapezoid floors has 5,363 sq. ft. of space. The west side of the building is square and the east side is slanted.

The building remained unoccupied until 2016, when the Anthony & Dodge public accounting business moved here from 75 Railroad Ave.

In 1981, Hansbury built 2-story cinderblock warehouse, having about 11,000 sq. ft. of space. However, when he began using the new building for the sale of work clothes and shoes, the town ordered its closing, citing the building was different than what was approved to be built. What was to be a warehouse became a clothing store with apartments on the second floor. ¹²

Hansbury bought the property, vacant in the back, in 1977, from the estate of Allen L. Peterson. He got it from his father, George A. Peterson, in 1960. ⁶⁷

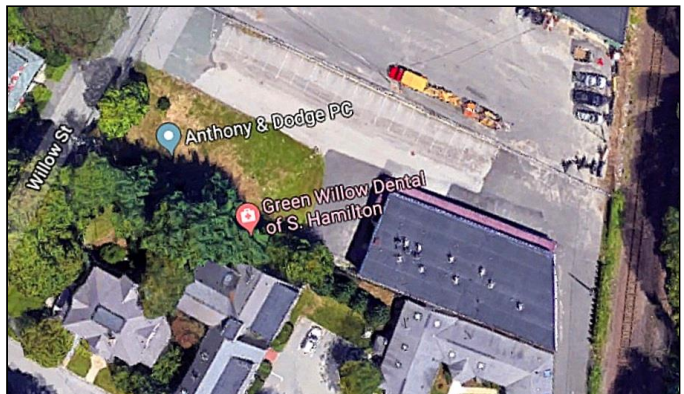
In 1921, George A. Peterson acquired the property from Olivia E. Hayes, ⁷⁸ widow of Joseph W. Hayes, who died in 1912. The family lived here beginning in 1902. ³⁸ Hayes owned the Hamilton Hardware on the adjoining Moynihan property.



227B Willow St., built in 1981, remained basically vacant for 35 years.. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



227B Willow St., underwent major refurbishing in 2016. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



House at front of 227 Willow was demolished in 2013. Photo, Google, 2012

Joseph Hayes bought the property, in 1902, from the estate of Minerva Holmes. ³⁸ Her husband, Richmond, bought the property, in 1895, from Carrie P. Porter. ⁸⁸ Richmond Hayes built a house.

In 1899, following the death of Richmond Holmes, Lester E. Libby bought the property. ³³ He promptly sold it to Minerva Holmes. ⁸⁷ She died in 1902.



203/205 Willow St. became the Willowdale Center office park in 1970. There are 4 units and a large parking area. Photo, Bing Maps, 2012

203/205 Willow St.

2010 In 2010, 203/205 Willow St. became part of a Willow Street Overlay District that stretches from 203 Willow St. to Asbury Street. The town created the district to allow for "increased resident density and wider range of commercial uses."¹¹⁰

Until 1970, what is now the Willowdale Professional Center was a 2-½ story house with a 2-story addition at the back. A full-width, open porch was at the front. It was built about 1890.¹³⁰ The property had a 150-ft. frontage on Willow St.

Now, the Willowdale Center, 203/205 Willow St., has 4 buildings and a parking area for more than 80 vehicles. The property size is 1.4 ac.

At the street side is the original building. With the additions and changes made since 1970, it has become a 2-unit office condominium,¹²⁰ with about 2,100 sq. ft.

Directly behind this building is a 3-story condominium. Built about 1985, it has 4 units.¹²⁰ Next to this building, on the north side, is a 3-story condominium. Built 1984, it also has 4 units¹²⁰ covering about 3,500 sq. ft.

At the back of the property is U-shaped, condominium, 205 Willow St. Gourdeau built it in 1970 to be a garage for his vehicles and equipment. About 1985, he renovated the building for use as a medical office that he rented to Dr. Price.

The 4,800 sq. ft. building has 3 units: a single-story center section; a 2-story wing and a single story wing.

Lahey Medical Center was here from 2009 to 2011. It relocated to Ipswich.



203 Willow St. became as office complex, Willowdale, of 4 buildings in 1970. Photo, J. Hauck 2016



Back of 203 Willow St.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

This was not the first time doctors have been at this Willow Street location. Preceding Lahey was the Willowdale Medical Center, of which Dr. Stephen Price was president. A former physician at Gordon College, he founded the Willowdale Medical Center, in 1982. Dr. Price also served as a school physician in Hamilton.¹⁰

From 1982 to 1988, Dr. Jon Sarkin had a chiropractic practice at the Willowdale Medical Center. He closed his practice following a stroke incurred during surgery. Sarkin developed a drawing obsession, known as "sudden artistic output." It caused him to only see parts of what was before him, but to see them in infinite detail. His elaborate drawings and paintings, highly held around the world, are melanges of words, lines and images.¹⁴

In 1969, Henry J. Gourdeau, acquired the property from Richard L. Gysan.⁶⁶

Owner of the Gourdeau Construction, which he began in 1927, he used the house at 203 Willow both for his offices and rented space. He stored equipment and trucks in a large garage that now is the 205 Willow St. office complex.¹²⁰

The previous owner, Gysan, bought the property in 1966 from Edward Morley of Manchester.⁶⁵ Two years earlier, 1964, Morley acquired the property from Dr. Albert Larchez.⁶⁴ In 1967, Gysan is said to have considered building apartments at the back of his property. He was unable to obtain approvals from the town.¹¹⁶

From 1946 to 1967, Dr. Albert Larchez had his practice at 203 Willow St.³ He next became a full-time doctor at Salem Hospital.

During the two decades Dr. Larchez had his practice in Hamilton, he was a member of the Board of Health and a school doctor for 23 years. Dr. Larchez was a WW2, U.S. Army doctor, in Europe and was a major, when discharged.¹⁶⁵

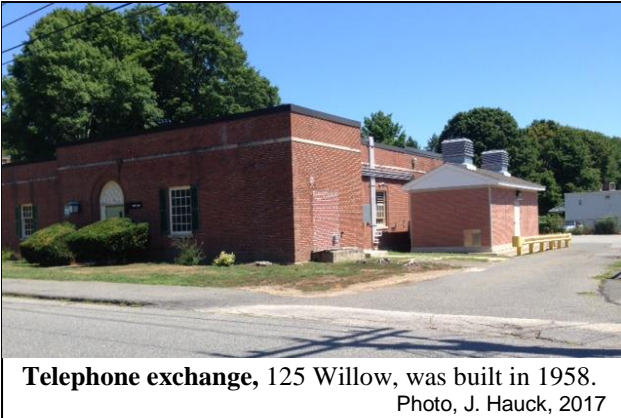
In 1946, Dr. Larchez bought the property from Maude I. Davis,⁵⁴ widow of Dr. Charles H. Davis. Maude and her sister-in-law Doris E. Davis continued to live at 203 Willow St., until 1950. Another sister-in-law, Ruth Davis Pickering lived with them.⁶⁹ A native of Somerville, Dr. Davis succeeded Dr. Samuel E. Thayer, who died in 1905. He joined Dr. Thayer's practice in 1901.³

Dr. Thayer was the first doctor at 203 Willow St. Town records for the late 1800s have numerous listings of the town paying Dr. Thayer, as part of the town's Public Welfare program, for medical assistance. Dr. Thayer helped residents, who were unable to pay for their treatment.



205 Willow St. Lahey Medical Center was here from 2009 to 2011.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Telephone exchange, 125 Willow, was built in 1958.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

125 Willow St.

What is now 125 Willow St., until 1958 was 145 Willow St. The address change came when New England Telephone built a new exchange building on the site. Previously, the telephone company was around the corner at 61 Railroad Ave.

The telephone company bought the property from Elizabeth Cummings.⁶¹ The move was made when the company switched to a dial system from its operator method of making connections. At the time, the property was vacant.

A barn, built before 1933 during the time Elizabeth Cummings owned the property⁵⁰ was removed before 1957. A 1910 map shows the property as being vacant.¹⁶³

In 1897, Cummings bought the property from the estate of Emma Gregory.³⁰ Until 1879, the lot was part of a larger property owned by Carrie Rust.²⁰

78 Willow St.

A single-story building is on the corner of Willow Street and Railroad Avenue. Reminiscent of commercial buildings built in the late 1800s and into 1900s, it has a vertical extension above its roofline, giving the impression of a larger structure. Built in 1915, it replaced the original 1896 building at this site.

A wide range of businesses have been at the current building.

In 2019, 80 Willow, Houndstooth Consignors moved to 80 Willow. Begun by Heidi D Mckeon and Jennifer D Painter the shop offers previously owned women

and men's clothing, accessories and small housewares.

Previously at this location was Allied Restoration, owned by Sarah Blanding, Opened in 2010, Allied Restoration restores various forms of art, including paintings, frames and antiques. In 2017, Blanding moved her business to 75 Railroad Ave.

Orthodontist - Dr. Samuel Foster began his practice in 1984. He bought the property from Ernest Liporto.²³²

In 1963, the grocery store at 78 Willow St. succumbed to the supermarket competition. In a probate court sale, Ernesto Liporto of Hamilton bought the property,²³⁰ formerly owned by John A. Bick and Francis C. Moynihan, both of Hamilton. Moynihan previously owned a liquor package store in the Bookstein block.

Travel agent - Caboose Travel Services, owned by Helen Lauenstein of Gloucester, opened in 1977. About 1995, it moved to Beverly.

Chiropractor - Around the corner, on Railroad Avenue side of the building, is Hamilton-Wenham Chiropractic, owned by Dr. Gerald Gould. He began his practice here in 2006.

Tailor - Previously at this location, for two decades beginning in 1985, was Jozef Soroka's tailoring business. In 2006, he and his wife, Janina, both Polish immigrants, moved the business to the second floor at 300 at Main, in Wenham.^{25, 272}



78 Willow St., built in 1915, last was a grocery in 1896.
Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Convenience store - Richdale Convenience Store, run by Warren Parker .

Podiatry - Hamilton Podiatry, run by Dr. Timothy J. Tobin of Beverly.

Grocery - Ed Bick, who lived on Linden Street, ran the Community Market grocery store. John A. Bick acquired half interest in the property in 1961, from Francis C. Moynihan.¹⁶⁹

The closing of the Community Market ended there having been a grocery at this corner for nearly 70 years.

Moynihan, in 1949, bought the property and business from Clement Claflen of Hamilton.^{229 270} Claflen acquired the store, in 1937, from Sidney C. Gould of Hamilton.²²⁷ At the time, Claflen, born in England, lived in Providence, RI. For more than 40 years, this was Gould's market and general store.³⁰⁶

In 1914, a fire destroyed the original two-story Gould building.³⁰³ Although the fire station was across the street, it had little in the way of equipment to fight a fire in the large building. Further, fighting the fire likely was impeded by the naphtha lamp-fuel sold at the front of his store.²

Later in 1914, Gould built a new structure. Probably, not wanting to give the impression that the new, single-story building was smaller and that his business was smaller than it had been, he built a false

front, like many other Railroad Avenue buildings.

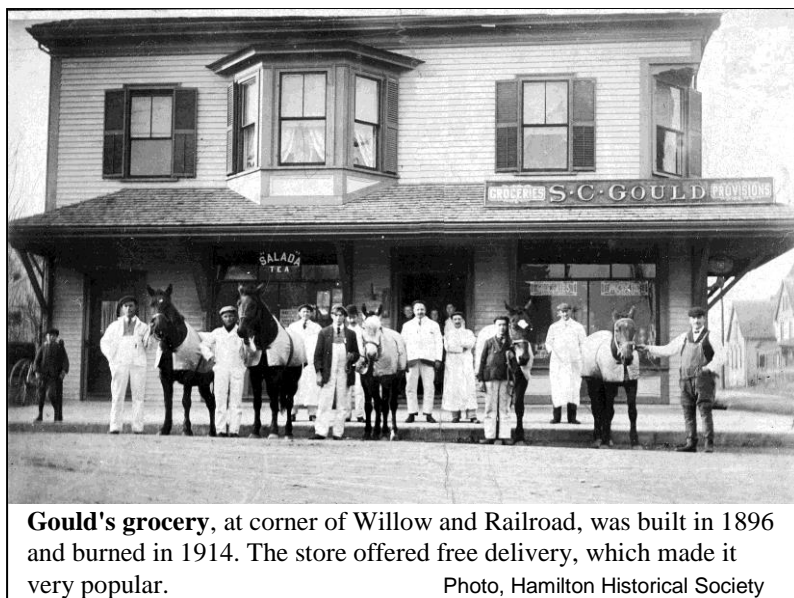
His store also offered garden tools, lawn mowers, ice cream freezers, and window screens.² However, Gould, abiding to the old adage, "Once burned, forever learned," did not continue selling fuel oil at his second store.

Gould's first store sold butter, cheese, eggs, coal, flour, grain, local vegetables and fruit, tea, coffee, spices and groceries. His store catered to the many affluent families living in the Hamilton-Wenham area by offering choice brands of groceries, such as the S. S. Pierce packaged fancy foods and delicacies.³¹⁶

A major draw for Gould's customers, at both his stores, was he had horse-drawn wagons to provide free delivery. For customers with large orders and those at distant areas, this was important.

The original building had apartments on the second floor.² Briefly, 1907 to 1908, Gould and his wife, Eva (*Towne*), lived on the second floor, before they moved to Linden Street, Wenham.^{303, 307}

In 1895, Gould bought the property from Edward P. Gibney.²¹⁴ The Gould family had moved, several years earlier, to Hamilton from Topsfield. It appears that Gould erected his building in 1896. The 1895 deed does not indicate a building on the former Gibney property.²¹⁴



Gould's grocery, at corner of Willow and Railroad, was built in 1896 and burned in 1914. The store offered free delivery, which made it very popular. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Prior to building on Willow Street, Gould had, in the Smith block on Railroad Ave., a grocery store, which he bought in 1893 from Oliver Kilham.^{306, 303}

In the middle of the century, supermarkets began to dominate the groceries business. The first of the supermarkets came to Hamilton in 1958: IGA Foodliner grocery store opened at the new Hamilton Crossing Center.³¹⁵



Willow St./Railroad Ave. intersection: 1) 63 Willow St., 2) 69 Willow St., 3) Parking lot, 4) 95 Willow St., 5) 100 Willow St., and 6) 78 Willow St.
Photo, Google Maps

Willow St. & Railroad Ave.

The area at the corner of Willow Street and Railroad Avenue, now a parking lot, has never had a building. There are 17 parking spaces on the lot that is entered from Willow Street. It became a public parking lot in 1956.²⁰⁰

Hamilton, in 1919, took the land by eminent domain. It was owned by John Quigley, et al.⁵⁰

In 1922, the firemen seeded the lot.⁹⁶ Further, they planted a barberry hedge around the lawn. This became a picnic and recreation area for the firemen and their families.

There is no record of when the town removed the hedge. However, in 1953, the town placed a bulletin board on the corner,^{61, 103} for posting voting lists, town warrants, and other town postings.

The vacant area became slightly larger in 1934. A fire at the Smith block on Railroad Avenue also greatly damaged the small building next to it; the building was removed.⁴³

Subsequent businesses in the rebuilt Smith building began using the lot for parking. In 1949, James MacLaren, who had a car dealership in the former Smith block, began allowing the town to use his paved lot, alongside the unpaved fire engineers' parking area, for parking.⁵⁹ In 1955, the town paved the firemen's portion. Firemen used it, when responding to alarms.⁶²

In 1987, a possibility arose for a loss of the spaces. Steven F. Bissell of Beverly proposed, to the town's Planning Board, the building of affordable housing on the parking lot and also on the adjoining land owned by Robert McRae.⁶⁹ Bissell abandoned the plan, in 1988, after his purchase option on Hal McRae's property expired.⁷⁰

Supermarkets had large parking lots for the new, mobile populace. Customers picked their own items from vast shelves, a departure from grocery stores where staff people got the items customers requested.

The supermarkets had thousands nationally branded items and offered almost anything a customer would want from meat, dairy, produce, deli to household items. Prices were very low. By 1960, supermarket chains had about 70% of the food-retailing dollar.



Parking lot, corner of Willow and Asbury streets is owned by town.
Photo, Bing Maps, 2015

69 Willow St.

In 2011, Firehouse Place affordable housing opened, at 69 Willow St. It has 4 units and a street-level shop for a food pantry, Acord. The housing units are: a one-bedroom apartment, on the ground floor, designed for a disabled elderly person; and 3 studio apartments, on the second floor.

Acord, founded in 1991, opens 3 times a week for low-income clients to obtain fresh dairy, eggs, meat, fish, fresh produce, and shelf-stable items. The service is available to residents of: Hamilton, Wenham, Topsfield, Essex, Ipswich and Manchester.

Firehouse Place was built from what originally, in 1890, was Hamilton's first firehouse.⁹⁰ It was on land the town leased from Angie M. Adams.⁸⁰ Daniel C. Smith built the firehouse⁹⁰ that basically was a small, simple garage for the department's small engine and limited amount of equipment.

In 1895, firemen refurbished the building.⁹¹ They widened the front door, and installed a hot water heating system that



Fire station closed in 1957, when fire department moved to Bay Road. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

provided heat to the engine room and also two large radiators, in a small room where they held their meetings.¹²²

At the November 1919 Annual Town Meeting, the Board of Engineers and the firemen requested the town vote to erect a new firehouse or refurbish the existing building. The town voted \$340 to remodel the old firehouse, including providing better sanitary conditions. This was done in 1921.⁹⁵

A year later, the town graveled an area behind the firehouse: this became a parking area for the firemen's cars that previously were parked on Willow Street.⁹⁶

In their 1926 report to the selectmen, the Board of Fire Engineers reported they had installed a new heating plant.⁹⁷

In 1933, during the national recession, several unemployed townspeople painted the outside and inside of the firehouse. Screens also were made. Two additional radiators and a pressure tank were installed for heating the apparatus area, which became very cold when the doors were opened in the winter.⁵⁰



Fire House Place opened in 2011. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

Following WW2, with the end of spending restrictions, the Board of Fire Engineers, at the 1947 Town Meeting, asked the voters to provide \$3,000 for alterations and repairs to the engine house. The motion was carried unanimously.¹⁰²

As fire equipment became larger in size and the number of volunteer firemen increased, the Willow Street engine house once again became crowded.

In 1956, a committee investigated the feasibility of providing a building for new quarters for the fire and police departments. Its report stated that fire department's quarters were "most inadequate and unsafe, as to size and construction. The location is not suitable for any possible expansion or new construction."¹⁰⁴

The Committee stated that, "a definite need exists for a new building to serve as quarters for the fire and police departments."¹⁰⁴ The fire department moved, in 1957, to a new building on Main Street.¹⁰⁵

Into the vacant 69 Willow St. building, the town moved (1957) its Water Department.¹⁰⁵ There was ample room in the garage for the department's new truck, purchased in 1957.

The water department remained here until 1975, when it moved to the town hall basement. It began parking its truck in the Department of Public Works garage behind the town hall.¹²⁸

Next, in 1992, the Acord Food Pantry, a family-in-need food service began renting the building.¹²²

63 Willow St.

In 1896, Angie Adams of Hamilton acquired the property as part of land she bought from Daniel H. Appleton of Ipswich.¹³⁷

The first structure at 63 Willow St. was the former south schoolhouse, built in 1856, that was moved here from Railroad Avenue, about where there now (2017) is the senior citizen housing complex. Initially, the Methodist Church used the building, which it bought from the town,

as their meetinghouse. The church rented the land from Adams. The church left in 1915, moving to the corner of Union and Asbury streets.³

In 1938, Adams gave the property to her granddaughter, Edna A. Sprague of Hamilton.⁵³

In the 1940s, Chester R. Chase leased the building for his plumbing business.¹¹⁷ He stayed here until the early 1950s.¹²⁶

Next, in 1955, Robert McRae purchased the property from Edna Sprague Barney.⁵⁹ Mac's shoe repair shop opened in the south side of the building, The cobbler remained there until he closed his shop in 2015.

For many years, on the other side of the building, McRae had a shoe store. In 1975, McRae closed his shoe store. Competition from shoe stores at malls was too great, but still were having shoes repaired. John Halliday began renting this side of the building. He opened John's barbershop. Previously, Halliday had been a Hamilton barber, working at "Buster" Divencenzo's shop Railroad Avenue, from 1961 to 1970.¹²¹

Not surprising was Mac's involvement with the fire company next door. He was with it for 35 years, the final 10 years as the chief.

In 2014, the Hamilton Development Corp. purchased the property from the McRae estate.¹¹³ John's Barbershop continued to rent a side of the building.



63 Willow St. originally was a Hamilton school building.
Photo, Bing Maps, 2015.

Houses

At the Linden Street end of Willow Street, the properties on both sides have Linden Street addresses, 85 and 105. Both are private residences.

On most of Willow Street, there are private residences. In 2016, 17 of the properties are houses. The last house removed was at 227 Willow St., the former Joseph W. Hayes residence was demolished in 2016. Five houses were built on Willow between 1885 and 1891: 116 (1889), 100 (1890), 136 (1890), 156 (1891), and 176 (1891).

Starting from the south of the condominiums at 300 Willow St., the first private residence is 11 Willow St.



3 Mill St.

Susan and Eugene Wright acquired part of the 3 Mill St. property, in 1993 from Anthony Maione.¹⁵² It had a 47-ft. frontage on Willow. In 2003, the Wrights bought an adjoining strip of land (*former 284 Willow St.*), with a 34-ft. frontage from the town of Hamilton,¹⁵¹ thereby creating an 81-ft. frontage on Willow.

For the previous 45 years, the Maione family lived here, beginning with Alphonse Maione. He acquired the property, in 1948, from Lawrence Lamson,¹⁵³ who in 1946 bought it from Timothy A. Moynihan.¹⁵⁴ 3 Mill St. was created in 1928, when Timothy A. Moynihan sold a corner section of his

property. The 3 Mill St. property was 127 ft. on Mill Street and 47 ft. on Willow St.⁷⁹

Moynihan acquired the property, in 1909, from Lester E. Libby,⁴⁵ who earlier that year bought it at a bank auction.⁴⁵

Mill Street became a town way in 1909. Previously, it was a private way. The name came from the houses moved here from the Willowdale Mill area, in western Hamilton.¹²² The 40-ft.-wide private way was created between 1890 and 1892.¹⁵⁷

The house at 3 Mill St. previously was across Willow Street. Built before 1895, Timothy A. Moynihan moved it in 1911 following the 1910 fire that ravaged the area.¹⁶⁸ Damaged in the fire, it was refurbished to replace a 2-1/2 story building totally destroyed in the fire.¹⁵

The Ancient Order of Hiberians, an Irish Catholic organization had been using the second floor for dances and meetings. The building, erected about 1891, then called Shamrock Hall,¹⁴⁹ was owned by the Beverly Cooperative Bank.¹⁵⁵

For many years, two businesses were in the building. On the first floor, there were a building materials store and a carpenter's shop. An 1895 photo shows signs for William E. Redlon's building supplies business and a carpenter shop run by Thomas Horne.

Redlon left the building in 1899, when he defaulted on a mortgage.¹⁵⁸ He sold the building supplies to Jeremiah Underhill, who had a store across the street.¹⁶⁴

George F. Creamer owned the original building,¹⁵⁶ called Creamer Hall, in which he began a lumber business, in 1890.¹⁵⁹ Creamer bought the property earlier that year from Daniel C. Smith, who also was a lumber dealer.¹⁶⁰

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



222 Willow St. Built about 1895.

For many years, from about 1940 to 1955, Arthur Mason ran a riding stable. He continued a previous riding stable.¹¹⁶

Fortunately, the 1910 fire, which began on Mill Street, did not destroy the farmhouse, nor the other buildings on the property. Directly behind the house, there was a horse stable, in which there were stalls, a barn and a few sheds.

In 1907, Arthur and Fanny Mason bought the property from Thomas McCaffrey. At the time, the property had frontages of 192-ft. on Willow and 126-ft. on Mill Street.⁴¹

McCarthy was the first owner and erected the first house. He bought the property, in 1892,²⁷ from Carrie P. Porter. She owned many properties in the Prospect Park neighborhood.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



202 Willow St. The first owner was Thomas McCaffrey, who in 1892 bought the property from Carrie Porter. Likely, McCaffrey built a house that he rented.

McCaffrey, in 1906, sold the property to Geo. W. Kennison,¹⁴⁸ who sold it in 1908 to John Jones.¹⁴⁷ Next, in 1911, Jones sold the property to John and Ellen Mullins, Irish immigrants.¹⁴⁶ The Mullins family lived here for nearly 50 years: Ellen, a widow, sold the property in 1950 to Richard P. Costello of Essex.¹⁴⁵

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



North end of 222 Willow St.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



176 Willow St. Built in 1892. ¹³⁰

The first residents were Elias M. and Ancelia Towle. They bought the property, on which they erected their Victorian style house, in March 1892. Albert Haraden previously owned the property. ²⁹

A carpenter, Elias Towle was involved in building the nearby South School on Railroad Ave. He died in 1895.

In 1899, Ancelia Towle sold the property to Samuel and Katherine Malone of Hamilton and both immigrants from Ireland. ¹⁴⁴

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



175 Willow St. Built in 1930. ¹³⁰

The first residents were Arthur and Mary Southwick, who bought the property in 1929. ⁴⁷

Arthur was the Police Chief from 1924 to 1940 and was a member of the force for nearly 25 years.

Selectman George E. Cantwell and his wife, Eleanor, lived here from 1974 to 2001. Subsequently, Selectman Brian Stein and his wife, Stephanie, lived here.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

Willow Trivia

- ❖ Firemen lived at 5 houses
- ❖ Never a willow on Willow
- ❖ Nor any trees in 1850
- ❖ More than a dozen Irish immigrant families lived on street.
- ❖ Originally was Willow Avenue
- ❖ Willow, a metaphor for adjusting with life, not fighting it.
- ❖ First 4-story building in town.



156 Willow St. Built in 1891.

The first resident was Sarah E. Vennard of Manchester. ²⁴ She died, at 93, in 1939. ¹⁷²

The Vennard family continued living here until 1965, when Edward S. Vennard, Sarah's son, sold the property to Nelson R. and Dorothy V. Lent. ⁶³

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



151 Willow St. Built in 1932.

The first residents were John F. & Mary E. Counihan. They bought the property, on which they erected their house, in 1928 from Charles A. Cummings.⁴³

The Counihans married in 1930. For many years, John (*Jack*) served on the Board of Registrars and was the Postmaster, from 1944 to 1968. His wife, Mary, and his sister-in-law, Julie Wheatley, were long-time clerks at the post office.¹²²

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



136 Willow St. Built in 1890.¹³⁰

The first residents were John W. and Lucy D. Allen.²⁸ At the time, their house was on the corner of Willow and Highland; Highland became Rust Street in 1905.

William Townsend, worked at Begg's blacksmith shop on Willow, He lived in the farmhouse style house, with his wife, Sarah from 1908 to 1929.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



116 Willow St. Built in 1911.

Charles A. Peterson, Jr. was the first resident. He bought the property in 1889.²¹

Peterson's daughter, Mabel L., and her husband, Chester P. Woodbury, were the next residents, in the farmhouse.⁶²

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



100 Willow St. Built in 1890.

The first resident of the farm style house was Mary A. Cross, a widow,²⁵ Her husband, Stephen, a carpenter, died, at 63, the year of the purchase.

Her son, John E., acquired the property in 1906.¹⁴³ He was unmarried. For many years, he was a member of the fire department, just up the road at 69 Willow St.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



95 Railroad Ave. Built >1890.

The front entrance of the house faces the corner of Railroad Avenue and Willow Street. A Victorian style house, it is the last remnant of residential properties on Railroad Avenue.

In 1949, Morley Piper began the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle from a room on the first floor.

Early owners of the property were: Eliza A. Morris of Salem,⁹⁵ 1895 to 1901; Austin F. Brown of Hamilton,⁹⁴ 1889 to 1891; Daniel C. Smith of Hamilton. The longest residents were John J. and Mary N. Crosby: 44 years (1903 to 1947).

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



62 Willow St. Built in 1885.

A farmhouse style house, it is the oldest house on the street.

The first resident was Edward P. Gibney, a plumber.²³

In 1991, the house became a 2-unit residential condominium.^{31, 32}

Photo, J. Hauck, 2016



45 Willow St. The desire to keep the residential environment was specifically stated in the 1957 deed for the sale of 45 Willow St. John C. Corcoran of Beverly sold the property to John M. Waldie of Beverly, with the stipulation that, "Said premises shall not be used for commercial, business or manufacturing purposes or for any purpose offensive to a residential neighborhood."⁶⁰

Waldie built a ranch-style house on the property, in 1958. Photo, J. Hauck, 2016

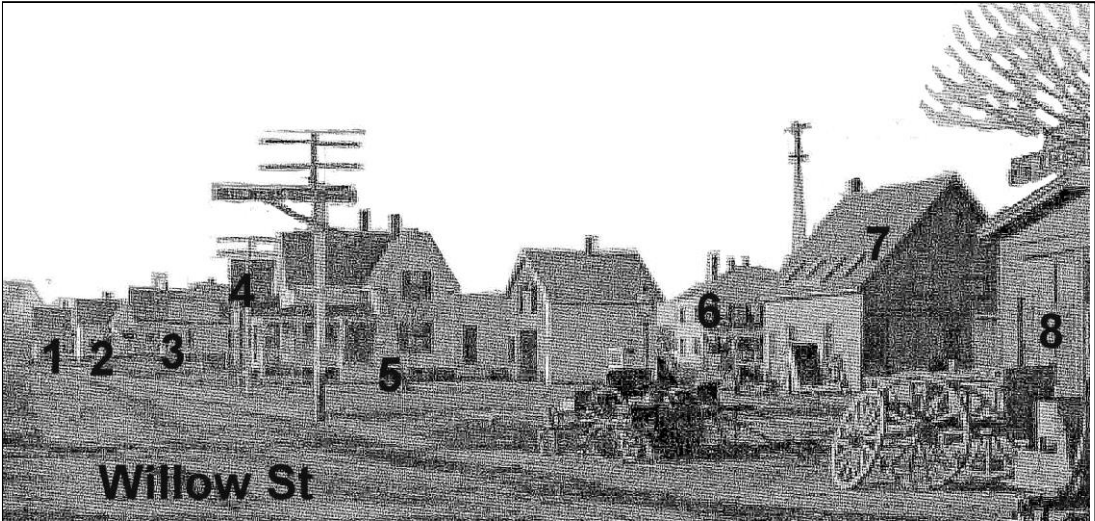


4 Pleasant St., on the west side of Willow St., was built in 1901.³⁴ The builder placed a 1901 Indian-head penny into the upper surface of the foundation.¹²⁶

Alvin L. Perley, unmarried at the time, was the first occupant. He married Jennie L. Smith, in November 1900, He was a member of the fire department for many years and his wife, Jennie, was for many years the librarian at the branch library in the brick block on Main Street.¹²⁶

In 1956, Perley's great grandson Alvin (*Bud*) P. Whipple and his wife, Elaine, moved here. His grandmother, Jennie, died while the couple were on honeymoon.¹²⁶

Photo, J. Hauck, 2017



Willow Street, looking south from the Asbury Grove railroad track crossing, c1895.

1) 136 Willow St.; 2) 156 Willow St.; 3) 176 Willow St.; 4) 202 Willow St.; 5) 222 Willow St.; 6) Backer St.; 7) 222 Willow St.; and 8) 3 Mill St.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

No longer deforested, Willow Street (*below*) still has many of the buildings that lined it at the end of the 19th century (*above*). Gone is the railroad tracks that crossed the street near its north end.

In addition to trees, many properties have shrubs and lawns. The dirt street now is paved, as is the sidewalk.

However, commercialization of street properties accelerated at the start of the 21st century. Businesses occupy properties on the northeast side of the street from Asbury Street to almost Cummings Street.



Willow Street, looking south from Mill Street. Trees and shrubs line both sides. Photo, J. Hauck, 2017.

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