

*Hamilton's ...*

## Historic District

What is now Bay Road, in the 1600s, was the Bay Path, in a section of Ipswich called the 3<sup>rd</sup> parish. It entered the parish from Wenham and ran through, for the most part, land owned by Matthew Whipple.

There exists very little information about houses, barns and other structures built in this section, in the 1600s. Only one 17<sup>th</sup> century house remained in 2021, 638 Bay Rd. There were 10 from 18<sup>th</sup> and 14 from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest photos are from the 1870s (610 and 641 Bay Rd.) and 1890s.

An early concern about the historic center of Hamilton was the name of the road running through the center of the town. At the 1953 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved the change from Main Street to Bay Road. The reason cited for the change was "that the name Main Street seemed ill-suited to the main thoroughfare running through the country-like and picturesque town of Hamilton." The vote in favor was unanimous.

In 1960, the State enacted a law, the Historic Districts Act, MGL, Chap. 40C, to all municipalities to establish local historic districts. (*The Act was substantially amended in 1971, with minor language changes made in 1983 and 1987.*)

Chap. 40C established procedures to create historic districts and a historic district commission that functions

similar to a board of appeals. All applications for permits to change the exterior appearance of structures or their demolition, in the historic district, are reviewed by the town's Historical District Commission. For approved changes, the commission grants a certificate of appropriateness. The Commission's rulings are in addition to zoning regulations.

Hamilton voters, in 1964, approved the creation of a Historic District Study Committee, to prepare a report on historic sites in the community and to recommend the establishment of such districts.

However, it was not until 1970 that the selectmen established the Hamilton Historic District Study Committee. Members appointed were: Donald W. Beattie, C. Stuart Carroll, Harold A. Daley (*chair*), Fellowes Davis, Ann Neary, Janice Pulsifer and M. Anne Ryder.

The Committee's charge was to investigate and prepare a report on the historic significance of buildings, structures, features, sites or surroundings to be included in a proposed historic district.

During a period of 3 years, members visited 27 properties, met homeowners, searched deeds and maps and gathered historic documents and photos. They made detailed reports, took photos and sketched maps for each location. These reports include information about buildings removed, such as the blacksmith shop, stores, cobbler shop and barns.

The district included the old Hamilton center, i.e., the area along both sides of Bay Rd, to the north and south of the town hall. The area included dwellings of the historic leaders and prominent citizens of the town, the meetinghouse, town green, cemetery, post office, tavern, store, and blacksmith shop.

In the course of its investigations, the committee also researched many homes of historical significance, which do not lie within the bounds of the proposed historic district. The research was done with the thought that these houses might be designated Historic Landmarks, at some future date.

Drawing upon the documents prepared by the Study Committee, Hamilton voters, in 1972, established a Historic District. The bounds are shown on a map entitled Hamilton Historic District. It was filed with the Town Clerk and recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds.

Three properties at the southeast end of Bay Road are not part of the district. When the Study Committee made its recommendations, there was a gas station at 549 Bay Rd., a florist at 545 Bay Rd., and the next property was part of Orchard Street.

Also absent from the Committee's reports are comments about gutters and downspouts, which by, the late 1700s, were on most buildings.

Although the central focus of the Hamilton Historic District was on the buildings, trees were a major part of the rural nature of the historic district. In need of wood for heat, many early settlers cut down trees throughout the Hamlet (*Hamilton's early name*). In 1903, George v. L. Myer planted, on Main St. at his own expense, 200 rock maples.

Fences, of which there have been many along Main Street, were not included as a subject to be considered by the Hamilton Historic District Commission

Specifics relating to historic building design are in The Hamilton Historic District Commission Guidelines, sec. III. Design Review Guidelines, part C. Alterations to Buildings.

## Historic District Houses

#	Built	Rebuilt	Current Style
540	1853		Greek Revival
560	1755	1970	Federal
563	1797	1956	Colonial, half house
569	1850<	1972	Colonial/Dutch
577	1897	---	American Federal
589	1850<	1895	American Federal
595	1808	1890	Colonial
598	1840	---	Greek Revival
601	1750<	1790	Federal
604	1852<	1968	Federal
605	1810	2013	Federal
610	1873	---	Victorian
613	1793<	---	Colonial
621	1840	---	Colonial
623	1877	---	Shed
624	1715	1790	Colonial
624	1772	1901	Barn
624	2017	---	Barn
624	2017	---	Colonial
625	1840	---	Colonial
630	1713	1763	Federal
638	1660	---	Colonial
645	1830	2017	Split level
648	1739	1848	Georgian
670	1720	1946	Barn
684	1864	1995	Barn
690	1993	2019	Colonial
700	1775	---	Federal



Looking south along Bay Rd., 2020, from town hall, trees no longer cover the road. Photo, 2020, Google maps



Looking south along Bay Rd., 1942, from Moulton St., tree-covered the road. Photo, Raymond A. Whipple

## 645 Bay Rd.



645 Bay Rd. 2019

Photo, J. Hauck



645 Bay Rd., 1970

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

645 Bay Rd., built-in 1830 by David Hoyt, the town postmaster, is a modified colonial design. In 2017, a 2-story, 24- x 51-ft. addition, which included a 2-car garage, was built onto the east side of the house.

Other changes to the house, since 1970, are: additions of a shed dormer to the south side of the center peaked roof and a second floor with a gabled dormer to the previous single-floor east wing.

The porch on the east wing, as seen in 1970, was extended to reach the front line of the house. A 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, with a box-gabled dormer, was added.

Also, clapboard siding replaced the shake siding and a redbrick center chimney replaced the white chimney, with its black rim.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

645bayroad\_folder05\_01 to 13

## 625 Bay Rd.



625 Bay Rd., 2019

Photo, J. Hauck



625 Bay Rd., 1972.

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Until the property was subdivided in 2002, 625 Bay Rd. was 639 Bay Rd.

Built about 1840 by Dr. Oliver Cressy, 639 Bay Rd. is a 2-story, Greek Revival-style house. A single-story attachment may have been Dr. Cressy's office. Attached to it is a 2-story barn.

The center chimney, a characteristic of colonial houses, is unusual for a 19th-century house. The

peaked roof, with open gables at both ends, in 1970, had de-icing panels, which were later removed.

The front portico has a triangular pediment. The depth is slightly less than it was in 1970, but the same as in 1972. A portico was added to the side entrance.

While now grey with white trim, the house and trim previously were white. Also, the house in 1972, had black shutters.

It has a peaked roof with an open gable facing the street and has a center chimney, which is unusual for a 19th-century house. The entrance, off-centered, is recessed and does not have a pediment.

Distinctive north side: no windows on the front half and 2 sash windows on the first and 2 sash windows on the second floors of the back half. A third window on the first floor is a small fixed casement type.

**Hamilton Historic District Decisions**

1995: Commission issued a certificate of appropriateness to replace windows.

2016 - Certificate of Applicability to demolish barn, rebuild on footprint a garage/living space and replace all house windows

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

625BayRoad\_folder01 025 & \_026



625 Bay Rd., 2019, north side.

Photo, J. Hauck

**623 Bay Rd., Cemetery**

About 100 yds. in from the cemetery's Bay Road entrance, on Main Ave., there is a former coffin holding building. Shrubs on three sides screen the painted brick building, which has a slate roof.

The cemetery first had a receiving tomb in 1877. The tomb temporarily stored bodies during the winter, when the ground was too frozen to be dug by gravediggers. It was closed about 1970, when a backhoe began to be used. Occasionally, the building now is used for storage.

In 2009, the building was refurbished, but the slate roof remained.

**Reference**

<http://hwlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Cemetery-06-18.pdf>



623 Bay Rd., 1994

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



Hamilton Cemetery, 2020, arrow points to former coffin holding building, shown above

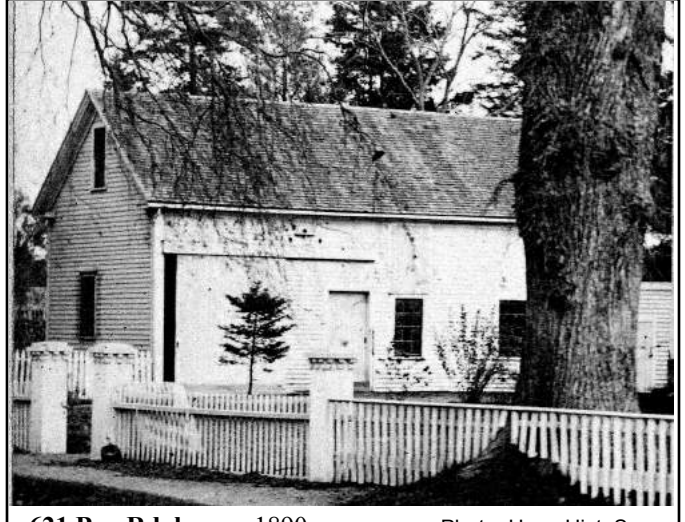
Photo, J. Hauck

## 621 Bay Rd.



621 Bay Rd. barn, 2019.

Photo. J. Hauck



621 Bay Rd. barn, c1890

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

An unusual aspect of 621 Bay Rd., in the 1800s, was the barn was close to the street. Other properties had barns, but they were behind the house or at the back of the property. The barns on Bay Road were for storing a carriage, horse, feed and supplies.

The carriage entrance for the 621 Bay Rd. barn was a double-door suspended on an overhead track. The door slid along a track in the ground. A hood above the top track kept it free of ice in the winter and leaves and twigs the rest of the year. The garage continues to have ground-level clapboard siding.

In 1793, Daniel Roberts built a house and barn on the property. About 1840, the original buildings at 621 Main St. were replaced by a house and barn. Daniel E. Safford (at 2) inherited the property, in 1828.

The house, facing the street, had quoined front corners, shuttered windows with lintels, a peaked roof, but not gabled dormers, chimneys at both ends of the roof, a slate roof, slightly extended, 2-story center section, an open front portico with a railing en-

closed porch above and a wide entablature beneath the eaves on all sides.

In 1921, the house was alongside the street and a short distance south from the barn. Safford's daughter, Sarah, sold the property to Mary Curtis who moved the house halfway back from Main Street and turned it to face the southwest. She added box gable dormers, a single-story porch on the northeast corner, painted the building and chimneys white and installed awnings on some windows.

A transom is above the front door. Originally, transoms allowed air and light into a house when solid doors were closed and shutters closed on windows. Now decorative.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1992: Certificate of Non-applicability for repair and improvements to the front barn. No visible exterior changes.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

621BayRoad\_folder54\_013



621 Bay Rd., 2011

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



621 Bay Rd., c1900

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

## 613 Bay Rd.



613 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, J. Hauck



613 Bay Rd., 1930

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

In 2004, Thomas Ford rebuilt the 2-story house at 613 Bay Rd., which he acquired in 1998. Dr. Nathan Lakeman may have built the house before 1793.

The colonial style of the 2004 house is very similar to the building in 1930, including the peaked roof facing the street, a center chimney, and an off-center entrance. The 2004 house has a triangular pediment above the entrance: the previous house had a horizon-

tal pediment. Further, the 2004 house does not have shutters, and its color is grey, not white.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

613BayRoad\_folder53\_054 & 055

## 605 Bay Rd.



605 Bay Rd., 2016

Photo, J. Hauck



605 Bay Rd., 1970

Photo, Ham. Hist.

Refurbished in 2013 by Thomas Ford, 605 Bay Rd. likely was built in 1810 by Joshua Porter. There have been many owners of the 1-½ story Greek Revival style house, including: Harvey and Betty Whitmore, Jennie Brown, Donald Trussell, Fannie Preston Edwards, Augusta Appleton, and Daniel Safford.

The 2013 house has a colonial design similar to the previous house. Other similarities are: low peaked roof with an open gable facing the street, center chimney, clapboard siding and off-center front entrance. The

2004 house does not have shuttered windows, but retains the pediments. Another difference is the entrance pediment above the 2013 house; the previous house had a Georgian style canopy. In 1960, the house reportedly had aluminum siding; unknown when it was removed.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1998 - Certificate of Non-applicability for removal of 2 sheds not visible from the public way

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

605BayRoad\_folder51\_065

## 601 Bay Rd.



601 Bay Rd., 2016

Photo, Zillow



601 Bay Rd., 1935.

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

The Georgian-style house at 601 Bay Rd. may originally have been a half house, built before 1750. The house faced south and had a center chimney. It was expanded to a full house, in the 1790s.

The house, in 2018, is very similar to its appearance in a 1935 photo. It retains a portico entrance, two chimneys and the east side of the roof is open gable with cornice returns and the west side has a hip. Originally,

both were hip designs. The front door, in 1935, had 2 vertical glass panels on the upper half, whereas the 2018 door does not. The house now has an 8 over 12 window design: the windows, in 1935, were a 2 over 2 design. The front door had a fanlight transom. Further, in 1935 the house was white, not its current light tan.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

601BayRoad\_folder49\_024 & 025

## 595 Bay Rd.



595 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, Realtor.com



595 Bay Rd., 1935

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

595 Bay Rd. probably was built by Azor Stone, about 1808. Originally, it faced the main road.

George Neal, about 1890, turned the house, with its open gable roof, to face east. He added a full-length shed-roof dormer and a wing, which previously was a cobbler's shop, at another site in Hamilton. Neal also moved an existing barn next to the wing.

The chimney remained in its location, what was the north side of the house. It later was moved to the east end of the roof. Likely, Neal added a full-length porch. The balanced colonial-style architecture had 9 over 6

pane windows, later replaced with 6 over 6.

One of the town's first electric streetlights was installed, in 1902, in front of the house.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1991 - Certificate of Non-applicability issued for the construction of a fence at 595 Bay Road.

1993 - Certificate of Applicability to demolish and re-construct a portion of the residence.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

595BayRoad\_folder48\_009 & 010

## 589 Bay Rd.



589 Bay Rd., 2015

Photo, J. Hauck



589 Bay Rd., 1895

Photo, Frank Norton

589 Bay Rd., built before 1850 possibly by Jerusha Henderson, was a 2-story building.

In 2015, the house was very similar to it in an 1895 photo. Differences are: porch railing, number of front entrances and number of chimneys.

The 1895 house was a major redesign of how it was in 1888. A 2-story extension, on the south end, was expanded to reach the front of the building; a hipped roof replaced the gable roof; dormers were added on the east and west sides of the roof; twin gable dormers were built on the east side of the roof; a side dormer was added to the roof facing the street; a 2-story extension was added to the back of the building; the chimney was moved to the northeast corner of the building; and a single-story extension built at the southeast side of the building.

The building was enlarged about 1884. An open stairway was enclosed in a 2-story extension about halfway back on the south side. The 2nd-floor entrance was at the back of the extension. The street-level porch was wrapped around the south front corner to the extension. All the clapboard siding extended to the ground level. There was a low roof pitch, with open gables.

On the first floor, there was, beginning about 1880, a

post office on the north end and a market on the south end: each with an entrance. Large windows were on both sides of the market entrance. An open, street-level porch extended the front of the building. It had railings at both ends.

The second floor was the residence of the store owner, who also was the Postmaster. An open stairway, on the south end of the building, led to the entrance to the second-floor residence. There were no windows on this end of the building.

The peaked roof, with an open gable at both ends, had slate tiles, and a single chimney, slightly off-center. Behind the house, a 2-story shop was built before 1835. It may have been a carpenter's business.

Also gone are; an 80-ft. high windmill-powered water-pump and its control house (*They were on the south side of the property and near the north side of the town hall.*); and a gasoline pump that was in front of the building, from about 1936 to 1938.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1990 - Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a fence

1990 - Certificate of Non-Applicability to repair damage from car accident.

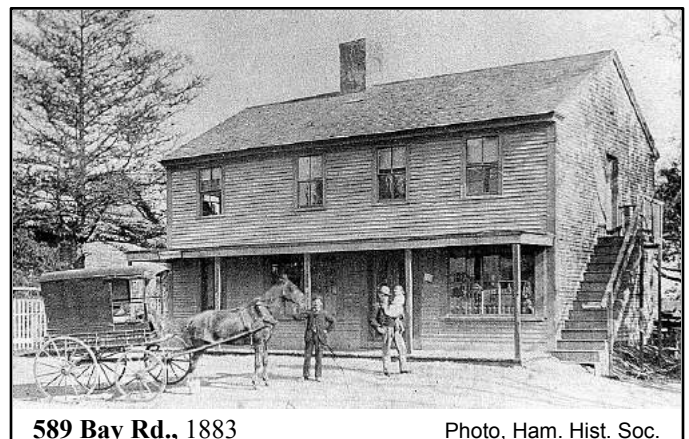
### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

Several Hamilton Historical Society documents



589 Bay Rd., 1889

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



589 Bay Rd., 1883

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



## 577 Bay Rd.



577 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, hamiltonma.gov



577 Bay Rd., 1897

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

The American Federal-style, two-story building has an extended center section, 41 ft. wide and 79 ft. deep, and two, equal-size wings, 29 ft. wide and 64 ft. deep, on the east and west sides. The wings, with their duplicate design, sit back 11.5 ft., off the center section, at the front and 5.75 ft., at the back.

The exterior of both wings was pine clapboard. The choice of wood for the town hall was much more in common with other structures in Hamilton.

The front of the center section has vertical butt joined wide boards, thus creating large flat surfaces that are painted white. The center section's decorative moldings, including columns, window and door arches, and balustrade woodcarvings also are white.

A 1907 postcard showed the building as being yellow, with white trim. The building's center section was white and the front doors likely were also white.

The building's many (46) large (6 ft. x 3 ft.), 12-over-12 pane windows were double-hung (*Georgian style*). Each section, on the front, has three, double-hung, framed-casing windows on the first and second level. A transom remains above the entrance door.

Lunette extensions are above the windows on the second level of the center section. Balustrade pilasters are below each of these windows. The other windows, on the second level, have a peaked pediment above the frieze board. Windows on the first level have a box cornice. On both sides of the second level, the center windows have sidelights and a swan neck pediment above the frieze board.

An elliptical fanlight is above the double front doors. Windows on each side of the doors are set in an arched niche, but without fanlights.

Small, double-hung windows (8 over 8) are at the front and back of the building, on the second floor of the center section. Their position on either side of the three center windows, with their lunette extensions, accentu-

ates the height of the surrounding windows. In the front, the center section's second level has four pilasters of Ionic columns capped with spiral scrolls.

The front entrance, staircase originally had wood sidewalls, not metal railings. Deck was 11 ft. deep.

A second entrance, on the north side, has an elliptical-fan light over double doors and sidelights. The side porch has two Ionic columns supporting a gable roof; steps are on three sides of the porch deck.

The hipped roof, at the front, has a low gable above the center section. Rows of closely spaced, small, rectangular blocks are under the roof's eaves. In 1969, the original slate roof was replaced with asphalt shingles.

The tympanum, within the roof's pediment, has a plaster relief sculpture of a bald eagle looking to the right, with wings spread and standing on a shield. On the front of the shield, there is a sphere with a banner around it. Below the shield, a banner has the inscription, "Incorporated June 21, 1793," the date when the third parish of Ipswich separated and became the town of Hamilton.

Atop the roof is an octagonal tower with a cupola, painted red. It has six louvered apertures with panels behind each. The cupola and tower sit on a square platform around which is a balustrade. A louvered fan is at the center of each section of the balustrade.

It is unclear what ornament was on the town hall weathervane, but it was not an eagle. An arrow fletching was most common.

In 2020, Everest Infrastructure erected a 109-ft. cell phone pole behind the town hall; an antenna to be added in the future.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1975 - Commission advised against the use of vinyl siding instead of paint on the exterior walls of the Town Hall.

1992 - Commission issued a Certificate of NonApplicability to the Town of Hamilton to install two air conditioning units behind shrubbery in the front of town hall.

1992 - Commission issued a temporary Certificate of Applicability to the town to build a handicap ramp, providing it would be replaced within 3 years by a design and location that did not distract from the original town hall appearance.

1993 - Commission issued a Certificate of NonApplicability to the town to install screens and storm windows on the top floor of the town hall.

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

Treasures of Hamilton History, Hamilton-Wenham Library website.

**569 Bay Rd.**



569 Bay Rd., back, 2017

Photo, J. Hauck



569 Bay Rd., 1971.

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

About when the town hall was built, next door, Daniel Stone built a 2-story "cottage with a Dutch Gambrel roof (*unique in District*). It also had large Dutch Gambrel dormers on the front and back on the east end. In 1972, a 2-story addition, with large Dutch gambrel dormers, front and back, was built on the end, creating side-by-side dormers. The chimney was moved to the east side.

**Hamilton Historic District Ruling**

1998 - Certificate of Appropriateness for bay window;  
1993 - Certificate of Appropriateness for single-story addition with 2-car garage below;

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

569BayRoad\_folder39\_012.

**563 Bay Rd.**



563 Bay Rd., 2018

Photo, J. Hauck



563 Bay Rd., 1972

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

563 Bay Rd. is half of a house built about 1797, by William Foster. When the property was divided in 1956, the house was cut into 2 equal sections. One half was moved to Paddock Lane. With the separation, the entrance of the Main Street section was moved to the north side, facing onto Paddock Lane. With the splitting of the original house, a massive chimney was built in the center of the building.

The house, as seen in 2018, has a few minor changes from its appearance in 1972.

**Hamilton Historic District Decisions**

2001 - Certificate of appropriateness for renovations and additions

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

569BayRoad\_folder39\_015 & 016



540 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, Zillow.com



540 Bay Rd., 1896

Photo, Benjamin H. Conant

This may not be the first house on this site. The original house may have been moved to 489 Bay Rd. Built in 1853 by Allen W. Dodge, 540 Bay Rd. retains much of its original Greek Revival architecture, as seen in an 1896 photo. These are: a portico entrance with columns, roof gable returns, wide entablature beneath the eaves, soffits below eaves, soffit dentil trim, rectangular lintels over windows, peaked roof with a gable at both ends, wood quoins on front corners and 2 chimneys. Window crossheads, aka dentil moldings, are on the windows.

On the west side, there is a 2-story addition at a right angle to the house. It has a porch with floor-to-ceil-

ing windows and a low peak gable roof. On the southwest corner of the addition, there is a 2-story addition, with a garage at the south side.

The roofs on both additions have extended eaves with soffits and cornice returns.

Gone from the 1896 house are: shutters, slate roof, bulkhead entrance to the basement and an enclosed porch replaced the former open porch on the southeast corner.

Added since 1853 is a 6-ft. high, wood panel fence along Bay Road.

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

540Baywood panel ence. yRoad\_folder\_030 & \_031

**560 Bay Rd.**



560 Bay Rd., 2016

Photo, Zillow



560 Bay Rd., 1970

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Built in 1755, by Stephen Brown, 560 Bay Rd. was very similar in its colonial appearance to 639 Bay Rd. It originally had a center chimney and a low-slope peaked gable roof. The original entrance is unknown; later, a portico with a Victorian canopy was added.

Changes from the house, as it appeared in 1970, are: a single-story, recessed addition to the south side; entrance portico with Victorian canopy and chimney on

the northeast side of the roof removed; windows on the first floor replaced by shortened floor-to-ceiling bay windows; 5 windows on 2nd-floor front reduced to 4; roof pitch increased; chimney added to roof ridge near south side; chimney added on the north side; and 3 skylights replaced single skylight.

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

560BayRoad\_folder35\_008 & \_009

## 588 Bay Rd.



588 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, Redfin.com



588 Bay Rd., 1970

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

588 Bay Rd., built in east Hamilton, about 1840, by John Woodbury, who later moved the house to this site where the Woodburys lived here until 1937.

Originally, the house was beside the main road. In 1970, Cornelius C. Felton moved it to the back of the property.

The style is Georgian colonial, but paired chimneys are not at the ends of the peaked roof. The front entrance is the same as the house before being moved. Changes are: a mudroom side entrance; and lower

chimney heights, no longer painted, and have a different cap design.

A 1915 postcard shows the house had a front porch with a flat roof.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

2016 - Certificate of appropriateness for renovations and additions

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

588BayRoad\_folder45\_056 & 057.

## 598 Bay Rd.



598 Bay Rd., 2016Photo, Redfin.com



598 Bay Rd., 1932

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Built about 1840 by George Appleton, 598 Bay Rd. has a modified Greek Revival architecture, with some Victorian traits. The peaked roof has an off-center chimney near the gable facing the street. which has cornice returns and an off-center chimney on the gable.

Windows on the south side (3 on the second floor and 2 on the main floor) are irregularly positioned and without shutters (on the house in 1932). The main en-

trance is at the southeast corner. Additions (before 1932) to the original house are: a single-story porch on the southeast corner, a single-story addition on the west side. An 1910 Hamilton map shows an attached barn.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

2017 - Certificate of appropriateness for renovations and additions

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

598BayRoad\_folder46\_009.

## 604 Bay Rd.



604 Bay Rd., 2018

Photo, C. Doggett



604 Bay Rd., c1900

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

604 Bay Rd. was built in 1852 by Stephen Blatchford, on what originally were lots 2 and 3 of the parsonage property.

In 1968, Donald W. Gates moved the 2-story house back and turned it to face the street. He moved the entrance from the porch, on the former north side, to the east side facing the street and added a narrow window above the entrance. The colonial portico was added much later.

He added a 2-story wing, with a gable roof, on the north side, replacing a single-story porch. The house also has a single-story extension on the south side.

Two intersecting 2-story extensions, with gable

roofs, are on the west side: one is on the northwest corner and the other on the southwest corner, with its roof facing south, both with cornice returns.

A bay window on the east side of the house was remodeled.

A distinctive feature of the property was a covered well, on the north side of the house. It was removed.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

2018 - Certificate of appropriateness for renovations and additions

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

604BayRoad\_folder50\_017

## 610 Bay Rd.



610 Bay Rd., 2018

Photo, J. Hauck



610 Bay Rd., 1971

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

610 Bay Road was built, in 1873 by George P. Smith, to be a parsonage for the Congregational Church. Rev. Calvin G. Hill was the first resident. In 1949, it became a private residence, owned by Frank and Janice Pulsifer.

The main section of the house, in 2021, is very similar to how it was in 1971. It retains: open gable roof, which has cornice returns, facing the street; 2-story Victorian bay windows; front entrance with Victorian overhang; window styles, locations and shutters; a center

roof chimney; and square columns on the front corners. The house also remains a pale yellow with white trim.

A barn, built in 1876, originally was separate from the house and had a steep open gable dormer. The barn became a 2-car garage in 1950 and later a 2-story wing to the house.

The driveway, in 2003, was moved away from the house. The driveway's granite curbing came from Bos-

ton's Logan Airport during Terminal E renovation.

The extension connecting the house to the barn was updated in 2003, from its original state in 1873. Granite steps in front of the extension came from a Lawrence hospital razed in 2014.

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

610BayRoad\_folder52\_020

**624 Bay Rd.**



**Fellowship Hall and education center, 2017**  
Photo, Hamilton First Congregational Church



**Barn, 2019** Photo, J. Hauck

Two buildings are on the southeast corner of 624 Bay Rd., a 2-story fellowship hall and a story education center. On the northwest corner, there are a 2-story education center and a 2-story administration building. Previously, on this portion of the property, there was a small summerhouse owned by the Hamilton First Congregational Church.

The education center, built in 2007, with its colonial design, is similar to several houses in the Historic District, such as 639 and 588 Bay Rd. An exception is it does not have a chimney.

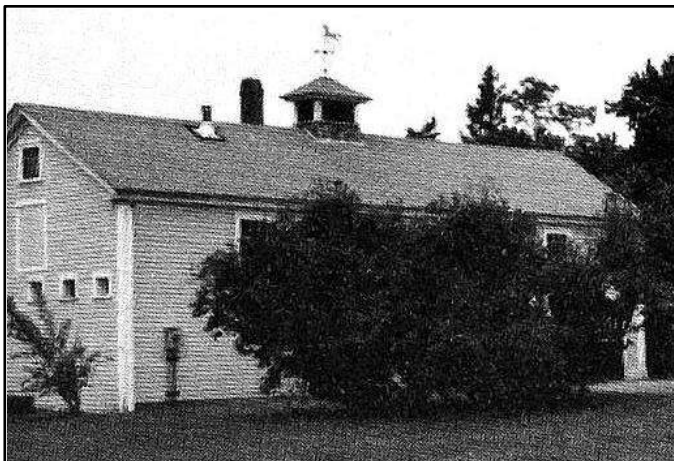
The fellowship hall is similar to the barn behind the house, at the front of the property. There is a roof cupola, a row of small windows below the roofline, and wide

foyer entrances.

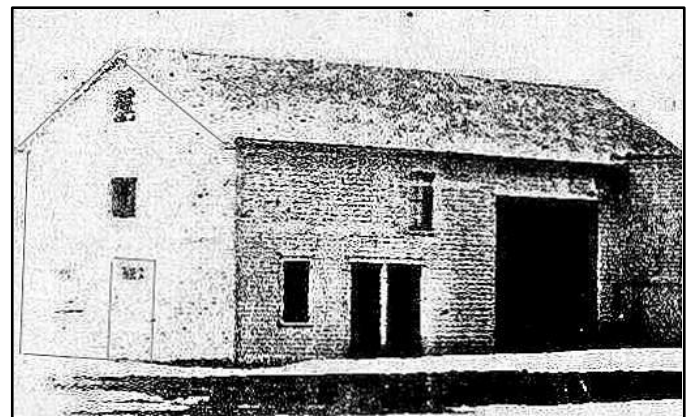
The original barn behind the main house, as seen in 1901, had no chimneys, no loft door on the south side, but a ground-level door on this side, no stall windows and on the front (east) there was a large 2-story door, a single window on the second and ground level and double entrance doors. The clapboard siding extended to the ground level.

In 1969, the driveway entered the property near its southeast corner, from which point it turned north for a short distance before passing beside the main house and, then, between the house and the barn.

The driveway was relocated to enter the property near the center on Bay Road and proceed straight-back to a large parking area beside the Fellowship Hall and behind the former barn.



**Barn. 1989** Photo, Hunneman

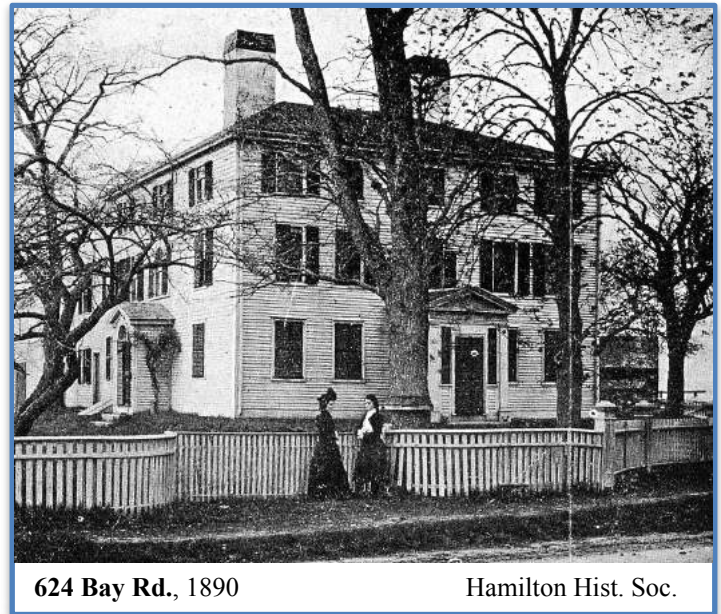


**Barn. 1901** Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



624 Bay Rd., 2020

Photo, J. Hauck



624 Bay Rd., 1890

Hamilton Hist. Soc.

The house at 624 Bay Rd., the Rev. Samuel Wigglesworth house, was built in 1715 (1714 *Gregorian calendar*). The first pastor for the town's Congregational Church, he lived here until 1758.

Originally, it was a 2-story colonial-style house with a rectangular shape, clapboard siding, a low open gable roof and it was unpainted. The siding extended to the ground level. Most likely, there was a center chimney.

In 1790, Rev. Manasseh Cutler added a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to be a schoolroom for his boarding school. Also added were the front Georgian style Palladian window and portico entrance beneath and, likely, a second chimney. Rev. Cutler added a low-pitch Mansard roof in 1802.

Temple Cutler, Rev. Cutler's son, in 1824, converted the house to a hotel, with a dining room and a bar.

The house, in 2018, looks little changed from how it was in 1890, although in 1890 the house did not have shutters on the first floor.

However, a 1917 photo shows the house, then owned by Albert R. Merrill, having a full-length, single-

story porch on the south side. It probably was removed, before 1969, by Albert L. Rider, who bought the house, in 1942, from Merrill.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1990 - Certificate of Non-applicability to demolish and rebuild a fence on the property.

1991 - Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish 3 structures at 624 Bay Rd, denied on the grounds the application was incomplete, because it did not include a planned parking area for review.

1992 - Certificate of Non-applicability to reroof part of main house, rebuild chimney on north side and repair or replace fir gutters.

1994 - Certificate of Appropriateness to construct handicapped ramp.

1996 - Certificate of Appropriateness to construct covered porch over handicapped access entrance.

1994 - Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish 3 structures at 624 Bay.

2005 - Certificate of Appropriateness for construction of a Fellowship Hall and classroom building.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

624BayRoad\_folder55+053

624BayRoad\_folder55+010

624BayRoad\_folder55\_089 & 090



Soldiers Green, 2020

Photo, J. Hauck

## Soldiers Green

Hamilton dedicated a Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, on May 30, 1924, on the triangular green beside the meetinghouse. It commemorates the men that served in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the War of 1812 and World War I.

The monument is a large granite boulder, with a bronze eagle on top and a bronze tablet with an inscription on the face. Further, on each corner of the green, the town placed a cannon, 2 from the Civil War and one from WW1. Shrubs were planted around the monument. In 1927, the shrubs were replaced.

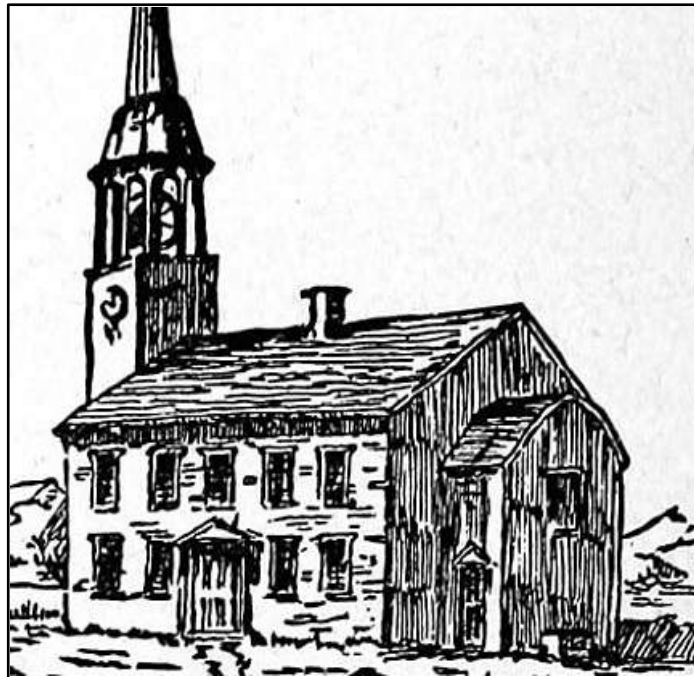
In 1955, the cannons were moved to Patton Park and soon after, the shrubs were removed.

## 630 Bay Rd.



First Congregational Church, 2018.

Photo, J. Hauck



First Congregational Church, 1762,

Drawing, Ham. Hist. Soc.

The original building at this location was a meeting-house built in 1713, at was the corner of the Bay Path and Farms Road (*now Bay Rd, and Cutler Rd.*).

Built in 1762, the building served as both a church and town government meetinghouse, it was 50 ft. long, 32 ft. wide and 20 ft. high, to the base of its gabled roof. It had small casement windows, with diamond-shaped panes. Unpainted, the building had horizontal, tapered clapboard siding.

A turret, rising above the roof, was on the south end. It did not have a steeple, for it was a watchtower used during times of Indian unrest. The main entrance was on the east side, facing the Bay Path. It likely had a shallow pediment above a single door.

The Hamlet demolished the building in 1762 and replaced it with a larger meetinghouse for both church and town government. It was 60 ft. long, 44 ft. wide and 26 ft. high, to the base of its gabled roof. <sup>3</sup> Dr. Manasseh Cutler said, in his dedication sermon, the building was admired for its "just proportions and pleasing appearance." <sup>3</sup>

The main entrance faced the Bay Path. There also were entrances on both the north and south ends.

A tower, with a steeple, was on the south end. It had a bell and clock. A 2-story entry porch was on the north end. Like its predecessor, the 1762 building had unpainted horizontal clapboard siding. The siding extended to the ground level.

On the Bay Path side of the building, there were two rows of simple sash windows: the upper-level windows were for the galleries in the sanctuary, on the front and both ends and above the entrance.

In 1843, the current meetinghouse was built, on the same site as the 1763 building. However, the orientation was changed: the tower and steeple facing onto Main Street (*the former Bay Path*).

Originally, the 1843 building was 72 ft. long, 40 ft. wide and 26 ft. high, to the base of the gabled roof. <sup>1</sup> It had clapboard siding, painted white.

The increase in the building's height was to allow construction of a vestry below the main meeting room. The vestry, 8-ft. high, is partially below the ground level. The lower row of windows was for the vestry and other basement rooms.

The building has a tower, a cupola and a spire. The tower is recessed into the tympanum, with its top edge slightly above the gable roofline and; it had a Mansard roof; a narrower upper section, a cupola, has louvered openings on all four sides (*it houses a bell*). Projecting from the four corners of the cupola are pinnacles. <sup>5</sup>

The hexagonal spire has a fish-shape weathervane. The state capitol in Boston had a codfish weathervane that could have led the Hamlet to put one above the 1843 meetinghouse.





**First Congregational Church, 1893.** Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



**First Congregational Church, 1910,** Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

The portico has two double-story, fluted pilasters, with ionic capitals. Flat-surfaced pilasters also are on all four corners of the building.

In the portico, three small 6-pane casement windows at the top, facing onto the street and a single window halfway up both of the entry's sidewalls.

Also facing onto the street are two, paneled, black doors. Both have twin beveled glass panes, in the upper half of the doors.

A wide band of trim (*entablature*), is above the columns and on the other three sides of the building. It has a projecting border (*cornice*) near the low-pitched roofline. There also is a decorative or plain horizontal band (*frieze*). Below the frieze is a molded trim (*architrave*) around the portico.

Below the bottom edge of the tower, in the tympanum, there is pediment relief.

Two rows of windows are on the south and north side of the building. The lower rows have four sash windows (*8 over 8*).

Between 1903 and 19015, four stained-glass memorial windows, unusual for a congregational meeting-house, were installed on the upper row of the north side. They were replaced, in 2014, with sash windows (*12 over 12*).

1977, there was a major addition. At the back of the building, a 2-story annex was built. On the north side, it had a door with sidelights and above the door a narrow lean-to roof. An 8-over-8 casement window is above the door.

2006, a 2-story, gabled-roof addition was built onto the 1977 annex. On its west side, there are two rows of six sash windows (*6 over 6*). On the north and south ends, there are two rows of sash windows (*8 over 8*).

**Hamilton Historic District Decisions**

1998 - Certificate of Non-applicability for repair of steeple.

**Reference, Hamilton Historical Society**

630BayRoad+folder56\_001.



**First Congregational Church, 1970.** Photo, Post card



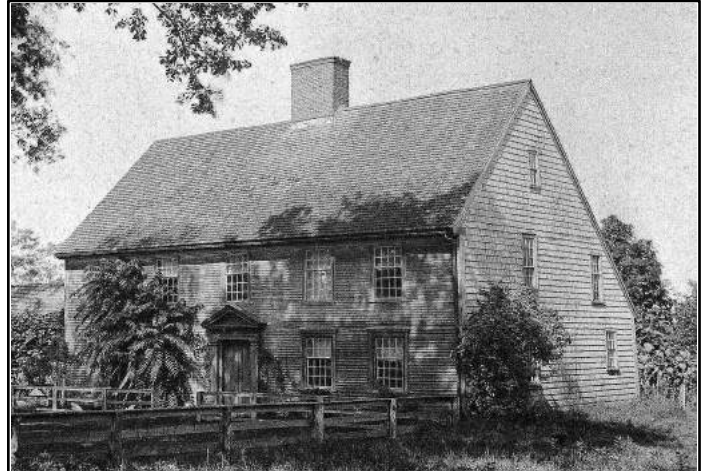
**670 Bay Rd., 2020** Photo, J. Hauck.

## 638 Bay Rd.



638 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, J. Hauck



638 Bay Rd., 1870

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Likely built about 1660 by John Whipple, 638 Bay Rd. is still a 2-story saltbox colonial. The original mid-evil English building had an upper story that overhung the front of the lower story, by about a foot. A lean-to extension likely was added to the west roof, at a later date, to the original house. Windows were 3 ft. high and 2 ft. wide and had leaded diamond-shape panes.

In 1802, this was Daniel Brown's tavern and a year later it had the town's first post office.

The windows, by 1896, were 8 over 12 rectangular panes and there was a Tudor-style portico entrance.

Nathan Matthews acquired the property in 1913. In 1929, Dexter Hunneman bought 638 Bay Rd.

In 1971, the building had windows were four vertical sections, with each section having 6 small panes above 12 small panes. The window above the front portico was four vertical sections, with each section having 12 small panes.

The wood shingle roof is reminiscent of the original

construction. The siding remains tapered clapboard, but is now painted dark brown. The house originally was unpainted. The siding extended to the ground level.

The brick chimney, while still in the center of the roof, has a different design from 1896. Unlike the plain, square original chimney, the current chimney has an extended cap and a recessed arch on the front face, similar to the chimney in 1910.

The Tudor style front portico now has a high pitch pediment, as it was in 1971. Also the 1971 house has windows different from those shown in 1870 and 96. Both show a pediment with a lower pitch. Further, the current entrance does not have the crosshead below the pediment.

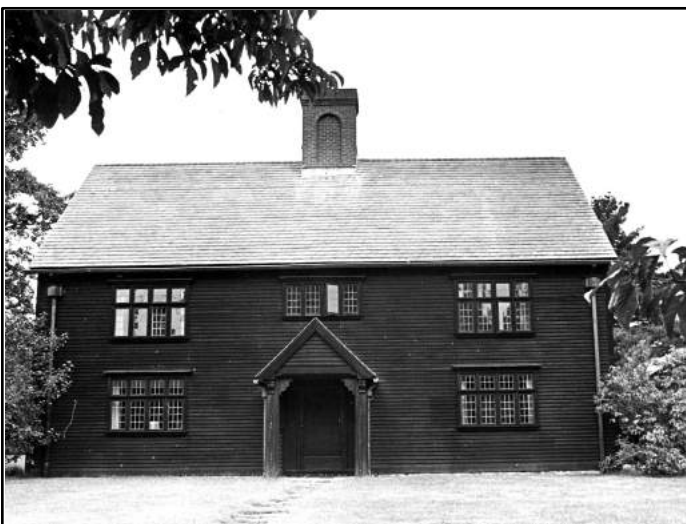
While the saltbox roof, also once called a cat slide roof, still extends down nearly to the ground, most of it is covered by the roofs of a 2-story and a single story additions.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1989 - Certificate of Appropriateness for two variations on addition.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

638BayRoad\_folder57\_084 & 085



638 Bay Rd., 1910

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



638 Bay Rd., 1896

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

## 648 Bay Rd.



648 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, Hamilton Assessors



648 Bay Rd., 1971

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

648 Bay Rd. was built about 1739 by Daniel Dane (*Deane*). About 1848, it was rebuilt, with its current Georgian style architecture, by Joseph F. Dane.

In 1912, William Lambert moved the house back from Bay Road and turned it to face south. The house had a peaked roof with gables at both ends.

Other changes, since 1912, include: a second chimney added on end facing Bay Road; sidelights added to the entrance and also a raised double step; three shed-

roof dormers on roof's east side; wood shingles replaced by asphalt shingles; and on the west side, a single story addition, with a railing on the flat roof.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions

1988 - Certificate of Appropriateness to make alterations; 1994 - Certificate of Appropriateness to make alterations.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

648BayRoad\_folder06\_019

## 670 Bay Rd.



670 Bay Rd., 2019

Photo, J. Hauck



670 Bay Rd., 2019 Photo, J. Hauck

670 Bay Rd. originally was a barn attached to a 2-story farmhouse, built before 1900. Richard H. Smith moved the house, but not the barn, to 103 Cutler Rd., in 1915. He bought the lot in 1901. It formerly was part of the Ester B. Proctor estate.

The house had a gable roof, with cornice returns, 2 shed-roof dormers and an off-center chimney. On its south side, there were 2-story bay windows. An open porch on the east side had a recessed center railing. The northeast, 1st-floor corner had a chamfer window. A breezeway connected to the barn.

In 1946, the barn became a residence. Modifications included double-window, shed-roof dormers on the roof's north and south sides, adding 4 windows on the east and west sides, adding a heating system and replacing the breezeway with a 2-car garage. The house was painted blue, with white trim and front and garage doors. The cupola was removed. The clapboard siding extended to the ground level.

In 1994, Gerald Tower built a deck, at the back of the building.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions:

1994 - Certificate of appropriateness to build a deck.

## 684 Bay Rd.



684 Bay Rd., 2018

Photo, J. Hauck



684 Bay Rd., 1972

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Until 1995, 684 Bay Rd. was an 18-stall horse stable, built in 1864, on the Esther Proctor property. Don Wells of Danvers, bought the stable and 5-ac. The barn was very similar to a barn at 670 Bay Rd.

Until 1995, 684 Bay Rd. was an 18-stall horse stable, built in 1864, on the Esther Proctor property. Don Wells of Danvers, bought the stable and 5-ac. The barn was very similar to a barn at 670 Bay Rd.

Wells transformed the barn into a 2-story house that retained some of its original architecture, including first-floor stall windows on the north and south side first floor, a twin door center entrance, a cupola on the gable roof and cornice returns. The clapboard siding extended to the ground level.

A prominent change was the entrance. In place of the barn doors, wells built a recessed entryway having a door with sash windows on both sides and 3 small square windows above them and the door.

Changes were: two 2<sup>nd</sup> floor front casement windows; enlarged arched window above the entrance; cupola vents changed; by sash windows; nameplate on front revised; sash windows on the second level of front; casement windows replaced by the sash and small square windows on both sides of recessed entrance; and a heating system built, with a chimney on the south side of the roof.

In 1994, Wells built a 2-car, single-story garage on the north side. The roof slanted down from the eave of the house to the north wall of the garage. In 1999, a 2<sup>nd</sup> story was added above the garage.

Originally, the house was painted pink, but it was changed to yellow with white trim.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

Transformations, Community Newspapers, November, 1995.

## 690 Bay Rd.



690 Bay Rd., 2017

Photo, Zillow

Timothy Ford of Ipswich built 690 Bay Rd., a 2-story colonial, in 1993. The entrance has a horizontal pediment, multi-panel transom lights and half-length multi-panel sidelights.

A single-story addition on north side has an entrance similar to that on main house, but not the horizontal pediment or the multi-panel transom lights. Peaked roofs are on center section and additions on each side. A south side addition has a gable chimney. All the original windows were replaced in 2019.

### Hamilton Historic District Decisions:

1992 - Certificate of Appropriateness to build new house.

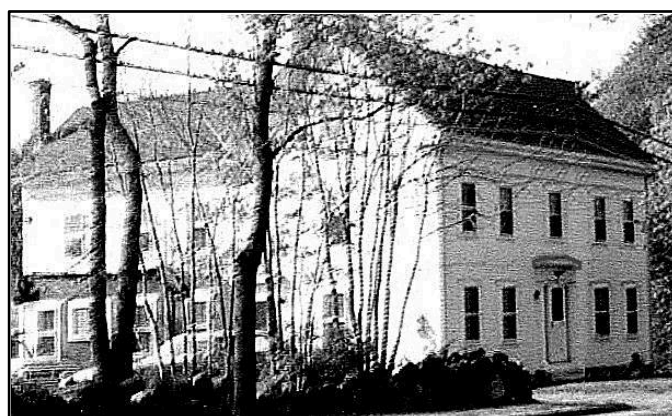
2019 - Certificate of Non-Applicability for replacement of all windows.

## 700 Bay Rd.



700 Bay Rd., 2020

Photo, Zillow



700 Bay Rd., 1980

Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.

Nathan Poland, a blacksmith, built 700 Bay Rd., a 2-story Federal about 1775. Rectangular pediments with peaked segments are above the 6 over 6 windows. On each level of both the north and south ends there are single windows. A wide entablature is below the peaked roof, which has cornice returns.

As seen in a 1996 photo, 700 Bay Rd. retained many characteristics of early colonial architecture: symmetrical rectangular structure, balanced window layout, pitched roof and decorative entrance; however, it did not have paired chimneys.

Changes since 1980 include: shutters, entrance with sidelights, painted a light yellow (*was white*) and a wood panel fence, added after 2001.

At the 1991 Annual Town Meeting, voters did not give 2/3rds approval to a warrant article requesting that the Commission's bylaw be changed to give it authority to review walls and fences in the District.

### Reference, Hamilton Historical Society

700BayRoad\_folder10\_003

## Cutler Park



Cutler Park, 2013

Photo J. Hauck

Between 588 and 598 Bay Rd, and across from the Hamilton post office there is the Manasseh Cutler Park. The lot originally was part of a parsonage lot. In 1849, the church divided it into smaller lots. One lot (1.35 ac.) became the private Wigglesworth Cemetery. The cemetery became abandoned about 1885.

In 1911, the Massachusetts legislature passed an act authorizing the town to convert the cemetery into a

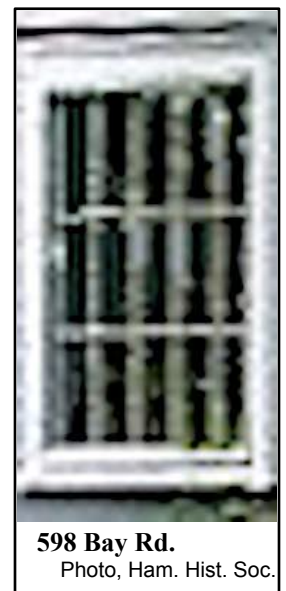
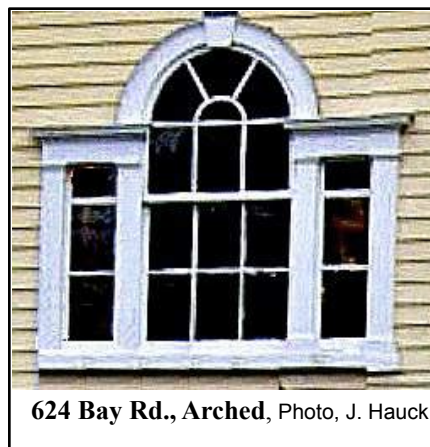
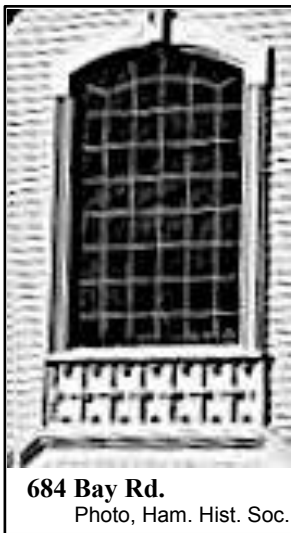
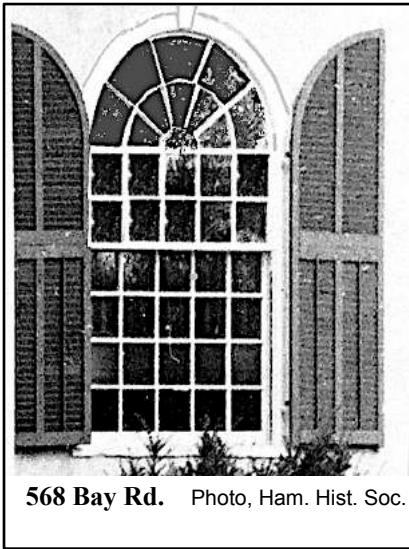
public park. It became Central Park and, in 1937, Cutler Park.

In 1998, the selectmen had a picnic table moved, from behind the town hall, to the middle of the park. In 2001, Johanna Donovan placed a bench at the front of the park, in memory of her mother Ida M. Casutt,

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# Windows



# Front Doors



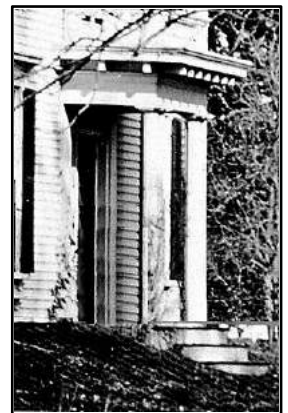
**604 Bay Rd.,**  
Federal  
Photo, C. Doggett



**601 Bay Rd.,**  
Federal  
Photo, J. Hauck



**577 Bay Rd.,**  
Federal Photo, J. Hauck



**540 Bay Rd.,**  
Colonial Revival  
Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



**625 Bay Rd.,**  
Queen Anne Revival  
Photo, Redfin



**638 Bay Rd.,**  
Jacobean/1st Period  
Rev. Photo, J. Hauck



**684 Bay Rd.,**  
Victorian  
Photo, J. Hauck



**624 Bay Rd.,**  
Georgian  
Photo, J. Hauck



**648 Bay Rd.,**  
Late Federal  
Photo, Ham. Assessors



**621 Bay Rd.,**  
Colonial Revival  
Photo, Ham. Hist. Soc.



**568 Bay Rd.**



**605 Bay Rd.,**  
Late Federal  
Photo, J. Hauck



**560 Bay Rd.**  
Photo, J. Hauck

**Early American tradition** was a red door meant travelers knew a home was a place at which they were welcomed to rest.



**690 Bay Rd.,**  
Modified Georgian  
Photo, Zillow

# Anecdotes



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

## 156 Acre Farm

The Samuel Dane farm that was on the northeast side of Bay Rd. stretched east to Sagamore St. and north to the Ipswich town line. Near to what was then Main St., there was a large barn, carriage shed, dog kennel, large sheep barn, large farmhouse, and 3-story main house.

The 156-acre farm was divided into smaller properties in 1949.

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Photo, J. Hauck, 2017

## Few White Chimneys Remain

In 1970, four houses (540, 645, 588, 624) had white chimneys with a black band at the top. One opinion about the origin of these chimneys is they marked homes of loyalists to the king, where a soldier to seek help. Another belief is they marked homes where escaping slaves could find safety.

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Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

## Street Lights

A few gas lights, where needed (*at the front of shops and stores*), were on Main Street until about 1910. Nightly, they were fueled, lit and extinguished by a town-employed lamplighter.

The gas lamps, about 1835, replaced oil lamps that were installed about 1830.

In 1890, discussions began about replacing the gas lamps with electric lights. However, it was not until 1902, that the switch began.

Electrical power lines, stretched between, the lights, and passed through trees.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

## Gasoline Station

557 Bay Rd. - On the northeast corner of Bay Rd. and Bridge St. there was a gasoline station from 1947 to 1984. For the first 20 years, Roger Smearage was the owner.

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Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

## First Library

558 Bay Rd. - Hamilton's first library was in a room at the back of the left side of John L. Woodbury's house, 588 Bay Rd. Annie E. Woodbury was the librarian, with a salary of \$25/yr.

John Woodbury provided the room, with use of furniture and lights free of charge. Shelves were made and a door allowed access directly from the road.

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Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

## To Shutter or Not to Shutter

In the beginning, all shutters were function. By 1900, they were mostly decorative. By the 1930's, shutters were added strictly for decoration and many houses had no shutters.

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Photo, J. Hauck, 2018

### First Sidewalk on Main St.

The first mention of a sidewalk in the town's Annual Reports is in 1883. Voters approved the building of a sidewalk from the meetinghouse to the Wenham Depot. This was done, in 1885, by grading a strip beside Main Street and spreading gravel on the graded strip.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

### Cemetery Near Town Hall

In 1849, a group of church families purchased a parsonage lot, next to the meetinghouse, for use as a private cemetery. The Wigglesworth Cemetery stretched back to the low rise overlooking Cutler Pond. When the town cemetery was expanded, families took lots in it rather than the Wigglesworth Cemetery. About 1885, the Cemetery became abandoned. By the cemetery was an eyesore. In 1911, a Massachusetts act authorized Hamilton's Board of Park Commissioners to take over the 1.35 acres for use as a public park.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

### Cobbler's 10-Footer.

In the mid 1800s, there were a great many shoemakers, who worked in small shoe making shops, called ten footers. The name came from the shops being about 10-ft. square.

William Daley, in 1916, moved a cobbler shop from east Hamilton to the back of 589 Bay. With the addition of a heating system and a single story extension, it became a small cottage. In 2019, it was taken down.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

### Blacksmiths on Main St.

There's a long history of blacksmith shops in the historic district. In 1856, George Appleton had a shop north of his house at 560 Main. His son, Joshua succeeded him. In 1874, John L. Woodbury was a blacksmith and wheelwright at 588 Main. About 1897, E. L. Morse purchased Woodbury's blacksmith and carriage business, along with his shop near the depot.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

### Elegant Hotel at 624 Bay Rd.

Temple Cutler, son of Rev, Manasseh Cutler, opened the Cutler House in June 1816. An advertisement cited its "spacious and airy rooms," "bar supplied with choicest liquors," "an ideal place for gentlemen and ladies to spend the summer in the country."

In 1825, President James Monroe invited the Marquis de Lafayette, the French aristocrat and military officer who fought in the Revolutionary War to visit the country, as his guest.



Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

### Historic District Sign Not In Historic District

The sign marking the south end of the historic district is not in the historic district. It is at 541 Bay Rd., which is across the street from 540 Bay Rd., which is in the District.

Jack E. Hauck, Dec. 2021