

"Goffstown Landmarks"
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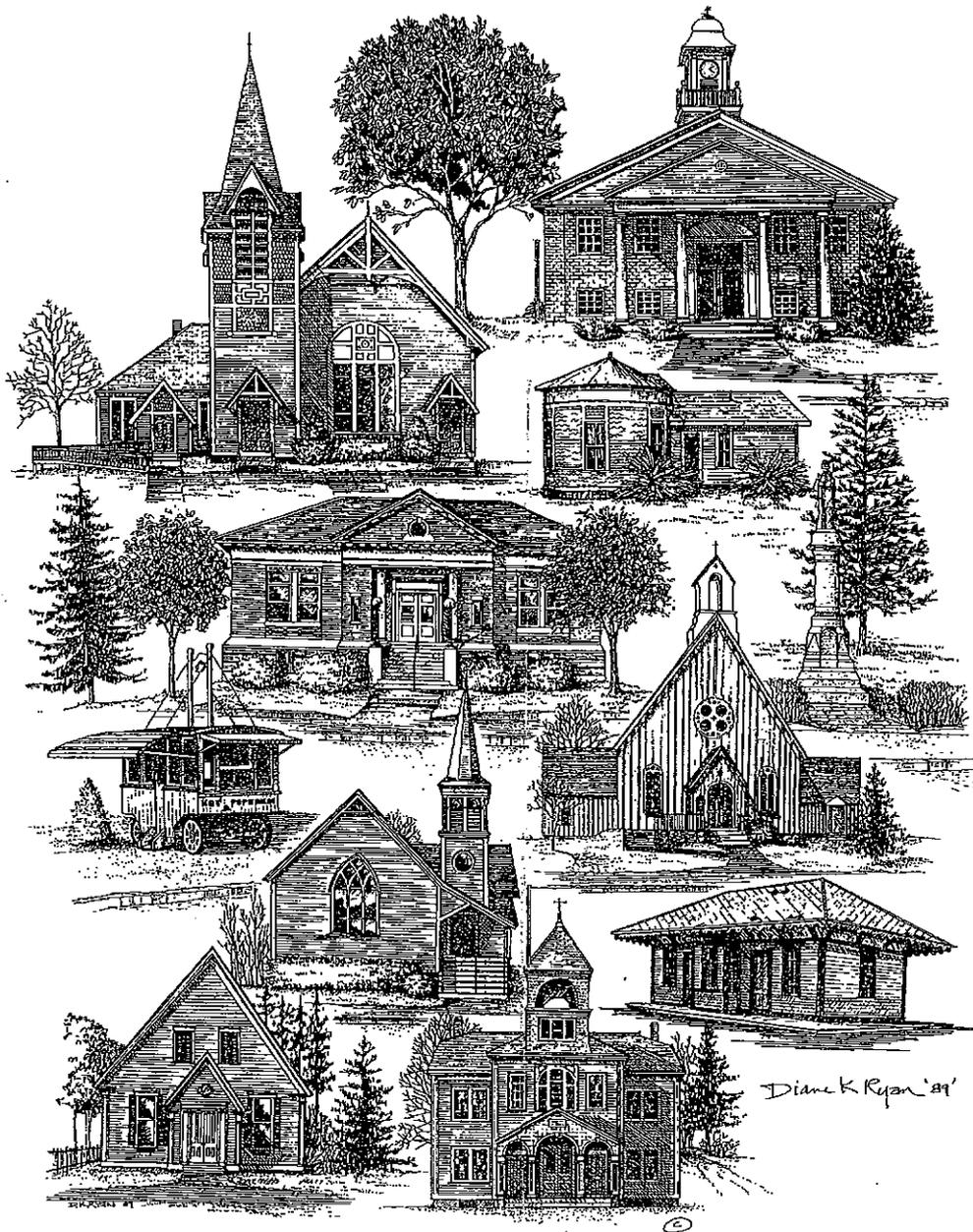
"Goffstown Landmarks"

Print by
Diane K. Ryan

Building List

1. Town Hall -1947
2. Congregational Church - 1845
3. The Little Round House - 1889
(The remaining portion of Goffstown's
1889 Town Hall -burnt on March 11, 1937)
4. Public Library - 1909
5. Town Common / Monument - 1916
6. St. Matthew's Episcopal Ch - 1870
7. Popcorn Stand -1930's
8. United Methodist Church -1889
(Vestres Shop - Thrift Shop)
9. Train Depot - 1850
(Hardware/Paint Store)
10. Hillside Methodist Church - 1877
11. Grasmere Grange Hall - 1889
(Grasmere District School #9 and Town Hall)

DKR Design, Box 636, Goffstown NH • 497-8838



A WALKING TOUR of GOFFSTOWN, NH

This walking tour booklet has been designed by the Goffstown Historic District Commission as part of a Certified Local Government project, "Goffstown Survey Village Main Street - Downtown".

The Goffstown Historic District Commission wishes to thank the following:

Lisa B. Mausolf, Historic Preservation Consultant

Dee Little, former Commission Chairman

Doug Gove for pictures

Gerry Hart Moss for pictures

Goffstown Historical Society for pictures

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

AND ... a very special thank you to Diane K. Ryan for allowing us to use her artwork for our booklet cover.

It is the wish of the Goffstown Historic District Commission to dedicate this booklet to the memory of two charter members, Armand Archambault and Dan McNerney. Although they are no longer with us, their dedication to historic preservation remains as a fine example to this Commission.

We hope you enjoy this walking tour and booklet.

Sincerely,

The Goffstown Historic District Commission of 1995

Sally Healy, Chairman

Terri August, Vice Chairman

Barbara Mace, Secretary

Brenda Henk, Treasurer / CLG project coordinator

Douglas Gove

Annie Vincent

Alice Rohr

David White

Robert Gagnon

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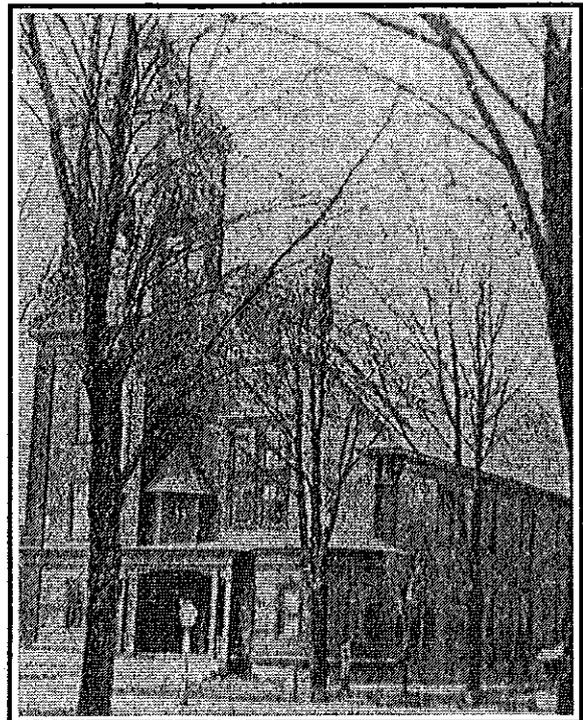
Phil D'Avanza, Selectman Representative

Printed September 30, 1995

Goffstown, New Hampshire, once known as Narragansett No. 4, is bisected by the Piscataquog River. The earliest known settler was Joseph Kennedy who cleared land and built a log cabin on the southeastern side of the Uncanoonuc Mountains. The river and the mountains form two of the most important physical features of the town.

The earliest concentration of settlers was in the area now known as Grasmere Village. When Goffstown was incorporated in 1761, all economic, social and governmental activity was conducted from the Grasmere location. As industry began to flourish along the falls of the Piscataquog River, town activity gradually shifted from Grasmere to the West Village, now Goffstown Village. The population grew, factories were built, businesses were opened and housing constructed.

Main Street, Goffstown, assumed importance in the town and is central focus of this "Walking Tour". No great historical events occurred here, no famous architects constructed buildings along Main Street, no birthplaces of the rich and famous are noted but Main Street, Goffstown chronicles the life and times of a small New England community. Here people lived, educated their children, conducted business, attended church, contributed vitality and stability to the town. Walk along Main Street and its byways, slow down your pace and begin to appreciate the way it was in order to understand the way it is.



Town Hall as it was in 1889

I. TOWN HALL

This is the second town hall to stand at this location since 1869. Extensive renovations were made in 1889 to the original building, known as the Opera House. That impressive structure was destroyed by fire March 11, 1937. Because of the Depression, and the pending situation of World War II, the town voted not to spend any monies on rebuilding. Finally, replacement was done in stages, with business conducted in the basement and front section of the first floor for twelve years, until completion in 1969 was possible due to monetary gift from Mildred G. Stark.

II. POORE & COLBY BLOCK

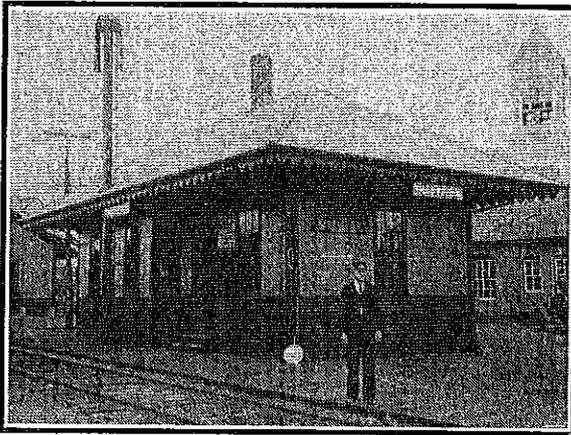
Herbert E. Poore and William H. Colby constructed this building in 1895 as Goffstown became prosperous. Traditionally the second floor was used for apartments while the third floor housed the Masonic hall and banquet room until the organization moved to the new Masonic Temple on Mountain Road. Many different stores used the first floor, mainly grocery stores, then plumbing, hardware, photography, a newspaper office and now, a beauty shop and restaurant.

3. MARSHALL'S GARAGE

Built in 1919, this long, narrow brick building was a garage and automotive showroom, reflecting the increase in motoring and the decline of railway use. The north side was used as an Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. store in the mid 1900's, perhaps earning the distinction of being the narrowest store in town. There were three storefronts within this brick building on Main Street, each conducting business in its distinctively angular elongated space.

The only remaining original large plate glass display windows on the northerly side of the building are reminders of an active and growing commercial business center.

Over the years, the building has housed a beauty shop, gift shop, plumbing supplies store, veterinary office, insurance office and today, a pizza shop and accounting office do a thriving business.



Railroad Depot

4. THE DEPOT

In 1850 the New Hampshire Central Railroad completed a line from Manchester to Goffstown. Depots were located here and at Parker Station, Shirley Station and Grasmere. Goffstown's first depot was built here in 1850. About 1880, the original passenger station was replaced with the present structure and the older station was moved westward to become the freight depot (today's Goffstown Auto Parts.)

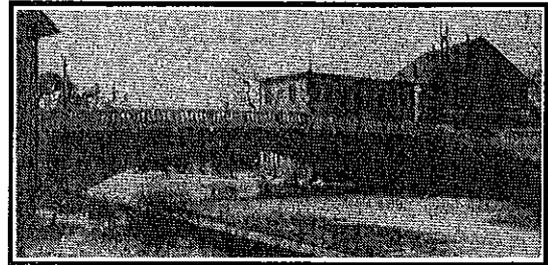
In 1952, this passenger station was moved about 30 feet and an adjoining new brick hardware store was built on Main Street by Herbert Johnstone. Present owner, Larry Brown, restored the depot to its original appearance and incorporated it in his business as the paint department.

4.

5. THE PAIGE BLOCK

Of the buildings on this site at the corner of Depot and Main Streets, the first built in 1869 was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1876 by Hazen Blood. Later the Paige brothers owned the building and again fire partially destroyed it. After those burning disasters, it settled down to house many businesses. Printers, bakers, restaurants and grocery stores have operated on this corner.

Actually, this location holds two structures, with the one on the left having a flat roof, the one on the right being gabled. The two structures were joined in 1865 and since have housed a variety of businesses. For over 120 years, a barber shop occupied the southern end of the building along the river bank.



The Cement Bridge & Paige Block

6. BRIDGE & BRIDGE ABUTMENTS

Before the American Revolution, masts for the King's Navy were transported down what is now known as Mast Road. By 1766 the first bridge had been built, only to be washed away like many of its successors by the spring freshets.

No sooner had that happened than a wooden lattice bridge was constructed here and a roof installed on it the following season. This became Goffstown's picturesque covered bridge which lasted until 1900 when a steel span took its place to carry the new trolley cars.

This important cement bridge was constructed in 1928 and is one of a small group of New Hampshire bridges designed by nationally renowned bridge engineer, Daniel B. Luten. The pedestrian sidewalks on either side rest on large brackets while colorful fluted concrete lamp standards with globes are located at the four corners of this historic bridge.

On the downstream side of this bridge are two abutments that supported the covered railroad bridge which burned on August 16, 1976. Many people used this bridge as a shortcut to and from work at the Bobbin Shop on the south side of the river. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5.

7. GRIST MILL

This former grist mill was built in 1883 to support the growing village's need for a place where farmers could bring their crops to have them ground into meal. The mill builders, J.M. and D.A. Parker along with Kendrick Kendall were prime movers in the growing town.

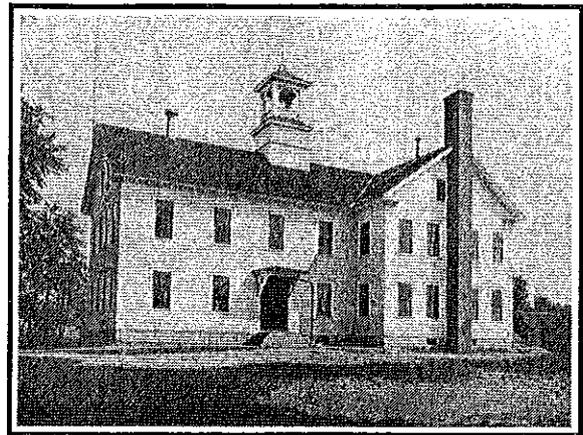
When trains began to bring grain in from the wheat fields of the mid-West, grain would be stored in the building beside the mill and transported back to the loading platform on a long steep wooden ramp that connected the two places. Robert M. Gordon was the last mill operator when the building became Burnes Cleaners and now used as a residence.

8. GOFFSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

When this school was constructed in 1925, it was considered the ultimate educational structure. It accommodated grades 5-12 when it opened in 1926. This was an era minus many sports programs and very little in the way of a lunch program. Basketball was played in a "bathtub"-type gym with little seating capacity. Renovated in 1947, this area became, in part, a cafeteria and a new addition with an auditorium, gymnasium and classrooms became a reality in 1948.

As Goffstown grew and the new high school was built on Wallace Road, this school became the Upper Elementary and used for intermediate grades.

This building evolved as the third step in Goffstown's educational system that began with the one room schools, followed by the White Building and this brick building.



The White School Building

9. THE WHITE BUILDING

This is Goffstown's first comprehensive school built in 1874 by John Carlton and Sons. Until the brick high school on the east was constructed in 1925, the rooms of this school echoed with the sounds of education for all twelve grades. It changed in appearance slightly when it was enlarged in following years with the increase in population.

The high school was on the second and third floors and all the upper classes had to come down stairs for the bathrooms.

Today the White Building remains much the same in appearance as it did in the early years of this century.

10. THE LIVERY STABLE

This is one of Goffstown's early homes built sometime before 1810 when it was a licensed tavern and later a post office. Although a tavern-keeper, lawyer and a doctor resided here, the building's prominence emerged in 1880 when Charles Barnard, the benefactor of Goffstown's Barnard Park, operated a livery stable in the large attached barn.

His livery business lasted until automobiles put the horse out to pasture and Charles Barnard became the proud owner of one of Goffstown's earliest "horse-less carriages".

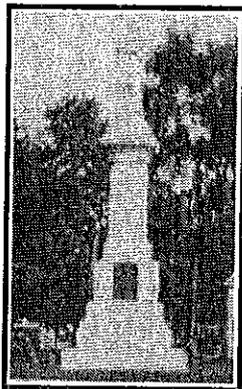
At the turn of the century a porch and bay windows were added to the front of the building. These were removed in 1965 when the home was restored to its original appearance. It is said that individual wide plank boards cover the front part of the building from the ground to the roof and that the oldest part of the house is of a post and beam construction, as was the custom when wood was cheap and plentiful.

11. THE MARTEL BLOCK

You could give many names to this building including "the Dr. Maurice Stark, Dr. Sam Ferguson, the Telephone Office, the Hambleton Block or the Martel Building". The house was built by prominent Goffstown citizen Eliphalet Richards, 2nd in 1860. At that time it was located south of the famous New Hampshire Central House.

A laundromat was established in the barn by Richard Comstock and operated for many years by Clifford Martel.

The Martel Block continues as part of Goffstown's history with Travel About in the place of the telephone office and apartments filling the remaining space.



Goffstown Common & Monument Square

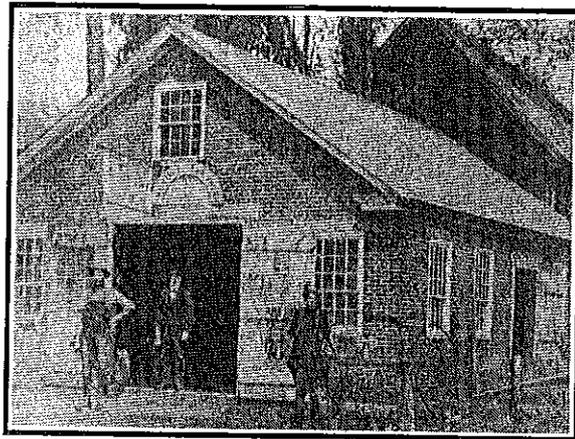
12. GOFFSTOWN COMMON & MONUMENT SQUARE

In 1907, the town appropriated \$500 to match \$500 received previously through public subscription for the "beautification and adornment" of the lot left vacant by the destruction by the fire of the Central Block. In 1916, a granite monument to honor Goffstown servicemen of all wars was given to the town by Henry W. Parker in memory of his grandfather, Capt. Charles Stinson.

The common was enlarged on the southerly side in 1940 by a gift of land by the heirs of Fred Condon of the lot on which the demolished Bretton Inn once stood. (Previously known as the New Hampshire Central House)

13. HARNESS SHOP

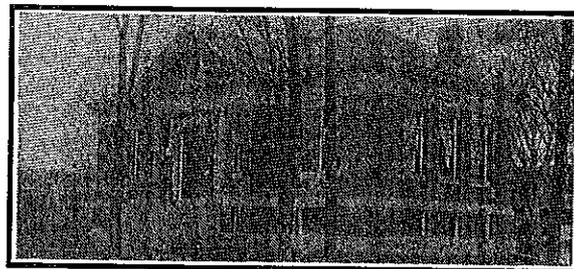
The 1 1/2 story residence at 14 Elm Street with its gable end fronting on the street was originally a harness maker's commercial establishment. The building was moved from elsewhere on Elm Street to its present location in the 1890's and has served as residential and commercial property alternately over the years.



Moore & Campbell Blacksmith Shop

14. BLACKSMITH SHOP

Since 1845, the brick shop on Elm Street has housed a number of individual blacksmiths. In 1872, Frank T. Moore, a wheelwright, formed a partnership with Hamilton Campbell, blacksmith, to offer carriages for sale, carriage repair and the traditional blacksmith practice. In 1922, Mr. Moore had the distinction of serving the needs of Goffstown for 50 years, the longest period of a local businessman from one location. During the 1930's, the building became a garage, catering to a more modern form of transportation. Today, the brick shop serves the financial needs of the community as the Bank of New Hampshire.



Goffstown Public Library

15. GOFFSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

From a memorial gift of 150 books by Lucy S. Rogers in 1888, the library had its beginnings in the Town Hall. In 1907, Mr. Frank A. Parker offered land at the north end of Main Street from which he would remove the existing duplex house. The town appropriated \$14,000 for a public library and memorial hall. Dedication exercises for the Classical Revival building as the Memorial Library were held on Oct. 2, 1909. At the annual town meeting of 1910, the name was changed to Goffstown Public Library.



The Parker Block

16. PARKER BLOCK

This important commercial landmark at the village crossroads, built in the early 1800's, has continuously provided the town with grocery and hardware supplies.

The mansard roof and decorative dormers were added during the years when the Parker family owned the store.

Other businesses on the street level in this building providing services for the townspeople have been insurance offices, a quality clothing store, barber and beauty shops, coffee shops, drug store and the post office.

The second floor provided office space for the publication of *The Atlantic Fisherman* and a beauty shop until it was remodelled as apartment units. The third floor has been a meeting place for the IOOF (Odd Fellows) and the Rebekahs for many years.

17 - 18. PARKER-COLBY HOUSE AND PATTEE HILL TAVERN

From the front steps of the Goffstown Public Library, looking north up High Street, the Victorian style Parker-Colby house on the right and the Pattee Hill Tavern, Goffstown Village's latest restaurant, on the left, dominate the scene. The Victorian residence of Frank A. Parker, a town benefactor, was built in 1895. The New England Colonial Pattee homestead was built prior to 1830.

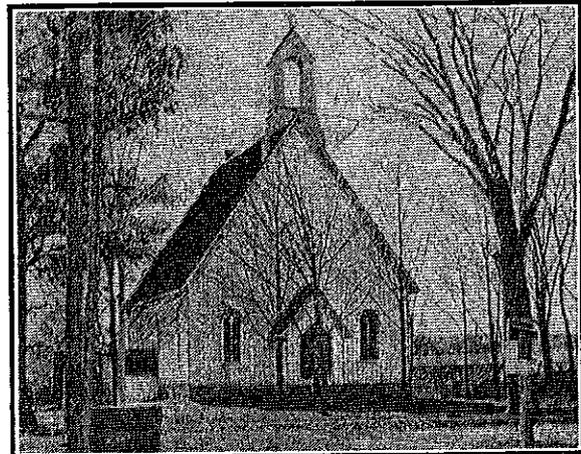
19. POPCORN STAND

Goffstown's most favorite and unique landmark, now owned and operated by the Goffstown Lions Club, came to Goffstown in the 1930's. Louis Prince sold hot, buttered popcorn to residents and the traveling public from the circus style cart at the intersection of South Mast Street and Wallace Road. "Popcorn Charlie" Ray purchased the cart in the 1940's and placed it at its present location. The Lions Club purchased the cart and land in an effort to maintain the long standing tradition of hot buttered popcorn for devotees from late spring to early fall.

10.

20. WATERING TROUGH

Anchoring the northwest corner of High Street and North Mast Street is one of Goffstown's four remaining granite watering troughs. The watering troughs once served the physical needs of the travelling public, now being filled with flowering plants and maintained by the Goffstown Community Garden Club. The troughs continue to serve the traveling public, this time around -- esthetically.



Watering Trough & St. Matthew's Church

21. ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

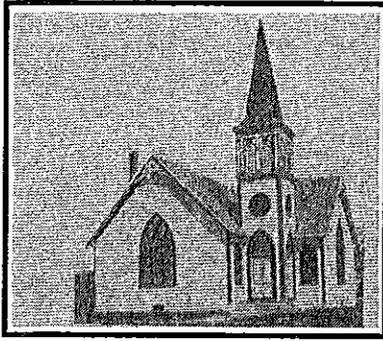
The construction of the Carpenter Gothic, board and batten style church was started in 1867, paid for by public subscription, assisted by gifts from church members and friends from distant cities. It was completed during the latter part of 1869 and the first services were held in January of 1870.

The original box pews of black walnut were changed in 1913 to mission-style. The pipe organ of superior quality was designed and built by William A. Johnson Organ Co. of Westfield, Mass. at a cost of \$1600.00.

An office wing to the west was added in the 1960's and a memorial Children's Chapel wing to the east gave a balanced appearance in 1974.

The stained glass and etched glass windows are diamond shape with Romanesque-style rounded arches. The triple-panelled window at the rear of the church was boarded up in the early 1900's to protect the window, to prevent further deterioration of the frame and to save on heating costs. During interior alterations in June of 1986, when the altar was pulled forward, the window was rediscovered. The diamond panes of rose-colored etched glass with cross and shell motif were salvaged and sold as memorial "sun-catchers" to the parishioners, to defray the expenses of window replacement.

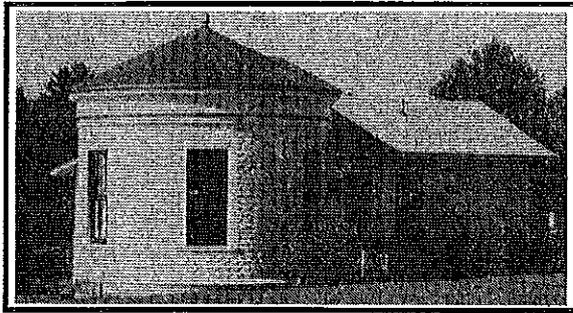
11.



Second Methodist Church

22. SECOND METHODIST CHURCH

The first church service in July 1889 was held at the Second Methodist Church before completion of the building. There were no windows or doors in position, but it was only 1 year and 8 1/2 months after organization that the first service was held. Completion of the building was made possible by the generous support of the citizens of Goffstown and other communities. To provide for a kitchen and dining hall, the church building was raised and a basement area excavated in 1922-1923. The last church service was held in the sanctuary on Nov. 26, 1989.



Round House

23. ROUND HOUSE

This circular room is the only remaining fragment of the 1889 Town Hall which was destroyed by fire in 1937. It served as the library at its Main Street center village location. There remains a hint of the original Queen Anne styling created by architect William Butterfield. The rectangular addition has its own historical significance. It had been Carolyn Worden's Beauty Shop perched close to the river at the intersection of Main and Mill Street. Heavy floods swept the whole building off its foundation, down the river and over the dam. The salvaged lumber adds to the charm of this round house, which has been small living quarters in years past and now is a computer supply shop.

12.

24. SARGENT BLOCK

This 1888 commercial building, also referred to as the Union Market, was constructed by Johnson and Sargent, where these two men conducted business until the early 1900's. Syndicate ownership by Union Market continued until 1907.

This building was used as a post office during the mid 1900's. It housed a Credit union and bank. There are apartments on the second floor and on the dormered third floor.

25. STARK HALL

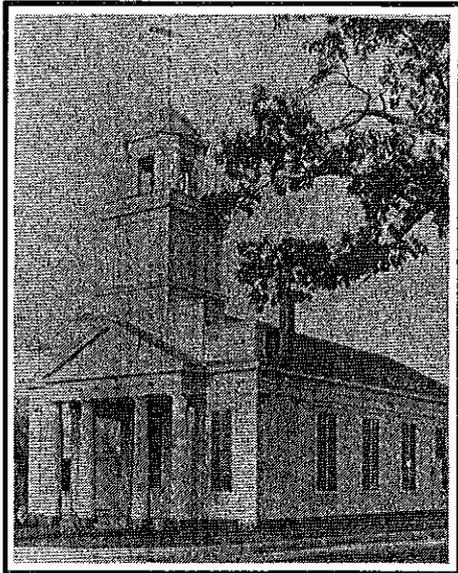
This building was constructed in 1875 as a Congregational vestry, but later used in 1891 by Ed Blaisdell as a dry goods store and a post office until purchased by the Grange as a meeting hall. Lively musicals and variety shows were held on the stage and meeting hall on the second floor. Its usefulness, contributing to village life, continues even now, having been repurchased by the Congregational Church, as a fellowship center, for political candidates to be seen and heard during New Hampshire's primaries.

13. A.

26. CONGREGATIONAL PARISH HOUSE

This clapboard house was built in the mid 1800's by David S. Carr, a tailor and tradesman, who contributed to the expanding business community. This was a single family home until 1947, when it was purchased by the Congregational Church for use as a parish house. Further changes in the mid 1950's provided enlarged classrooms, office space, and an eil connecting the parish house to the Stark Hall. A small chapel for intimate weddings and other church celebrations was added in the front south corner of the first floor.

Despite its location in the busy center of the village, the Eastlake-style ornamentation, added prior to 1900, continues to add a quiet beauty and tasteful appearance to the Main Street.



Congregational Church

27. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The second congregational church built in 1845, was Greek Revival with huge Doric columns. Very little of that styling is visible since the 1869 alteration and the 1891 remodeling in the Queen Anne style. Its historic interest as one of the two churches constructed in the village during the 19th century demonstrate the development and increasing dominance of the village center during that period.

The focal point of the triple stained glass central window with its decorative arch adds considerable beauty to the town's main street.

28. LAMSON TOWN HOUSE APARTMENTS

This structure was built in 1865 as a single family home. In the 1950's, the house was remodeled as the business office of Lamson's Publishing Co. and The Atlantic Fisherman. In the early and mid 1960's, it was redesigned for comfortable apartment areas. The building at the rear was an attached barn, restructured, adding more centrally located apartments.

The Ionic-style columns and pilasters were part of a Federal-style house of Dr. George, East Union Street, salvaged and reused for ornamentation during this reconstruction.

This booklet has been financed in part with a Federal "Historic Preservation Fund" matching grant from the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, through the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources / State Historic Preservation Office. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Division of Historical Resources, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the State of New Hampshire.

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KEY:

- 1 -- Town Hall
- 2 -- Poore & Colby Block
- 3 -- Marshall's Garage Bldg.
- 4 -- Depot
- 5 -- Paige / Commercial Block
- 6 -- Bridge & Bridge Abutments
- 7 -- Grist Mill
- 8 -- Goffstown High School
- 9 -- White School
- 10 -- Livery Stable
- 11 -- Martel Block
- 12 -- Common & Monument
- 13 -- Harness Shop
- 14 -- Blacksmith Shop
- 15 -- Library
- 16 -- Parker Block
- 17 -- Parker-Colby House
- 18 -- Pattee Hill Tavern
- 19 -- Popcorn Stand
- 20 -- Watering Trough
- 21 -- St. Matthew's Church
- 22 -- Second Methodist Church
- 23 -- Round House
- 24 -- Sargent Block
- 25 -- Stark Hall
- 26 -- Congregational Parish House
- 27 -- Congregational Church
- 28 -- Lamson Town House Apartments

Walking Tour of Main Street--Goffstown, New Hampshire

