

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL SKETCH

The area that was to become Waltham was first explored by Governor Winthrop in 1631, shortly after the settlement of Boston and the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. By 1640, the area had become a precinct of Watertown, and most of its land divided up into grants to individual townsmen. Settlement, however, did not occur rapidly, but instead the area was primarily used as pastureland for the Watertown cattle herds. Following the end of King Philip's War in 1676, which put an end to fears of Indian attacks, settlement in the area accelerated. By 1700 there were homes and farms established throughout what was to become Waltham north of the Charles River, but especially along Warren Street, Trapelo Road, Beaver Street, and in the Piety Corner area. By 1738, the population had grown large enough for the precinct to break away from Watertown and become incorporated as the separate Town of Waltham. During the 1800s and into the 1900s, the make up of North Waltham slowly changed from small family farms into a mix of large residential summer estates for wealthy Bostonians; large institutional campuses, such as the Fernald Center; commercial truck and dairy farms; and residential subdivisions.

TOUR

Section I. Beaver Street Area (East along Beaver St. from Lexington St. to Waverly Oaks Rd.) Beaver Street is one of the earliest streets in Waltham. Sections of it were laid out as cattle tracks for the Watertown herds in the 1670s. The first meeting house in the part of colonial Watertown that was to become Waltham was established in 1721 near the intersection of Beaver and Lyman Streets. Much of the area at the western end of the street was farm land belonging to the Livermore family from the early 1700s, and passing to the Clark family in the early 1800s; and much of the land at the eastern end belonged to the Hammond family starting in the mid-1600s. Later, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Beaver Street became home to many fine estates (from west to east): Josselyn (now part of the Chapel Hill - Chauncy Hall campus); Lyman (on the north and south around Lyman and

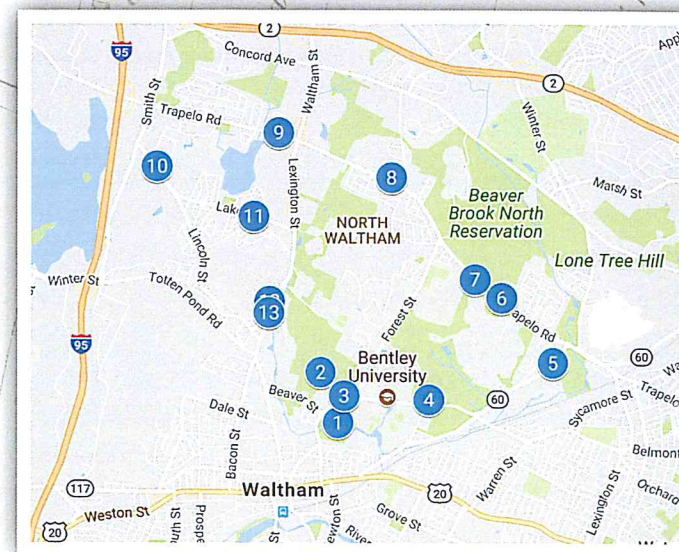
Forest Streets - now divided up among Historic New England's Lyman Estate, the Bentley College campus, and housing sub divisions); Paine and Sears (on the north up Robert Treat Paine Drive across from the Lyman Estate); and Warren (now divided up among the Bentley College campus, Cedar Hill Girl Scout reservation, the University of Massachusetts extension station, and Cornelia Warren Field).

1 Historic New England's Lyman Estate (driveway off south side of DeVincent circle at intersection of Lyman St. and Beaver St.), "The Vale", 1793, Federal: The Lyman Estate, "The Vale", is one of the finest examples in the United States of a country estate laid out according to the principles of eighteenth century English naturalistic design. The house was designed in the Federal style in 1793 by the Salem architect Samuel McIntire for Theodore Lyman, a wealthy Boston merchant. The Lyman estate led the way for many other wealthy Bostonians to establish large summer estates in Waltham. The estate is open to the public, but contact Historic New England for times.

2 City of Waltham's Paine Estate (north, up Robert Treat Paine Drive), "Stonehurst", 1866 and 1886, Second Empire and Richardsonian (house addition designed by H.H. Richardson and grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmsted): The Robert Treat Paine House, "Stonehurst", consists of two parts, the first a Second Empire house built in 1866 and the second a huge addition made of shingles and glacial boulders which was designed in 1884-86 by H.H. Richardson. It is this eastern part, with its terrace by Frederick Law Olmsted, for which the house is famous as one of Richardson's finest remaining private homes. After retiring fairly young from business and



HISTORIC SITES IN NORTH WALTHAM



For more information on these and other sites in Waltham please contact the Waltham Historical Society at

www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org



A Sampler of the HISTORIC SITES IN NORTH WALTHAM (Outside of the Piety Corner Area)

This tour is just a small sample of the historic sites in north Waltham. For a much more complete area history and an extensive collection of individual house descriptions, histories, and pictures please see the Waltham Historical Society's publication *A self-Guided Driving Tour of the Architectural Gems of North Waltham*, available from the Waltham Historical Society at www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org.

Also available from the society are historic tours of many other sections of Waltham.

This tour of the historic sites in North Waltham may not include all buildings which could be considered to be historically significant. It is not a legal document.

professional life, Robert Treat Paine devoted himself exclusively to charitable and philanthropic work. He married Lydia Lyman, grand daughter of Theodore Lyman, in 1862, and the estate was given to them by George Lyman, Lydia's father. In 1974 it was given by the Paine/ Storer family to the City of Waltham. It is open to the public, but contact Stonehurst for times.

3 Meeting House Walkway (just north of Beaver St. running along base of hill between Robert Treat Paine Dr. and Forest St., remnant of original colonial alignment of Beaver St.): The first two meeting houses in Waltham were located near here. The first (1721-1767) was just south of present-day Beaver St., and the second (1767- 1840) was on the north side of the present-day traffic circle.

4 311 Beaver St. (north side of street opposite Linden St.), Jonathan Hammond House, 1785, Georgian/Federal: This late 18th century house was built in 1785 by Jonathan Hammond, 2nd, the fifth in the line of Hammonds to own the property and farm the land. In 1849, the northern part of the house was sold to the Rev. Dorus Clark and his wife Hannah, who were the grandparents of Cornelia Warren. Cornelia Warren's father, Samuel D. Warren, who was a rich lumber mill owner, purchased approximately 200 acres of the old Hammond lands in the mid 19th century. The Warren's mansion was located on the hill north and east of here, but was demolished in 1950. After Cornelia's death, much of the estate north of Beaver St. went to the MA Girl Scout Council, and on the south went to the UMASS Agricultural Extension Service. The Jonathan Hammond House is now owned by Bentley University.

Section II. Trapelo Rd. Area (go left on Waverly Oaks Rd. up to Trapelo Rd. and then left on it all the way to Smith St.) From at least the early 18th century the northeast part of Waltham was known as the "Trapelo" district. Trapelo Rd., which runs roughly five miles from the Belmont line at Beaver Brook, to the town of Lincoln, was one of the first important roads in the vicinity. This facilitated settlement of the area's prime farmland beginning in the mid-1600s. From this time, until the early 20th century, many

farmhouses were built along the road, with much institutional development and suburban subdivision since the 1920's.

5 492 Waverly Oaks (1699 on side), Fillibrown-Peirce House, 1828 (possibly with parts of 1699 house), Federal: This house, built in 1828 by Abiel Fillibrown, who farmed the land to the south and west, may include parts of an earlier house from 1699, which burned down in 1825.

6 257 Trapelo Rd. (cr. Porter Rd.), Phineas Lawrence House, 1807, Federal (Brick Ender): This is one of the few Federal brick-enders in Waltham. The Lawrence Family owned a large portion of the area at the eastern end of Trapelo Road, beginning with their first purchase in the vicinity in 1668. Phineas was the last Lawrence to farm this land. After his death in 1924, most of the farm was acquired by the Commonwealth and formed part of the grounds of the now defunct Metropolitan State Hospital.

7 282 Trapelo Rd. (south side of street), Sanger-Durivage House (Cardinal Cottage), 1846, Greek Revival: This simple Greek Revival residence originally had much more ornate trim when it was built by Abraham Sanger in 1846. It came into the possession of Francis A. Durivage, a local poet, editor, and writer, as well as farmer, in 1855. Around the turn of the century the land and house came under the ownership of the Archdiocese of Boston, and later became part of the now defunct Fernald School.

8 735 Trapelo Rd. (just past fire station), William Wellington House, 1779, Georgian



(Best in City): The Wellington House is, arguably, the best Georgian residence in Waltham. It was recently acquired by the city and is being preserved and restored. There are finely crafted pedimented doors on the south and east; the fenestration is 12/12 with wood molds; and two large chimneys pierce the low hip roof. Roger Wellington came to Watertown by 1636, and by 1642 or 1643 had acquired his first lot of land in what was to become Waltham. This lot continued to grow in size as the result of the purchases made by several generations of Wellingtons. William Wellington (1746-1813) was prominent in town affairs, having been elected selectman 17 times. In 1930, the house and most of the land was acquired by the state for the now defunct Middlesex County Hospital.

9 1079 Trapelo Rd. (cr. Kingston Rd., just past Lexington St.), Amos Stearns House, 1790, Federal and Greek Revival: This Federal period house was modernized in the Greek Revival style in the 1830s by the addition of a pediment, entablature, and corner boards. The Stearns family had considerable land holdings in Waltham beginning about 1723.

Section III, Lincoln/Lake/Lexington Sts. Area (go left down Lincoln St. to Lake St., veer left on Lake St. to Lexington St., and turn right on Lexington to Curve St.) Lincoln St. was laid out in 1707, but now has only a few 18th and 19th century farm houses remaining with much 20th century in-fill. Lake St. and this northern section of Lexington St. contain a number of houses associated with the Hardy family. In 1738, Harvard College acquired a large farm stretching from today's Hardy Pond to east of Lexington St., and from near Trapelo Rd. to south of Lake St. Nahum Hardy bought this farm from the college in 1839. It continued in the Hardy family for almost the next 100 years. At the southern end of this section of Lexington St., the Sanderson family owned much of the land in the 18th and 19th centuries, while the Childs family owned large dairy farms here at the turn of the 20th century.

10 639 Lincoln St. (on left, just before Graymore Rd., 1630 on chimney), Jonas Viles House, 1770-1776, Georgian: This is one of the few mid-eighteenth century houses still standing in Waltham,

though much modified. The date "1630" on the chimney is unsubstantiated. The Viles family first came to Waltham in 1729 and was a prominent family in the community during the next two centuries. Nathan Viles built the core of this house sometime before 1776.

11 124 Lake St. (on south side of street, behind #122), Harvard College Farm-Nahum Hardy House, 1788, Georgian: This is an important, little altered example of Georgian architecture, featuring a very large central chimney, a low-pitched roof, flush eaves, and a low brick foundation.. The land comprising the Harvard College Farm was assembled from many separate farms by Anthony Caverly in the early 1700s and sold to Harvard College in 1738. This house was built by the College in 1788 and deeded to Nahum Hardy, along with the farm, in 1839. The house originally fronted on College Farm Road, which existed long before Lake St., but is now sandwiched between in-fill houses front and back.

12 562 Lexington St. (just before the Stigmatine Fathers' property), John Sanderson House, 1826, Federal (Brick rear wall): This is one of the many houses built by the Sanderson family in the Piety Corner area from the late 1600s through the early 1900s.

13 528 Lexington, William G. Childs House, 1873-1874, Mansard: This Mansard style house is one of the best preserved of its type in the city. William G. Childs established a large dairy farm here sometime before 1875. The houses on either side were built by his sons, who continued the dairy business after their father's death.

