

240 years on Common

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In 1883, a granite water trough was installed on the Common

The way was cleared for the construction of the J.V. Fletcher Library when, in 1891, the Bancroft-Wright home burned. Millerites had met there, awaiting "The Call" that William Miller had predicted would come on Ascension Day, April 3, 1843.

In 1895, the yellow brick library was constructed; a major addition began in 1987

Modern utilities came to Westford not long after the turn of the century. In 1909, town water flowed to residents via a private company that later was bought by the community.

In 1904, the first telephone office was set up on Depot Street. The switchboard moved to the Isle family home in 1912.

Not long after the telephone came electricity in 1911, no doubt leading to the darkening of kerosene lamps.

The Civil War Memorial was placed on a small triangle of land where Hildreth Street and Boston Road meet in 1910, a gift of Edwin D. Metcalf.

What has become a familiar fixture in town Center — the Grange water trough for man, beast, and dogs — was installed in 1912.

The Butterfield Tavern burned in 1914. It once was home to J.W.P. Abbot.

One form of traffic no longer frequented the Center after the

town weighing scales (for hay loads, etc.) were removed in 1923

The monument to World War I and other conflicts was placed at the Common in 1924.

The face of town center changed drastically with the destruction of three homesteads in the mid- of this century. The Seavey homestead next to the J.V. Fletcher Library was consumed by a fire in 1939, but historical accounts report the "cellar hole saved." The once stately home of Jack Abbot was demolished in 1942. It contained 18 rooms, 8 fireplaces.

And in 1954, the Dr. Benjamin Osgood home was demolished to make way for the new fire/police station complex.

What had been a fixture on the Common — the J.M. Fletcher general store — closed its doors in 1958.

Twenty years ago, in 1968, a plaque memorializing the Minutemen's Revolutionary War march to Concord Bridge was placed, along with granite benches, in town center.

In 1975, the 80 ft. flagstaff was replaced by a 60 ft. fiberglass one.

The last significant addition to the Common occurred in 1983, when what some said was long overdue — a fitting memorial to those who served and were lost in the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts — was constructed on the Common along with a granite stone pathway.