

"A guide for the tourist and you" (part IX)

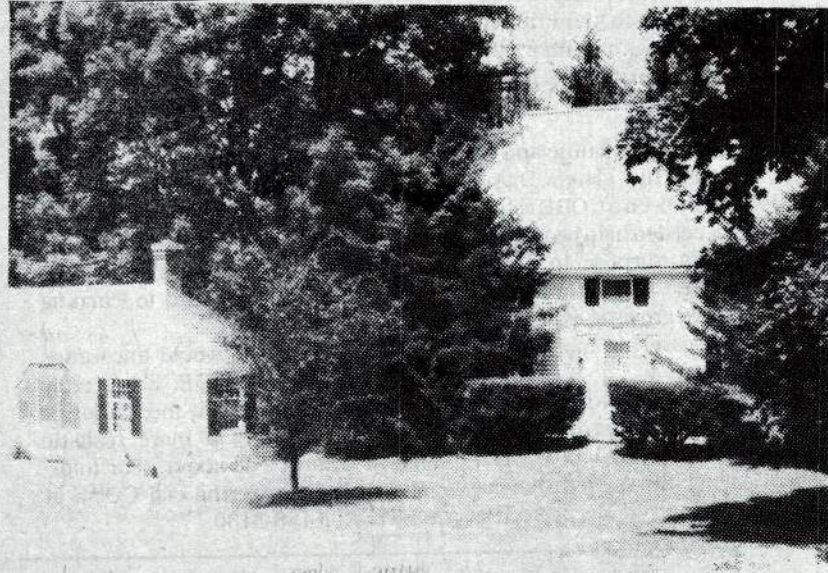
By JUNE W. KENNEDY
PROSPECT HILL

The highest elevation in town is Prospect Hill at 465 feet above sea level. It offers a commanding view of Westford and the surrounding towns. On a clear day some have been known to sight Boston Harbor. The standpipe here provides water for the center of town. In recent years 8.6 acres adjoining the hill were donated by the late Marian Winnek to the Water Department as a town wildlife and conservation area.

Location: 6G - Hildreth Street
WRIGHT & FLETCHER STORE



The Westford Baptist Temple began in Westford in 1971. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)



Nancy Zaroulis' book *The Poe Papers* confirms the fact that Anna Richmond, whose family lived on this site, was a good friend of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe visited Anna here. (A Young photo from the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)

From 1839 until 1971 this was the country general store where for many of its years pickles bubbled in a barrel of brine and the coffee grinder sent its sweet aroma to blend with spices in their open bins. Until 1912 a box of pigeonholes labeled "Post Office, U.S.A." tells us the store was the center's headquarters for the daily mail...but only during the Republican Administrations.

Location: 6G - Main Street, across from Westford Nursing Home

ABBOT ESTATE

This impressive Victorian estate was

built by Abiel J. Abbot, owner of the Abbot Worsted Mills. Centrally located in Westford, it is no doubt the largest residence in the town. Two barns, in the back, once stabled the high stepping, bob tail horses of Mrs. Abbot. Quite a horsewoman, she often drove her horses in pairs and in tandem. Mr. Abbot boarded his carriage each morning and drove down to the Mills.

Location: 6G - Main Street and Graniteville Roads

CAMERON HOMESTEAD

Built by John W. Abbot, this Victorian home, with outbuildings, was a wedding gift to his daughter, Lucy. Her marriage in June of 1893 to Julian Cameron united two of Westford's leading families. Julian, in time, also became a president of Abbot Worsted Co. For recreation, he fashioned artistic ship models with exquisite detail. Sheila Young, the famous artist who created and painted the Lettie Lane and Betty Bonnet series of paper dolls printed in the Ladies Home Journal from 1908-1918, frequently visited her cousins here. Sheila was the daughter of Rev. George Young of First Parish Church.

Location: 6G - 7 Graniteville Road, first house on right from Westford Center.

AMOS HEYWOOD PLACE

The Heywood's were considered one of the most highly cultured families in the village. Especially interested in literature, Anna Richmond of this family, met, and became a lifelong friend of Edgar Allan Poe on his visit as lecturer in Lowell. The names of Anna and Sarah, which appear in a published life of Poe, refer to the two Heywood sisters. The house was torn down; the present dwelling was the old barn on the place.

Location: 6G - 11 Graniteville Road, second house on right flanked by tennis court.

WESTFORD BAPTIST TEMPLE

This religious denomination began in Westford in 1971. Parishoners have helped in the construction of the church building. Led on horseback by the pastor, Rev. Donnelson, this congregation dressed in colonial attire and marched to "Meetin'" through the center of Westford on Sunday, July 4, 1976.

Location: 6G - Graniteville Road

DAY HOMESTEAD

This was the home of Miss May E. Day, town librarian from 1918-1960. Her own diaries and those of her grandparents, Warren and Emma Day, dating 1868-1872 give a colorful account of their daily affairs while living here. "The Circus went past here this morning we see, the Camels & Mules & little Elephant and lots of Carriages." Also, "Father and Warren have been to town meeting. Votes for Grant!" And still further records tell of making ticks, whipping feathers, cleaning the lamps, fixin' a dozen pies, tramping the hay and visits from the "pedler."

Location: 6H - 47 Graniteville and Cold Spring Roads

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The dedication of this new Church and parish hall was held on December 15, 1964. Curiosities are the log pulpit in the narthex and the log baptismal font in the sanctuary. Both were made from a monarch chestnut tree at the Shaker farm in Harvard, Mass. and felled at 105 years with a trunk 3½ feet in diameter.

Location: 6H - corner Graniteville and Cold Spring Roads

COLD SPRING

Not far from Stony Brook one finds the white, sandy-bottomed bubbling cold spring. Cold Spring Water was actually bottled and sold for a short time. When J.V. Fletcher owned the property, an octagonal oriental-type building housed the spring.

Location: 6H - Near Stony Brook and RR crossing

COLD SPRING FARM

Here was the birthplace and later summer residence of J.V. Fletcher of Belmont, Mass. who in 1896 made a gift of the library building to the town. The original "saltbox" house burned on September 8, 1896, but within the year the present home was built on the property. Picture, if you will, on this 200 acre farm, cows and sheep grazing, berry patches, cornfields, even a rough 9-hole golf course. Also, fancy the lovely pine grove extending down Cold Spring Road where annually under the pine trees the family had an elaborate dinner on trestle tables complete with the best linen and china. Miss Marian Winnek, great granddaughter of J.V. Fletcher, wrote a book titled *Juniper Hill*. It tells of her summers here as a girl.

Location: 7H - 53 Depot and Cold Spring Roads.

WESTFORD DEPOT

The sole reminders that Westford Depot was a thriving center of activity are the railroad tracks and the few grist stones from the Heywood-Burbeck Grist Mill on the bridge abutment. At the turn of the century here on Stony Brook one would also have beheld a cider mill, box factory, sawmill, train depot, post-office and blacksmith shop.

Location: 7H - Stony Brook and Depot Street

ABBOT MIDDLE SCHOOL

From 1955 until 1974 this building was the third Westford Academy. When renamed as a middle school, the name Abbot was thoughtfully selected for it honors the name of one of the original 1792 Academy subscribers and one who assisted with this building's library. When the Abbot Worsted Band discontinued, it donated instruments, giving the Westford Academy Band its start. The weathervane atop this building was wrought by Paul Revere and was originally on the 1792 Westford Academy building. In memory of her son, PFC Hasbrouck Fletcher who died in 1953, Mrs. Priscilla K. Chapin has the vane refurbished and placed here.

To be continued