

# "A guide for the tourist and you" (Part VI)

By JUNE W. KENNEDY  
Brick Tavern

It is not known when the first tavern here burned. Three gentlemen of the North part of town issued an invitation to a social ball on the evening of Feb. 2, 1839 with dancing to commence at 6:00 p.m. Perhaps it was held in the ballroom of the original tavern. The present brick building has no ballroom, but several recall there were many "spirited" gatherings.

Location: 6K - Corner Dunstable Road and Route 40

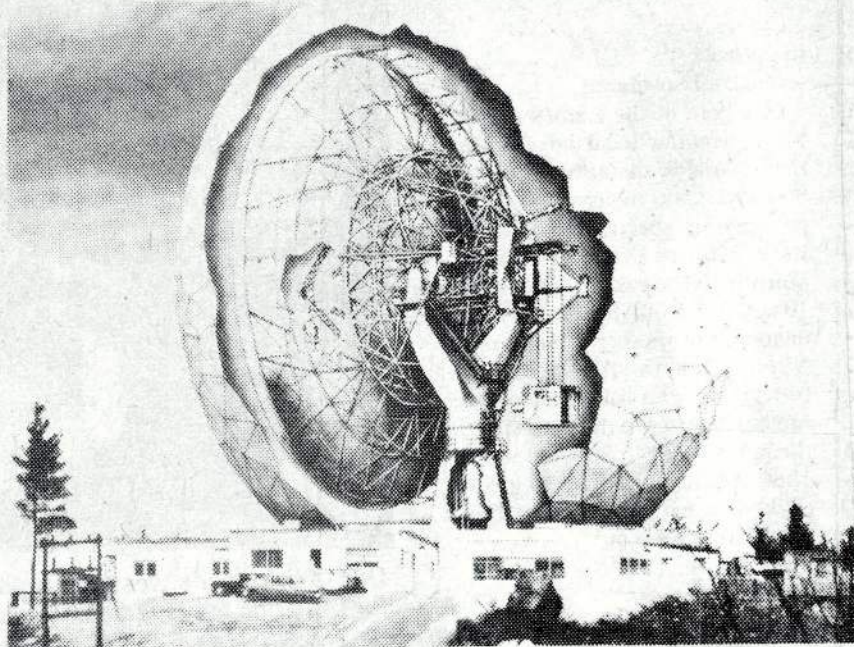
## Hillside Cemetery - (North)

Captain Oliver Bates is buried in this cemetery. He led one of the three Westford companies that pursued the British Red Coats in their retreat from Concord Bridge and received a wound that caused his death July 4, 1775. Town history records - "September ye 21: 1767. Voted to fence the North Burying Yeard (sic) with Stone Wall Eight Rods square (sic) -" Thomas Wright and Oliver Bates were paid for making 36 rods and a half of stone wall.

Location: 7J - Corner Nutting Road and Depot Street.

## Millstone Hill Field Station

Looking northwesterly from parts of Westford Hill, one sees most prominently two objects, one appearing like a saucer (which sometimes tilts) on top of a white milk bottle, and the other like a large golf ball. These mark the location of the Millstone Hill Field Station of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Field Station comprises over 800 acres, and the junction of three towns, Westford, Groton and Tyngsboro, is located near its center, close to the "milk bottle."



Featured is an artist's "cutaway" view showing the 120-foot diameter Haystack radio telescope, a part of Millstone Hill Field Station owned by MIT. Built in 1964, Haystack led and pioneered radar studies of the moon, Venus, Mars and Mercury. (From the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)

The tilting saucer is the movable 84-foot diameter antenna of M.I.T. Lincoln Laboratory's Millstone Radar Facility, which was begun in 1956 and became famous for its pioneering activities in studying the moon and nearer planets by radar reflections beginning in 1958. It was from here on February 10 and February 11, 1958 that the first successful attempt to establish radar contact with the planet Venus was reported. It was confirmed that Venus was close to 28,000,000 miles from

earth. Improved over the years, Millstone continues to do important research, including studies of the earth's atmosphere and ionosphere.

The white ball is a protective covering for the similar, but somewhat larger, saucer-shaped antenna of the Haystack Observatory, which is owned by M.I.T., and operated by a consortium of 13 universities formed under the name of Northeast Radio Observatory Corporation (NEROC). This installation was also built by Lincoln Laboratory and began operating in 1964, but in 1970 NEROC assumed responsibility for its operation. It serves today primarily as a radio astronomy observatory where researchers from all over the country can carry out observing programs designed to tell us more about the motions, structures, and compositions of celestial objects such as quasars, pulsars and other sources emitting radio waves.

Due primarily to personnel shortages, it is not possible to offer tours of these facilities.

From notes of Paul B. Sebring -  
Millstone Hill

Location: 3L - Described above  
**Forest View Farm**

This farm and complex of buildings represents the lifestyle of early Westford settlers of the North part of town. For 200 years it has been the ancestral homestead of the Wright-Gould Family. Originally a keeping room, burning room and a loft were all built around a huge central chimney. A separate

building bolted to the main section housed a brick boiler for scalding hogs after butchering. The ham hook still hangs in the ceiling. An addition of an L-shaped porch, added about 100 years ago, spoiled the Colonial styling. The story goes that when a new barn raising was held across the street, the local minister jumped on a nail keg and said: "This barn was raised without any rum, by gum!" Both barn and house are pegged. At one time a clay and charcoal business were carried on here; the bricks were made in the surrounding meadow. A cider and sawmill were on the premises. Long-Sought-For District School No. 8 was moved here and served many years as a blacksmith shop; Lyon School No. 9 on Route 40 was made into a duplex by the family for the farm and sawmill hands.

Location: 5K - 9 Gould Road

## Wright Cemetery

This burial ground began with private ownership, but was later taken over by the town. Good browsing for those interested in the art of tombstones and local history.

Location: 5K - Route 40

## St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church

The present St. Catherine's Church in Graniteville was built in 1935. It began as a Mission of St. Patrick's Church of Lowell. In 1855 the first Masses were celebrated in private homes and in the old Music Hall over the Graniteville Post-Office. When no place was available, the parishioners rode on the train to North Chelmsford; sometimes they walked. For more than 40 years, Sunday School was held in private houses.

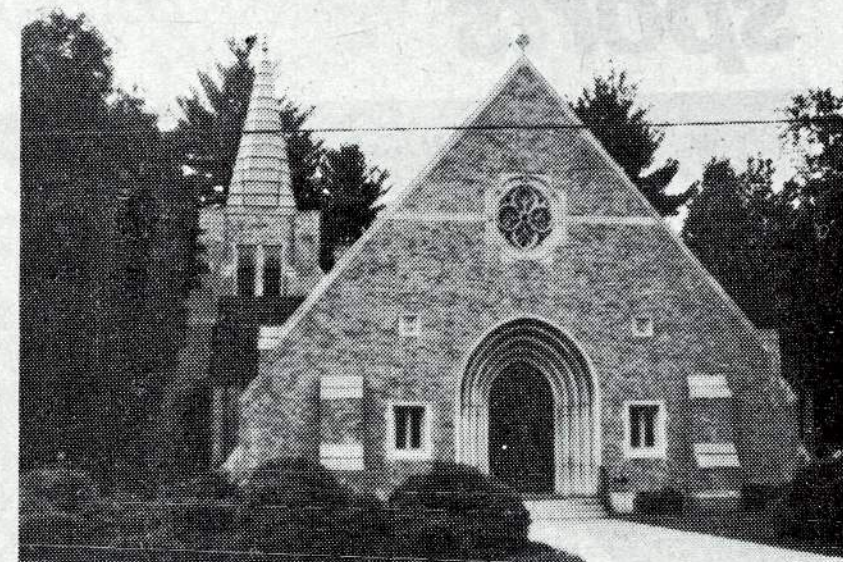
In 1892 a committee, headed by John A. Healy, solicited funds in Forge Village and Graniteville for the construction of a church. Abiel Abbot of the Abbot Worsted Co. contributed generously (many of the employees of the mill were of the Catholic faith).

By 1893 St. John's of North Chelmsford became an established Parish; St. Catherine's then became a Mission of St. John's. This relationship lasted until 1922 when Westford had a sufficient number of Catholics and given strength to warrant its own Parish. And thus it was that a 50th Anniversary of the founding of St. Catherine's Parish was recently celebrated.

Location: 4H - North Main Street, Graniteville

## St. Catherine's Cemetery

It was in the year 1898 that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston was granted a parcel of land on Pine Ridge Road for St. Catherine's burial



The present St. Catherine's church building was erected in 1935. (A Young photo from the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)

ground. Approximately seven acres comprised the lot. An additional twelve acres adjoining the original cemetery was granted in 1949. The first burial took place here in 1898.

Location: 5H - Pine Ridge Road

## Stone Arch Bridge

This is the finest stone arch bridge in the Lowell area. The bridge was built around 1872 as part of the Nashua, Acton and Boston Railroad. (It connected the quarries of Graniteville with Boston and Nashua.) \* The rails were removed in 1926, but the grade itself is in excellent condition. The bridge was built to span Stony Brook, about equidistant between Forge

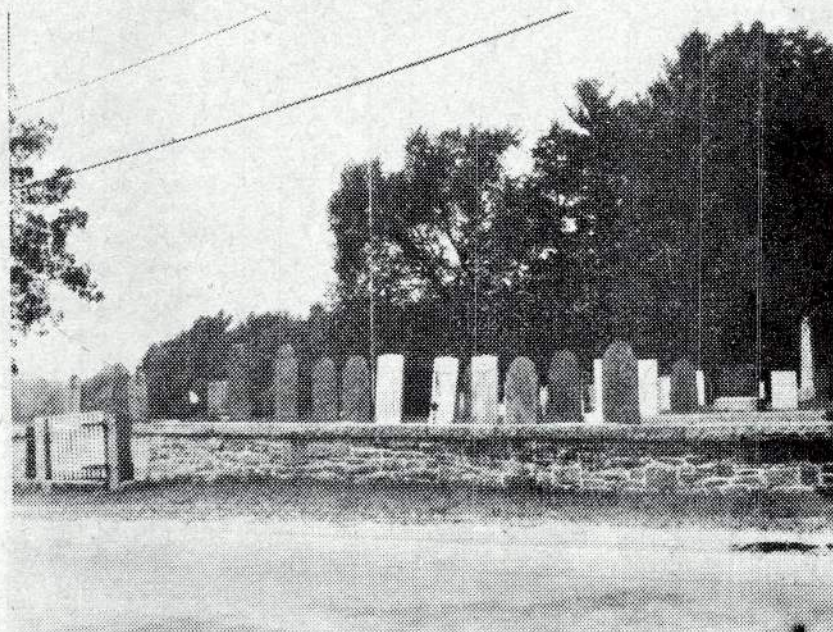
Village and Graniteville. It is a single semi-circular arch, with a span of forty feet and a rise of twenty feet. The total span is sixty feet and the width is twenty feet. The bridge is constructed of local granite. No mortar was used in the construction. The massive wing abutments and the unusual height of the arch in such a beautiful setting makes the bridge the most impressive stone arch structure in the lower Merrimack Valley.

Location: 4H - 1,200 feet southeast of intersection of West and E. Prescott Streets

\* Lower Merrimack  
To be continued.



The Stone Arch Bridge, built around 1872 as part of the Nashua, Acton and Boston Railroad, is made of local granite; no mortar was used in construction. (A Gagnon photo from the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)



Located on Route 40, not far from North Street, is the Wright Cemetery. Note name carved in the wall beside the gate. (A Young picture from the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS SERIES)