

Princeton Historical Society

Geo-Cache Activity

“Methody Corner” - West Village - Pratt’s Corner

Today, unless you are familiar with our town’s history, this area between the intersection of Radford,



Hubbardston and Allen Hill Roads stretching back to almost Princeton Pizza does not have a name. But the names, West Village, Methody Corner and, Pratt’s Corner reflect a richer history of this once commercial and active village - just “west” of the town center.

Pratt’s Cottage & Annex

To your left across Radford Road, is the home of Dr. Alphonso Brooks who for a while served as postmaster. The house, for a short time, was even a shoe factory. But, with Princeton becoming a summer resort destination, the house was turned into a boarding house, with the distinction of being the only establishment at the time, that was open to the public year round. Under the management of Mrs. Harriet Pratt and her daughters Lillian and Harriet, the “hotel made a reputation for square dealing and good service during a series of years dating back to 1876.”



Across Hubbardston Road, still to your left, a home was built in 1829 for Peter Thompson that served in the late 1800’s as an overflow to Pratt’s Cottage and the home to the Princeton Men’s Club.

Allen Hill Road originally didn’t pass all the way through to Mountain Road, but in the late 1800’s, the proprietor of the Mountain House, Samuel and Moses Hobbs, commissioned to have the road completed, so that their customers coming from the Depot railroad station by stage could travel directly to their hotel and avoid passing through Princeton Center where they might be tempted to get off and stay at one of those hotels.

Please visit www.princetonmahistory.org to learn more about Princeton’s rich history.

Princeton Historical Society

Grimes Tavern

Directly across the road is a home built circa 1789 for Dr. Ephraim Wilson.



From 1853-1919 it operated as a tavern and boarding house and was named Grimes Tavern. In 1919 Mrs. Charlotte Crocker who donated Wachusett Meadow to the Audubon Society, and was the godmother to James DeWolf Perry's daughter Beatrice, bought the house, and after the death of Beatrice, gave the house to Bishop Perry in 1923.

Methodist Church

Perhaps the most surprising discovery for most visitors to this location, is that to your right across the field a Methodist Church was built. In June, 1939, the Methodist community in Princeton numbered 138 communicants which encouraged the



building of their own church edifice. It cost \$4500 "without the bell", which was an additional \$500. The church successfully operated until 1892 when it was struck by lightning and burned. The Methodist house of worship was not re-built. Here is a contemporary news report of the fire:

"Lightning struck the Methodist Church Tuesday evening, June 14th, 1892, setting the steeple on fire and igniting and exploding a can of kerosene oil in the basement. The fire in the basement was soon extinguished, but the fire in the steeple could not be reached and soon all hope of saving the church was given up...There was no insurance." (Spy, Friday, June 17, 1892)

Please visit www.princetonmahistory.org to learn more about Princeton's rich history.