

## **Then & Now - Princeton's Heyday as a Summer Resort: 1860-1930**

Princeton's economy in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century remained focused on agriculture: in 1831 there were nearly 3,000 head of cattle in Princeton, more than double the human population (1,346 in the 1830 census).<sup>1</sup> However, beginning in the 1820s, a few nascent manufacturing enterprises evolved. Entire forests were felled to supply wood to local coal kilns and chair-makers; local farms provided leather for tanneries and shoe manufacturers. Most of these businesses were located in factories outside of Princeton Center, although reportedly the former Richardson store on the site of 1 Hubbardston Road housed both a shoe shop and a shoemaker in the 1830's (Photo 1). In addition, a small cottage industry producing woven palm leaf hats was staffed by a mostly female workforce doing piece work at home.<sup>2</sup> Manufacturing helped to attract more people to Princeton: the population increased from 1,025 in 1800 to 1,261 in 1820 to 1,347 in 1840.<sup>3</sup> Yet all of these industries would turn out to be relatively short-lived, eclipsed by the far more dramatic economic impact of Princeton's hotel and hospitality industries after the Civil War.

From Princeton's very earliest days, its natural advantages of cool clean air and beautiful country scenery attracted seasonal visitors. Wealthy residents such as Moses Gill in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and Ward Nicholas Boylston in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century often spent summers on their country estates in Princeton on Worcester Rd, and likely hosted their friends and relatives here as well. But it was the advent of public transportation in the early 1820's that made Princeton accessible to anyone who could afford the price of a stagecoach ticket. By 1849 three stagecoach routes connected Princeton with Worcester and Boston, and the town was well on its way to becoming a resort destination for both middle-class and wealthy city dwellers looking to escape the summer's heat.

A natural result of these transportation improvements was an increase in visitor accommodations. Eighteenth century Princeton had had several taverns providing overnight lodging for travelers; William Richardson's tavern of ca. 1780 (See below images) was the first to be built in Princeton Center. Next was the 1822 Wachusett House, built by John Brooks near Richardson's Tavern; which he moved it in 1846 (to 7 Boylston Avenue next door) to accommodate the construction of a new, larger hotel building. (Dingman Park, at the southwest corner of Worcester Rd. and Boylston Avenue, presently occupies the site of the second Wachusett House hotel, a contributing historic site within this district).

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<sup>1</sup> Baumgardner, pp. 27-28; Hurd, p. 988.

<sup>2</sup> Princeton Center Historic District NR nomination (1999), Sec. 8, p. 5; Baumgardner, p. 28.

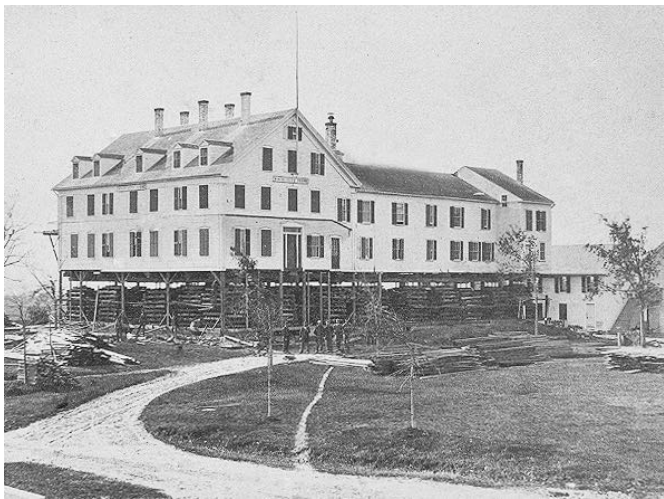
<sup>3</sup> Hurd, p. 988.



***(Photo 1) - The Corner of Hubbardston Rd. & Boylston Ave***



***(Photo 2) - Wachusett House Tavern After Move & Expansion - 7 Boylston Ave***



***(Photo 3) - Wachusett House During its Expansion in 1869-70 - 2 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 4) - Baptist Church Converted to Prospect House & Renamed Princeton Inn 8 Mountain Rd.***



***Photo 5) - Mountain House at 261 Mountain Rd***



***(Photo 6)- Grand View Hotel at 254 Mountain Rd.***

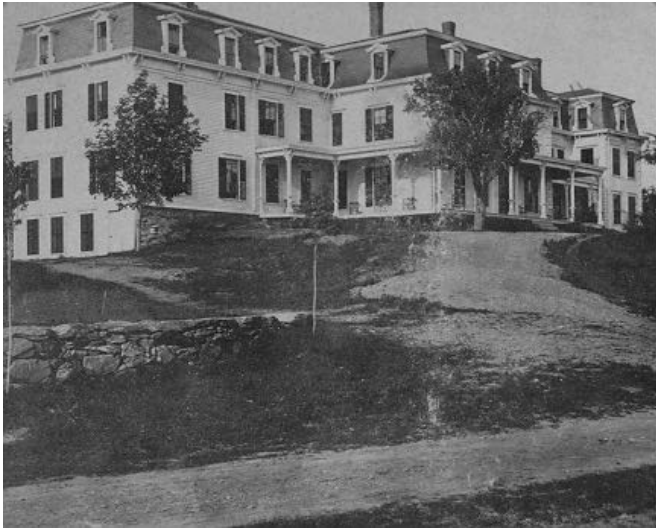
In 1857 Phineas A. Beaman and Isaac F. Thompson took over the operations of the Wachusett House (Photo 3); they subsequently bought the business in 1859 and made many improvements to the hotel property over the next several decades. A few years later, in 1860, the former Baptist Church on Mountain Road on the east side of Princeton Common was converted into a hotel, called Prospect House (Photo 4). Thus, Princeton Center had three lodging houses for visitors by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

As Princeton's popularity with summer visitors soared after the Civil War, Wachusett House (Photo 3) was enlarged in the winter of 1869-1870 to three stories, providing a total of 60 rooms. (The relocated Wachusett House Tavern (Photo 2) was renovated between 1876-1883, adding a mansard roof and providing 20 additional accommodations in a separate 20-room annex to the hotel.) Prospect House (Photo 4) was also enlarged, in 1874, to accommodate 100 guests, and renamed the Princeton Inn. But not all visitors found accommodations in the town center. At least five major hotels were established on the slopes of Mount Wachusett between the late 1850s and the late 1880s: Mountain House (Photo 5) and the Grand View Hotel (both 1859) (Photo 6), sited across the street from each other; Mount Pleasant House (1868) (Photo 7); Summit House (Photo 8) at the very top of the mountain (1885); and Fernside (Photo 9) (1890, in an old 1835 house converted into a hotel for working women).<sup>4</sup> These competed vigorously for business with the Wachusett House and Princeton Inn hotels in Princeton Center; Allen Hill Road was first built as a more direct route to the mountainside hotels, bypassing Princeton Center altogether. Numerous other small hotels and boarding houses were built on roads throughout the town during this period, and many local residents also took in summer boarders. In the vicinity of Princeton Common, boarding houses could be found at 5 Hubbardston Road (Photo 10) (in an earlier building than presently stands on the site) and at Woodland Cottage (Photo 11) (11 Prospect Street, 1905), which was noted for its views of Boston on a clear day.

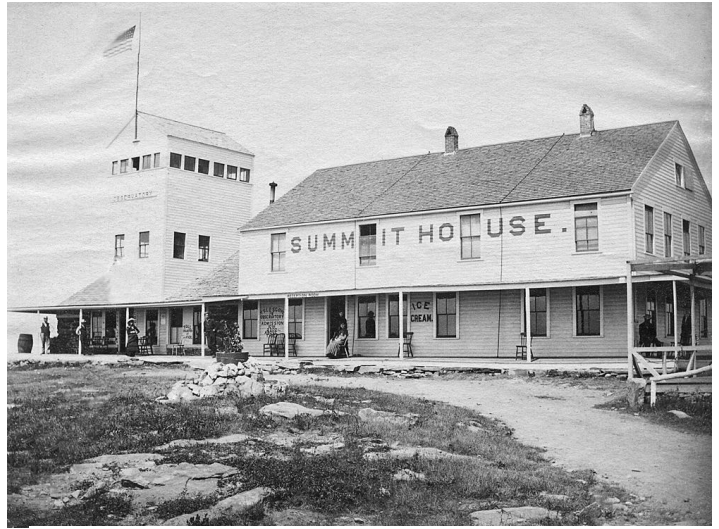
During the early days of Princeton's life as a resort town, summer guests arrived by stagecoach. After the Boston, Barre, and Gardner Railroad opened in 1871, visitors arrived by train at Princeton Depot (Photo 12), on Hubbardston Road about a mile and a half from the center, and took horse-drawn transportation from there to their hotels. Prentice C. "P.C." Doolittle operated the Wachusett Coach Line from 1883-1909 (Photo 13), maintaining dozens of horses and an eclectic collection of coaches and wagons to transport summer visitors between the train station and local hotels. Doolittle (who was famous for his many varied occupations, including selectman, undertaker, horse trader, contractor, builder, and purveyor of bottled spring water in partnership with Dr. Elisha Sears Lewis), stored his horses and vehicles in a large barn next to his home at 19 Mountain Road. He also invested in real estate, building rental properties at 7 Prospect Street (1895) and 16 Boylston Avenue (ca. 1901).

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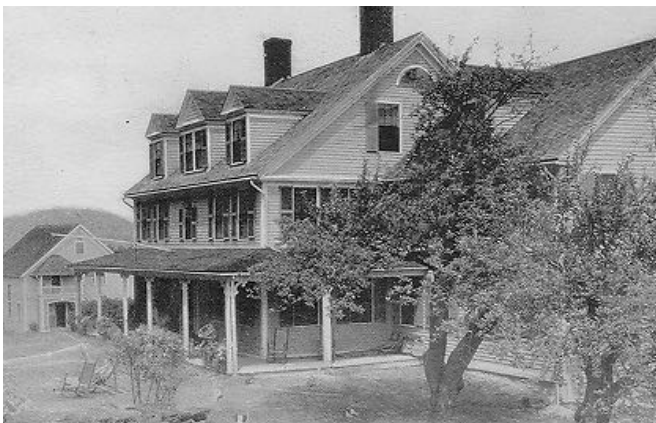
<sup>4</sup> Wachusett House proprietor Phineas A. Beaman at one time owned all of Mount Wachusett; he built the first carriage road up to the top of the mountain and facilitated construction of the Summit House hotel there in 1885. P.A. Beaman & Sons, including Phineas and sons Algernon T. and Harry C. Beaman, operated both Wachusett House and Summit House until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. (MHC survey form #917.)



***(Photo 7) – Mount Pleasant House & Farm  
- 34 Goodnow Rd.***



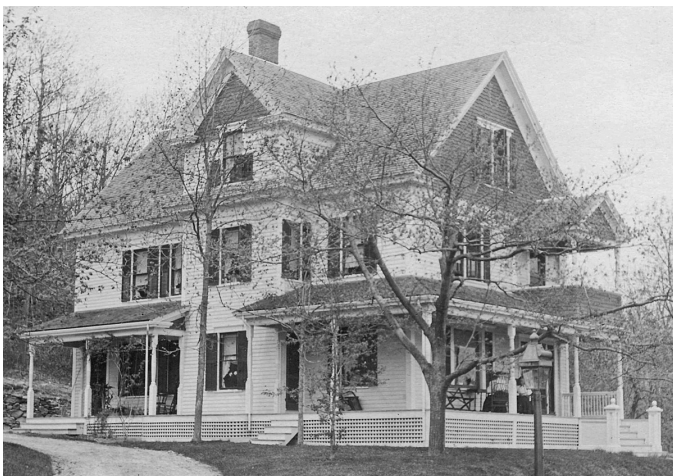
***(Photo 8) – First Summit House Hotel After  
Expansion and Added Observation Tower***



***(Photo 9) – Fernside & Playhouse on Left in  
the Background – 162 Mountain Rd.***



***(Photo 10) – Rufus Davis House Burned  
in 1908 – 5 Hubbardston Rd.***



***(Photo 11) – Woodland Cottage  
- 11 Prospect St.***



***(Photo 12) – Princeton Depot 1875  
- 283 Hubbardston Rd.***



***(Photo 13) – PC Doolittle’s Home and  
Wachusett Stage CO - 19 Mountain Rd.***



***(Photo 14) – Nauheim Institute – Dr. Lewis  
- 20 Mountain Rd.***



***(Photo 15) – J.D. Gregory Home 1884  
- 6 Mountain Rd.***



***(Photo 16) – John “Brooker” Brooks Farm  
1915 - 25 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 17) – Gregory Store &  
Hay Scales - 2 Mountain Rd.***

The most popular building style in Princeton during the 1870s, both for new construction and for “modernizing” older buildings, was the Second Empire, with its hallmark mansard roof. New homes built in this style include 6 Mountain Road (see Photo 15), 17 Worcester Road, and the Brooks-Goddard house that formerly stood at 25 Worcester Road (demolished after 1936), whose matching farm outbuilding and doghouse remain at 27 Worcester Road (see Photo 16). Buildings altered with the addition of a mansard roof included the Gregory Store at 2 Mountain Road (Photo 17), the Wachusett House Annex at 7 Boylston Avenue (Photo 2), and the house at 19 Hubbardston Road (Photo 18).

At the height of the hotel era during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Princeton’s population swelled by over 600 residents and about 2,500 tourists every summer (not including the many thousands who summited Mount Wachusett annually).<sup>5</sup> Most of these people stayed for extensive periods of time, from several weeks to the entire summer season (May to October). Many of these visitors were well educated, employed, middle class people (e.g. teachers, bankers, salesmen, small business owners, and professionals) whose income levels afforded travel for a summer holiday. Princeton’s economy came to depend largely on the influx of summer visitors, who supported not only its hotels and vendors of refreshments and amusements (bowling, tennis, golf, cycling, hiking, croquet, dances, and scenic drives were all available), but even its agricultural markets.

As increasing use of the automobile after 1908 made driving vacations popular, the resort business in Princeton fell off. One by one, most of the hotels were destroyed by fire – the Grand View Hotel in 1899, Wachusett House in 1910, the Mountain House in 1914, and the Princeton Inn (formerly known as Prospect House) in 1923. Only a few smaller boarding houses continued to survive. The lost hotels were not replaced, and summertime in Princeton grew quieter.

But in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a new population of permanent, wealthy summer residents began to appear, who bought or built houses of their own, to which they returned to every year (typically living off season in Boston or Worcester). Some of these summer houses were very grand, built on sites that capitalized on scenic vistas. One of the earliest was the Augustus G. Bullock house (Photo 19), built in the 1870s on land behind the Wachusett House hotel (demolished 1935, replaced by the present house at 10 Worcester Road in 1937); three of his sons later summered in Princeton as adults.<sup>6</sup> Another was Dr. Charles Parker’s house (1894) at 15 Worcester Road, the only Queen Anne style building in the historic district (Photo 20). A mini-building boom of

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<sup>5</sup> Hurd, p. 995.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander Bullock’s 1906 summer house survives at 1 Worcester Road. Rockwood Bullock’s 1934 summer house at 38 Mountain Road was demolished and replaced by another structure. Chandler Bullock’s two summer homes at 8 and 26 Bullock Lane are described in the Russell Corner Historic District NR nomination (2003).



***(Photo 19) – A. G. Bullock Built in 1870's  
- 10 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 20) – Dr. Charles Parker Built in 1894  
- 15 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 21) – Charles F. Washburn Built in  
1889 - 30 Mountain Rd.***



***(Photo 22) – Henry C. Delano Built in  
1902 - 58 Mountain Rd. Site of First  
Meeting House***



***(Photo 23) – Hamilton Perkins Built in  
1903 - 54 Mountain Rd. Site of Manor  
Nursing Home***



***(Photo 24) – Seth Nichols Built in 1907 -  
54 Mountain Rd. Site of Manor Nursing  
Home***

sorts occurred between 1899 and 1907, resulting in five new summer residences for wealthy families: the Washburns (Photo 21) (30 Mountain Road, 1899-1900), the Delanos (Photo 22) (58 Mountain Road, 1902-1904), the Perkins (Photo 23) (54 Mountain Road, 1903), the Bullocks (Photo 19) (1 Worcester Road, 1906), and the Nichols (Photo 24) (20 Mountain Road, 1906-1907). (All but the last of these was designed in the Shingle style; the Nichols is more of an “English Country” manor house.) The trend continued, on a more limited basis, into the late 1930s; among the last houses constructed in the historic district during its period of significance was the summer home of the Hamilton and Cade families, built 1937 (33 Mountain Road).

## **Other 19<sup>th</sup> Century Development In Princeton Center**

### **Street Names:**

Princeton Center’s streets are not named on either the 1830 or 1870 maps of Princeton. However, the 1898 map names both Mountain and Worcester Roads as “Wachusett Street,” presumably for the mountain itself as well as for the Wachusett House Hotel, which then stood at the south end of Princeton Common, at the corner of Worcester Road and Boylston Avenue. Perhaps reflecting the town’s self-image at the time, in 1898 Hubbardston Road was called “Westlawn Avenue” and Gregory Hill Road was “Gregory Avenue.” Allen Hill Road was called simply “Allen Road;” that name still appears on the town assessor’s maps.

### **Post Office:**

After Princeton’s main post office was moved to Princeton Center in 1854 (from Charles Russell’s store in the village of Russell Corner), it was located in several houses or stores at the southern end of the Common. For a short time, the post office was operated by postmaster Ivory Wilder (Photo 1) from his house at 1 Hubbardston Road. From the 1860s through the 1980s the post office was housed in Gregory’s Store at 2 Mountain Road (Photo 17); David Gregory, his son Josiah Gregory, and Josiah’s son Raymond Gregory all served as postmaster at various times in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Public Library:**

As was typical of most Massachusetts towns, Princeton’s earliest circulating library was a private association, established as early as 1790 and supported by, among other patrons, the Hon. Moses Gill. The first public library was founded in the early 1880s and combined the collections of two private library associations and a law library owned by the town. Initially housed in a private home (15 Gregory Hill Road), the public library was moved in 1882 into the new Goodnow Memorial Building (2 Town Hall Drive), a monumental Richardsonian Romanesque stone structure designed by noted Worcester architect Stephen C. Earle. This building, designed as both a public library and public school, was funded by a generous donation from Edward Augustus



Goodnow (1810-1906), a successful businessman who started his career as a storekeeper and shoe manufacturer in Princeton and later became president of the First National Bank of Worcester. The school function was moved to the Princeton Center School in 1906 (16 Boylston Avenue), the Goodnow Memorial Building remains the town's public library but today.

Edward A. Goodnow gave three major gifts to the town during the 1880s and 1890s: the Goodnow Memorial Building and Bagg Hall (the present town hall), both in memory of his deceased wives; and Goodnow Park just north of the Town Hall complex.

### **Town Hall:**

When Boylston Hall burned in 1883, local benefactor Edward A. Goodnow offered a 1:3 matching grant to the Town to construct a new town hall on the north side of Princeton Common, next to the Goodnow Memorial Building and northwest of the Congregational Church. Architect Stephen C. Earle, whose design for the new Goodnow Memorial Building had just been constructed, was commissioned to design a new town hall for Princeton; it too is in a Richardsonian Romanesque style, although built of brick. Goodnow also financed the relocation of the Congregational Church to its present site at 14 Mountain Road, at a cost of \$5,000. The move was accomplished in 1884, and the new town hall hosted its first town meeting in December of 1885. Goodnow requested that the building be named Bagg Hall in honor of his deceased first and second wives, sisters whose maiden name was Bagg. It remains in its original public function as a town hall today.

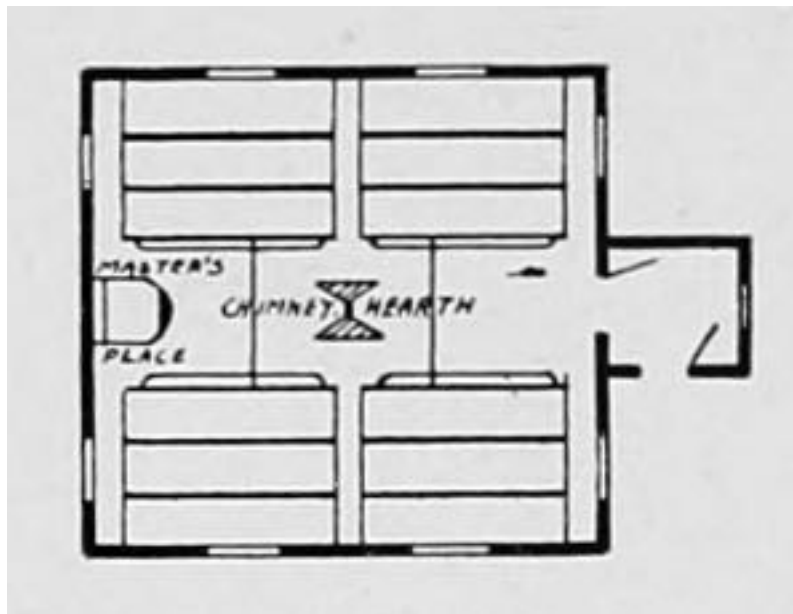


### **Public Parks:**

Edward A. Goodnow's final major gift to the Town of Princeton was Goodnow Park (1893), a 4.5 acre open space on the west side of Mountain Road just north of Bagg Hall. Thus, both the town hall and public school/library buildings were buffered by parks: Goodnow Park on the north, and Princeton Common on the south.

## Princeton Schools:

Princeton's system of public education began about 1764, when the Town appropriated six pounds sterling in its budget for school expenses. The first schoolmaster, Samuel Woods, held classes in his own home at 136 Hubbardston Road. Given the scattered nature of settlement in Princeton, school "squadrons" or districts



*Typical One Room School House*

were soon established in several locations around town; between 1771 and 1774 school buildings were constructed in each squadron. (As noted above, the Centre School was located on top of Meeting House Hill and served children living within a mile of the meetinghouse.) The 1830 map of Princeton shows twelve one-room schoolhouses (ten of them numbered) in various locations throughout the town. Originally built of wood, many of these schoolhouses were replaced with brick structures in the 1830s, and replaced again with wood

structures in the 1870s.

Charles Theodore Russell's 1838 history of Princeton notes that 378 students, in a roughly 50-50 ratio of boys to girls, studied reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, and grammar in the public schools. Natural philosophy, chemistry, algebra, and other advanced subjects were also available for older students. Boys attended in winter and girls in summer.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, in 1828 John Brooks (owner of the first Wachusett House hotel) donated a building, teaching materials, and an annual stipend of \$100 per year for three years, to establish an English and Classical School in Princeton. This private school, which charged tuition and accepted both day students and boarders, offered college-preparatory-level instruction in "Common English, the higher branches of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and the Classics."<sup>8</sup> The school building (no longer extant) stood on the west side of Worcester Road a short distance south of the present Common, behind what is now Dingman Park. This school seems to have survived only through about 1835, but it reflected a need in Princeton for advanced schooling, and mirrored similar

<sup>7</sup> Blake, pp. 200-207; Hanaford, pp. 184-188; Russell, pp. 24-25; and Princeton Center Historic District NR nomination (1999).

<sup>8</sup> Princeton Center Historic District NR nomination (1999), Section 8, Page 15.

efforts in other Central Massachusetts towns in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to establish private academies.

In 1882 Princeton began to consolidate its system of scattered one-room schoolhouses with the construction of the Goodnow Memorial Building on the north side of Princeton Common (2 Town Hall Drive). This building was dedicated to the education of the young and housed both a public library and a school (see above). The library section was on the east side of the building, dominated by a clock tower; while the school section with separate entrances for girls and boys was on the west side. High school classes were mixed in with the lower grades at Goodnow, and when the facilities there became overcrowded, some classes were also held in Bagg Hall next door (Princeton's Town Hall, built 1884).



In 1906 a two-story Shingle Style school building was built to accommodate primary, intermediate, and high school classes all under one roof. The Princeton Center School (18 Boylston Ave) stands about two tenths of a mile west of Princeton Common, at the southwestern edge of the historic district. All school functions previously housed at Goodnow were moved into the new school building. Princeton's school age populations have continued to grow; in the mid-1950s, Princeton students in grades 9-12 began to attend the Wachusett Regional High School in nearby Holden, Mass. Over the next 30 years, the lower grades also outgrew this facility, and this building ceased to function as a school in 1991.

### **Medical and Dental Services:**

By the 1870s, Princeton Center had its own resident physician and dentist. Dr. Joseph West bought the house at 19 Hubbardston Road sometime between 1855-1861, and added an ell to the house for use as his medical office. Dr. Oscar Howe purchased the house at 11 Gregory Hill Road between 1866-1870, and built a small adjacent outbuilding for his dental office; he was Princeton's only dentist for some fifty years, and pioneered the use of laughing gas as an anesthetic in this rural area. Dr. West died in 1887, but shortly after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century two other physicians established medical practices in Princeton. Dr. Elisha Sears Lewis built a residence in 1908 (18 Mountain Road) and, six years later, a sanatorium offering the latest European spa treatments for a variety of chronic ailments (Photo 14) (20 Mountain Road). (He also donated a flagpole, dedicated to the memory of his parents, to the town; it stands

between the Goodnow Memorial Building and Bagg Hall). Dr. Charles Parker began coming to Princeton as a summer visitor in 1894, and moved here permanently as of 1900 (15 Worcester Road), transferring his medical practice here as well.

### **Utilities:**

Sometime after the 1898 map of Princeton was published, but before electricity came in 1912, an acetylene gas generating plant was constructed behind the Gregory Store at 2 Mountain Road; this plant supplied gas lighting for the store and several nearby structures. Apparently this plant was privately owned and operated.

In 1912 Princeton voters approved the creation of a municipal street lighting plant, and by 1914 a small brick Light Department building had been constructed just northwest of Bagg Hall, overlooking Hubbardston Road (6 Town Hall Drive). In its first year of operations the building supplied electrical power for 56 customers and installed 130 street lights.

Both of these structures survive today, albeit in seriously deteriorated physical condition: unique remnants of infrastructure improvements brought to Princeton at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Princeton Center in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

As the hotel era faded during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Princeton once again became a farming community. Dairy farming, orchards, and poultry raising were the major agricultural endeavors. Not only did Princeton's hotel industry fail, but its earlier successful woodworking and leather goods industries fell to a low ebb. The number of local industrial enterprises fell from 27 in 1875 to fewer than 5 in 1915. The population fell from 1,279 in 1870 to 800 in 1915 and 707 in 1935.

Nonetheless, over a dozen new residences were constructed in Princeton Center between 1900 and 1940. The six summer houses described above, built for wealthy seasonal residents, represent a type of development that happened independently of either the local economy or a population increase. However, eight new year-round homes were also built in Princeton Center during this period, a phenomenon that may be explained by the rising popularity of suburban living in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As America grew increasingly industrialized throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, its cities became plagued by a host of urban ills, among them overcrowding, disease, crime and vice, and pollution. In response, many city dwellers began to look for healthier, safer, and more attractive places to live. Post Civil War improvements in public transportation systems (first railroads, later streetcars) allowed people to live further than walking distance away from their places of employment, and thus opened up previously undeveloped suburban areas for residential living. During the same period,

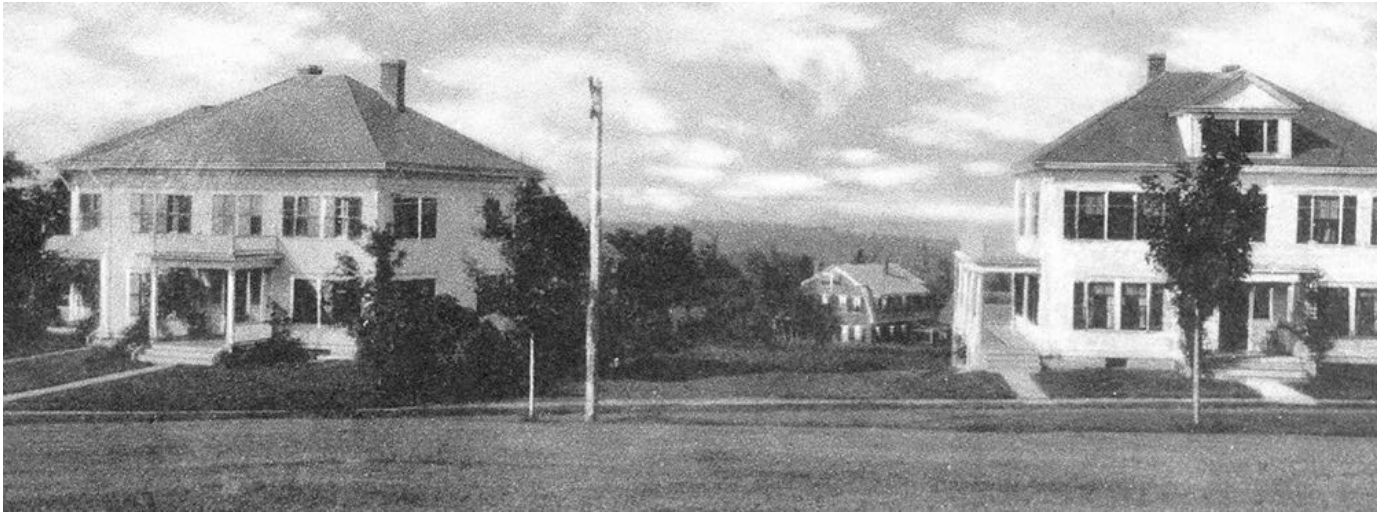
national publications such as the *Ladies Home Journal* promoted the idea of owning a home in beautiful natural surroundings, with plenty of fresh air, light, green growing things, and peace and quiet. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the suburban ideal had taken firm root in the American popular imagination.

This ideal appealed to all socio-economic classes but most especially to the rising middle class, which evolved during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was composed of people in “white-collar” positions in business, trade, and the professions. Typically well educated, the middle class had opportunities for social and professional advancement, and enjoyed an income level that afforded a comfortable lifestyle. They also typically had no servants, and therefore needed relatively small living spaces that could be managed without hired help. Mass-market publications and mail-order catalogs, both of which became popular during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, promoted the suburban lifestyle to the middle class by illustrating single-family, freestanding homes set in beautiful landscapes. Typically these houses stood 1 to 2 stories tall; exterior materials and designs and interior floor plans (usually variations on a theme of Colonial Revival or Bungalow styles) could be ordered to suit many different tastes. Blueprints could be had for a few dollars; prefabricated house kits could be shipped by train anywhere in the country for a few thousand. These “catalog” houses were attractive, manageable, and best of all, affordable, even to first-time homebuyers of modest means.<sup>9</sup>

Princeton, readily accessible to Worcester by train after 1870, fit the definition of a suburban community: its residents could live in a demonstrably scenic setting and yet easily commute to jobs in the city. Not all of the houses built in Princeton in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century were built for suburban commuters; 5 Hubbardston Road belonged to a long time Princeton resident, Mrs. Rufus Davis; 5 Prospect Street was the personal residence of a local architect, J.C.F. Mirick; and 26 Worcester Road was built for the tenant farmer of a large farm next door. However, the houses at 7 Hubbardston Road and 10 Worcester Road may fit this mold, as rental properties built at 32 Allen Hill Road and 16 Boylston Avenue.

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<sup>9</sup> “The Noble Craftsmen We Promote: The Arts and Crafts Movement in the American Midwest,” published on the University of Toledo (Ohio) website in conjunction with a 1999 exhibit at the Ward M. Canady Center for Special Collections at the University’s Carlson Library:  
[www.cl/utoledo.edu/canaday/artsandcrafts/architecture.html](http://www.cl/utoledo.edu/canaday/artsandcrafts/architecture.html).



***(Photo 25) 5 & 7 Hubbardston Rd.***



***(Photo 26) – John C. F. Mirick House  
c. 1899 - 5 Prospect St.***



***(Photo 27) – Harry Beaman House  
c. 1890 - 10 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 28) – Harry Beaman House  
c. 1890 - 10 Worcester Rd.***



***(Photo 29) – Thomas Allen Jr  
c. 19300 - 32 Allen Hill Rd.***

These eight early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban houses exhibit several different styles popular during the period, including Colonial Revival at 5 and 7 Hubbardston Road (Photo 25), 5 Prospect Street (Photo 26), and 10 Worcester Road (Photo 27); Dutch Colonial at 12 Boylston Avenue (Photo 28); and three Bungalows at 32 Allen Hill Road (Photo 29), 16 Boylston Avenue and 26 Worcester Road. The Colonial Revival and Dutch Colonial houses all replaced earlier buildings on their sites that had either burned or otherwise been demolished, and were built as owner-occupied residences; the three bungalows were all built as rental properties. The bungalow at 32 Allen Hill Road (Photo 29) was ordered by mail from the Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan: one of the most successful purveyors of house blueprints and pre-fabricated house kits in the U.S. for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is the only house in Princeton Center known to be an “Aladdin House.”

During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the town has experienced further suburban residential development. From a low of 707 people in 1935, the population has since increased some 500%, to its current level of 3,725. Nonetheless, the town has retained much of its earlier rural character and open land, and Princeton Center today appears much as it did just after the last of the great resort hotels burned in 1923. Within the expanded Princeton Center Historic District, a wide variety of building types and styles of the past 250 years, well preserved and readily identifiable, illustrate three important phases in the development of the Town of Princeton. The district clearly merits listing on the National Register.

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As near as we can discern, this document was research and written by Katherine Cavanaugh, while she was doing National Historic Register work for the Princeton Historical Commission. It was updated and images added in the summer of 2024 by William “Bud” Brooks with images from the Princeton Historical Society collection.