

Then and Now

In the Vicinity of 254, 258, 261 Mountain Road

Mountain House

As you climb the first 150 feet of the Mountain House Trail on Wachusett Mountain, (opposite Gregory Road), in the woods, you will see an old stone foundation. In 1764, Elisha Hobbs built his farmhouse here. In 1855-56 Daniel Howe purchased this farm, expanded and converted it to take on boarders. This house operated from late spring through early fall from 1856 to 1914. (Seen here is the farmhouse as it transitioned to a much larger hotel.)



This favorite summer resort, in one of the most charming locations in Princeton, was described as follows; *"From its high elevation, the air is pure and bracing, and the evenings of the warmest days are uniformly cool and delightful. While overlooking a wide extent of varied scenery, its immediate environs abound in picturesque views and beautiful drives. From this high elevation, 1,300 feet, there is seldom dew upon the grass, and it is perfectly free from the humid air and mosquitoes so annoying in other places. The table at this popular house is abundantly supplied, and its time-honored landlord, Mr. M. H. Bullard, and his good family, are always on the alert for the comfort of their numerous guests."*



In 1859, Samuel and Moses Bullard purchased this establishment from Mr. Howe, and expanded it again in 1880. The Mountain House had various owners after the Bullard's; Gilbert E Derby of Fitchburg 1894-1903, and George E. Doherty of Somerville until 1914. Unfortunately it burned in July of 1914. The Bullard's owned a farm at 115 Ball Hill Rd. that sold

fruits, vegetables, and dairy products to many of the hotels and rooming houses up until the late 1890's.

Grand View House

After selling the Micah Hobbs house to Samuel and Moses Bullard in 1859, Mr. Daniel Howe bought land and built the "Mountain Cottage", on the easterly side of Mountain Road, opposite the Mountain House. He died shortly after, and his widow, who was a sister of Samuel and Moses Bullard, continued to open the house for summer guests. After her death, her son, William R.



Howe, continued the business. In 1893, he enlarged, remodeled and re-furnished it from top to bottom, to accommodate 100 boarders. He renamed it "Grand View House." In September 1899, it burned.

A late 1890 a Grand View ad: *"This house was enlarged and refurnished last season. It has*



open fireplaces in Parlors and Dining Rooms, pure spring running water, hot and cold on each floor, bathroom, etc. The best sanitary arranged house in Princeton, Mass. The tables are bountifully supplied. The Livery and Boarding Stable are connected, with New Lawn Tennis and Croquet Grounds. A post office, with two mails daily and a Telephone Connected. From its high elevation the air is pure and the

evenings of the warmest days are uniformly cool and delightful. It overlooks a wide extent of varied scenery. There is seldom dew upon the grass, and we are free from mosquitoes. A farm connected with the house supplies all vegetables, milk, and berries. In fact, all the conveniences of a first class hotel can be had at this house. Guests from Boston come by Boston & Albany Railroad Road to Worcester, then by Worcester Division Fitchburg Railroad to Princeton. Coaches connect with all trains at Princeton Station for this house. Terms for board \$7.00 to \$12.00 per week, according to time and rooms. Special rates are available for the first and last of the season. Open from June 1st to October 15th."

Bowling Alley Tea Room

Across the road from the Mountain House and just north on the same side of the road is Grand View House, a bowling alley was built on this property owned by the Mountain House for the summer guests of both hotels to use in 1879. Many local children worked there, manually resetting bowling pins for customers,



home.

as well as, picking and selling blueberries. They were paid with loose change. Hence, another use for the words, you work for “pin money”.

In 1923, Ina Needham, Everett Needham’s wife, and Marjorie Needham, turned this establishment into a tearoom, a summer restaurant and a gift shop. They later sold it to Miss Mason, who ran it from 1927 to 1963. Out front plastic gnomes guarded the tearoom for many years. It is now a private



View East from Bowling Alley Tea Room circa 1890

**Grand View Cottage & Farm on Left - Mountain House in Center
Bowling Alley Tea Room on the Right**



**View From the East
circa: 1880 of All Three Locations
(Before Grand View's Major
Expansion and After the Mountain
House Expansion)**

**To the left, Today's View of the
Mountain House Foundation
Off Mountain House Trail**



**Above, View From Mountain House Foundation, across Mountain Rd to the Top of Gregory Rd.
Where the Grand View Once Stood**



**Above, View From Mountain House Foundation across Mountain Rd. of the old Bowling Alley
Tea House, Currently a Private Residence**

Please feel free to write us, if you have any questions or information to offer at
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