

1898 County of Worcester Atlas by L. J. Richards
Farm and Business Descriptions Section
Princeton's Copy of the Atlas Did Not Have These Pages

Babcock Farm:

Is the property of J. W. Kendall and was originally owned by Mr. Frost. It consists of 300 acres in the high state of cultivation, and is located 5 miles from Princeton Station, which is the same distance from Oakdale Station and one half mile from the village of Princeton and the Princeton Post office. The farm is devoted to dairying, the products of which are shipped to Boston. The farm improvements, water and timber supply are the best, and the residence occupies an elevated and commanding position. There is a private trout pond on the premises, also a trout brook traverses the farm for more than two miles. Mr. Kendall has owned the property for twenty-two years. P.O. Address East Princeton.

Bigelow, G. A.:

General Merchandise, Flour, Hay, and Grain, Coal, Wood, and feed of all kinds. Mr. Bigelow is also the Post Master at Princeton Depot.

Boylston Farm:

Is at the present owned by Ward N. Boylston, and consists of 550 acres, highly improved, with excellent buildings, a most convenient and abundant water supply. The view from the residence, looking eastward is charming and picturesque. This farm is considered one of the best in this section and Mr. Boylston is one of the most successful farmers in town. The property has been in the family name for 100 years. It is thoroughly stocked with a dairy of 100 cows and 8 horses, and its dairy is one of the most prominent in that special line, perhaps second to none in the county.

Brooks, William S.:

Is the owner of a farm of 250 acres located in the Town of Princeton, three miles from Railroad Station, one half mile from Post Office, and one mile from the Village of Princeton. It has a fine dairy of 74 cows and other stock, its milk products finding a ready market in the city of Boston, every morning. Mr. Brooks is a dealer in Cattle of all kinds. The farm improvements consist of a good residence, a barn 75 x 36, with an ell 60 x 14 feet. The main part of the residence is brick, with a frame ell 40 x 50 feet. P.O. Box No. 67, Princeton.

Forrest House:

Edwin Grimes Proprietor. Opened for Summer Boarders by present owner in 1869. Situated on the main road near Centre, two miles from the Railroad Station, and two miles from Mt. Wachusett. Pleasant drives. Accommodations for from fifteen to twenty Guest. Old-style house with high rooms, and open fire-places. Fine views, good table, and pure spring water. Farm connected producing luxuries of farm and garden. Terms moderate.

Hillside Farm:

Is the property of Mrs. Geo. M. Kendall and Miss Sadie L. Brooks, of Princeton. It was originally the property of David Brooks, and been in the family name for 150 years. It contains 160 acres and is a high state of cultivation. The building improvements are the best, and its water supply from five wells is abundant. It is most desirably located and its fertile acres are devoted chiefly to the raising of Fine Stock, mostly Jersey Thoroughbreds and Dairying. Mr. John Brooks Jr., died in 1890, leaving two daughters Mrs. Kendall, and Miss Brooks.

Howe, Dr. O.:

Dentist. Administers Compound Anesthetic, for Painless Extraction of Teeth. Dr. Howe owns a fine residence next to his office, which is for sale. It is well located with plenty of shade.

Howe Farm:

Now the property of C. H. R. Rugg, was 100 years ago owned by Mr. N. Howe, and consists of 277 acres located near east Princeton. The improvements are of the best, consisting of a residence and a barn 90 x 42 feet, with an abundant water supply for both the residence and barn. There is also an abundance of timber. Sheep and Poultry are features of the farm products, and Dairying is the chief occupation, the place supporting 30 head of cows. The residence, which is two and a half stories, is delightfully situated and is capable of accommodating a number of guests in the summer: in fact, the location and convenience of the residence is the most desirable for those seeking a summer resort. P.O. address East Princeton.

Mountain House:

This Favorite Summer Resort is situated on the eastern slope of Wachusett Mountain, in Princeton, one of the most charming New England towns. 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.

A road from the Mountain House to the Lake, connecting with the road to the summit of Wachusett, affords a delightful walk or drive, and opens to view the most charming and enjoyable scenery. From the high elevation, 1300 feet, there is seldom dew upon the grass, and we are free from the humid air and mosquitoes, so annoying in other places.

New sanitary arrangements have been made throughout. Pure mountain spring water, extensive grounds and fine old shade trees. The Cuisine is under able management and the table is supplied with the best the market affords. A farm connected with the house supplies fresh milk. Fruit and vegetable, while the vicinity abounds with berries of every kind.

Livery and Boarding Stables, Bowling Alley, and Billiard Hall connected to the House. A Post office, "Mount Wachusett", two mails daily, in House telephone 443-2, Worcester Circuit. Telegrams to the Mountain House, Mt. Wachusett, sent to Worcester, are telephone from there without extra charge.

Terms to Board, \$7.00 to \$12.00 a week, according to time and room. Transient, \$2.00 per day. Coaches connect with all trains at Princeton Station, on Worcester Division of Fitchburg R. R. Railroad tickets and baggage checked through to Mountain House, Mt. Wachusett, from Boston, Providence, and Worcester. For further particulars, address G. H. Derby, Proprietor.

Pleasant Valley Farm:

Owned by E. W. Gill. 75 years-ago this farm was owned by John Merrick. It now consists of 133 acres devoted to Dairying, although fruit is raised in abundance, and the management of the farm is most successful. The improvements are the best, and the water supply most abundant, a feature in this respect being a well 45 feet deep, located in the kitchen of the residence, the water in which was never known to be less than 2 feet in depth. The farm is also well watered and in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Gill served three years in the Civil war, in the Thirty-sixth Mass. Vol. Infantry.

Prospect House

The Subscriber, in announcing to his past Patrons, and Friends that he has taken the Prospect House of Princeton, for the coming year, desires to say that the house will be enlarged and put in first-class order and he will be better prepared, than in the past, to please those who favor him with their patronage. Special attention will be paid to the sanitary conditions of the house and grounds. Engagements for the coming season can be made at once. The House will open to the public June 1st. W. C. Davis.

Roper, George S.:

Is the owner of 500 acres of fertile land, which has been in the family for 150 years. The original owner or settler was a Mr. Sylvester. This property is located in the town of Sterling, and the residence occupies the highest elevation in town, styled atop Justice Hill. The view is most charming and picturesque, and the farm is an attractive summer resort. The improvements consist of a fine two-story residence, with one barn 36 x 45 feet and another 36 x 25. The estate is devoted to Stock Raising and Dairying. Mr. Roper is a dealer in stock. The farm is noted for the variety of its fruits, which are raised in abundance. P.O. Box East Princeton.

Thompson, Chas H.:

Is the present owner of 135 acres which is located two and half miles from Princeton Village, and one and half miles from the R. R. Station in the town of Princeton. The residence is situated on an elevation with southern exposure. It is stocked with 70 head of cattle and 4 head of horses. Dairying being the principal production. Improvements are of the best and timber and water supply abundant. One hundred fifty years ago, this farm was the property of a Mr. Brigham, but afterwards came into the possession of Abijah G. Thompson, father of the present owner. Mr. Charles H. Thompson lived with his father until his death when he bought in the interest of the heirs to the estate. He is at present one of the Selectmen of his town, and a successful farmer.

Wachusett House, The:

Situated in the center of the beautiful and healthy town of Princeton, has long been favorably known to summer tourists. The fact that some guests have returned season after season for over twenty years furnishes a recommendation of the Hotel, the value of which all will recognize. To the seeker after a cool, healthy place to spend the summer months, Princeton offers unrivalled inducements. The ridge on which the Wachusett House stands is an off-shoot of Wachusett Mountain, the second highest elevation in the State, and as we stand on the hotel piazza, we are 1,130 feet above the level of the sea.

The elevation secures exception from morning fogs and mosquitoes; the air is singularly dry and bracing; even in the hottest weather there is always a breeze across the ridge, and the thermometer rarely indicates temperatures above eighty-five degrees. The view must be seen to be appreciated; hills and valleys lie spread out before us like a map, and nothing shuts off the view but the distant horizon.

One of the advantages of Princeton is the comparative ease with which it can be reached. The Worcester Division of the Fitchburg R. R. runs five trains daily each way,

through town, making close connections to Worcester with trains and from Boston, Providence, and New York. The Wachusett house is reached by coaches from the Princeton Station two and half miles distant. From nearly all points, tickets can be bought and baggage checked through to Princeton Centre.

There is a good Livery and Boarding Stable connected to the house, and the excellent roads in this vicinity make driving a genuine pleasure. A good carriage road leads, with easy grades, to the summit of Wachusett Mountain, and this is a drive which no visitor to Princeton should fail to take.

The hotel is near the church; Public Library of over four thousand well-selected volumes; and the Post Office, where three mails arrive and go out day.

The Wachusett House is open from June 1st to October 1st. All communications in regards to rooms, by letter, telephone or telegraph, will receive prompt attention, and any further information will be cheerfully given. Telephone 916-3, Worcester. P. A. Beaman & Son, Proprietors.

Ward, Dana Fisher:

Grocery Clerk, 6 years. Also, Agent for Iver Johnson Cycles. Wheels Bought, Sold, and Repaired. P. O. East Princeton.

Witcomb, W. H.:

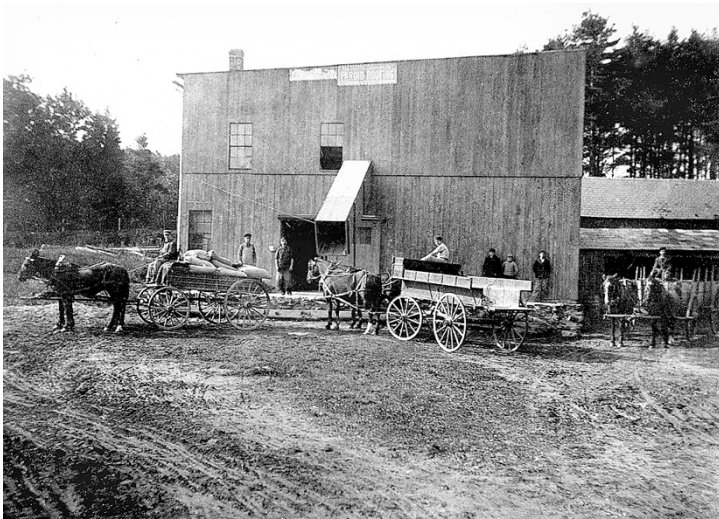
Dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Paints, Oil, Hardware, Meal and feed of all kind, Farming Tools and General Store. Also, Postmaster east Princeton.

Addendum Added in 2026

By William "Bud" Brooks

We thought it might be helpful for those reading the above document to learn where these properties were located or people lived in town and to see any images the PHS might have of each location.

Babcock Farm:



Bigelow, G. A.:

225 Hubbardston Rd; railroad tracks ran behind store and feed store. House gone; Store/feed store still there; Building currently in disrepair.

Boylston Farm:

83 Worcester Rd.; House and barn on the east side of Worcester Rd. Barn torn down after its floor collapse hanging all the milking herd. House is a private residence and has undergone numerous renovations. Today, most of the original property partially owned by MDC.



1950's



Late 1890's

Brooks Farm:

50 Worcester Rd.; Built in 1773 for Col. John Watson and family. I 1865 Artemas J. Brooks bought it. The house was on the west side and barn on the east side of Worcester Rd.. The property was foreclosed on by the bank during the Depression. Barn is gone and property subdivided. The house is a private residence now.



Forrest House:

48 Hubbardston Rd.; Later known as Grimes Cottage, and now it is a private home.



Hillside Farm:

25 Worcester Rd.; Barn and house no longer exist. A new private residence is built there.



Howe, Dr. O.:

11 Gregory Hill Rd.; House and non-operational Dentist Office still exist. The house is a private residence now.



Howe Farm:

Mountain House:

261 Mountain Rd.; The was originally a farm, which began taking on guests in late 1850's. The foundation of the old hotel and out building still exist on the right side of a very popular hiking trail up Wachusett Mountain, called the Mountain House Trail. It went through a major expansion in the late 1800's. The entire structure including its barn burned to the ground on Nov. 1914.



Its sister hotel, 254 Mountain Rd. at the corner of Gregary Rd., also started as a farm, initially called the Mountain Cottage, and it was located across the street from the Mountain House and had burned on September 1899. In the end, it was a 100-bed hotel called Grand View.



Pleasant Valley Farm:

132 Mirick Rd.; This 300-year old house still exist as a private residence, and it has gone through an extensive interior rebuild and modernization. It recently had a small house fire affecting the front right corner. A former owner, Chet Drury, accidentally died here while cutting firewood.



Pratt's Cottage:

2 Radford Rd.; Originally the home of Dr. Alphonso Brooks who for a while served as Princeton's Postmaster, 1830.

- For a short time, this house was a shoe factory, 1850.
- But, with Princeton becoming a summer resort destination and being on the main stage route from the Railroad Depot, the house was turned into a boarding house, with the distinction of being the only establishment in 1857 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." Until 1893 when a lightning strike burned it to the ground, there was a Methodist Church across Radford Rd. facing Hubbardston Rd..

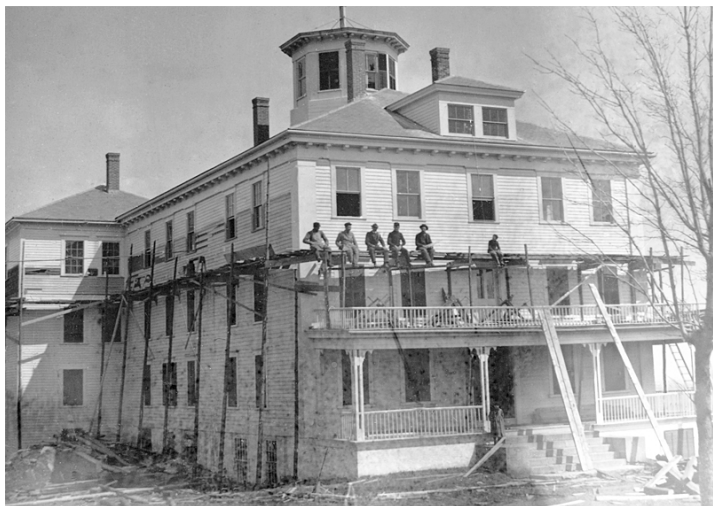


Later it was named Lidden House and it had many repeat boarders. House is a private residence.

Prospect House:

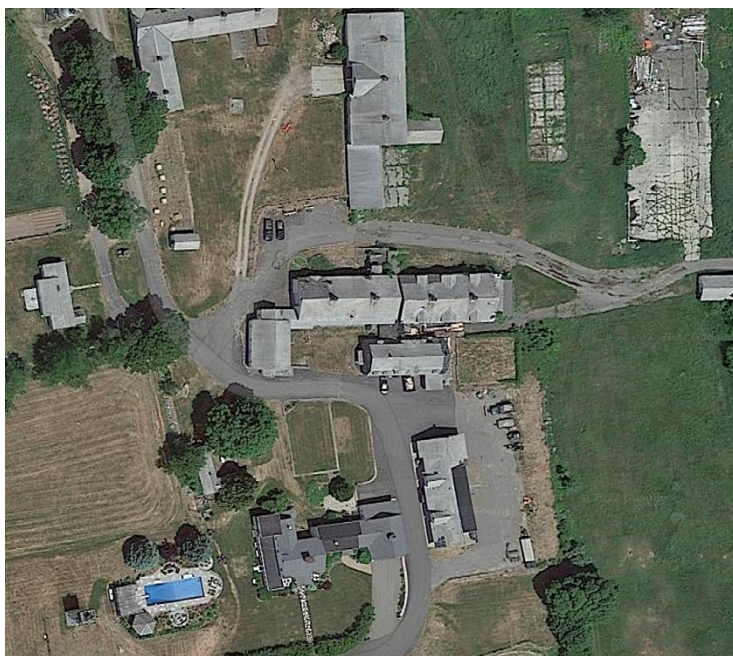
8 Mountain Rd.; In the 1850's it was a Baptist Church and by 1860 it was refurbished to become a hotel. It went through numerous re-construction projects moving from sleeping 50 to over 100 guests, plus a large barn and stable. In the early 1900's it was renamed the Princeton Inn. The entire structure, including the barn burned to the ground in Nov. 1921.





Roper, George S.:

5 Roper Rd. Sterling, MA.: This Justice Hill location is today known as Hycrest Farm.



Thompson, Chas. H.:

207 Thompson Rd.: This is still a working farm owned and run by the Stimson Family. Views of and from the farm toward Wachusett Mountain. The view of the mountain shows School House # 8 in the foreground.

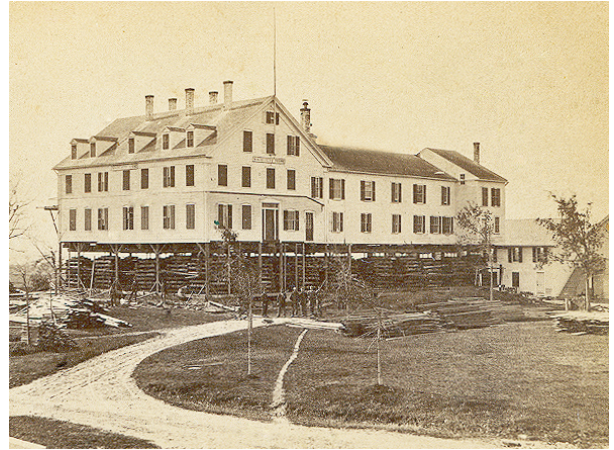


Wachusett House:

2 Worcester Rd: Today this small-town park with great views to the east and of the Town Common to the north, which is named after a longtime public servant named Wes Dingman. The foundation and cistern for this old hotel still remain. This hotel first started taking on summer guests in the 1820's with the advent of a stagecoach coming through town. The original building was moved to 7 Boylston Ave, and a new version build on the original site. Expansions happened through the years with the largest being adding a new first floor by jacking up the entire structure during the winter of 1869-70. A laundry and barn were also added. The entire structure including the barn burned to the ground in Nov. 1910.



Before 1969



During the Fall and Winter of 1969-70



Ward, Dana Fisher:

We believe Danna worked for Mr. Whitcomb and ran the bicycle repair shop in the barn next to the Union Store.

Whitcomb, W. H.:

Was one of the owners of the Union Store and Post office at 78 Main St. in East Princeton. Whitcomb took ownership in 1885 and it remained his family until 1954. The

store closed soon after the Post Office consolidated to the Gregory Store in Princeton Center.



Early 1900's



1950's