

Richards 1898 Atlas

Addendum Added in 2026

By William "Bud" Brooks and Joyce Anderson

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 Princeton Historical Society might have of each location.

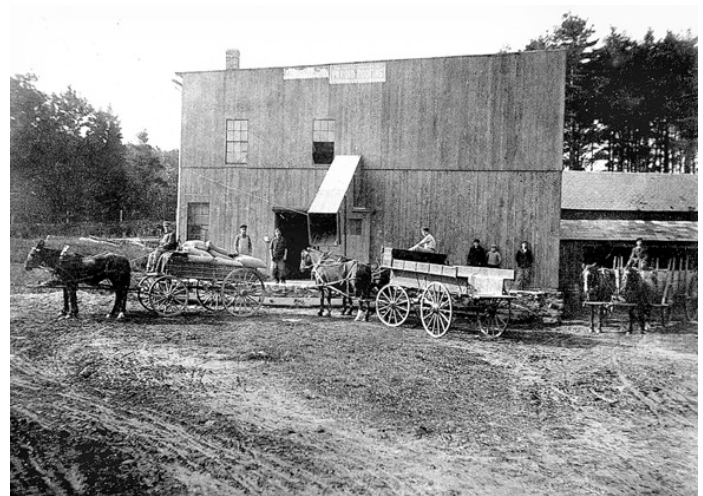


Babcock Farm:

159 Sterling Rd.; Amos Babcock built here in 1795. The most recent owners have been Harry and Carl Tennney in 1949 and Ernie Zottoli in 1989. The Thomas Prince School was built on the land across from the farmhouse.

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. Formerly known as Potter's Feed and Grain.



Boylston Farm:

83 Worcester Rd.; House and barn on the east side of Worcester Rd. Barn torn down after its floor collapsed 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.



House in 1950's



Barn behind the house on the east side of Worcester Rd. in 1890's.

Brooks Farm:

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



*House on west side of Worcester Rd.
Facing East*



Barn on east side of Worcester Rd. Facing the house

Forest House:

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



*Forrest House at the corner of Allen Hill and
Hubbardston Roads.*



*Entrance to Grimes Cottage east facing porch
on Hubbardston Rd. Before the road was
widened.*

Hillside Farm:

25 Worcester Rd.; Built in 1747, burned and rebuilt in 1873, Torn down in 1939. Barn and house no longer exist. A private residence was built in its place there.



House and Horse/Carriage Barn early 1900's



Barn for Hillside Farm, aka. John Brooks Farm

Howe, Dr. Oscar:

11 Gregory Hill Rd.; House and Dentist Office building still exist. The house is a private residence now, with no dentist office.



Howe Farm:

221 Beaman Rd.; This road was originally known as Rugg Rd. Israel Howe built here in 1785. A new house was built by his son, Israel II, in 1864. The Slongwhite's owned it after the Rugg's, and they opened a gas station here from 1925-1940. The property was most recently owned by Tracy Calcia who opened a restaurant, and then Robert Muirhead. Better known as "Captain Bob's".



Mountain House:

261 Mountain Rd.; This was originally a farm, which began taking on guests in the late 1850's. The foundation of the old hotel and outbuilding still exist on the right side of a very popular hiking trail up Wachusett Mountain, known as 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 Nov. 1914.



The Right-Hand End of this building was the original farmhouse and it was expanded numerous times.



This is the Mountain House after its last expansion and before It Burned in 1914.

Its sister hotel, built in 1859 at **254 Mountain Rd.**, located at the corner of Gregory Rd., also started as a farm, and was initially called the Mountain Cottage. It was located across the road from the Mountain House and burned on September 1899. In 1893, it was a 100-bed hotel called Grand View House.



Original Farm before the Mountain Cottage was expanded



Grand View House after its last expansion and before it burned in 1899.

Pleasant Valley Farm:

132 Mirick Rd.; This 300+ year old house still exists as a private residence, and has gone through an extensive interior rebuild and modernization. Years ago, a former owner, Chet Drury, accidentally died here while cutting firewood.

In 2026 it had a small house fire affecting the front right corner of the house.



Pratt's Cottage:

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

In 1850, for a short time, this house was a shoe factory.

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.', Later it was named Linden House and had many repeat boarders. The house is now a private residence.

There was a Methodist Church, across Radford Road, (facing Hubbardston Road). In 1893, after a lightning strike in the Steeple, it burnt to the ground.



Located at the 4 corners of Hubbardston, Radford, and Allen Hill Roads.



At the right-hand edge you can see the Grimes Cottage and in the middle top, past the church is Pratt's cottage.

Prospect House:

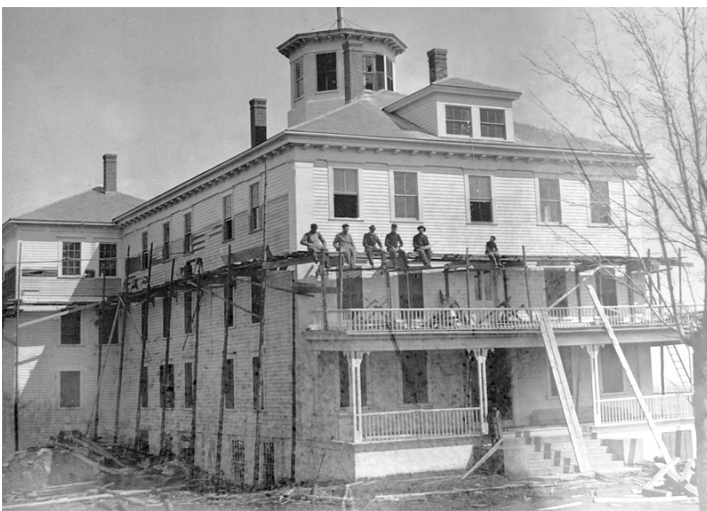
8 Mountain Rd.; In the 1850's it was a Baptist Church and by 1860 it was refurbished to become a hotel. It went through numerous re-construction projects moving from sleeping 50 to over 100 guests, plus a large barn and stable. In the early 1900's it was renamed the Princeton Inn. The entire structure,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



Baptist Church in late 1850's with columns.



***Early 1860's Prospect House Hotel
after being converted to a hotel***



Prospect House being expanded in the 1880's



***Prospect House after its name change to
the Princeton Inn and before it burned in
early the 1920's.***

Roper, George S.:
5 Roper Rd. Sterling, MA.;



Aerial View of the Hy Crest Farm at the Top Justice Hill.

Thompson, Chas. H.:

207 Thompson Rd.; This is still a working farm owned and run by the Stimson Family, who direct decedents of Charles Thompson.



Thompson/Stimson Farm early 1900's



The view from the front lawn of Wachusett Mountain from the front of the farm. You can see, in the Middle Left-Hand Side, School House #8 at the junction with Rhodes Rd. Also, very few trees obstructing the view!

Wachusett House:

2 Worcester Rd.; Today this is a small park with views of the Boston Skyline to the east and of the Town Common to the north is named after a longtime public servant Wesley 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 Princeton on its way East. The original building was moved to 7 Boylston Ave, and a new version built on the original site in the early 1850's. Expansions through the years occurred with the largest being, the 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 the 1909 Expansion



Expansion up, during the fall and winter of 1909-10



Lawn Tennis on the front lawn of the Wachusett House early 1900's, before it burned in 1910.

Ward, Dana Fisher:

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

Whitcomb, W. H.:

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

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



Whitcomb Store in early 1900's



Renamed in the 1950's