



Northborough Historical Society
P. O. Box 661
Northborough, MA 01532

- 10 Main Street** - Winn/Whittaker Block. Originally a three-story brick building. Romanesque in style with a three-sided facade often used in corner buildings built at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1898 it housed a shoe store, bakery, meat market, barber shop and book store. Professional offices were located on the second floor and the Assabet Hotel on the third floor. Later owned by Northborough National Bank. Addition built in 1954.
- 12 Main Street** (brick structure to rear of pizza shop). Once was the Anson Rice house, a gathering spot for railroad men.
- 20 Main Street**, ca. late 1800s. Italianate in style. Once had a fountain in the front yard and an iron fence around the property. Was the home of Cyrus Gale, Jr.
- 24 Main Street**, 1849. Early 19th century Federal architecture. As early as 1854 this was a duplex with two families each owning its own side. Later was the home of the Shattuck family (Shattuck Pharmacy). In the 18th century the Town scales were located in front of this house.
- 28 Main Street**, 1854. Original Northborough National Bank. Late classical style. Built of brick from Northboro brickyards. Set on a granite foundation. In 1950 was converted from Bank to a Post Office.
- 30 Main Street**, ca. 1800. Federal style of brick from Northboro brickyards. Built as the summer home of the third Dr. Stephen Ball and his wife, Amanda. Two and one-half stories with enough chimneys to support ten fireplaces. Was the home of Dr. Gregory Pincus, well-known research scientist during the 1950s and 1960s.
- 34 Main Street**. Library, dedicated in 1895. Venetian Gothic in style. Built of Milford pink granite from nearby quarries. Interior of building is finished with quarter oak from local saw mills. Library was a gift of Cyrus Gale, Jr.
- 38 Main Street**. Original sections date to 1730. First built as the home of a sea captain. Purchased by the first Dr. Stephen Ball. 1854 home of the second Dr. Stephen Ball. His apothecary shop was located next door.
- Grange Hall**, School Street, 1837. Center School and later became Grange Hall in 1895.
- 24 School Street**, 1920. Former residence of John Thurston Marshall, internationally known fine artist.

Please note - the majority of these locations are private homes and are not open to the public.

The Town of Northborough, incorporated in 1766, was settled in 1660 by farmers and *herdsmen* from Sudbury and Marlboro. The inhabited area stretched from Ball Hill in the North to the garrison house on what is today the Marlboro/ Northborough border. The earliest settlers were subsistence farmers who also raised feed for Marlboro cattle. The Assabet River provided an adequate source of water for running small grist mills and the hillsides served as an excellent location for orchards.

Between 1766 and 1830, Northborough grew from a farm community to an emerging business community. Market gardens and dairies flourished. Along the Assabet River, mill ponds were created to provide water power for wool and cotton mills, bone and button factories, sawmills, gristmills, a camera manufacturing firm, an early rifle manufacturing company and a fertilizer mill.

By 1885 Northborough, the terminus of the Agricultural Branch Railroad, boasted 132 farms, 2 woolen mills, 5 horn goods manufacturers, a piano key factory, a rubber factory, many boot and shoe factories and a box factory.

Between 1790 and 1900, the population increased from 619 to 2,164.

In 1918 at the 150th anniversary of incorporation, George Davis is quoted as saying "It was the character, the integrity and the diligence of the men and women who lived upon the land that has left Northborough on the map for a century and a half."

In 1950 Northborough could be described as a quiet town of market farms, small businesses, professionals and retirees. There were two schools, Hudson Street and the High School on Main Street. Industry was almost non-existent. Jersey Cloth Mills, Gothic Crafts, Armino Cereal Co., one commercial dairy, one large carnation grower, three egg farms, a church candle factory, one bank, small grocery stores and Shattucks Pharmacy.

Visit Northboro today. Observe the many changes which have taken place in the past four decades and catch a glimpse of our fore-fathers; Cyrus Gale, Milo Hildreth, Stephen Ball, Anson Rice, E. Wesson, Thomas Blair, Samuel Wood, Wilder Bush, John Martyn, Peter Whitney, Joseph Seaver, Timothy Fay, Honest John Davis, John Kellette, Gregory Pincus and John Thurston Marshall. All left their mark on the town.

Visit the Historical Society and take a walking tour of our town!

Please consider this to be a work in progress. We were able only to present a thumbnail sketch of the rich historical heritage of our community. We do not claim to have definitive information on all of the locations mentioned. The Historical Society would be pleased to receive any new research on these or any other historical buildings in Northboro.

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