

PRESTON



early

Homes

and

Families

Sponsored by the Preston Historical Society, Inc.

Introduction

In an everchanging world it is satisfying to find that some values are timeless. So it is with our colonial dwellings. A well-designed and well-built early American home is a thing of joy; sturdy, well-proportioned, livable and with real dignity.

Preston is a town of small homes with no mansions and no big estates, but it has its quota of very early dwellings. Too many of these dwellings have already disappeared. It is our purpose to present such details as will record ones that are still left, as well as a few that are gone but still remembered. Few details of these structures will be presented here, for in general the style and architecture vary little. But because these homes were built by craftsmen, each dwelling has its own individual details. Our intent is to note some of these differences.

Most of the houses presented are of the early central chimney type. The house plan varies little: a huge central chimney, usually of stone because it was so plentiful here, with the front entrance on the south. Here is a small hall with the front stairs built against one side of the chimney. There is a large front room on either side of the hall. The kitchen or keeping room is a long room on the north with the burning room on one end and the buttery on the other. The second floor is laid out in like manner.

Many of these houses started as a one-room, two-room or four-room house, with additional space added later. In practically every instance much has been done through the years to make these dwellings conform to the needs of each succeeding generation. That is why we like cellars and attics; they retain many of the original characteristics.

In this little book we are trying to include a bit about the background of the land, a bit about the early owners if they had a significant part in the life of the town and a bit about the house itself. Each place has been carefully chosen for, first, we wished to represent as many of Preston's earliest families as possible; then we wished to include interesting items of town history; and lastly, we wished to include a variety of dwellings.

We wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. Edwin A. Park, without whose aid and advice the dates of many of these houses could not have been approximated. The assistance and constant encouragement of Sidney Hall, Mrs. Park, and Mrs. Joyce Steffenson are deeply appreciated. And above all, we appreciate the truly wonderful cooperation of the owners of those old houses who so generously allowed us to study their homes, to examine them from attic to cellar, and without whose assistance this book could not have been presented.

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* No longer here

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| 4. | Walter Capron |
| * 5. | Humphrey Avery |
| * 6. | Ben Lucas House |
| 7. | Merchant Wight |
| * 8. | Punderson House |
| 9. | Samuel Capron |
| 10. | The Turner House |
| 11. | Noah Lucas Place |
| 12. | Shingle Point Road |
| | Sauer Residence |
| | Samuel Whipple |
| 13. | Samuel Whipple, Jr. |
| 14. | Captain George Benjamin |
| 15. | Ezra Chapman |
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| 19. | Whipple-Gallup Homestead |
| 20. | Colonel Isaac Gallup |
| 21. | Sholes Homestead Farm |

Mathewson Mill Road

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| * 22. | Mathewson Mill Residence |
| 23. | Uncle Gideon |

Route 2, from Norwich to Ledyard

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| * 24. | The Grenier Farm |
| 25. | Silas Park |
| 26. | Dr. Benjamin Harris |
| 27. | The Sharp Place |
| * 28. | Benjamin Brewster |
| * 29. | John Witter Mansion |
| * 30. | Eagle Inn |

- 31. Captain John Park
- 32. John Avery
- 33. The Line Farm

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- 34. Thomas Gates
- 35. Thomas (3) Gates
- 36. Shapely Morgan
- 37. The Standish Homestead
- 38. The Grant Homestead
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- 40. John Ford
- * 41. Haskell Place

Mattern, Ross, Branch Hill, Benjamin Roads

- * 42. Captain Daniel Brewster
- 43. Daniel Brewster
- * 44. Capt Elisha A. Crary
- 45.-*46. Solomon Story/Cyrus Gates
- 47. Major Nathan Peters
- * 48. Nicholas Leonard

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- * 49. Thomas Park
- 50. Locust Place
- * 51. Frederick Witter
- 52. Plummer Farm
- 53. Captain John Brewster

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- * 54. Paul Park's Grist Mill & Residence
- * 55. Rev. Paul Park
- 56. John Woodmansee Place
- 57. Isaac H. Cook
- * 58. Cooktown
- 59. Benajah Park
- * 60. Silas Park
- 61. John Killam
- 62. Woodmansee Red House
- 63. Oliver Sisson
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Preston City

- 65. Stephen Meech
- 66. The Poor House
- 67. The Barstow Place
- 68. Treat Homestead
- 69. Mundator T. Richards
- * 70. The Fitch Place
- * 71. The Doane Homestead
- 72. Daniel Baldwin
- 73. Rev. Augustus Collins
- 74. Rev. John Hyde
- 75. Rev. Lemuel Tyler

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- 76. Mott & Downer
- 77. Aron B. Gates
- 78. Sam Mott's Other Place
- 79. Thomas Meech
- 80. John Morgan

Vicinity of Rte 164, north of 165

- * 81. Henry Morgan's Upper Farm
- 82. Robert Crary's Home Farm
- * 83. Rev. Asher Rosseter
- 84. Moses Meech
- 85. William Meech
- 86. John Meech
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- * 88. Thomas Stanton
- 89. Daniel Morgan
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- * 91. Samuel Morgan Place
- * 92. John Stanton (Rude Road)

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- 94. Asa Benjamin
- 95. Philip Harvey
- 96. Toll Gate Farm
- * 97. Rev. Alas Bromley
- 98. Henry Haskell II
- 99. Nathan Fobes

- * 100. Simeon Fobes (Forbes)
- * 101. Hopestill Tyler
- * 102. Aaron Crary Farm
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- 104. Cyprian Sterry
- 105. The Kimball Homestead
- 106. Safford's Mill Residence
- 107. John Wilkinson
- * 108. The Frink Farm
- * 109. Caleb Tyler
- * 110. Jonathan Ayer

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- 111. Samuel Tracy
- * 112. Jabez Fitch
- * 113. John Deming, Jr.
- 114. Nathaniel Fitch
- 115. Captain Miner Tracy
- * 116. Nathan Ayer
- * 117. Palmer Homestead
- 118. James Cook
- * 119. Nathaniel Larrabee
- * 120. Larrabee Fitch
- 121. Zachariah Rude
- 122. Lower Morgan Farm
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