North Brookfield Historical Society, Inc.
Downtown Walking Tour

Celebrating 200 Years
North Brookfield
1812-2012

Town House Sketch by Steffen Hyder, 2012

“The surely, North Brookfield stands preeminently as an object lesson
of the possibilities that are obtainable even by the ‘hill towns,’
when their citizens, by united, intelligent and properly directed effort,
work together for the promotion of the best interests
of the whole community in which they live.”

The Boston Herald
September 26, 1894
### Downtown Walking Tour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>St. Joseph’s Catholic Church – Main Street</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="St. Joseph's Catholic Church" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic services for the approximately 50 members of the faith were first held in June, 1851 at the first Catholic Church on Forest Street. St. Joseph’s parish was organized in 1865 and the church itself was completed in 1867. A fire in 1962 seriously damaged the interior of the building which was subsequently remodeled.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2.</th>
<th>Maple Street Cemetery – Corner of Main and Maple Streets</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Maple Street Cemetery" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>One of the oldest cemeteries in North Brookfield, originating as the Third Parish Burying Ground. It is the resting place of many of the town’s earliest residents with gravesites dating back to the mid-1700s. Among them are:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Maple Street Cemetery" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dr. Joseph Kittredge</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rufus Putnam’s young son</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rev. Joseph Appleton</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Major Peter Harwood</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Captain John Potter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Gilbert Bond, credited with introducing the Baldwin apple to this area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mr. and Mrs. Amasa Walker</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Batcheller</td>
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<tr>
<th>3.</th>
<th>North Brookfield Historical Society Museum – 197 North Main Street</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Museum Interior" /></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Historical Society Museum is located in the Munns Building (lower level just beyond Headway). The Museum features a unique display of various aspects of town history including the boot, shoe, and soles industries, retail stores, schools, Civil War artifacts, George M. Cohan, and also houses a library containing North Brookfield town reports, High School yearbooks, maps, and other print items, some of which are available for sale.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

North Brookfield Historical Society, Inc. (2012)
Website: http://northbrookfieldhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com
4. **Town House – Corner of Main and Summer Streets**

![The Town House was listed on The National Register of Historic Places in 2001.](image)

Designed by Architect Elbridge Boyden in Italianate/Second Empire Style, the Town House was built in 1863-1864. The first floor housed one office for public use and space for stores.

On its stage, a performance of “Ah, Wilderness,” with the original New York cast, was enacted under the directorship of George M. Cohan in 1934.

The tower was removed in the summer of 2011 due to structural problems and plans for replacement/repairs are currently in progress.

5. **North Brookfield Savings Bank – Summer Street**

Erected in 1893 by William Fullam & Co, this building now houses the corporate offices of North Brookfield Savings Bank.

6. **Haston Free Public Library – Main Street**

With the donation of $34,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Erasmus Haston, the building was dedicated on September 22, 1894. In September 2007, a new addition and major renovations were completed. In front of the building, the towns' memorials to those who served and died in World Wars I and II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars.
7. Christ Memorial Church – Main Street

The original building was erected in 1894 by Mrs. Nancy Tucker in memory of her husband and son. In 1937 a part of the badly deteriorated tower collapsed, and the structure was remodeled to its present form. In 1939 services of worship were resumed.

8. Soldiers’ Monument – School Street

Erected in 1869, the Soldier’s Monument commemorates those North Brookfield soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War. The base is engraved on each side with the names of the 31 soldiers remembered.

The phrase engraved on the front of the base reads as follows:

“Erected by the Town of North Brookfield in Honor of Her Soldiers who lost their lives in defence of the country against the Rebellion 1861-1865”

9. First Congregational Church – Main Street

The “new meeting house,” now known as the First Congregational Church, was dedicated on January 1, 1824. The addition of a chapel in 1854 and a second story six years later provided a pastor’s study and accommodations for the Appleton Library.
10. Quabaug Corporation

Quabaug Rubber Company was incorporated in 1916, operating in the buildings formerly occupied by the Batcheller shoe company.

In 1965 Quabaug became the exclusive U.S. manufacturer of Vibram soles, capturing the indoor, rugged performance soling market. In 1986, the company became Quabaug Corporation.

Quabaug's Vibram soles are found on America’s most trusted and reliable footwear, including Red Wing, Justin, Belleville, Addison, Danner, Wolverine and Rocky boots, outfitting hunters, hardworking men and women, firefighters, law enforcement and Military personnel with high-performance footwear. Quabaug is proud to be the largest supplier of outsoles to the U.S. Military.

II. Engine House – School Street

The Engine House was erected in 1878 on School Street at a cost of $2,900. The building housed four pieces of fire equipment owned by the town at that time – the hook and ladder, the hose reel, the Holmes steamer and the T.C. Bates chemical wagon.
12. Railroad Depot – School Street

The North Brookfield Railroad Depot was built in 1875 to serve the four-mile spur line from the Boston and Albany line at East Brookfield. Regular trains began running on January 18, 1876. The building was deeded by the Town’s Historical Society in 1976 to Ann Parker, artist and Avon Neal, author (both nationally recognized) for restoration and studio use.

13. Grove Street Apartments – Grove Street

Erected as a high school in 1878 and used until 1956. After that time it was used solely for elementary grades until 1973.

In 1988, the building was opened as Grove Street Apartments to low-income families with 14 two- and three-bedroom units.
The North Brookfield Historical Society was founded in 1975 and later incorporated, for the purpose of studying, sharing, publicizing and preserving the history of the town. It seeks to do this through regular meetings, programs, acquiring historic objects, photographs and printed materials. Anyone interested in the Society and its objectives may become a member upon payment of dues:

Donations of North Brookfield-related photos, writing and printed materials, as well as artwork and artifacts are greatly encouraged. You will help to preserve the Town’s history for future generations. Financial contributions are also gratefully accepted. The North Brookfield Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

North Brookfield Historical Society Membership Form
(Please Mail to Address Below)
The North Brookfield Historical Society welcomes new members. Your participation and financial support help us to plan, preserve and maintain a strong interest in our Town’s history. Thank you.

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________ _______________ Zip _______________

Please Check One to Accompany This Form:

______ Annual/Individual ($5.00)        _______ Annual/Family ($10.00)

______ Life/Individual ($100.00)        _______ Life/Senior ($75.00)

______ Business Donor ($50.00)         _______ Corporate Sponsor ($100)

______ Donation

Your generosity helps us to continue our mission. Thank You!

Please make checks payable to the North Brookfield Historical Society, Inc. and mail to:

Louis B. Grace, M.D., Treasurer
North Brookfield Historical Society, Inc.
345 North Main Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535