Blake-Campbell House and Blacksmith Shop

The oldest part of the house, built ca. 1850, shows an east wing which may have been added in the early 20th century. The blacksmith shop to the west of the house dates from 1870s to 1900. Levi N. Blake was a blacksmith by trade, a member of Norfolk Farmer’s Club and later a town officer. George F. Campbell, also a skilled blacksmith and wheelwright, occupied the house and shop through at least 1955.

Ware/Dupee/Thayer Gross House

15 Rockwood Road. The house, built by farmer Cyrus Ware in ca. 1850, appears on an 1858 map as a store. Sarah Dupee purchased the house in 1866 and through the years ran a restaurant, operated a dry goods and grocery store and sold real estate within this Rockwood Road Historic District. In 1893, the house was sold to railroad flagman George Thayer. For a time, 15 Rockwood Rd. served as a post office. From the 1970s it was the home of Frank and Carol Gross. Frank was Norfolk’s Town Moderator for over 30 years.

Norfolk Grange

This building was constructed by the Baptists in 1863. In 1921 it was sold to the Norfolk Grange whose ownership continues to this day. After the Town Hall burned to the ground in 1922, the Grange served as a meeting and voting place and held school graduation, school plays and dances. The library was housed here from 1922-1956. Norfolk’s Roman Catholic congregation held services here from 1947 to 1950. The Norfolk Grange was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 and is an active Grange (#135) today.

Salmon Mann House

“The Salmon Mann House” (ca. 1806) at #16 Rockwood Rd., is not to be confused with #5 Union St. which Salmon Mann purchased sometime between 1838 and 1851. Salmon man lived at the house you are looking at with his first wife, Mary Perrigo. In 1808, he acquired one-half of his father’s 70-acre homestead. According to railroad deeds, Salmon Mann sold 3 acres of his land to the Norfolk County Railroad for railroad construction. This house is considered to be the finest example of early 19th century capes in Norfolk.

A Walking Tour of Historical Sites in Norfolk Town Center

Welcome

Every day thousands of people pass through Norfolk Center. Some use the commuter rail, visit the Library, Town Hall, shops, banks, churches, eateries and more. This brochure is an invitation to pause for a while and consider the places and spaces and help define our Town’s history. In many ways, time has been hard on us: most older buildings are gone. But in these Walking Tour stops, you can get an idea of how the Town was and how it evolved over the space of 250 years. For more information, visit the Norfolk Historical Commission website and click on “Walking Tour”. More detailed information on each site may be accessed for further study. You are also encouraged to visit the Schoolroom at our Public Library. Enjoy your walk! This brochure is yours to keep.

Norfolk Historical Commission
Norfolk Public Library, Board of Library Trustees
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All photos, courtesy of Betty Lehan
Brochure compiled by Betsey Whitney
The Old Parsonage, ca. early 1800’s, 5 Union Street: The house was built on part of the land originally set aside by Robert Ware the Elder in 1750, passed down to his sons and eventually sold to Josiah Ware. In 1810, the home was purchased by Rev. John Cleaveland and in 1838 it was sold to Salmon Mann, a parishioner in the Cleaveland Society, for $200. He later willed the house to his daughter, Dorothy, and Manns occupied it until 1922. In 1964 it was sold to the Federated Church as a parsonage and is used as such today.

The Ware Crypt
In 1750, Ebenezer Ware donated to the town the land on which the Library stands. Originally, dating back as early as 1730, the burial chamber was used exclusively by the Ware family. Later the crypt was used by the town during the winter months. Do not be fooled by its location: the contour of the hill has changed drastically throughout the years!

The Tramp House
Built in 1886 at a cost of $459.51, many wandering “tramps” or vagrants spent the night in this building and farmers seeking labor would come by in the mornings to hire them. The Tramp House was also used as a nightly lock-up and users would be expected to move on in the morning. Many tramps and vagrants followed the rails looking for work.

Carr Memorial Rock

The Old Parsonage
The Old Parsonage, ca. early 1800’s, 5 Union Street: The house was built on part of the land originally set aside by Robert Ware the Elder in 1750, passed down to his sons and eventually sold to Josiah Ware. In 1810, the home was purchased by Rev. John Cleveland and in 1838 it was sold to Salmon Mann, a parishioner in the Cleveland Society, for $200. He later willed the house to his daughter, Dorothy, and Manns occupied it until 1922. In 1964 it was sold to the Federated Church as a parsonage and is used as such today.

Federated Church
Built in 1832, the Federated Church was originally called the Second Meeting House. The Cleveland Religious Society, known as “The Society,” left the First Meeting House located on what would come to be called Town Hill, due to a church political split. The Society began its life under the pastorate of Moses Thacher. In 1918, the Federated Church was formed when eventually the Baptists, the North Parish Association and the Cleveland Religious Society were joined.