

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026



Weston Historical Society presents

Mercy Otis Warren and the Writings of a Revolutionary

with Michele Gabrielson

**Thursday, April 30, 2026
7:30 pm**

*Weston Public Library Community Room
Refreshments
All are Welcome*



Above: Mercy Otis Warren sat for artist John Singleton Copley about 1763. The painting is at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
Left: Michele Gabrielson, award-winning teacher and interpreter.



On the eve of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, step back in time and converse with a founding mother, Mercy Otis Warren. Often described as the “muse of the revolution,” Warren brilliantly used her passion for poetry and prose to persuade others to join in the revolutionary cause. Listen and discuss with Michele Gabrielson as she tells the story of how Warren rejected the conventional expectations of women in the 18th century.

Michele Gabrielson is an award-winning local history teacher and historic interpreter of the 18th century. Gabrielson serves as the secretary for the Mercy Otis Warren Society, a nonprofit dedicated to helping preserve the contributions of Warren. She is a member of the Authenticity Standards Committee for Minuteman National Historic Park and coordinator of the Battle Road Guides for the annual reenactment of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Among her other honors, she received a 2024 Rising Star Award for Public History by the Massachusetts History Alliance and was a finalist for the 2024 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year.

PAM FOX ACCEPTS TOWN OF WESTON KNOX TRAIL MARKER



On February 28, reenactors marched from Cambridge Common to the Cambridge Public Library, where plaques were presented to the towns of Weston, Waltham, Watertown, and Cambridge.

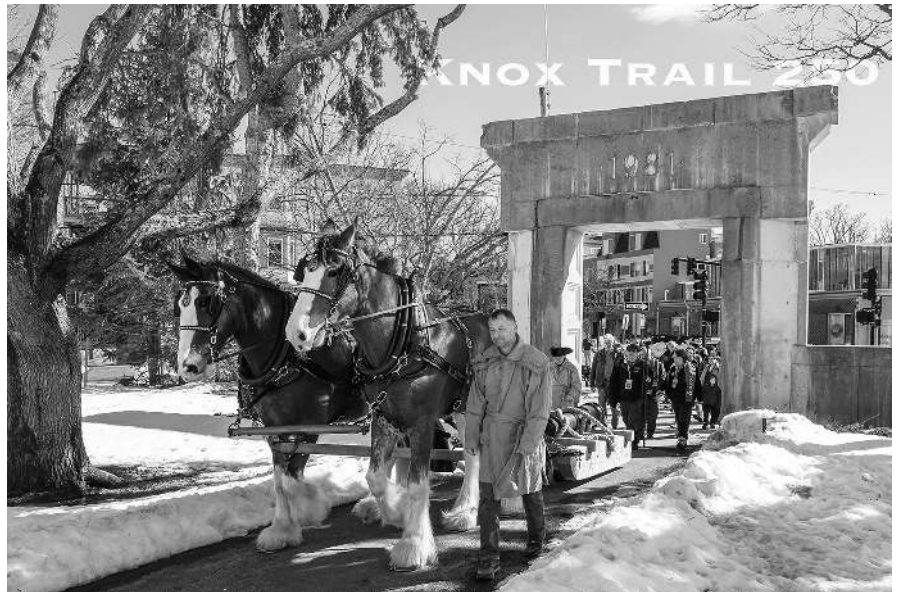


Linda Cabot, who grew up in Weston, is pictured here with Weston residents Nina Danforth and Henry Stone.



Pam Fox (third from left), president of Weston Historical Society, accepts the Knox Trail 250 historic marker for the Town of Weston. (l-r): State Senator Mike Barrett; Sheila Greene, MA Office of Travel and Tourism; Pam Fox; Robert Allison, Professor, Suffolk University.

IN COMMEMORATION OF
AMERICA'S
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
WESTON
IS HONORED FOR AIDING
HENRY KNOX'S 1776
NOBLE TRAIN OF ARTILLERY
ONE OF MANY ACTS OF
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE IN
THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE



Knox Trail 250 commemorates Henry Knox's 300-mile journey to deliver 59 artillery pieces from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights in the winter of 1775–76, an amazing feat that precipitated the British evacuation of Boston in March 1776. Starting in Great Barrington, Massachusetts celebrations of the journey were held in regional hubs including Cambridge.

Watch the Weston Media Center's photo video of the afternoon events, created by Alanna Muldoon using images taken by Weston photographer Nicole Mordecai. <https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/weston/video/69a63413bac871c0113edb40?page=HOME>. **All photos on this page courtesy of Nichole Mordecai.**



CELEBRATE WESTON!

Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Music & Entertainment • Local Food • Historical Exhibits
Games & Activities • Fun for All Ages

Admission is **free!**

Join us at Weston Town Center on Saturday, May 16th between
11:00 am - 3:00 pm (rain date Sunday, May 17th) for a day full of fun!



Photography Credit: Nicole Mordecai

WESTON STREET NAMES

PART I

By Kaitlyn Cappillo and Pam Fox

In the summer of 2023, Kaitlyn Cappillo, Wellesley resident and rising senior at Milton Academy, took on the challenge of researching Weston street names and preparing this report. Kaitlyn is now a sophomore at Amherst College majoring in psychology and economics. In her free time, she enjoys photographing historic sites and hiking. Pam Fox edited the report and added additional material. We welcome your additions and comments at info@westonhistory.org.

Introduction

Each road in Weston has a story behind it. Some of the roads are named after Weston people, like Winsor Way. Others are named after nature, like Maple Road. And others come with intriguing stories, like Love Lane. We connect to history through personal stories. There is something special in knowing that a certain event happened near your home or a certain person inhabited your current property. Most people will probably see this publication and skip right to their own street name—and that’s ok. We hope that on this journey you encounter other road names that pique your interest.

The research conducted to compile this publication comes primarily from four sources. First, Weston Historical Society’s president Pam Fox’s book *Farm Town to Suburb* contains the bulk of the information and includes much additional information. Some of the more contemporary road names were examined using the Registry of Deeds (masslandrecords.com). Other information comes from Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (mhc-macris.net) and the Town of Weston website, weston.org.

In the early years of settlement, roads did not have formal names. Deeds refer to “the great county road” or “the great thoroughfare, or the “North County Road, “ for example. In the early 1880s, a committee was chosen to “select appropriate names for the principal roads in the town.” The 1882 *Town Report* contains a list of road names that were submitted at this time, with a rationale for their suggestions and a note that these names were not final:

In selecting the above names we have endeavored to consult the wishes of the residents upon the streets named, but in many cases they have failed to indicate their choice of a name. In such cases the committee have (sic) used their best judgment . . . , but they trust that any resident

upon a street, or any other person who has another name to suggest in place of the one selected by the committee, will be furnished ample opportunity to do so. (1882, p.36)

The *Town Report* the following year contains the approved list of street names, some different from earlier suggestions. For example, the name suggested for the “Road leading from Stony Brook to Wayland,” —“Western Avenue”— was changed to “Central Avenue” (and later to Boston Post Road). “Silver Street” was changed to “Merriam Street” and “Pond Street” to “Summer Street.” It is notable that — at that time—only four of the 32 streets were named for town residents: Fiske Street (sic), Merriam Street, Viles Street, and Loring Place. (1883,p.51)

In 1926, the Special Committee to Consider Names of Streets and Ways considered renaming streets as a way to commemorate the town’s heritage. The proposal to change “Central Avenue” to “Boston Post Road” received widespread support, but other changes were not adopted.

by Kaitlyn Cappillo

Wondering why your street name was left out?

The following categories of names have been omitted (a few of many examples are listed below):

Trees (Maple, Beech, Birch, Chestnut, Hickory)

Plant-related (Acorn, Bittersweet, Blossom, Columbine, Laurel)

Seasons, Months (Spring, Summer, Winter, April)

Geography, Geology (Boulder, Brook, Drumlin, Glen, River, Stony Brook)

Horse-related {Fox Chase, Bridle Path, Saddle Hill, Hitching Post)

Animal-related (Beaver, Robin, Possum, Deer Path, Pigeon Hill)

British-inspired (Chadwick, Claridge, Somerset).

Destinations: New England roads are often named for their destinations (Newton, Lexington, Wellesley, Concord, Sudbury).

Aberdeen Road. “Aberdeen” was the name given to a subdivision begun by Samuel Lord. The road was laid out in 1932. Lord built two houses, at No. 4 (1932) and No. 1 (1933), both handsome stone structures in the English Revival style, strategically located at the intersection of Merriam Street. In 1933, Lord was unable to make his payments and the mortgage holder foreclosed.

Alphabet Lane. Alphabet Lane leads to Country and Woodland elementary schools, hence the name.

Ash Street. “Ash Street” is the name chosen by a town committee in the early 1880s for the “Road leading from Newton St. to South Ave.” In 1926, the Special Committee to Consider Names of Streets and Ways recommended changing the name to Upham Road noting: “More than a hundred and thirty years ago members of the Upham family were living on this road and still own property thereon. Upham is one of the old names in Weston and should be remembered.” The recommendation was not brought up for a vote at the 1927 Town Meeting and the change was never made.

Audubon Road. Named for naturalist John James Audubon.

Do you know if these are generic street names or if they have a “Weston story?”

Amanda Lane
Baker’s Hill Road
Baldwin Circle
Brenton Road
Carroll Circle
Corwood Drive
Davenport Road
Dellbrook Road
Granison Road
Hallett Hill Road
Lawrence Road
Linwood Road
Perry Lane
Radcliffe Road
Sherburn Circle
Somerset Place
Sutton Place
Tyler Road
Walker Street
Ware Street

Bay State Road. The “Bay State” is an historical nickname for Massachusetts, reflecting its Colonial-era name “Massachusetts Bay Colony.” Bay State Road is one of several roads in the King’s Grant subdivision named after Massachusetts historical persons or places. The neighborhood was developed by Weston Land Company, which purchased the land in 1958. (See also Bradford, Hancock, Indian Hill, King’s Grant, Myles Standish, and Plymouth Roads; and Winthrop Circle)

Bemis Street. Abraham Bemis, member of a large northside family, was instrumental in bringing Methodism to Weston. The original Methodist society, established in the 1790s, consisted of a dozen members, seven bearing the name “Bemis.”

Blackburnian Road. Named for the Blackburnian Warbler and connected to Cerulean Way, named for another warbler species. Both roads are located off Warbler Springs Road in Lincoln.



Francis Blake began developing “Keewaydin” in the early 1870s after his marriage to Charles Townsend Hubbard’s daughter Elizabeth. The mansion was located at what is now 44 Tamarack Road.

Blake Road. Named for Francis Blake (1850-1913), inventor of the Blake Transmitter, which was instrumental in the success of the Bell Telephone Company. His 75-acre estate, Keewaydin, included a mansion at 44 Tamarack Road (demolished c. 1965). The stone entrance posts into the estate remain along Park Road near the corner of Blake Road.

Bogle Street. “Bogle” is a synonym for a ghost or goblin but may also have another origin.

Boston Post Road. Boston Post Road began as a trail used by Native Americans and extending from present day Boston to the Connecticut River Valley. In Colonial America, this was the main route from Boston to New York, used by post riders carrying newspapers and mail. It had different names over the years, including Bay Path, Great County Road, Main Road, and Central Avenue. In 1926, a special committee recommended changing the name from Central Avenue to Boston Post Road. The change was approved by Town Meeting in 1927.

Bradford Road. “Bradford” is another road in the King’s Grant development named after a Massachusetts historical figure. William Bradford (1590-1657) was an English Puritan Separatist who emigrated to the Plymouth Colony on the *Mayflower*. He served as Governor of Plymouth Colony intermittently for about 30 years between 1621 and 1657. (See Bay State Road for a list of the other historical names in the development)

Bradyll Road. Bradyll Smith was born in 1715 in the farmhouse still standing at 111 Sudbury Road. He was the older brother of Josiah Smith, builder of the tavern on Boston Post Road. Bradyll was a farmer and one of the largest landowners on the north side. Some of his land is now part of Lincoln and his house is still standing at 360 North Avenue. Smith was very active in the affairs of Weston and held many civic offices including selectman, town clerk, assessor, treasurer, and representative to the Great and General Court. Starting in 1774, he was chosen as

the town's representative to three Provisional Congresses and worked to organize soldiers and supplies for the army.

Briar Lane. Briar Lane was part of a development called Briarcliff Estates, created in the 1950s by Merrill and E. William Nutting of Newton.

Bridle Path. Bridle Path is off Saddle Hill Road and reflects Weston's equestrian heritage. Perhaps the name was inspired by the Weston Saddle and Bridle Club, incorporated in 1929 and located in the area of what is now Conant, Colchester, and Sears Roads. The club, which closed in the 1950s, developed extensive bridle paths throughout the town.

Brown Street. Brown Street is located near the historic Wellington "Gateways" Farm on Wellesley Street, once owned by members of the Brown family. John Brown purchased the farm in 1770. It stayed in the family for more than a century, until son-in-law Samuel F. Clarke sold the property in 1899.

Bullard Road. A bullard is a person who keeps bulls.

Byron Road. Byron Road is named after Walter and Helen Byron, who purchased the Dean estate in 1928. Walter Byron made his living investing. The bank foreclosed on the property in the recession of 1937; but because there was no market for the land in the Depression and war years, the family was allowed to stay in the servants' quarters. After World War II, Thomas J. Diab developed the property. (see also Dean Road)

Candleberry Lane. Type of plant used to make wax for candles.

Center Street. Center Street was constructed in the mid-1960s in the Town Center. The 1964 *Town Report* states: "For the construction of Center Street, peat was removed and replaced with gravel fill. This road will be completed and surfaced after construction of the new Fire and Police Building is completed." Plans for this new building were later abandoned in favor of a new police station on the State Road Bypass (1974) and enlargement of the 1914 fire station (1986). The 25,000 square-foot commercial building opened in 1967 with the Triple A Supermarket as the principal tenant. Center Street and the commercial building were constructed on wetlands, which was allowed before passage of the federal Wetlands Protection Act of 1977.

Cerulean Way. Named after a bird, the Cerulean Warbler. Cerulean Way connects to Blackburnian Road both physically and thematically (see Blackburnian Road)

Chandler Circle. A chandler is a person who sells candles.

Cherry Brook Road. Cherry Brook is the name of the brook that flowed through Herbert Merriam's 150-acre estate "Cherry Brook Farm" at Merriam Street and Concord Road.

(see also Merriam Street)

Chiltern Road. "Chiltern Hundreds" is the name of the subdivision created in the 1920s on land belonging to estate owners Charles Wells Hubbard and Eleanor Dean Pearse. Noted landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff laid out the curving streets. "Chiltern" is thought to be an English place name favored by the Hubbards. "The Hundreds" refers to the 1699 division of land in Wellesley into 100-acre tracts.

Church Street. Begins in the town center at the location of Weston's first church building.

Cliff Road. Wellesley developer Albion R. Clapp created the Cliff Estates neighborhood and named "Cliff Road" after the steep hill between Weston and Wellesley.

Coburn Road. The Coburn family plays a rich role in Weston's history, beginning with Jonas Coburn (1773–1836), who in 1801 bought 120 acres of land including the Jeremiah Whittemore House at 153 Church Street. The Coburn Barn at 154 Church Street was built in 1841. Generations of Coburns continued to live in the area.

Colchester Road. In 1919, estate owner Horace Sears purchased the Zoller farm, remodelled the farmhouse at 118 Conant Road, and built a large dairy barn. The following year he deeded the property to Helena Bailey, wife of his business associate, Harry Bailey. The couple established the Colchester Farm dairy, with worker housing at 111, 115, and 119 Conant Road. The land was later developed into houses on Sears, Colchester, Hamilton, and Laurel Roads.



Edward Coburn, a successful provisions dealer, celebrated his 80th birthday in June 1900 at the Greek Revival house he built at 171 Church Street. Family members, many of whom lived nearby, posed for this photograph. In recent years, the porch was restored using the photo as a guide to the design of the porch posts.



The oldest house on Conant Road, No. 118, was built about 1740 by John Walker. In 1778, his granddaughter Thankful married Oliver Conant, whose name was given to the road that split the farm. When this photo was taken about 1903, the farm belonged to the Zoller family.

Colpitts Road. Colpitts Road was developed in the 1960s and 70s by David Colpitts, grandson of Abel J. Colpitts. Abel arrived in Weston in the 1920s from Nova Scotia and started a successful plumbing and heating business located in the small Colonial Revival office building now at 542 Boston Post Road.

Conant Road. At the turn of the 20th century, some place names were changed as part of an increased emphasis on local history. Forest Road was renamed Conant Road at the request of Justin Gale, who lived at No. 15 and wrote that “Conant” was “both euphonious and historical” and “carries the old local flavor.” (see also caption above)

Crescent Street. Originally part of the main road from Boston to New York, the roadway was straightened in 1854, leaving this crescent-shaped remnant of the historic old road.



The B. F. Cutter Farm was located at the intersection of South Avenue and Park Street. None of the buildings remain.

Cutter’s Bluff. Cutter’s Bluff and the surrounding area known as Cutter’s Corner are named after the Cutter family. Their history in Weston begins in 1804, when Richard Cutter (c. 1756–1823) purchased a farmhouse and 164 acres on South Avenue at the intersection of Newton Street. In the early 20th century, the Cutter farmhouse, massive barn, and equally large cider mill were the dominant features of Cutter’s Corner.

Cutting Lane. Highland Meadows, an over-55 community, was completed in 2016. Most of the streets within the development are named for Weston estates, estate owners, and other Weston historical figures. The best-known members of the Cutting family were George Warren Cutting Sr. (1805-1885) and his son George Warren Cutting Jr (1834-1923), who operated the landmark general store in the town center from the 1850s into the 20th century. The store, located across from the Josiah Smith Tavern, also contained the Weston Post Office and was a central focus for the social and business interests of the town. George Jr’s son, Alfred Leslie Cutting, also worked at the store, operated a branch at Kendal Green for a time, and served as a selectman from 1900 to 1925.

Dean Road. Dean Road is named for Charles Augustus Dean (1844–1921), who, with his wife, Minnie Palmer Dean, established the 117-acre Dean estate “Oak Ridge” in 1896. Dean was president of Hollingsworth & Whitney, a paper manufacturing company. The mansion house, demolished in 1961, was located at 67 Byron Road. Remaining Dean outbuildings are located at 14, 50, and 60 Byron Road. After her mother’s death in 1925, Eleanor Dean Pearse, only child of the Deans, joined with her neighbor Charles Wells Hubbard in creating the Children Hundreds subdivision, where Dean Road is located.

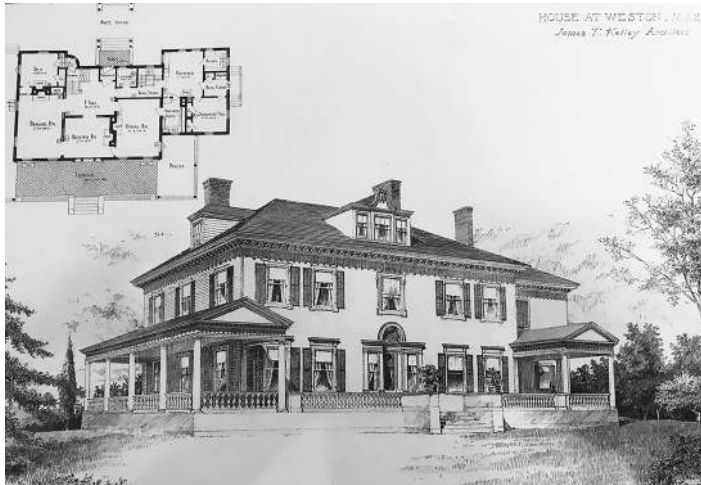


The Charles Dean estate mansion at 67 Byron Road (above) was demolished in 1961.

Derby Lane. Farmer John Derby Sr. owned about 52 acres in the area of what is now Derby Lane. His house at One Derby Lane (formerly 222 Boston Post Road) was built around 1798 and was owned by the Derby family until 1923.

DiBenedetto Drive. In 1956, Carmine and Mary DiBenedetto bought 12 acres and a ranch house at 515 South Avenue, for \$1200. In the early 1980s, their son Thomas and his wife Linda built a house that had to be sited far back from the road because of the high-water table. The Town required that, instead of just having a long driveway, the family had to build a road. Carmine, who still owned the property, named the road after himself.

Dickson Lane. Dickson Lane is one of the first developments in Weston created using a state law aimed at increasing affordable housing. In 1995, the selectmen supported use of a “friendly 40B,” which allows for negotiations between a developer and the town. The original proposal for 80 units was later changed to the Winter Garden Condominiums, a 24-unit complex of detached two-story townhouses. The road was named Dickson Lane in honor of long-time residents and affordable housing supporters Ed and Polly Dickson



Francis Foster's Renaissance Revival brick mansion (above) at 42 Newton Street is now the clubhouse for Pine Brook Country Club.

Doublet Hill Road. Named after the estate “Doublet Hill,” developed by textile manufacturer Francis Appleton Foster (1843–1921) in 1892 on 49 acres on both sides of Newton Street. The name comes from the topography. The 1899 publication *Picturesque Massachusetts* described the twin hills as being 360 and 364 feet above the level of the Charles River.

Drabbington Way. Drabbington Way takes its name from the Drabbington Lodge at 135 North Avenue, built in 1899 for George and Sarah Thurston. The picturesque Shingle Style hostelry was named after Sarah's birthplace in England. In the early 20th century, Weston was a popular location for country estates. Drabbington Lodge attracted guests from all over the country until it closed in the mid-1930s. Later uses included a girls' school of physical education (The Posse-Nissen School), a college dormitory, an Inn, and a retirement home.

Eliot Lane. The origin of Eliot Lane's name is uncertain, but “Eliot Savings Bank” is listed as the grantee of mortgages for several properties.

Ellis Road. George H. Ellis purchased the Warren Farm on Lexington Street in 1893.

Elliston Road. In the mid-1950s, Dr. William Elliston spearheaded efforts to establish the town forest and Weston For-

est and Trail Association. His wife Harriet helped establish the Roxbury-Weston programs.

Farm Road. Estate owner Robert Winsor's farm was located here and provided food for the estate. (see Winsor Way).

Farmers' Burial Ground (originally Farmers' Burying Ground) At the time of the first burial in 1703, Weston was the “Farmers' Precinct” of Watertown.

Ferndale Road. Ferndale Road is named after Ferndale Farm. Bancroft and Anne Davis (daughter of estate owner Charles Townsend Hubbard) developed the model dairy on their 125-acre property between South Avenue and Newton Street. The dairy farm proved successful; and in 1910 they expanded by buying 23 more acres, constructing a huge stone barn, and enlisting Frank Pope, a Vermont farmer, to take charge. The barn at 275 South Avenue, once the largest and most expensive farm building in Weston, was razed about 1990.

Fillmore Place. Part of the Highland Meadows Development, which adopted Weston historical names for streets. “Fillmore Farm” was the name shoe manufacturer Charles H. Jones (1855–1933) gave to his estate on Glen Road, established in 1901. The house and stable are still located at No. 458. Jones was the most serious of Weston's gentleman farmers. His Fillmore Farm Dairy operated from the early 1900s until after his death in 1933.

Fiske Lane. Isaac Fiske (1778–1861), prominent member of one of Weston's oldest families, trained as a lawyer. He built the house at 639 Boston Post Road in 1805 and used the small law office across the street. Fiske also traded in real estate and held many town and state offices. In 1815–16, he purchased the historic Baldwin Tavern at 625 Boston Post Road directly adjacent to the present Fiske Lane and sold No. 639 to the new First Parish minister, Rev. Joseph Field. Fiske lived at No. 625 until his death, after which it was occupied by family members until it burned to the ground in 1890.



In the early 20th century, city-dwellers who couldn't afford their own country estate sometimes stayed for weeks at the Drabbington Lodge. The 27-acre property even included a seven-hole golf course.



The Flagg Tavern stood approximately where 725 Boston Post Road is today. It burned to the ground in 1902.

Flagg Circle. Part of the Highland Meadows Development, which adopted Weston historical names for streets. For many years, John Flagg's Tavern was the principal stopping place for New York mail coaches. It continued in use well past 1830, reportedly longer than any other tavern in Weston. President George Washington spent the night there on October 23, 1789, on his journey through New England, and President John Quincy Adams dined there in 1798.

French Road. Named after John J.R. French, first headmaster of The Cambridge School after it was established in Weston in 1931 as a co-educational upper school. French espoused a progressive educational philosophy that focused on the individual student and "teaches the child to think for himself instead of passively accepting stereotyped ideas."

Gail Road. Named for Gail Hubbard Leatherbee, wife of William Leatherbee Jr, who was in real estate and developed a section of his parents' property. The couple were married in Weston in 1954, around the time that the road was created.

Gambrill Lane. Part of the Highland Meadows Development, which adopted Weston historical names for streets. Howard Jr. and Mary Gambrill were the founders of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum. In 1963, for Weston's 250th anniversary, a town committee led by Howard Gambrill Jr., was tasked with identifying the 50 oldest houses in the town. As a part of his research, Gambrill requested a tour of the former tavern from Ralph Jones, a member of the Jones family that had owned the house for six generations. His reaction has been described as "love at first sight." After Jones died, Gambrill bought the tavern and, along with his wife Mary and other trustees, raised money to restore and endow it as a museum.

Gate House Lane. The distinctive red-brick gatehouse, built in 1887, is owned by the City of Cambridge. It stands at the south end of Stony Brook Reservoir, which was created in 1884–1887 to provide water for the City of Cambridge.



The Stony Brook gatehouse manages water levels for the Stony Brook Reservoir, part of the City of Cambridge water supply. It can be seen from the corner of River Road and Gate House Lane.

Street Names To be Continued in Fall 2026

If you have not paid your dues yet, it's time! Our fiscal year runs from September 2025 to August 2026. If you have questions, email info@westonhistory.org. You can use the remittance envelope in this mailing or go to our website, westonhistory.org. Thank you for your support!

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