

1834

The transition of Concord from a rural village to a lively town with well organized industries, varied enterprise in business, formal streets with comfortable homes, adequate schools and the public buildings suitable to the capital of New Hampshire, appears to have been complete in the year 1834. By that date the streets were officially named and with few exceptions, remain unchanged to this day. The growth of the town in a ten year period is shown by comparing the number of streets listed this year with those recorded in 1825 by Dr. Bouton. (Chap. XXXIII) During those years the last of the oldtime farms bordering on the main street had disappeared and new streets with new homes occupied what for a century had been fields or pasture land. Business had taken over that section of Main St. between Centre and Pleasant Sts. and the first Concord Directory in 1830 was so outmoded by 1834 that a new one was issued.

The 1834 Directory lists seventeen stage routes radiating in all directions from Concord, some running six days a week - some twice a week only; no stage entered or left the town on the Sabbath. Dr. Bouton compiled the "Number of public buildings, trading and manufacturing establishments etc." as follows:

"State House, Court House  
State Prison, 5 Meeting-Houses, 3 School Houses, 10 Hotels and Taverns.  
2 Banks, 1 Savings Bank, 11 Printing Offices, 10 Newspapers, 26 English and  
West-India Goods Stores, 1 Hardware Store, 1 Crockery Ware Store, 3 Apoth-  
ecary Stores, 3 Hat Stores, 4 Clothes and Drapery Stores, 6 Book Stores,  
5 Book Binderies, 1 Circulating Library, 9 Shoe Stores and Manufactories,  
1 Musical Instrument and Umbrella Store, 2 Tanneries, 4 Saddle and Harness  
Makers, 1 Coach and Chaise Manufactory, 1 Distillery, 3 Tin Ware Manufacto-  
ries, 7 Blacksmiths, 3 Wheelwrights, 4 Furniture Ware Houses and Cabinet  
Shops, 2 Bake Houses, 9 Tailor and Tailoress Shops, 3 Slaughter Houses  
1 Last Manufactory, 1 Whip Manufactory, 1 Silver Plating Establishment,  
1 Looking Glass Manufactory, 1 Carver and Gilder, 4 Millinery Shops,

I Market House, 3 Victualling Cellars, 2 Chair Manufactories, 1 Comb Manufactory, 1 Boat Manufactory, 1 Confectionary Store, 3 Watch makers and Jewellers, 1 Clock Manufactory, 1 Grave Stone Maker, 1 Chemical Apparatus and Soda Manufactory, 8 Joiner Shops, 5 Paint Shops, 1 Cooper Shop, 2 Livery Stables, 2 Barber Shops."

This list indicates that Concord folk were living very well in the year 1834, the standard being far higher than that of pioneer days, but it also indicates that Concord still maintained her independence of the outside world. Although transportation by coach and wagon over well kept turnpikes was relatively easy and rapid, Concord people still produced practically everything to supply their needs. The West-India goods, fine broadcloths and cassimeres, and the cotton goods from the Slater mills in Rhode Island, were the chief articles of import.

The 1834 Directory lists several business blocks which include Hill's Brick Block next south of the State House, the ungainly Williams Block south of the Eagle Coffee House, and, standing in the rear of the latter, Mechanick's Row. This long wooden structure was the place where a fire started in August 1851 which destroyed everything from Stickney's wooden blocks on the south corner of Bridge St. southward to Low's Rumford Block. The Stickney wooden blocks were also listed in 1834. Below Williams Block and on the site of later Phenix Block, stood a two-story building long devoted to business purposes, and next south was Leach's Block (Chap. XXXII), which after partial destruction by fire in 1868 was called Union Block.

Our picture of Main St. looking north from Pleasant St. shows at the extreme right the old Elm House, enlarged from Maj. Duncan's mansion house. In front are two of the elms which gave the hotel its name. The Leach Block with a new high gable added after the fire, is conspicuous because of the sign "Stoves" on its south wall. On the west side of the street is Masonic Block on the site of Andrew McMillan's ancient store

and next north are several of the primitive wooden stores which preceded the brick blocks along our Main St. Concord Public Market\* and Chase Block now occupy the site of such buildings.

The second view of Main St. shows its junction with Pleasant St. at the same period-sometime after the fire which destroyed the first South Church on the south corner (1869). The old watering trough and the scales are interesting reminders of the past and also the huge mortar and pestle on a pillar in front of the drug store. This wooden store was the last in this section of Main St. and stood until the Concord Public Market acquired the lot. Another oldtime store is shown which stood on the site of Chase Block. In considering these and other pictures of old Concord, it must be remembered that such photographs were taken not much earlier than 1850, so they are not representative of the period of the thirties. They have a value in that each shows buildings standing on Main St. at the earlier date.

The rapid growth of the town led to official naming of the streets and at town meeting 1834 a committee was appointed to make recommendations: Col. William A. Kent of Pleasant St., Abiel Walker of the North End and Maj. Timothy Chandler of the South End—all prominent citizens. In June the committee reported as follows—

Main St. from Londonderry Turnpike\*\* north to Horseshoe Pond.  
 State St. (formerly Back St.) from Pleasant St. north to Wood's Brook.  
 Green St. (formerly High St.) running north and south across Peter Green's old farm.  
 Spring St., Pleasant St. north to Center, named for the springs on the hill.  
 Rumford Square—5 acre plot donated by George Kent, bounded by present Rumford, School, Merrimack and Pleasant Sts.  
 Rumford St. extending north to Centre St.  
 Merrimack St. with Rumford and Spring, all passed through land of George Kent, formerly the Judge Samuel Green estate.  
 Union St., South St., Water St. and Hall St. extended as at present.  
 West St. from the head of Londonderry Turnpike to South St.  
 Cross St. (present Concord St.) through the old Haseltine farm.  
 Thompson St. (named for Thomas W. Thompson) and Fayette St. (for Lafayette) ran through the Dea. George Abbot farm.  
 Warren St. extended from Main to State St. through the Gale Tavern property.

School St. kept its ancient name but was extended west to Merrimack St. Park St. named for architect of the State House ran only to State St. Centre St. (the ancient Centre road) was extended over "Sand Hill" to intersect Washington St. Montgomery St. (said to have been named for Maj. Gen. Montgomery who died at Quebec in 1775) is on the Edward Abbot farm. Court St. cuts through the Stickney Tavern property. Washington St. (formerly Prison St.) was opened westerly to meet Centre St. Franklin St. (pioneer highway, was extended west "to the angle of the old road on the hill where the Hospital (pest house) once was." (probably present High St.) Church St., named for the old Meeting-House, ran west to State St. Penacook St. extended west "to the foot of the hill on the Little Pond road."

It is fortunate that these names have been so little changed during ensuing years, but it is regrettable that Turnpike St. (abbreviated from Londonderry Turnpike) was, in recent years, made a part of So. Main St. Historic Main St. ends at West St. as it was laid out in the first survey of Pennycook Plantation.

The year 1834 was notable for the building of the American House on the lot next north of the State House. Two old buildings stood on the site: the store built by John West, Jr. which had a hall on the second floor used as St. Thomas' Chapel (Episcopalian) and the dwelling house of Jacob Emmons. The store was moved a short distance to the west and the dwelling a few rods to the north. This preparatory work was done in March and in April the foundation of the new hostelry was laid.

John P. Gass and his son, John, were to be proprietors and they desired to open the new house for guests on June 1st when the legislature would convene. Aaron Morse of Hopkinton, the master builder, was an enterprising young man in his twenties and he agreed to finish the project by that date if he could find enough workmen. "So", according to the account given to the writer by his daughter, "he hired every man who could drive a nail; organized them into groups, and assigned each group to work in a special place, to avoid waste motion."

So efficient was his management that in exactly six weeks and two days the great house stood complete except for its verandas and the

gratified hosts welcomed their first guests as the legislators began to ride into town. The patrons of the American House tended more and more to be affiliated with the Democratic Party and, until the house was destroyed by fire in 1867, it was recognized as Party headquarters. Among the famous names on its register were those of James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Commodore Charles Stewart of the frigate "Constitution", Levi Woodbury and Nathaniel Hawthorne who came to Concord to visit his intimate friend Franklin Pierce.

Our picture shows the American House in all its glory, its wide veranda extending well over the line of newly opened Park St. to be used as a sidewalk for pedestrians. Next west of the House a bit of John West Jr.'s store shows, remodelled into tenements one of which, at the time of a fire was occupied by Abraham H. Robinson, physician and son of Josiah Robinson. In 1835 he graduated from Yale college and taught at the South End school. North of the Hotel may be seen the Emmons house dressed up with four heavy columns and evidently raised so that an extra floor for business use might be built below the original structure. When the American House burned the "Widow Gass" was part owner of the Emmons house and she lived on the second floor. According to the Monitor report (8/13/67) the fire was probably incendiary and, occurring shortly after midnight, the blaze was so great that its light was seen by the crew on the early morning train as it left White River Junction. Next north of the Emmons house which was a total loss, may be seen two of the old wooden stores typical of the early years of the nineteenth century on Main St.

These stores stand today as 121-123 No. Main St. but disguised by modern fronts. Henry McFarland records that as late as the forties, the stores on the main street were mostly of this type; some of them little more than "shanties" one story high, gable to the street, boarded up broadly in front as high as the ridge pole to give them two-story pretensions."

The street now called Brown Road leading from Park St. to Centre, in the rear of these old stores, in 1836 was "the passway of John Gass's stables" connected with the American House. An old-timer in this neighborhood, declared that "a piece of Gass's hotel (American House) is in the old store at No. 121. This may be authentic if a shed or some small portion of the House escaped destruction in the fire of 1867. Shortly before the fire, Lorenzo D. Brown built the brick block now called Hotel Winsor and its north wall was constructed on the line between that lot and No. 121. According to the deeds, there was agreement that the wall should belong to the owners of both properties.

These old pictures of Main St. were probably taken in the 1850s except the one after the American House burned. Several details are of interest—the unpaved street, the prevalence of wooden awnings sheltering the sidewalks, the flag pole in front of the State House was erected by the Granite Club in the summer of 1852, suggesting that the Plaza was then a place for public use. The old sign of the Columbian shows as it swung from a lofty pole. We are reminded that Bridge St. was originally a lane on the Stickney farm, was not made a town street until the first free bridge across the Merrimack in Concord, was built. (1839-40) The bridge was financed by subscriptions from citizens in Pembroke, Epsom, Chichester and Concord and proved to be a great convenience for travel.

Among the old brick houses in town, the handsomest is the Upham house on Park St. Built in 1831 by Nathaniel G. Upham, native of Rochester, it is still the home of his descendants. A graduate of Dartmouth college in 1820, Mr. Upham came to Concord nine years later to practice law. When his house was built access to it was by a court opened from State St. since there was no Park St. at the time. This is one of the very few old homes in Concord which stand unspoiled by modern additions. The fine recessed and panelled doorway is noteworthy.

In the summer of 1833, Mrs. Sarah Connell Ayer wrote in her Diary:

"Aug. 19. Mrs. Upham, wife of Hon. Nathaniel G. Upham was buried. She died last Saturday. I was not acquainted with her, but I felt that the circumstances attending her sickness and death were mournfully interesting. She was the daughter of Mrs. Lord of Kennebunk Port. She was young in life, united to a worthy man, both members of Mr. Bouton's church, bless'd with two lovely babies and with all the means to do good to others. Her situation in life was indeed enviable. It is said that she was uncommonly patient during her illness, anticipated her death with calmness, and gave her dying counsel to her many friends who visited her. Her little babe was baptized at her funeral."

Such was the tragedy of the first years in this home. The older of the two motherless children was a little three year old girl named Elizabeth Lord Upham who had been born in the first Upham home, that older brick house at 172 No. Main St. This little girl grew up in the Park St. house and, in due season, became Mrs. Joseph E. Walker of fragrant memory. Her childhood home became the residence of her son, Dr. Charles Rumford Walker, and is now the home of a grandson.

Mr. Upham entered whole-heartedly into the civic life of his adopted town and played a leading part in public affairs. In 1833 he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court, but resigned to become General Agent of the new Concord Railroad, ten years later. His activities seem to have changed by decades for in 1853 he was appointed Commissioner to London for adjustment of claims between citizens of the United States and Great Britain against the government of either country. In 1862 Judge Upham was in Washington as umpire in the Granadian Commission. He was accompanied by his second wife and Concord papers of that day note with some pride, her appearance at the weekly parties at the National, as follo

"Mrs. Upham of Concord- Superb violet and white moire antique, brocaded, with rich point lace trimmings; black thread lace shawl; head dress of s scarlet velvet and gold lace flowers; corsage to match."

Judge Upham was a gifted man and the newspapers of the time show him to have been an orator of parts and the writer of odes for many public occasions.

Since 1823 the services at St. Thomas' Chapel had been discontinued except for occasional worship. In 1835 a new organization took place under the name "Wardens and Vestry of St. Paul's Church" and conducted for a time as a mission. In 1836 under the leadership of John West, Jr. subscriptions for a church building were solicited, but Mr. West's sudden death interrupted the enterprise. Two years later a committee consisting of Albe Cady, Heavitt C. Vurgin and Isaac Hill, took over the task with such success that on Jan 1, 1840 a new wooden church was dedicated by the venerable Bishop Griswold. This building much modified still stands on Park St. next east of present St. Paul's Church.

When the time came for building the State Library, two houses west west of the Upham house were removed. Our picture shows the north side of Park St. as it looked at the time (1892) when these houses were the homes of men prominent in Concord during the thirties and forties. The second picture shows the same houses as originally built. That on the corner was built by Cyrus Barton soon after 1831. Native of Croyden and during all his life "a practical printer and hard working editor", he was for a quarter century the editor of the Patriot and a leader of the Democratic Party until the campaign of 1855 when he repudiated Franklin Pierce and the party which nominated him. It was during this campaign that Mr. Barton dropped dead while engaged in political debate in Loudon.

In later years the Barton house was the home of William Walker, Jr. and it was then that the house was modernized. It now stands on the southwest corner of School and Pine Sts. Mr. Walker was commonly known as Cap-

tain Walker because he ran the Lady of the Lake on Winnebepesaukee in the days of her fame. The figure head of the "Lady" is now in possession of the N.H. Historical Society. Captain Walker was one of the directors of the First National Bank at its organization and one of the town's most public spirited citizens.

William Walker, Sr., father of the Captain, came to Concord about 1835, having been a stage driver in Derry. He ran the Washington Tavern at the North End for a short time and then became landlord at the Eagle Coffee House where, under his management, the rates reached the sum of \$1.00 per day. His home may be seen in the picture on p. 15. William Jr. followed his father's profession as stage driver and in the late thirties he and Nathaniel White were owners and drivers of the Nashua stage which put up at the Eagle Coffee House. In the early forties these partners ran a three-horse parcel and money express to Montreal, making the trip in fifty hours, and sometimes doing the driving themselves. This enterprise developed into the U.S. & Canada Express. With B.P. Cheney of Boston the partners established a daily express (Sundays excepted) to Boston.

The house next <sup>east</sup> east of Captain Walker's on Park St. was the home of Dr. Timothy Haynes who ran the Water Cure in the old Porter Blanchard house (now Commercial House). The second picture shows the house in original shape when it was the home of Zebina Lincoln (1832). In 1835 Lincoln took over the management of the Eagle Coffee House and its first landlord, William Richardson, moved into the Lincoln house. In later years the house was used by St. Paul's Church as a parish house and finally it was moved to a spot among the trees on Dunklee St. where fire destroyed it February 1937.

The earlier picture of this corner of Park St. shows interesting details; a bit of the old stone wall which bounded the north side of the

State House lot: a rough board fence in the foreground where Park St. ended and, faintly in the distance, the veranda of the American House which entirely covered the place for a sidewalk. When the court which led to the Upham house was lengthened and widened into Park St., the abutters on its north side gave up land for the purpose, except for the American House which allowed its veranda to be used as a public sidewalk.

Timothy Haynes, native of Alexandria, came to Concord immediately after receiving his degree of M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1836. His specialty was surgery and he announced that he had "opened anatomical rooms on Main St." where he proposed to demonstrate anatomy to students and establish an anatomical museum. He advertised for specimens of natural history, curiosities, deformed animals etc. and seems to have procured by this method a considerable collection. It was still the custom for would-be students in medicine to study in a doctor's office and Dr. Haynes instructed a large number of students during his career in Concord. His Water Cure was frowned upon by the local profession as partaking of the nature of quackery and Dr. Haynes soon disposed of his interest in what proved to be only a passing fad in medicine. His subsequent practice made him one of the most influential and beloved physicians of his day in this town.

Nathan Call of Hopkinton, builder of the brick schoolhouse at the North End in 1820-21, was well known in Concord before he made his residence here. In 1828 he purchased the Wilson homestead property on the south corner of Pleasant St.-a considerable estate which extended west to Col. Kent's home (site of South Church). It was on the Main St. corner of this lot that the first South Church building was erected in 1836-37. West of of present Optima Building was a house occupied by Albe Cady after fire destroyed his home on the site of Phenix Hotel. This was a long, low cottage-an old house which may have been the one standing on the lot when Thomas Wilson bought the property from Aaron Kinsman. Nathan Call sold

this cottage to the Misses Abigail and Mary Green who opened a private school for children there about 1834. This house was burned in the fire which destroyed the church building.

State St. south of Pleasant St. had not been opened when Nathan Call began to develop his new property, but he anticipated its extension when he moved from Hopkinton a two-story house, thirty by forty feet in dimension and set it up on the lot now occupied by Kearsarge Apartments. Dimond hill was, until it was filled and graded in recent years, one of the steepest and most treacherous in or near Concord, and this enterprise of Nathan Call's proved to be an epic feat. The house was placed on wheels and forty yoke of oxen dragged it to its destination, a distance of five miles. At the top of Dimond hill, three yoke of oxen only were left to drag while the remainder were hitched to the rear to act as a brake down the steep grade. The journey was completed in four days and the old house made famous by this exploit, stood on So. State St. until torn down to make way for the new block.

In 1832 Nathan Call purchased the valuable land directly west of the State House—a rough piece of land as yet unimproved and surrounded by an unsightly fence of boards. There he built an unique structure which stood as pictured until the site was cleared for the erection of the Federal Building. At either end was a tenement of brick with a handsome recessed doorway while in the middle were wooden tenements either two or three stories high. In those days Capitol St. and Park St. were nonexistent so approach to this long block was by State St. and Green St. only. Call's Block provided access to these streets by two archways next to the brick tenements and these narrow driveways through a house were thrilling to the child who rode through them in the "horse and buggy days."

North of the block, Nathan Call built his own dwelling house—a large square two-story house of the prevailing type. In later years it was mod-

ernized and it may be seen in our picture of Call's Block. This house was the birthplace of one of Concord's most widely known citizens and a great political leader, William E. Chandler. At the time of his birth, Dec. 28, 1835, his father and mother were soj<sup>3</sup>urning briefly at the Call home during the building of their own house at 15 Centre St. The Call house was torn down to make way for the building of the N.H. Historical Society, but Call's Block still stands in widely scattered sections over the city. One brick end is at 16 Centre St. and the other at 23 Montgomery St. The two sections which overhung the driveways have been joined and made into the house at 176 No. State St. The three story\*section stands at 35-39 Pine St. and the two story section at 32-34 Jackson St.

For the convenience of his tenants as well as for his own home, Nathan Call controlled one of the new aqueducts west of Spring St. and "the subterranean pipes" to carry the water crossed Bradbury Gill's house lot at the corner of No. Spring and Prince Sts. Mr. Call built other houses and our picture shows one which stood directly north of the Unitarian Church facing Green St. It is very like Call's own house where William E. Chandler was born. When Capitol St. was opened this house was moved and stands as pictured at 93 Centre St. It was once the property of Lucius B. Morrill, a book binder, and was occupied by him and William P. Foster.

Call's valuable lot on the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant Sts. was sold in 1835 to a group of men who purchased it as the site for the first South Church. The edifice was built under supervision of Capt. Philip Watson, master builder, who seems to have been living at the time in Thomas Wilson's old house next south. The church is shown in Chapter XXII—built of wood on a stone basement, and in this basement were two stores facing Main St. with a church vestry in the rear. Call sold other lots from this particular property and one of these on the south side of Pleasant St. was bought by Dr. Thomas Brown who came

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\* Burned Feb. 1953.

to Concord from Andover in 1831. He was a member of the town's first Board of Health (1832) which came into being because of Asiatic cholera which, having swept Europe, was appearing in Canada. Concord on the highway from Canada to the south was endangered, but fortunately escaped the dread disease.

On the Main St. side of his property Mr. Call sold a lot next south of the Wilson house to the Misses Sarah L., Henrietta and Frances White. At the time of the sale (1828) Miss Sarah was conducting a school for the instruction of young ladies in the higher branches, in rooms over the "Lower Bank" and probably she and her sisters made their home on the place purchased from Nathan Call; if so, their next neighbor to the south was Amos Wood, a baker, who occupied the property once owned by Robert Harris and earlier by Gordon Hutchins. Wood had been located here for some time and this same year of 1828, he sold a narrow strip off the south side of his land with half of the barn and the shed, to Charles Whitmarsh, blacksmith. The following year he sold the rest of his holding to Carter & Duren, bakers. For many years thereafter this lot was used for bakery purposes and our picture shows the Norris Bakery on this same site as it looked in its most flourishing days at the end of the nineties. The building is now Concord Theatre. The shed at the rear is probably a part of the Whitmarsh smithy. The baker carts in the picture were familiar sights along our Concord streets at the turn of the century.

After the death of Capt. Richard Ayer in 1831, came the inevitable break-up of his homestead on the south side of Centre St. The mansion house stood on the main street some five rods south of the corner of Centre St. and this was Mrs. Ayer's by dower right. In an annual address (1862) made by Dr. Bouton before the Concord Female Charitable Society, we find reference to this ancient house "in former days a store house of plenty, and from its door no poor was ever sent empty away." After Mrs. Ayer's death the house became the Union Hotel and in 1861 it was destroyed by fire.

The lot directly south of the Ayer house was sold to Jacob B. Moore who built a wooden store there. In 1834 D. P. Lane occupied the store and Isaac C. Bradley bought a narrow lot next south and built his hatter shop there and the present store at 121 N. Main St. (see p. 6) may well be the Bradley shop. Mr. Bradley came to Concord from Canterbury and purchased from Peter Tufts, "morocco manufacturer", the property at 8 Centre St. and there he made his home. The main part of the house may not date back to 1834 but the ell appears to be older construction. In 1836 Mr. Bradley sold his store on the main street.

In 1829 Capt. Ayer had sold to his son, John J. Ayer, a large house lot on the southeast corner of State and Centre Sts. with a dwelling thereon; the son sold the west section of this lot to John C. Ordway of Loudon <sup>who</sup> ~~and he~~ built a home there about 1832. Mr. Ordway was a farmer and so he built a large barn on the place. His house had the brick oven still in general use for cooking at this period, and his water supply was piped from the springs so plentiful on the hill slope beyond present Spring St. The Ordway water system was unusually up-to-date, with a pump in the cellar, and so efficient was it that the family used it until the eighties some time after Long pond water was made available to the city. When the lot was cleared for the State Library, the Ordway house was removed to Perkins Court in Fosterville. The John J. Ayer house was torn down to make way for the Parish House on Centre St.

Pictures taken from the State House dome years ago, show the old houses along Centre St. east of State St. The first picture shows the spire of St. Paul's Church in the left foreground and on the extreme right is the wide white gable end of the Porter Blanchard house which became Dr. Haynes's Water Cure and is now the Commercial House. Next west is the Chaffin house little changed today. Picture 2 gives a wider view of Centre St. with a bit of the Porter Blanchard house on the right and the Chaffin house next west. Close at the left of the church spire stands the

Isaac Bradley house and the second house west of that is the brick house built by Benjamin Parker. In the lower left hand corner is the old John J. Ayer house on the south side of Centre St. and next east is the house still standing at 17 Centre St. To the east, and on the corner of old time Church Lane, is the house built by Nathan S. Chandler for his home (No. 13) and across the Lane is the house (partly hidden by the spire) torn down (1950) to make parking space on the west side of Brown Road.

On Main St. (east side) the tip of the spire touches the home of Dr. McFarland and next north of that is the Dr. Samuel Morrill house which at an earlier period was the home of Rev. Israel Evans. Opposite these houses stands the original Court House and farther to the north rises the white spire of the First Church built on the corner of Washington St in 1842. Immediately beyond the Court House may be seen the rear of the Stickney Tavern buildings,

The third view looks north along State St. and shows the long block now standing on the northwest corner of Centre St., built by Aaron Morse and later the property of U.S. Senator Gallinger who made his home in the south tenement. Across State St. is the home of Cyrus Hill with the garden which is now the site of Capital Apartments. Directly opposite and on the southeast corner of State and Centre Sts. is the home of William Walker and next east is the Ordway house and in the lower right hand corner is the John J. Ayer house. All these houses on the south side of Centre St. were removed to make way for the State Library.

The homestead property of Capt. Richard Ayer originally extended from the main street west to the vicinity of Green St. In 1826 he sold the section west of State St. to a cabinet maker named Eliot Hill who built (1829) a house on the southwest corner of State and Centre. Shortly thereafter he sold the place to William Gault, trader and eventually the north half of this two-family dwelling was purchased by Peter Dudley, one of the famous stage drivers and proprietors of his day. This was the

family home for years to come.

Our picture shows this house as somewhat ambitious in style for the time, with a backyard which, in the thirties, extended west to Green St. In 1846 a lot was sold on the Green St. corner of this backyard and the Free-Will Baptist Society built its first church there. A part of its east wall shows at the right hand of the picture. Next south of the house may be seen the William Restieaux house already described. In later years the Gault-Dudley house was moved to the south side of Rumford Court to make way for building the Bishop's House and, in its turn, the Bishop's House was moved to its present location for the building of the N.H. Historical Society.

Green St. in the thirties had a sizable brook which had its source west of Union St. and flowed under the site of our City Building. Crossing School St. just west of the present Telephone Exchange, it continued across Pleasant St. where its bed is now used as a sewer and, in a course generally to the south it flowed through the glen west of Margaret Pillsbury Hospital. Years ago, according to George H. Silsby, road repairs made near his home at 51 Pleasant St., uncovered an old corduroy road eight or ten feet below the surface, indicating the old level of the brook bed.

In the thirties Green St. saw several new houses built. Enos Blake and Isaac Emery built a two-family house on the north corner of Prince St. which stood until the lot was needed for the Public Library. Elliot Chickering, a shoe manufacturer at No. 2 Williams Block, built the house still standing on the southwest corner of School St. and our picture shows it as it looked originally. At 26 Green St. stands a house attributed to Ephraim Hutchins who, according to tradition, planted the handsome elm which shadows the house. The house was built facing the south but when Thomas W. Young purchased it for his home soon after 1840, he moved it to its present position and did some remodelling. His son, Henry Young (b. 1845) well remembered the brook which flowed where Blake St. now is

and supplied the vats for Breed's tanyard. He also recalled an exciting day in this neighborhood when a buffalo escaped from a circus exhibit and charged along Green St. where he and other children were playing. The animal turned the corner and ran up the hill to Fruit St. where it was finally captured in an open shed.

Stephen Breed, the tanner, built one of the early brick houses in town facing State St. on the north corner of present Blake St. It now stands as the ell of the house at 7 N. State St. with its beautiful door facing Blake St. In the low land west of the house stood the tannery where "deer skins and wash leather are dressed", according to the 1830 Directory. Although the brook was near, additional water was needed at times and this was supplied by log pipes from a spring at the northeast corner of Rumford and School Sts. At one time the N.H. Statesman and State Journal was printed in a chamber over this tannery, on a power press run by a steam engine. The forms of the paper were made up at an office on Main St and carried to the tannery. Capt. Stephen Breed held his commission in the Light Infantry Company of the State militia.

In 1826 Enos Blake came to Concord from Methuen, Mass. to enter the tanning business with Cyrus Robinson of East Concord. In 1835 he moved to Concord, having purchased the Breed property. A long wooden ell then extended west from the brick house to a barn and the house was sufficiently roomy to afford quarters for two families. In later years Mr. Blake built the house at No. 7 and moved the old brick house to its present location. Tradition tells that it was Mr. Blake who suggested the unusual cemetery name "Blossom Hill." He was one of the commissioners appointed to lay out the new cemetery and when plans were made to transform this hillside pasture into a city for the dead, he advised: "Let the paths and drives follow the paths 'Old Blossom' took." This was done and quite naturally the name Blossom Hill was established.

The northwest corner of Pleasant and State Sts. has been entirely changed within a lifetime. The old Farrington house was the first to go

to make room for the Wonolancet Club. In the early thirties this old house was still the home of Madam Israel Evans. In 1831 she sold a lot directly north of her house to Samuel Evans who sold "English and W. I. Goods" at No. 2 Leach's Block. Mr. Evans built a house on his new lot but shortly sold it to a newcomer in town by the name of Nathaniel P. Rogers. Rogers was a leading abolitionist and had left a prosperous law practice in Plymouth to become editor of "The Herald of Freedom" published in Concord. He probably lived in this house during his first years in Concord.

Nathaniel P. Rogers was a graduate of Dartmouth college in the class of 1816—a man of brilliant mind and genuine culture. The Herald of Freedom was an anti-slavery publication and Rogers was an extremist in his opposition to slavery. It is said that his editorials were much quoted in the press of his time and made him second only to William Lloyd Garrison in his influence for the abolitionist cause. In spite of the unpopularity of his views, such were his qualities of mind and heart that Concord citizens held him in high esteem, even though they might deplore his activities. At his death in 1846, he was buried in the Old Burying Ground and, at his own request, no stone marked his grave because slavery still existed in the nation.

One of the local associates of Mr. Rogers in the abolitionist cause was Parker Pillsbury. As an example of the extravagant spirit typical of the movement, the resolutions presented by Mr. Pillsbury for adoption at an anti-slavery convention in 1848, are illuminating:

"Resolved, That our Constitution is a covenant with death, our Union an agreement with Hell—binding the people of all the States to sustain and support the slave-breeding, slave-trading and slave-holding of the South.

"Resolved, That such a government is treason to the Majesty of Heaven, rebellion against the government of God—and to vote under it or hold office in it, knowing its character, is a crime scarcely less than blasphemy

against the Holy Ghost.

"Resolved, That the mass of our ministers are monsters in human form boasting that they have power to abolish slavery in one single year and yet sanctifying and supporting it from year to year."

If such were the spirit of George Thompson, the Englishman, who attempted to lecture Concord people upon the duty of the United States to the slaves, in the year 1835, small wonder that an excitable group of resentful citizens were fired with mob hatred against him and his sponsors. (see Chapter XXIX)

Aaron Morse, master builder of the American House, built his own home next north of the Evans-Rogers house and it stands today very much as it looked in his time. The old picture shows some interesting details in the original house. The next picture is an old one of the Enos Blake house and next north may be seen the Perkins Gale house which stood on the site of the Baker Memorial Church. With these old pictures and one of the Evans-Rogers house as a guide, Mrs. Marjorie Rowell Sturm has reconstructed this block of houses in her drawing, so that we may know how this section of N. State St. looked before 1840. Perkins Gale was sheriff of Merrimack County in that day and his house was built for two families.

North of Warren St. and on the site of the Y.M.C.A. stood two old houses. Our picture is poor but it gives an idea of this corner in the old days. Only a gable of the northerly house shows but it was apparently large and with brick ends. It was a two family house, the property of J.C. Dunklee who lived in the south half while Baruch Biddle lived in the north half. In 1833 Moses G. Atwood was the owner, being partner with Asa McFarland Jr., in 1826, in the firm publishing the Statesman. Next north of the Y.M.C.A. stands the house built in the early thirties by William Fisk who moved down from West Village. According to the 1834 Directory he kept a boarding house.

In 1832, Abel Hutchins "by reason of increasing years" according to

"surrendered his tavern (the Phenix)" to his son Ephraim, and retired to a private dwelling on State St. where he spent the remainder of his life in tranquillity: cultivating his garden, and taking a walk, with staff in hand, and spectacles on, to the old tavern stand, for the purpose of meeting old friends and obtaining the news of the day." Abel Hutchins's new home stands next north of the Fisk house and our portrait shows the fine old gentleman as Dr. Bouton knew him.

For sixty-seven years Abel Hutchins and his wife, Elizabeth Partidge lived together in Concord, rearing their family of five sons and eight daughters and then enjoying an old age of peace and happiness. Daily (so one of his grandchildren tells) the genial old man followed a winding foot path from State St. across the vacant lot which had once been Taverer Gale's garden, down to the main street and the Phenix which was still the center of his thought and interest; daily, at noon he returned to the center of his affections - his new home - saying whimsically to some clinging grandchild: "Here comes Grandma's boarder." When calling on the neighbors it was his quaint custom to announce himself thus - "Here come Cane and Abel." When the day came for Abel Hutchins to be gathered to his fathers, he and his wife were separated by a few days only.

Next north of the Hutchins house stands the old home of Capt. Seth Eastman (21 N. State St.) who, in 1834, kept a jeweller's store opposite the Columbian Hotel on the main street. He was a descendent of the pioneer, Capt. Ebenezer Eastman, and began business at the old stand of Robert Davis on the north corner of Franklin St. At that time (1830) he married a daughter of Capt. Enoch Coffin at the North End. Capt. Eastman's commission was in 1st Company, Infantry, in the militia. Next north of his house stood the George Hough mansion house (site of Christian Science Church) and then in order, the Bell School house and the new Unitarian Church already described.

In 1833 five Scotch lassies, the Kirkwood sisters, came to Concord:

Elizabeth, Abigail, Sarah, Ann and Emily. It was the time when the old Gale tavern property was being sold in house lots and Warren St. was opened. The Kirkwoods bought the lot on the southeast corner of Warren and State and built the substantial house shown in our picture. In the rear of this house may be seen one of the dwellings constructed from lumber in the Gale tavern. For some years Ann and Emily Kirkwood carried on a school for girls in their home. Somewhat less than ten years later the school was closed and the property sold. It is said that these sisters were nieces of Mrs. Paul Wolfe. In later years John Kimball, one of Concord's most prominent citizens, became owner of the house which he modernized and made his home till the end of his days. In 1928 the old house was again transformed by building stores into its ground floor. It bears no resemblance today to our picture.

South of Pleasant St. there was less development during the early thirties and this section continued to be for the most part, a place for small farms. At 26 S. Spring St. stands the house shown in our picture, once the farm house of Elisha Morrill who married Eleanor Varnum (b. 1812) daughter of taverner Gale. The Gale farm to which the family moved after leaving the tavern, was adjacent on the west and both farms became the property of the State Hospital. Prior to 1835, the south part of the Morrill farm extended to the "Bog Road" (Clinton St.) and this part later became the farm of Cady Clark whose house seems to have been the ell of the present house at 68 South St. Originally this ell had the ancient type long, slanting roof on its north side with eaves down to the first story and the front door was on the south side. The main house today is a later addition.

At 12 South St. stands the first residence on the street as distinguished from scattered farm houses. Sampson Bullard invested in land in this vicinity and built this house hoping to stimulate further building. He sold his brick house on S. Main St. in 1834 and probably moved into

the new house on South St. about that time. He was still living there in 1844 but in the summer of 1849 the place was sold to Gov. Nathaniel B. Baker. Still later it became the property of Alonzo Downing.

Farther down the street and on the site of the United Baptist Church stood the house shown in our picture. It was the home of Asa Parker, a brick maker, who built it on one of the lots originally a part of the Thomas W. Thompson estate (Dea. George Abbot's old farm) some time before 1835. After William Manley Carter retired from managing the Elm House, he purchased this place for his home. To make room for the church, the house was moved ~~farther~~ to the east and in more recent years it has been somewhat remodelled.

The development of the newly opened section of State St. south of Pleasant St. under the impetus of Nathan Call's enterprise, was a feature of the early thirties. Hiram F. Merrill of Hopkinton bought one of the new lots and built a house on the site of 6 S. State St. In 1835 he sold it to W. W. Estabrook and in 1854, Dea. Benjamin Damon whose home on the corner of Main and School Sts. had recently burned, purchased the State St. house and made his home there. Tradition says that this old house now stands at 23 Thorndike St.

Early in the thirties, Nathan Call sold to Col. William A. Kent who lived on the site of South Church, the lot lying east of the Kent garden and there, on the site of 2 S. State St., his sister Madam Evans built a small house in 1836 into which she moved from the old Farrington house. After her death, her nephew, William Kent, occupied the house.

On the east side of State St. two houses stand side by side which show two distinct periods of architecture. The two-family house at No. 13-15 was built low on the ground with narrow eaves. This was once the home of David Davis, the merchant, who in later years built the more modern house next north—a house with gable end to the street, high-posted rooms and wider eaves and a front door placed at one side rather than in the

iddle. This is the type of house popular in the forties, at least in Concord. A two family house with brick ends and rather imposing in style for its time, stands at 17-19 S. State St. It seems to have been built by Elisha Morrill who bought this lot in 1832. Directly opposite and on the corner of Wall St. is a house of the early forties when high-posted rooms and long, low windows were in vogue. It was built by Caleb Parker.

We have a picture of the neighborhood looking north on State St. from Pleasant St., taken at a later period. It recalls the days when this entire section was residential. The house on the left is the Evans-Rogers house and the one on the right is the old Judge Bellows house which is standing today at 20-22 Broadway.

At the North End the old house on the south corner of Washington St. and the main street had been changed from commercial use to a residence. This corner land had originally been West property but came into possession of the Abbot family. A descendent of George Wilkins, the joiner, who married into the Shute family at the South End, recently discovered an old "Agreement" dated April 6, 1825, between "George Wilkins on the one part and John D. Abbot on the other", calling for alteration and finishing of "the building situated on the corner of Prison & Main Streets for a Dwelling House." The Agreement called for "The front entry and Parlour to be finished in every respect equal to Gen. Low's." Gen. Low was Abbot's brother-in-law. The contract called for a "front door, in the same manner and style as Mr. Breed's is finished".

The accompanying cut shows the design of the beautiful doorway of the Breed house on Blake St. and comparison with the Abbot house doorway shows that George Wilkins copied it faithfully. The Low house moved from its original lot on Main St. to 51-53 School St. has been entirely changed but doubtless its "front entry and Parlour" were once like those in the Abbot house today. In 1826 Lemuel Barker, former host at Washington Tavern, was living in the handsomely renovated Abbot house.

Our picture of this house and the similar one next south(see Chapter XXX)was taken before fire destroyed the First Congregational Church. The second of these houses was built by R.H.Sherburne about 1830. He was in the printing and bindery business and the year before, he had leased from Isaac Hill the old building where the Patriot had long been published(site of Emmons Store). In 1844 Hugh and James Moore came to Concord from Goffstown and became proprietors of the Washington Tavern(site of Rumford Arms). Hugh Moore purchased the the narrow lot between the West homestead and the Sherburne house and there he built a home which may be seen in the picture of the West house(Chapter XXX). In 1849 James Moore purchased the Sherburne house. In the rear of these two Moore houses stood a barn built by Sherburne with a pass way(now Rollins St.) from Washington St. used in common by the two householders. The site of Hugh Moore's house is now included in West Garden \*

The North End had a new doctor in the person of Ezra Carter 2d, son of Squire Timothy Carter of West Parish. After receiving his degree at Bowdoin college he returned to Concord but shortly after moved to Loudon. Two years later(1828) he came back to Concord and in 1830 married a Portsmouth girl, Abby T. Clark. Their first home was in the Joshua Abbot house(site of First Church)but in 1833 they moved across Washington St. to the John D. Abbot house and the Doctor placed his sign on the north wall near the front of the house. It was an oblong board edged with narrow moulding, painted black with "Dr. Carter" in gilded letters. The sign remained for nearly a century and the gilded letters grew dim, for after Dr. Ezra died his son, Dr. William G. Carter, succeeded him. The latter is best remembered as long time organist at First Church on the very fine organ which he helped to plan. This organ was destroyed in the fire which occurred in recent years.

On the south side of Washington St. and west of Dr. Carter's, stands the charming little brick house of our picture. It was in 1829 that David

Allison, hatter, bought this lot "on Prison St. near West brook" and began very soon to build his house. One is tempted to surmise that John Leach designed the house because it is so superior to most of the houses of that day. Mary Ann Allison "single" lived in the house and was probably a daughter of the builder. She kept a dame's school in the forties, in the Joshua Abbot house across the way. In the fifties she sold the house to the Gilbert family who made it their home for many years.

One of the Gilbert daughters of a later generation, visited frequently in Savannah, Ga. and there she met and made a friend of, the daughter of a Presbyterian clergyman. Thus it was that the friend, Ellen Axson, came one summer to visit in the brick house on Washington St., and, during that visit, she had her photograph taken at Kimball's Studio as here reproduced. Later the Savannah girl became the bride of a young southern lawyer named Woodrow Wilson and in due time she became a gracious mistress of the White House. A picture similar to this in pose and general appearance, appeared in the Saturday Evening Post (Nov. 21, 1936) in connection with a series of articles by Mrs. Wilson's daughter, and with that picture is this quotation of a remark made by Woodrow Wilson to his children: "I put all the girls in the world in a row and picked your mother."

West of State St. Washinton St. takes a peculiar slant probably because this was a pioneer footpath to the west - perhaps the very short-cut which Reuben Abbot took to the scene of the massacre at Millville in 1746 described as "by Capt. Emery's, near the prison" in the summer of that tragic year. In later years Washington St. followed present W. Washington St. and was the shortest and least hilly of any route to Millville from the North End. The northwest corner of State and Washington St. is queer in shape and on it stands an old house which was built, in part at least, before 1830; by Jewett Bishop, a joiner. The west end of his lot adjoined the old tannery lot of Dea. Moulton on West brook at the rear of the old Prison. Near this house stood Bishop's joiner shop, a two story building

which has been moved and is now the dwelling house at 18 Chapel St.

At 52 Washington St. is a second house built by John Titcomb in the early thirties. Except for a modern roof it looks much as it did a century ago and its second story still has the many-paned windows. Originally there was a sizable barn attached to the house by open sheds after the old style. John Titcomb was born in Newburyport, Mass. in 1799 and came to Concord when only a lad, to learn the wheelwright trade with Lewis Downing. He began his apprenticeship in 1811 and ten years later he was carrying on his own business in a little shop which was evidently the one where Mr. Downing had begun business, next north of West Garden. Later he had a shop and perhaps his home on the lot next north of First Church on the main street and finally, after he moved his residence to Washington St. (Chapter XXX) about 1825, his shop was the building now made into the dwelling at 50 Washington St.

In 1836 John Titcomb formed a partnership with William G. Thompson and they purchased a lot on the west side of State St. where the house here pictured stands at 121 N. State St. Family tradition says the house was moved to this lot from the main street and it seems probable that it is the one formerly occupied by Mr. Titcomb and listed on Maj. Downing's map between Washington and Pearl Sts. In later years this house became the home of Rev. Elisha Adams whose great grandson now occupies it. The picture was taken after it became Adams property, many years ago.

On Tremont St. stands one of the very few houses in Concord built from the native granite. This house was built by Elisha Tubbs, deputy warden at the old Prison and his front dooryard was bounded by the Prison wall, since Tremont St. was then non-existent. Another stone house built in the thirties stands at 52 N. Spring St. and this was built by Joseph Wild, "overseer of the stone shop in State Prison" according to the directory.

North of the Adams house on State St. is the attractive and well-

preserved house of our picture. Built by Russell Hills in the thirties, it became the property of Osman C. Baker, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was instrumental in organizing the Biblical Institute which took over the old Meeting-house on the site of Walker School.

A short distance north of the Old Burying-ground, stands the house here pictured, on a lot which was once a part of the land owned by John Russ, the pioneer and which, after his death, came into possession of Abiel Walker's ancestor. Late in the twenties Abiel Walker sold this lot to Thomas B. Sargent, "stone splitter" and the new owner built this house some time before 1831. In 1847 it was sold to Rev. John Dempster, D.D., professor of theology in the Biblical Institute. It was probably he who remodelled the house with a steep roof, and enlarged it to provide twenty-four rooms some of which the Dempsters rented to Institute students. Our picture is an old one which shows a giant elm cut down in 1929.

In 1831 this neighborhood saw the building of a string of horse-sheds on town land close to the fence of the Burying-ground. Permission was granted to such individuals as desired this convenience on the Sabbath, and the sheds were built as private property at a cost of \$12. each. In the earlier years when the farm folk rode horseback to meeting, their horses had been sheltered in neighboring barns, but as wagons and chaises came into general use in summer and sleighs in winter, the protection of sheds was a practical necessity. In 1842 when the Meeting-house was abandoned, some of these sheds were sold to Richard Bradley who converted them into outbuildings at his home on Penacook St. The rest were moved to the rear of the new First Church on the corner of Washington St. where for forty years more they were used by the comparatively few people who still drove in to church from Diamond hill, Stickney hill, Little pond and Pine hill. The West Parish people had their own church and a little later the East Side folk built a church as well so that the need of horse-sheds at First Church was greatly lessened. Occasionally in rural towns one still

finds horse-sheds of this type standing by an old church building.

The sturdy old elms which still survive our paved streets are a reminder that our forefathers appreciated beauty. In 1832 there was a subscription made for the purchase and setting out of elms on the barren common about the Meeting-house. Later generations have rejoiced in these stately trees some of which still encircle the Walker School, but, unhappily, carelessness on part of civic authority has allowed too many of them to decay before their allotted time.

Farther down on State St., at No. 87 stands an old brick house in its original simple dignity. It was in 1831 that Reuben Wyman, "yeoman", purchased this lot of an acre with a frontage of four rods on the street and built his house. A few years later he extended his holdings back to Union St. and in the 1834 Directory he was listed as "butcher". The large barn on the place is said to be of more ancient construction and it may be a relic of the David Hall farm which, in 1810 when this section of State St. was opened, occupied the Court House lot and extended west beyond State St. Next south of the Wyman house is a house built by Sewel Hoyt which, with one of similar type at No. 52 across the street, was built in the late thirties. Edward Brackett probably built this latter house for he and William Gault bought much of the land directly west of the Town House (Court House lot) and in developing it they opened Summer St. during the thirties.

One old house of this same period stands at 73 N. Spring St. Prior to 1839 it was the home of Dr. Moses T. Willard, native of Bow and graduate of the "Medical College in Hanover", who began the practice of dentistry in Concord about 1835. Except for Dr. Elijah Colby who had practiced dentistry as a side line to medicine, Dr. Willard was Concord's first dentist. In later life he was mayor of Concord and at one time, Postmaster. In 1844 Nathaniel P. Rogers made his home in this house and in 1846 he was its owner. In still later years it was the home of Judge Ira Perley, resident