around a central entry. Its wood shingle wall covering and lack of classical detailing creates a more informal tone than that of its more ostentatious cousin.

Groveland Street was created in 1896 when the seven-acre J. Willard Rice estate was subdivided. The main house stood where the street now runs, and it faced Grove Street. The steadily rising demand for house lots in Auburndale at the turn of the century rendered several of the village's largest estates vulnerable to development pressure. **Cheswick Road,** running between Woodland Road and Commonwealth Avenue, was created in the same manner.

33 Architect George D. Rand designed **40 Groveland Street** for himself in 1902 while a partner in the firm Rand and Taylor. The dark-stained wood-shingle wall covering and deep gambrel roof identify this house as a late example of the Shingle Style, which achieved popularity in seaside resort towns such as Newport, Rhode Island, and Bar Harbor, Maine, in the 1880s.

34 The house at **60 Grove Street** (ca. 1896) is another Shingle Style residence. Paired Tuscan columns and a deck balustrade are Colonial Revival style elements which were commonly integrated into Shingle Style houses in this area. Design features shared by this house and 40 Groveland Street suggest that it is also the work of Rand and Taylor.

35 The building at **49 Grove Street** was known as the Nye Park Inn at the turn of the century. The south wall of the structure originally faced Grove Street. The Inn was moved (ca. 1910) to create room for Central Terrace. Steep gables and tall chimneys with corbeled caps emphasize the building's unusual height.

36 Auburndale's **H.H. Richardson-designed railroad station** (ca. 1881) stood just north of Central Street until its demolition to make way for the Massachusetts Turnpike Extension in 1962. The turnpike also claimed Nye Park, which was adjacent to the station, and Burr Park, which lay at the foot of Hancock Street.

37 The corner of Lexington and Auburn Streets has always been the center of Auburndale's commercial area. The business district first evolved to meet the needs of the residential population during the Civil War era. Known as the **Plummer block, 293 Auburn Street** dates back to this period and was originally capped by a mansard roof. Its "skirt" of storefronts is part of the original design, although the brick facing and angled plate glass windows are twentieth-century alterations.

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David B. Cohen, Mayor

Photos courtesy of the Jackson Homestead

Discover Historic AUBURNDALE

Today's village of Auburndale began as a remote district of farmland, rolling wooded hills, and marsh. Even as late as 1831, only seven families held title to all of Auburndale's land area. This all began to change, though, when the Boston and Worcester Railroad introduced passenger service to Newton, which ushered in a dramatic new era of development. By 1837, the railroad had been extended through Auburndale.

Auburn Street

As suburban development occurred in Newton Corner and West Newton, sharp-eyed real estate speculators looked elsewhere for more opportunities. In 1847, William Jackson and his North Auburndale Land Company opened up Auburndale for a new type of Newton resident - the suburban commuter. Jackson's company laid out many of the streets north of Auburn Street, a colonial highway established in 1729, and similar development to the south began almost simultaneously.

Auburndale's main asset, besides its favorable location for transportation, was the languid reach of the Charles River which bordered it to the west. The village was firmly established by the 1860s, and Auburndale residents and visitors looked to the river for recreation. Canoeing and skating were popular pastimes, and several formal boat clubs built boathouses at the river's edge.

River activity was greatly increased in the 1890s when the Newton Street Railway opened Norumbega Park, a 21-acre recreation facility boasting a restaurant, deer park, concert hall, and canoeing areas. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Totem Pole Lounge featured the sound of the Big Bands. Access from Boston by streetcar made the Park an immensely popular family playground.

Although adversely affected by the construction of Route 128 and the Massachusetts Turnpike Extension, Auburndale has retained an important collection of nineteenth-century architecture. This tour explores just one of Auburndale's neighborhoods, the Lasell Neighborhood, where several phases of community development are represented by houses ranging from eighteenth-century farmhouses to twentieth-century Colonial Revival style suburban residences. The tour begins at the **Plummer Memorial Library,** built in 1927 on the site of Auburndale's first railroad station, which also served as the village post office. None of the sites on the tour are open to the public.

1 William Robinson, Jr., whose father is considered to be Auburndale's first white settler, built the house at **473 Auburn Street** around 1724. Known as the **Bourne House, or Whittemore's Tavern,** the house exhibits several features common to simple, Pre-Revolutionary farmhouses. It is a south-facing, two-story wood frame structure with two smaller wings projecting from its north wall. The main section of the house is only one room deep. Rather than being organized around the typical massive central chimney, it has a pair of interior chimneys which are visible from the street. Each room in the main portion of the house has a fireplace on the north (cold) wall, allowing sunlight to penetrate through windows on the remaining facades.

2 Shortly after Auburndale was opened for suburban development, the Greek Revival residence at **33 Woodland Road** (ca. 1848) was constructed for Ebenezer Bradbury, the father of 21 children. Broad, flat pilasters at each corner of the house, a doorway with full sidelights and a transom window, and an Ionic portico, are among the elements which define the Greek Revival character of the house. The wooden fretwork set in broad, shallow arches between the porch columns is a rare feature, imitative of wrought iron ornament fashionable on more elaborate houses of the time.

3 Like the Bradbury house, the Greek Revival residence prominently sited at **59 Woodland Road** was constructed in the late 1840s. Its first owner, Reverend Isaac R. Worcester, was the editor of the Missionary Herald for many years. The symmetrically designed house was altered in the 1880s by the addition of bay windows on the north and south ends. An oriel window resting on pillars which frame the main entrance was also added at that time. The present doorway, with its elaborate leaded sidelights and transom, was installed at the turn of the century.

4 Constructed in 1857 from a design by architect Charles E. Parker, the Romanesque Revival style **Auburndale Congregational Church (now the United Parish of Auburndale)** is a village landmark. The main doorway and south porch both feature richly carved moldings. Covered in patterned slate, the spire rests on a broach (the pyramidal style sloped section which transitions the square tower to the octagonal spire) with clockfaces on each side of the tower. The open belfry below the clocks carries the round-arched theme established by the church's window and door openings.

5 Mrs. Eliza Harding Walker began the Home for Missionaries Children in the house at **103-107 Hancock Street** (ca. 1859). The widow of a missionary herself, Mrs. Walker devoted much of her life to providing for the children of missionaries stationed in outposts lacking health care and educational facilities. Brackets at the eaves, chamfered porch posts, bay windows, and projecting cornices over the windows mark this house as an example of the Italianate style. Evidence of the Home's continuous expansion is seen on all four sides of the structure, particularly in the three-story addition at the southwest corner and the two conical-roofed dormers on the front façade.

6 The playfield across the street from Mrs. Walker's house was the site of the picturesque Queen Anne style **Williams School** (ca. 1883), demolished in 1950 when the present grammar school fronting Grove Street was constructed.

7 The ca. 1970s wing at the northwest corner of the Queen Anne style house at **119 Hancock Street** (ca. 1881) matches the original section in scale, materials, and detailing, yet has a modern character of its own. This is a nice example of a new addition to an old house that is not obtrusive.

8 Charles E. Parker, the Boston architect who designed the Auburndale Congregational Church (now the United Parish of Auburndale), lived at **7 Williston Road** (ca. 1850, addition ca. 1865). The original section of the house is the southerly portion facing Williston Road. It was built as a gardener's cottage for the 70-acre J.J. Walworth estate, which included land to the west of Hancock Street. Parker, who doubled the size of the house with the addition of the north wing, was the father of Horatio Parker, a noted composer of church music.

The Bourne House, or Whittemore's Tavern

9 The gambrel-roofed brick building at **144 Hancock Street** was constructed in 1913 for the **Walker Missionary Home, now the Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange.** The institutional building's Colonial Revival design, choice of materials, and restrained detail, help it to blend well with the residential character of the neighborhood.

10 The five Italianate, mansard-roofed houses along the west side of the intersection of **Hancock and Grove Streets** were built in the 1870s and 1880s by Samuel F. Pickering, a real estate agent. Similar in plan and form, each house has distinctive trim and detailing. The generous spacing between each house is typical of the Victorian era, when a "garden setting" was a very desirable feature.

11 The house at **176 Grove Street** (ca. 1860s) exemplifies the hybrid character of many residences of this period. The Second Empire design features a bellcast mansard roof and front dormer but is combined with paired brackets, an ornate entrance porch, and double doors more typically associated with the Italianate style. Adjacent to the house is a picturesque carriage barn clad in board and batten siding.

12 Simple and elaborate versions of the Italianate style which achieved great popularty among Auburndale's first suburban villagers stand across from each other at **160 and 161 Grove Street.** Both ca. 1850 structures are clapboarded and feature the brackets, deep eaves, and rounded accent windows which are the signature of the style. Several additions are apparent on 161 Grove Street, which is part of the Walker Center compound.

13 The site of **Bragdon Hall** (ca. 1850, demolished 1973), which crowned a sloping, tree-shaded lawn, is visible from the corner of Grove Street and Woodland Road. Founded in 1851 by Edward Lasell, who was backed financially by a syndicate of prominent Auburndale men, the Auburndale Female

Seminary offered rigorous, three and four-year academic curricula which reflected Lasell's training at Williams College. The seminary was renamed in his honor after his sudden death in 1852.

Charles C. Bragdon, principal of the Seminary from 1874-1908, reshaped the curriculum by adding instruction in the domestic sciences. In this period, the goal of Lasell was "not to make bookworms or blue-stockings, still less to develop cooks or dressmakers or athletes, but to graduate first-rate, all-round women, full of practical knowledge for daily duties."

14 The house at **150 Woodland Road (Converse House)** was built in 1896, and represents a blending of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. Classical detailing in the design of the doorway, the Palladian-style window, and the delicate, Adamesque moldings are combined with a house form derived from the New England saltbox farmhouse. Shingled exterior walls and the three story turret-like bay on the Woodland Road facade are Shingle Style elements.

15 Both Converse House and the Colonial Revival style **Carpenter Hall,** located across Maple Street at **174 Woodland Road** (ca. 1895), are used by Lasell College as dormitories. Like Converse House, Carpenter Hall is a mix of popular styles of the day. The classical detailing of the front porch, pedimented dormers, and general massing are all typical of Colonial Revival designs. The imposing three-story tower on the right façade, though, is a Queen Anne style element.

Hawthorne Avenue and several abutting streets were laid out by Abijah S. Johnson, a builder who was active in Auburndale's first phase of development. These streets respect and enhance the picturesque quality of the landscape. Many of the successful Boston businessmen who moved to Auburndale were raised on farms before moving to the city, and they sought an idyllic, healthy environment in which to raise families. The railroad made Auburndale highly desirable.

16 The residence at **6 Hawthorne Avenue** (ca. 1936) represents a sensitive approach to a reproduction Colonial design which is in marked contrast in form and character to the richly ornamented Victorian era residences on Woodland Avenue. The Garrison Colonial Revival structure is typical of early twentieth-century interpretations of the style, using a combination of brick and clapboard to define its exterior elements and attaching the garage directly to the house through a breezeway.

17 The house at **39 Hawthorne Avenue** (ca. 1850) was formerly located at the southeast corner of Woodland Road and Hancock Street. When moved to this site in 1906, it was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style. The main door, windows, and front porch were probably installed at that time. The house was built for Reverend Jonathan Woodbridge, one of several ministers who retired to Auburndale in the 1850s, earning it the nickname of "Saint's Rest." Like several of his colleagues, Woodbridge had a sharp eye for real estate and engaged in profitable speculative ventures in the village.

18 Abijah S. Johnson's house at **51 Hawthorne Avenue** (ca. 1850) was probably crowned by a mansard roof when originally constructed. The hipped roof form did not achieve widespread popularity in Auburndale until the 1890s. The large six-over-six sash windows, doorway with sidelights and transom, and bracketed eaves, are features found on many Johnson houses. The kitchen in this residence is located in the south wing. It was the custom to place the kitchen in an ell or wing until the late 1870s, when the new Queen Anne style integrated that room into the main body of the house.

19 The Queen Anne style, commonly associated with large, expensive designs, was also suited to the nineteenth-century counterpart of the tract house. The residence at **33 Aspen Avenue** (ca. 1890) was an inexpensive, side hall plan design dressed up by a two-story bay window and a belt band of cut shingles. The house was owned by William Clapstick, a florist whose greenhouses were behind his residence.

20 Situated well back from Aspen Avenue, the setting of the mansard-roofed cottage at **55 Aspen Avenue** (ca. 1872) enhances its pavilion-like character. Its steep roof and shallow dormers create a full second floor. Patterned gray slates, a stucco exterior, and quoins which frame the corners of the house are elegant details more often found on larger examples of this style.

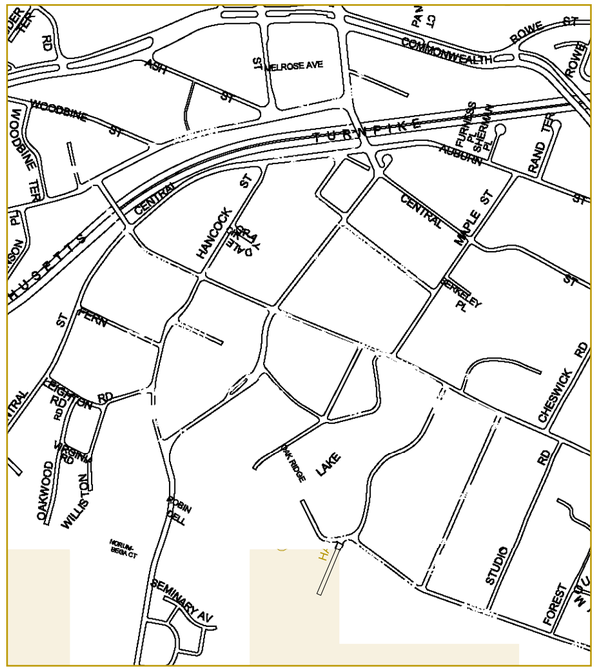
21 Next door at **63 Aspen Avenue** (ca. 1888) is a large residence built as a speculative investment by Abijah Johnson's son Frederick. The broad veranda of this late Queen Anne style design extends along both the east and west sides, and is supported by Tuscan columns.

22 The "Steamboat House" at **74 Vista Avenue** was originally a square, mansard-roofed, Second Empire style residence constructed in the late 1870s. The elaborate, Colonial Revival style porches and semicircular south wing were added in the 1890s and give the house its imposing character. A large mansard roofed carriage house is visible through the porte cochere, the section of the porch which extends over the driveway.

The castle at 53 Vista Avenue

23 **62 Vista Avenue** is an unusually elaborate example of the Italianate style for this area, as shown in the ornate three-story tower placed at the intersection of the two wings. The tower is not only emphasized by its added height, but also by the wood ornament surrounding its paired, round-arched windows. A turreted carriage house stands at the rear of the property.

24 Atop Vista Hill sits **53 Vista Avenue** or **"The Castle"** as it is locally known. The mansion was built in 1870 in the High Victorian Gothic style. Its patterned slate roof, multi-colored cement brick walls, Gothic windows and vergeboards, and complex massing and roofline represent the fullest expression of picturesque architecture in the Victorian period.



The Castle's most illustrious owner was Edwin B. Haskell, the owner and editor of *The Boston Herald* from 1865-1887. In this century, Lasell Junior College used the residence as classroom space before selling it for conversion into condominiums in 1979. The exterior of the mansion has been restored to its original appearance.

25 Poetess Louise Imogen Guiney moved to Auburndale with her widowed mother around 1885 to the house at **38 Vista Avenue.** At that time, the house was probably a traditional Colonial Revival or Italianate structure in design, as its distinctive rooflines and front façade were not added until 1925. Miss Guiney was appointed postmistress of the Auburndale Post Office in 1894, a position which she held for three years. Apparently, "the Irish-Catholic girl at the post office window became an anathema to WASPish orthodoxy," for Miss Guiney found the post office boycotted. This was a serious problem, as stamp sales were the principal source of income for postmasters in the 19th century. After the problem was resolved, Miss Guiney wrote "…I had some rough sailing, thanks purely to my being a Catholic: i.e., one who might likely at any given moment give over the government mail, and the safe keys to the Pope!"

26 The house at **15 Vista Avenue** (ca. 1872) was originally part of the Haskell estate. It is constructed of the same concrete brick and is a mix of the prevalent styles of the day with the general massing and mansard roof of a Second Empire structure, a Queen Anne style corner turret and balcony, and a Stick style front porch and porte cochere. The **Spence House,** as it is also known, is now part of Lasell College.

27 Next door, the Colonial Revival house at **5 Vista Avenue** was built in 1889 by Philip Butler, a fresco artist who worked with molded plaster ornament as a means of interior decoration. The ground floor rooms of Butler's house were a showcase of his work, with floral cornices, star-studded ceilings, and several varieties of molded wainscoting. Now named **Haskell House,** it is a part of Lasell College.

28 A fine example of the Georgian Revival style, the house at **221 Woodland Road** (ca. 1892) was purchased by Lasell in 1958 and is now the college president's house. The symmetrical residence features an abundance of classical detailing which includes a modillion cornice, fluted Roman Ionic pilasters, and a semicircular portico. The invention of machines able to carve intricate ornament made elements like the three swan's neck pediments over the windows on the main façade readily available, although still expensive.

29 A stone mansard-roofed cottage (ca. 1885) stands west of the Butler House at **195 Woodland Avenue.** Random rubblestone is used in the walls, and sandstone quoins frame the corner of the 1½ story house. A patterned slate roof and intricately gouged wood trim in the dormer windows and entrance porch complete the handsome design.

30 Across Woodland Road stand two houses of starkly contrasting character. The smaller house at **188 Woodland Road (Case House)** was built ca. 1865 by Abijah S. Johnson for his son Fredrick in the conservative Italianate style which he favored. Frederick Johnson achieved considerable financial success as a "weigher and inspector of hides" in Boston. In 1883, he erected a symbol of that success, the high style Queen Anne mansion at **204 Woodland Road (Gardner House).** Symmetry was avoided in Queen Anne designs as illustrated in the numerous projections, planes, and groupings of elements in this residence. Surface detail was also considered desirable, as can be seen in the variety of window sizes and positions on the house.

31 Maple Terrace was created out of one large lot in 1889. The original house, now located at **23 Maple Terrace**, was sited near the shingled house at 150 Woodland Road. The 1889 subdivision laid out six lots - three with frontage on Woodland Road, and three along the new dead-end street.

William A. Alcott, author of scores of books of "counsel and instruction," was an early resident of the original house. Alcott's "avowed object in life was the prevention of vice, disease and poverty, but up to the time of his death, it remained unfulfilled."

32 The house at **59 Maple Street** was built in 1896 by William Crane, an actor, for his two unmarried sisters. Like Lasell's "President's House," (221 Woodland Road) this hip-roofed Colonial Revival style residence is symmetrically arranged