served architecture including 18th centu-

ry farmhouses, a Greek Revival style

structure complete with monumental

portico, and richly ornamented turn-of-

the-century Colonial Revival. Queen

Anne, and Shingle style houses.

Twenty-three of the buildings and resi-

dences featured are listed on the

National Register of Historic Places.

The Waban Library and the businesses

located in the Strong commercial block

1 The first Waban Library was estab-

lished at the request of residents in

April of 1892. Located in Waban

Hall as a 'station' of the Newton

Free Library, it soon outgrew its

environs and hence moved to the

post office. Increased circulation

and lack of space precipitated sever-

al more moves, prompting residents

to establish a permanent home for

the facility. Through the efforts of

the Waban Improvement Society,

the local Women's Club, the Waban

Land Trust, and local contributions,

the present building was construct-

ed. Designed by Densmore,

LeClear, and Robbins of Boston, the

Waban Library was completed and

presented to the city in May 1930.

Located at 1608 Beacon Stree, the

library is distinctive for its steeply

pitched cross-gable form, granite

quoins at the corners, and half-tim-

bered façades under the eaves.

**2** The **Cochituate Aqueduct** was built

in 1846 to supply water to the rapid-

ly growing City of Boston.

Approximately 18 miles in length,

the aqueduct transported water

from a series of reservoirs in the

Framingham area to the Chestnut

Hill Reservoir in Boston. The

underground line is now a part of

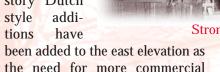
the Newton sewer system, though

joggers and hikers alike enjoy its

are the only sites open to the public.

32 William C. Strong commissioned local architects Bacon and Hill to design the Dutch style commercial block at 1637-1651 Beacon Street. An architect's rendering of the distinctive design appears in the Oct. 31, 1896 issue of American Architect and Building News. The crow-stepped gable extending above the roofline characterizes

the style. The "false front' store, a symbol of the Wild West, also evolved from Dutch style motifs. Tasteful, onestory Dutch



space arose in the 1920s.

33 The 1896 Church of the Good Shepherd at 1671 Beacon Street has an unusual history. The structure was originally owned by the Waban Church Corporation, a private corporation composed of members of the Waban Christian Union and the Improvement Association who realized the need for some sort of organized religion in the village. William F. Goodwin, a member of the group, donated his skills to design the Medieval Revival style church. The Reverend William Hall Williams was engaged as the rector. He leased the church for a yearly fee of \$200.00, and organized the present Episcopal parish. In 1907, the Church Corporation transferred title of the property to the parish.

34 The Frederick Collins House at 1734 Beacon Street is a splendid example of the Greek Revival style built just after Frederick's marriage to Amelia Revere in 1847. A monumental two-story portico with supporting Ionic columns transforms the street facade into a Greek temple. The facade is faced with flush siding, imitative of the smooth masonry construction of the Greek originals. Other distinguishing features include: pilasters framing the corners of the structure and carrying a full entablature along the side elevations, floor-to-ceiling triple hung sash on the street façade capped with shaped lintels, and an entrance framed by sidelights.

> The Collins family settled in Waban during the late 18th century. The estate was passed from father to son and in 1855 to grandsons Frederick, Edward, and

Amasa. During the late 19th century this section of Beacon Street came to be known as the "Collins neighborhood" for the row of Collins houses, of which only No. 1734 remains.

Real estate speculators developed the 200-acre Collins farm during the late 1880s. Ernest Bowditch, a wellknown civil engineer, laid out the region's hilly topography into several winding, complicated streets lined with large spacious lots. Prior to this period of development there were very few houses along this section of Beacon Street. The Frederick Collins House is one of the best preserved local examples of Greek Revival style architecture, warranting its designation as a Newton Landmark Preservation

Text taken from Discover Historic Waban. Revised and updated by Newton Planning and Development Department in conjunction with Newton Historical Commission. December 2005.



David B. Cohen, Mayor



he village of Waban was named after a Nonantum Chief who had previously resided atop Nonantum Hill on the Newton-Brighton line. This location is believed to have been a favorite hunting ground for Waban (the Wind) and his people. William C. Strong, a Newton resident active in Waban's development, suggested the name for

Colonial settlement was slow to come Waban Though settlers came to Newton as early

the fledgling village.

as the 1630s, more Staples Craft Farm than a generation passed before John and Rebecca Woodward established themselves in Waban. The couple received title to a 30-acre parcel of land as a wedding present in 1681. Eight generations later, family descendants continued to occupy the house John and Rebecca built. The structure still stands at 50 Fairlee Road, and today it is one of only sixteen properties within the City designated as a Newton Landmark Preservation Site. Other settlers soon followed the Woodward's, and by the 18th century several large farms had been established along the winding Sherborn Road, now Woodward Street and Beacon Street.

Throughout much of the 19th century, Waban remained a quiet agricultural region. As late as 1874, fewer than 20 families held title to all of its land. In the mid-1880s, however, interest in suburban developments near the Boston and Albany Railroad became increasingly widespread. Real estate investors purchased large tracts of land along the new Highland Branch of the railroad, laying out several new streets and house lots.

The completion of the Highland Branch in May 1886 was hailed as one of the most important events in the history of Newton. It stimulated suburban development around the Newton Highlands, Elliot and Waban stations, uniting these villages with the northerly Boston and Albany line via a connection at Riverside. Laid out along

> a looping pathway, the new rail line soon became known as the "Circuit Road." Henry Hobson Richardson, the architect best known for Trinity Church in Boston's Back Bay, was commissioned to

design the new train stations. The Waban station, completed in August 1886, was of rough cut pink granite, with a broad, sweeping slate roof. Since demolished, it was one of Richardson's last designs, as he died in April of the same year, prior to the station's completion. Only one Richardson designed train station currently remains in Newton: the Woodland station (although this station is no longer in use, it is still standing in its original location just north of Washington Street). Daily commuter trains linking the village to downtown Boston soon brought a steady influx of businessmen, professionals and tradesmen. These newcomers to Waban built houses ranging from simple wood framed structures to large, elaborate residences, many of which were designed by architects and set on spa-

The residences, churches and pub-

lic buildings featured in this walking

tour represent several phases of

Waban's development. The village con-

tains many fine examples of well-pre-

3 Eleazer Hyde, Jr., whose grandfather Jonathan was one of Newton's earliest and most prolific settlers, built the Georgian style house at 401 Woodward Street between 1720 and 1730. Designated a Newton Landmark Preservation Site in 1994,

grassy slopes.

the period leading up to the Revolutionary War. The main block of the south facing, wood frame structure was originally one room deep. Whereas many early houses were organized around a massive central chimney, the Hyde farmhouse has a pair of interior chimneys, enabling the placement of a central passage. This passage helped to define the public and private realms of the dwelling. 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. The house has been altered significantly over the years. H. Langford Warren, founder and longtime Dean of the Harvard University School of Architecture, occupied the house in the late 1880s and added the large rear ell. His appreciation of architectural history prompted him to leave the main façade relatively untouched, and thus the Hyde House retains much of its original appearance from the street. The house and its surrounding land figure prominently in Waban's development. In 1886, Dr. Morrill Wyman, founder of Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, sold the house and 150 acres of farmland to real estate speculators. The speculators, Charles Page and Frederick Henshaw, proceeded to subdivide the land into 87 house lots, creating the suburban neighborhood existing

the house exhibits several features

common to Colonial farmhouses in

4 Charles Page and Frederick Henshaw commissioned H. Langford Warren to design several houses in their subdivision. The distinctive Shingle style residence at 414 Woodward Street and the Queen Anne style residence at 389 Woodward Street, both constructed in 1888, are examples of his innovative designs. The Queen Anne style is typically defined by several architectural elements found in these structures, specifically their asymmetrical massing, complicated forms, and a lack of rules governing detail and proportions. Note how the



## Frederick Collins House

walls are composed of clapboards on the main block while cut shingles add visual texture to the gables. The house at 389 Woodward Street is a unique example in that it incorporates Classical features such as Palladian windows and entablatures enriched with garlands into the overall design.

- 5 Turn right at the corner to reach **703 Chestnut Street**. The design of this ambitious 1889 Shingle style residence is attributed to its first occupant. Lewis H. Bacon. Balloon frame construction introduced in the northeast in the 1850s featured uniformly sized wood studs. The technique made this house's complex, towered form possible. Its wall planes are broken with projections, recessed windows, and sweeping curves.
- the informal massing, half-timber work in the gable field, and bargeboards at the eaves that constitute the important features of 677 **Chestnut Street**. Termed Medieval Revival in style, the design of this 1897 residence continues the picturesque strain of architecture popularized during this period. Missing from the gable roof peak is a finial: a pointed, vertical ornamental treatment common to this house style.

6 Double back on Chestnut to view

**7** Although modest in stature, the house at 658 Chestnut Street features several noteworthy characteristics. Architect William F. Goodwin designed the house in 1888 as his residence. Four-square in form, the main block is capped by a low hipped roof. Triangular

shaped dormers allow light to penetrate the attic. The shallow bay contains thin mullion strips (which hold the glass planes in place) arranged in a decorative pattern, with a clapboard fan set into a pediment over the entry.

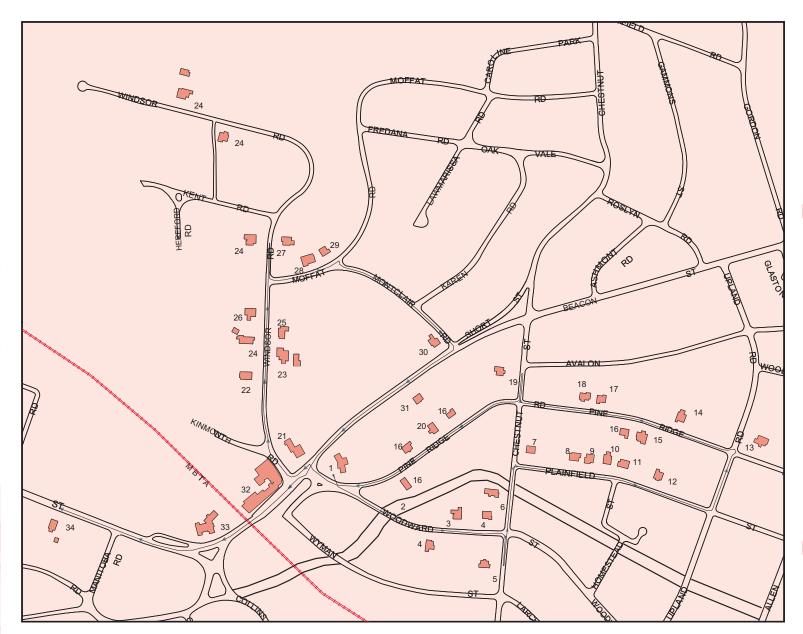
As Shingle style houses continued

- to be built in the 1890s, several variations developed. The off-street setting of the Ida E. Davidson House at 24 Plainfield Street, constructed in 1897, enhances the quiet, informal effect typical of later adaptations of the Shingle style. The broad gambrel roof is an important feature in this design, and is often carried down to the level of the second floor and cross-gabled. Architectural trim details are typically simplified from the ornate examples found in the Queen Anne style, but the Shingle style continues the Queen Anne style's tradition of asymmetry in form.
- A hallmark of the Shingle style is the use of natural or brown stained wooden shingles as a wall covering. Though the massing of the 1898 Nathaniel Knott House at 30 Plainfield Street is complex and more closely tied to the Queen Anne style, its uniform shingled wall sur face evokes a quieter appearance. Also typical are the curved forms of the bay and recessed window in the
- 10 Built in 1899, the house at 36 Plainfield Street demonstrates yet another variation of the Shingle style, characterized by its blocky proportions and broad, hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves. Also incorporated are popular Colonial Revival style elements, such as a veranda supported by columns and an entrance bracketed by fluted pilasters and capped by a cornice with dentils.
- 🚺 The Belle M. Wardwell House at 42 Plainfield Street is a catalog of Georgian Revival style ornament. Constructed in 1898, its wide cornerboards frame the structure and



- 12 Plainer, shingled wall surfaces are more often the rule for Waban's Medieval inspired architecture. This well-maintained residence at 58 Plainfield Street is a good local example of the style. Built in 1897 for tailor Charles L. Hovey, its overhanging second story, steeply pitched projecting gables, and diamond paned sash windows were popular themes of the Medieval Revival style.
- 13 Turn left on Upland Road for an example of a more architecturally correct reproduction of the Medieval model. Built in 1906 for George M. Angier, President of the Angier Chemical Co., the residence at 25 Pine Ridge Road is an impressive Medieval Revival style adaptation. Its distinguishing features include heavily scaled timber work, a clay-tiled hipped roof, and a Tudor style inspired arched entrance and end porches. Fashion increased the demand for Medieval inspired architecture after the turn of the 20th century.
- 14 Schooled to appreciate the picturesque Queen Anne style, architects often produced individualistic designs as they combined its features with that of the Colonial Revival style. The Isalo Pietro House at 59 Pine Ridge Road, built in 1897, is an elaborate local adaptation. The Colonial Revival style elements of this design are the cornice enriched by modillion brackets and dentils, and the column-supported porch. They are combined with diamond paned sash windows and an oriel window. The curved front porch and offset entrance reflect the freedom of the Queen Anne style form.
- 15 This conservative Medieval Revival style house at 72 Pine Ridge Road was constructed in 1902 for Donald 19 A late development of the Colonial

- M. Hill, a lawyer and active businessman. The steep gables embellished with bargeboards and bracket supports are familiar Medieval inspired motifs. The rafter ends at the eaves are utilized as ornament and left exposed.
- 6 The gambrel roof was a popular roof type in late 19th century adaptations of the Shingle style, and frequently comprised more than half of the total height of the structure. Constructed around the turn-of-the-century, the houses at 80, 151, 175, and 184 Pine Ridge Road feature this giant roof type. Appendages such as bays and dormers were usually kept to a minimum so as not to interfere with the simpler massing. Medieval style elements such as diamond paned sash or casement windows, or Colonial Revival style features such as columns and triangular pediments were often blended into the designs.
- The eclectic appearance of the 1897 Georgia C. Stetson house at 91 Pine Ridge Road demonstrates how elements of the Colonial Revival style were incorporated into a less rigid Queen Anne style plan. The mixture of ornament includes Colonial Revival style pedimented dormers, a Palladian motif window, oval windows, and a modillion cornice in combination with bays, oriels, a dramatically overshot gable roof, and a swept dormer reminiscent of the Queen Anne style. Such imaginative designs illustrate the way in which late 19th century Colonial Revival style designs deviated from their 18th century Georgian style proto-
- 18 In 1897, Bacon and Hill designed the Medieval Revival style residence at 99 Pine Ridge Road for George K. Heald. As with the design at 677 Chestnut Street, the half timbering in the gable field predominates. During the late 17th century, windows were often set in banks of two's and three's to permit more light to the interior rooms.



Revival style was architecturally correct adaptations of 18th century Georgian Revival style prototypes. The 1892 design of the residence at **627 Chestnut Street** follows the center hall plan, with two rooms symmetrically arranged around a central entrance. This figuration is characteristic of the more disciplined Georgian Colonial style architecture. The small paned 12over-12 sash windows, a Federal style entrance, and the portico with correct Corinthian columns are important details in the design.

20 Built in 1902 with its gable end to the street, the projected, shingled arch in the gable is a distinctive element in the design of this Shingle

style residence at 161 Pine Ridge **Road.** The gable was often a focus of attention in local adaptations. Other noteworthy examples include: 1558 Beacon Street (1890), **178 Nehoiden Road** (1897), and **24 Samoset Road** (1901).

21 The Staples-Crafts Farm at 1615 Beacon Street holds a prominent position in Waban's village center as a visual link with Waban's pre-suburban past. John Staples, Newton's first school master, built his house on this site in 1688. By 1700 his estate included a sizeable 93 acres and stretched east along Beacon Street as far as Chestnut Street. Moses Craft, a later occupant, apparently rebuilt the house utilizing its foundation, structural members, and hardware. The floor joists in the front rooms of the present edifice are notched on their undersides, indicating their second hand nature.

Like the Hyde House at 401 Woodward Street, this house was originally one room deep with double back chimneys warming the north, cold wall. An ell was added to the north elevation in 1769 as more space was needed. The entrance with sidelights and full floor-to-ceiling windows indicates a Federal period renovation. Desiring a stylish summer estate, David Kinmonth, a Boston drygoods merchant, had the gable bays and extended the verandah. He also added a dining room to the northeast corner, giving the house its present squared off shape. More recent additions give the building its rambling appearance. The Staples-Crafts farm demonstrates how the interplay of fashion, style and function affect a building over time.

ends clipped, added dormers and

- 22 After securing the rights of way needed through Waban to expedite the construction of the Circuit Railroad, William C. Strong intended to profit from its construction. He had Windsor Road laid out as a pleasant country lane bordered with flowers, gently winding to the top of Moffat Hill where he offered spacious houselots for sale. The foundation of this distinctive house at 48 Windsor Road was laid in 1888. The house, one of the first suburban residences to be built in Waban, was completed the next year. Its quiet shingled wall surfaces and massive gambrel roof are familiar themes identifying this house as Shingle stvle.
- 23 The complicated massing of the Sarah M. Crawford house at 55 Windsor Road demonstrates the enormous variation in house plans during the late 19th century. Built in 1897, the span of the roof ridge remains constant across the entire length of the building, while the complex facade contains gables, dormers and bays, with ornamental brackets, a dentil course along the cornice, and paired Doric columns.
- 24 Several elaborate versions of Medieval Revival style houses line Windsor Road at No. 62 (1890). No. 102 (1888) designed by H. L. Warren, No. 184 (1898), and No. 203 (1897). They are indicative of the style's popularity among Waban's first suburban residents, and feature overhanging walls supported by brackets, steeply pitched gables, oriel windows and diamond paned casement windows.
- Built in 1903 for physician

Lawrence Strong, the house at 63 Windsor Road demonstrates the early  $20^{\text{th}}$  century traditional look with its pedimented portico and shuttered windows. Using 18th century prototypes, Georgian Revival style house designs of this period became smaller and were simplified to the center hall plan. The sunroom, attached to the south elevation of this residence, became a standard feature.

- 26 William C. Strong, Lawrence's father, may have been protecting his investment as the developer of Windsor Road when he chose to build his residence there. Constructed in 1895, the house at 74 Windsor Road is a four square house in form. It illustrates several elements of the Colonial Revival style, including a wide veranda with a roof supported by columns, and a dentil course coupled with modillions at the eaves.
- **27** Complex massing with roof and façade projections is a characteristic of large Queen Anne style houses. The residence at 101 Windsor Road (1895) achieves this effect through an asymmetrical arrangement of gables, bays, a corner tower, and an "L" shaped verandah. The house was built for John P. True, an author, who wrote several books, among them Their Club and Ours (1883), Shoulder Arms (1889), and Iron Star (1899). His wife Lillian illustrated the books.
- 28 Head down Moffat Road to reach No. 187, a box-like house built in 1895. Its slate hip roof and prominent overhanging eaves reflects another trend of the Shingle style. Though designers abandoned the undulating surfaces and whimsical detail in the late 19th century, the deep curving reveals and diamond shingle motif featured over the main entrance subtly evoke the past.
- The main focus of this 1895 Shingle style residence at 179 Moffat Road is the gambrel roof with its gable-



**Woodward House** 

end set to the street. Its top-heavy appearance results from the projecting gable design, while bays and dormers are relatively shallow so as not to interfere with the simplified massing. George H. Rice, an employee at the Customs House in Boston, was an early occupant of the residence.

- Turn right on Beacon Street to No. **1545**. The gothic arched center gable supported by paired shingle brackets dominates the design of this house. Boot and shoe manufacturer William M. Buffam was a longtime occupant of this 1896 residence. This section of Beacon Street east of the Staples-Craft farm was laid out in 1702. The old colonial road turned north at Chestnut Street, as it was necessary to go around the 150-acre Alcock's Swamp to Newton Centre.
- The house at 1564 Beacon Street is an elaborate expression of the 16th century Elizabethan tradition. The half-timbered upper story and projecting center gable, edged with bargeboards and flanked by oriel windows, evokes a picturesque Medieval effect. Halftimbering at the turn of the 20th century was purely ornamental, consisting of thin strips of wood set between plastered panels on a modern frame wall. By adapting historic styles to contemporary standards, local architects maintained high degrees of accuracy in form and detail. Arthur E. Kemp, a salesman, was the first to occupy this residence, completed in 1896.