

until the present edifice was built. Other Catholic churches in Needham, Newton Centre, Wellesley, Lower Falls, and Waban were formed wholly or in part by this parish.

57 The barn/warehouse at 38-44 Oak Street was built about 1838 by Otis Pettee who used it principally to house wagons and draft animals needed to haul freight shipments to Boston in the late 1830s and 1840s the railroad he sponsored came to Upper Falls. The building became nationally famous as the "Stone Barn" when featured in the well-known syndicated column "Believe It Or Not," by Ripley. It features four stories that can each be reached by outside entrances. By reason of varying ground elevations there is one on each side of the building.



Old Stone Barn at 38-44 Oak Street

58 22 Cliff Road is a stone building which has served as a shop, storehouse and residence (its present use) and was

built about the same time as its famous neighbor, the old stone barn.

59 The Otis Pettee Square and Depot is named for the man described by one historian as "the principal factor in the development of Newton." One of the nation's pioneer inventors and manufacturer of cotton machinery - his exportation of such machinery to foreign lands in 1837 preceded similar shipments by his competitors by 50 years. He was associated with every major cotton manufacturing concern in the village at one time or another, from 1820 until the time of his death in 1858, gaining ownership of two of these companies, his own in 1831 and the Elliot Mfg. Co. in 1841. He was a leader in civic affairs as well - serving as the village's first postmaster in 1825. He sponsored and was the first president of the Charles River Railroad in 1852 (the year the depot was built). The exterior of the old station has been restored and the building currently houses a coffee shop.

Discover Historic NEWTON UPPER FALLS

UPPER FALLS is one of the six founding villages of Newton, and is believed to be the only village retaining the name acquired prior to Newton's separation from Cambridge in 1688 (early highway records of 1685 and 1687 refer to "Upper Falls").

Much of Upper Falls is now a local historic district containing more than 150 structures,



Upper Falls Depot

1 The first industrial venture in the village (the first on the Charles River in Newton) was John Clark's sawmill, erected on the east bank in 1688. This was soon followed, in 1710 and 1715, by a grist mill and a fulling mill (fulling is a process of pounding and shrinking woolen cloth). Upper Falls' role as the leading manufacturing village in Newton was quickly established.

In 1782, Simon Elliot of Boston completed the purchase of the mill site, and the older mills were joined by four snuff mills, an annealing shop, a wire mill, a screw factory and a blacksmith shop. These buildings remained here until 1823, when a company formed by Thomas Handasyd Perkins (Elliot's son-in-law) replaced them with a large cotton mill, under the name Elliot Manufacturing Company. Perkins was a noted Boston merchantman - the principal benefactor in the building of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the McLean Hospital, the Mass. General Hospital, and the Perkins Institute for the Blind. The superintendent of the new company, Otis Pettee, was among

many of which look much as they did in the early 19th century. In those early days, the village occupied a wide territory, including Newton Highlands (until 1865) and Waban (which became a separate village in 1891). Although grants of land were made within its

borders as early as 1634, its first permanent settlers were John and Rebecca Woodward in 1681. None of the sites on the tour are open to the public.

the first inventors and manufacturers of cotton machinery in America. The first building on the site was a foundry, built under Pettee's supervision. Not only was most of their cotton machinery built here but also that of other early cotton mills, such as the Boston Mfg. Co. of Waltham, and the Jackson Mills in Nashua, NH.

Cotton manufacturing continued here until 1884 when, after a brief interim in 1886, silk manufacturing in various forms took over, continuing with but one exception (a venture in wool manufacturing) until 1962. At that time, through various transactions, the buildings were acquired and adapted for the variety of commercial enterprises one sees in them today, and eventually became known as **Echo Bridge Park**.

2 At this point, the Charles River begins one of its two rapid descents within the village, dropping a total of about 23 feet. The river is said to have originally been named "Quinobequin - the river that circles around," by the Pumkapaog tribe of the Algonquin Indians, who

spear salmon and took shad and alewives from tidal waters below a natural dam in this area. Above the dam, fresh water fish were caught. Indian braves, bunching their canoes together, worked their way downstream using branches of saplings to sweep the river before them. Opposite this point, squaws stood on a submerged wall across the river, holding a net of woven reeds into which the fish were driven. The netted fish were dragged to the shore where they were cleaned and smoked over open fires and then packed away in caves for winter food. When these fishing grounds were sold, a clause in the deed (which was contained in all subsequent deeds) gave this tribe perpetual fishing rights. Later, when John Smith was mapping the coast of New England he renamed the river the "Charles," in honor of Charles I of England.

3 In 1893, both sides of the river were landscaped, creating a beautiful park which is now known as **Echo Bridge Park**, Newton's first park on the river. A colorfully lighted bridge, built in two sections, spanned the river from the Newton side leading to a broad staircase that ascended the rocky bank on the far side. A two-storied orchestra and refreshment stand fronted on a natural amphitheater containing rows of seats, surmounted by a dance pavilion 40 x 100 feet in size. Swings and merry-go-rounds entertained the children. It is said that more than 5,000 people came here on pleasant Sunday afternoons. In the evenings the grounds were illuminated including "the immense granite arches of Echo Bridge, the falls, and the beautiful winding Charles River."

4 **Cook's Bridge** over the Charles River still contains the old arches of the original "cartbridge" built about 1714. It is believed to be the oldest bridge spanning the river. It was named for Captain Robert Cook who purchased 40 acres of land in 1700 from the Indians on the Dedham (Needham) side of the river. The bridge was widened in 1897, using the original

stone "facing," while the sidewalk was extended out from the bridge on the north side.

5 Before the Perkin's enterprise began their operations in 1828 most of the old Elliot snuff mills and other industrial buildings were removed. Many of these buildings, built about 1785, are believed to have been moved here and made into **Workmen's Housing**. Only three remain today of the eight or nine original dwellings once standing on both sides of the street. The large building at **347-349 Elliot Street** was originally much smaller and was possibly used as a boarding house. It is considered to be one of the buildings mentioned in the sale of the mill property in 1814.

6 Of geological interest is a phenomenon described in books of geology as the "**Upper Falls Pothole**," the only such pothole in New England. A pothole is formed when a large stone is trapped in the eddies of a waterfall and starts to revolve. As it turns its grinding action bores a hole into the rocky mass at the base of the falls. The Upper Falls Pothole is unique because only a portion of it was torn away by the receding glacial floods. One half of it remained and can be seen in the face of the ledge located on Sullivan Avenue, opposite 324 Elliot Street.

7 Please note the long building at **344-346 Elliot Street**, now housing a restaurant. This building, considerably altered, is the result of two buildings joined together. The rear half was called the "back store" and, commencing about 1820, was one of the village's early "general stores," the first known to have been operated by partners Plimpton & Clark in the 1830s and 1840s and also as a store by Otis Pettee in the 1840s. Nearby a small building, now being used as a garage at **336 Elliot Street**, is believed to be the first post office in the village, with Otis Pettee its first postmaster in 1825. In the house at 336 Elliot Street lived Joseph C. Everett, cousin of Edward Everett, noted orator and statesman who often visited here. Joseph Everett

was the father-in-law of Dr. Joseph Huckins Warren of the Warren family of doctors. Dr. Warren owned and practiced in the building at 344-346 Elliot Street in the 1850s. During the Civil War, he was personal physician to President Lincoln.

8 The "right-of-way" (**now Sullivan Avenue**) off Chestnut Street is all that remains of an ancient highway laid out in 1688 by a joint agreement between Cambridge and Cambridge Village (Newton) from "the Village Meeting-house to the Falls." This abandoned section ran from a point at 324 Elliot Street into the old mill yard, originally ending at John Clark's sawmill. However, before the "cartbridge" was built about 1714 the old road crossed the river at a "fordway" and at some point on the other side, rejoined the old "parish" or "county" road that leads to the present bridge.

9 **Chestnut Street (Northward from Elliot Street)** was originally called "Proprietor's Way," and ran from the Elliot Street mill site to another mill site downstream at what is now Boylston Street. This "Way" included what is now Ellis Street. Chestnut Street was constructed from Ellis to Boylston in the early 1820s and extended to West Newton about 1834 when the railroad came to that village. Stagecoaches operated between the villages to connect with the railroad. Chestnut Street from Elliot to the Upper Falls depot was constructed about 1855, after the Charles River Railroad had arrived in 1852.

10 **1036-1038, 1044-1046 Chestnut Street** are both believed to have been built by the Elliot Mfg. Co., as workmen's "tenements" sometime in the 1820s. 1044-46 Chestnut Street was similar to 1036-1038 before alteration early in the 20th century.

11 **1034 Chestnut Street** is believed to be just as it appears - only one half of a house, and is thought to have been moved to this location about 1823. The whereabouts of the other half is

unknown. The house appears to be too pretentious for its original surroundings. General Simon Elliot, son of mill owner Simon Elliot who died in 1793, is known to have built a home on the snuff mill property after the death of his father and to have lived here at least part of the year. A "whole" house of this type would appear to be the logical choice of a country home for his use. If so, the date of its construction would be in the 1790s. Gen. Elliot sold the mill property to his brother-in-law, T.H. Perkins, in 1814. One of their joint business ventures was the building of Boston's first theater, the Federal, in 1794.

12 **1028 Chestnut Street** was the third school in the Upper Falls school district established in 1824. It was built in 1846 and used as a school until 1855 when it was replaced by the Prospect #1 School built that year on what is now Pettee St. A rapidly expanding school population forced the use of this building again as a school in 1881 (in an upstairs public hall known as Quinobequin Hall). The building was purchased in 1855 by Willard Marcy, who converted the lower floor into stores. It is the oldest school building still standing in Newton.

13 **1012-1014-1018 Chestnut Street** has contained stores for at least 150 years, and may be the oldest commercial building in continuous use in Newton. Loring Wheeler conducted a shoe store here for years, commencing in the 1830s.

14 **1003-5-7-9 Chestnut Street**, erected in 1846, was long known as the "post office block," fronting on an area called Post Office Square. It was the second location of the post office in the village. Among its early owners (possibly the builder) was James Taylor, originally from Maidstone, County of Kent, England. He was the sixth postmaster of the village in 1848. The building was built on the site of the second schoolhouse in the village. A one-room school built in 1818, and formerly located on the corner of Boylston and Chestnut

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Mr. Newcomb's book on the history of Newton Upper Falls "Makers of the Mold" is available at www.channel1.com/users/hemlock, or in hard copy at the Newton Free Library or at the Jackson Homestead.

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David B. Cohen, Mayor



Streets was moved here in 1827 and enlarged into a two-room school approximately 35 x 65 feet in size. Two teachers were employed and more advanced studies than those conducted in a rural school were taught here. It was the first such school in Newton and produced some of the first students that went on to receive college degrees. Too small for a growing population it was replaced in 1846 by the school at 1028 Chestnut St (Four previous district schools built in the years 1763, 1794, 1811, and 1846 also served the Upper Falls Village).

15 Second Baptist Church, Ellis Street, is the third oldest church still standing in Newton and was built in 1832. It began in 1830 as a joint venture with the First Congregational Church of Newton Centre, which thought at one time of moving their church to Upper Falls. In 1831 the Congregationalists built a vestry here but later abandoned the venture. A small group of 11 Baptists built a chapel in 1832 and dedicated the building in 1833. On Feb. 25, 1835 it was officially organized as a Baptist Society with 55 members, mostly drawn from the First Baptist Church at Newton Centre. The Rev. S.F. Smith, D.D., composer of the patriotic hymn, "America," was once pastor here.

16 Echo Bridge is an imposing structure built in 1876 to carry the conduit of the Sudbury River Aqueduct over the Charles River. It is 500 ft. in length and consists of seven arches, five of 37 ft. span and one of 38 ft. The seventh and largest arch (spanning the river) was the second in size on this continent at the time of its construction. It is still considered one of the architectural wonders of the east. The main arch is 130 ft. in span, the crown is 51 ft. above the river surface, and the top of the bridge (a walkway) is about 70 ft. above the water. Being only 18 ft. in width at the crown, it has a very slender and beautiful appearance when viewed from below. There is a remarkable echo within the arch - the human voice being rapidly repeated upwards of 15 times, and a pistol shot up to 25 times. The

aqueduct is no longer in full use, serving only as a standby reserve in case of a breakdown in the water supply from the Quabbin Reservoir. A beautiful example of 19th century engineering skill, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Metropolitan District Commission has jurisdiction over its maintenance, but the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority owns it.

17 Hemlock Gorge is a small but beautiful reservation surrounding Echo Bridge which has been set apart for the public by the Metropolitan District Commission. It was acquired by its predecessor, the Metropolitan Park Commission in 1895 (becoming one of the "jewels" in Frederick Law Olmsted's "emerald necklace" around Boston). Dense hemlock groves and rugged rock formations mark the banks of the river. From the west end of the bridge, at one time well-kept paths led down to the mill dam while others ran along the ridge parallel with the river before descending to cross rustic bridges over a small stream. The stream and pond into which it flowed were used by the mill owners to control the flow of the river during extra dry and wet seasons. Just above the banks of the stream is a ledge containing a cave long known as "Devil's Den." It was formed in what is called Roxbury "Puddingstone" or "Conglomerate," a mixture of pebbles and rock fragments which have been cemented together over time and which is unique to this area of Massachusetts. For more information on Hemlock Gorge visit www.channel1.com/users/hemlock.

18 6-8 Ellis Street is considered to have been built about 1820. However, it might have been built earlier by the Ellis brothers who commenced mill operations nearby in 1799. Among the later owners was Dr. Clarence K. True, first pastor of the Methodist Church in 1832, while a student at Harvard Divinity School. He returned to be pastor of the church in 1867.

19 The river, once divided into the West

Branch and the East Branch (creating Turtle Island), makes its second "drop" here, and was the site of several **Former Factories**. Early dams, north of the highway on the West Branch, supplied power in 1782 to Jonathan Bixby's rolling mill, producing scythes from bog iron dug in nearby lowlands. It was sold in 1799 to Rufus & David Ellis, who built a new rolling mill and called it the "Newton Iron Works. They added a nail and steel products factory in 1809. A new cotton mill, built in 1813, was destroyed by fire in 1850 and rebuilt as a nail factory in 1853. After other uses, such as a paper mill, grist mill, and a planing and molding mill, it was destroyed by fire on Oct. 7, 1873 and never rebuilt. A building built in 1888 near Quinebequin Road housed, the Newton Rubber Co., the International Tire Co., Leather Tire Goods Co., and the Acme Broom Works, before it was destroyed by fire on Nov. 14, 1907, ending industrial activity in this area. No evidence of these industries remains today except for a water power raceway on the Newton side south of Rt. 9 and a stone building (built before 1853) on the Wellesley bank.

20 Built in 1808, the **Worcester Turnpike** was the first major highway constructed in Newton. It made possible the development of Newton Upper Falls as a manufacturing center in the early 19th century, giving it direct access to the shipping docks in Boston. Its route across Newton passed through open country and only one residence was located on the highway beyond the village. Bales of cotton from the south and shipments of steel from foreign ports, such as Russia and Sweden, plus the shipment of finished goods were hauled over its surface. During the War of 1812, when all the ports were closed, long caravans of huge Conestoga wagons (called Madison's Ships) drawn by ten-horse teams, filled the highway. Fast mail stages provided excellent postal service to the village and points beyond. When the Concord coaches made their appearance in 1829, travel time for passengers to New York was reduced to 24 hours.

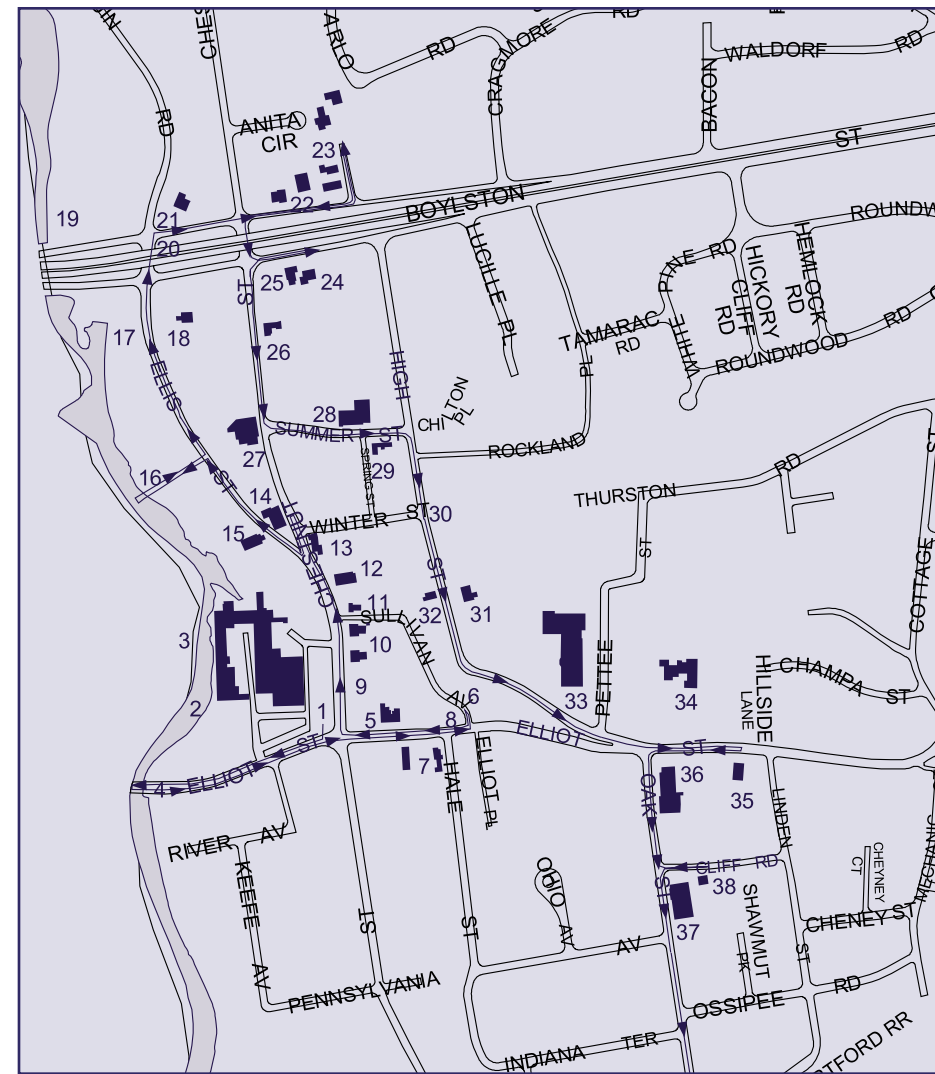
21 744 Quinebequin Road, built before 1750, represents less than one half the original farmhouse that once occupied another site around the corner on Boylston Street. Jonathan Bixby, the builder, is believed to be the son of Joseph and Sarah Bixby of Boxford, and records indicate "he married Rachel Hoburn in 1709 and had his dwelling place and farm at Newton Upper Falls ... on the banks of the Charles River." A descendant (possibly a grandson), also Jonathan Bixby, served in the Revolutionary War and was a member of the West Newton Company in the "Battle of Lexington." "His company marched 28 miles and were out four days." It was he who purchased land on the river from his father-in-law, Thomas Parker and engaged in business there until he sold the property to the Newton Iron Works in 1799. His son, Jonathan Jr., was one of the principal founders of the Second Baptist Church.

22 1267 - 1269 Boylston Street, a once moved and somewhat altered old tavern known by such names as Ellis Hotel and Manufacturer's Hotel, was built about 1829 to accommodate travelers on the turnpike and to house mill representatives and customers of the nearby industrial area. After its use as a hotel it became a two-family residence. Two other inns (since demolished) were once located in the village - a Cook's Tavern, located near the present junction of Route 9, Woodward, and Elliot streets, and Mitchell's Tavern (formerly Marean's), on the old pike when it was a flat intersection with Centre Street.



Richardson Road ca. 1970

23 12 and 16 Richardson Road represent two of the four once identical houses that lined this road before the widening of Boylston Street.



The other two buildings were moved to other sites in the area. All these houses are believed to have been built by the Ellises in the early 19th century for their workmen. The house at **28 Richardson Road (now 48 Arlo Road)** has a Mansard type roof not popular until about 1855. A house appears on this site, on 1831 maps, on land owned by the Cunningham family. In 1891 Ernest Cobb and his wife, Bertha, authors and publishers of children's books, established the Arlo Publishing Company here. Mr. Cobb was the son of Cyrus Cobb, who, with his twin brother, Darius, were noted sculptors and painters. They lived for many years in Upper Falls, Cyrus at 1129 Boylston and Darius at 1137. Because of their influence, Boylston hill was known for many years as "Cobbs Hill."

24 1272 Boylston Street was built in the early 1800s, possibly by Luther Cunningham. This house provided accommodations for drivers of stages and teams stopping at the old tavern across the road. It has an inside smokerroom, which is now boarded up.

25 1276 Boylston Street was once a combination store and church. The store's proceeds supported the activities of the church, known as the Church of Yahweh, organized in 1886 by the Second Adventists. The building was originally located on the property of Luther T. Cunningham, an early resident and the church's first and only pastor.

26 Luther S. Raymond, a local machinist built **954 Chestnut Street**, in 1832. This house is an excellent example of an architectural style repeated often in Upper Falls and surrounding towns in the early 1800s.

27 Many of the houses in the area of **959 - 999 Chestnut Street** are over 150 years old and several of them contained small stores, etc. **981 Chestnut Street** was a popular place in the early 19th century. As late as 1843, it was known as Captain Harding's Tavern.

28 The First United Methodist Church on Summer Street is the second oldest church still standing in Newton and was built jointly by the Elliot Mfg. Co. and the Newton Factories in 1827 for the Upper Falls Religious Society. It was Unitarian in denomination until 1832 when it was purchased by the Methodists. During its "Unitarian" period Ralph Waldo Emerson, later a resident of the village, preached here on two occasions. First Methodist was the "missionary" church to Methodist churches in Newton Lower Falls, Watertown, Needham Heights and Newton Centre.

29 6 Summer Street is a fine example of a restored home, built about 1835, possibly by a member of the Fanning family who operated grocery stores and photographic studios in the village. They also ran a large printing plant on High Street.

30 High Street was "laid out" in 1837 and most of the homes here are of that period.

31 51 - 53 High Street was built in 1842 as an Universalist church, the first of that denomination in Newton. It is also the fourth oldest church building in the city. It operated as a church for only about 7 years before it became a public hall with the familiar name of Elliot Hall. It was used as a school, for all types of entertainment, as a lodge hall, etc., until 1879, when John Howe had it turned a quarter turn and after alterations, made it over into a private dwelling.

32 54 High Street was constructed in 1842 to house the third fire company (the first was organized in 1820) formed in the Village. It was called the Mechanic #4 Company. It served as a

fire station until 1879 when a more modern station was built on Pettee Street. This building was converted into a private residence at that time.

33 The Ralph Waldo Emerson School on Pettee Street was built in 1904 at the cost of \$92,408. An addition in 1955 was added at the cost of \$355,791. This is the third school built on the site. Its predecessors were Prospect #1, built in 1855 and Prospect #2 (also known as Levi C. Wade School) built in 1869. The school was named for the famous philosopher and poet who resided in Upper Falls before taking up permanent residence in Concord.

34 The Stone Institute and the Newton Home for the Aged, named for its founder, Joseph L. Stone of West Newton, is located at **277 Elliot Street**. Formerly a mansion built in 1828 by Otis Pettee (early inventor, manufacturer of cotton machinery, and railroad magnate), the Pettee family occupied the home until the present occupants purchased it in 1899. The original nine acres was owned by Thomas Tolman, a shoemaker by trade, who purchased his home here in 1764. The day care center in the rear was added in the 1990s.

35 The beautiful Greek Revival style house at **260 Elliot Street** was moved here in 1909 from the site now occupied by the Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church. It is used as the St. Elizabeth's Center for various Catholic church activities. Dr. Samuel S. Whitney originally built it as a residence in 1838. Other owners were; Dr. Abraham D. Dearborn(e) (1844), Frank Barden (1855), Josiah B. Newell (1885), and Dr. William H. McOwen (about 1900).

36 Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church, located at the corner of Oak and Elliot Streets, is a fine example of the Italianate style and was dedicated in 1910. The first Roman Catholic mass in Newton was celebrated in a private home on Chestnut Street in 1843. Later, in 1867, the first Catholic Church in Newton, then called St. Mary's, was erected on Chestnut Street, serving