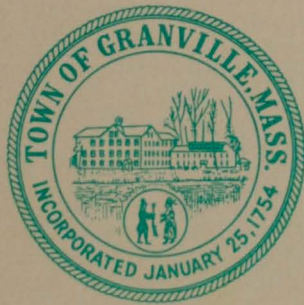


200th Anniversary Celebration

Granville, Massachusetts

Tour of Historic Homes &
Points of Interest



June 26, 1954

10 A. M. — 3 P. M.

Early History of Granville

Granville, like other small hill towns in the Berkshires, has a most interesting and noteworthy history. Originally it was owned by an Indian named Toto, who came into possession of the lands because his father and grandfather before him had roamed over them.

Tradition has it that Toto sold this tract to James Cornish of Westfield on June 10, 1686 for sixteen brass buttons and a flint lock gun. No price is mentioned on the deed, but it is believed a fair sum was paid. Cornish sold part of his holdings to William Fuller, and in 1713 both sold to Atherton Mather of Suffield.

Mather later disposed of the land to various persons called proprietors. They were men from the larger settlements who had money and were willing to speculate. There were 44 of them altogether. The amount of land assigned to each varied from 100 to 3,500 acres. Later these proprietors sold their holdings to people who actually became settlers.

The proprietors had certain restrictions placed upon them by the General Court. The conditions were as follows: "That the persons mentioned do within three years from the present session build so many dwelling houses thereon of eighteen feet square and seven feet stud at the least, as shall, with what are already built, make 70 in the whole; and have 70 families settled therein, and for each of the said families, have 6 acres of land brought to and plowed, or brought to English grass and fitted to mowing; and do also within said time, build a meeting house for the public worship of God, and settle a learned orthodox minister".

In 1750 a return was made to the General Court showing that there were then exactly 76 settlers residing in the township, and that a meeting house had been erected and that it had been consumed by fire, and a new one was "abuilding" and was so far enclosed as to be occupied on the Lord's Day.

The district was first called Bedford Plantation, but there was a town by that name in Eastern Massachusetts, so the name was changed to Granville in honor of John Carteret, Earl of Granville. On January 25, 1754 it was incorporated as a town.

The first settler was Samuel Bancroft of Springfield. He came with his wife, Sarah White, (a Mayflower descendant).

The next settlers were Daniel Cooley, Jonathan Rose, Samuel Gillet, Thomas Spelman, John Root, Ephriam Munson, Phineas Pratt, and Thomas Brown.

Later came Jabez Dunham, Peter Gibbons, Jonathan Church, and Asa Seymour.

Next came a group of 24 men with their wives and families from Durham, Connecticut. They were the Roses, Baldwins, Bates, Bartletts, Coes, Curtisses, Robinsons, Parsons, Swards, Graves, and Hitchcocks.

In 1750 James Barlow, Samuel Hubbard, Moses Goff, Titus Fowler, and Robert, Thomas, and James Hamilton settled in what is now Tolland, but then known as West Granville.

These early settlers never lost their pioneering spirit. They were scarcely here 60 years, when they began joining pioneering groups settling western frontiers.

1. Little Red Barn, Gorge Road
Owned by Mrs. Donald Dickinson

Here will be featured an assortment of iron utensils which were basic necessities in Colonial days. Too, there will be an interesting collection of fireplace equipment commonly used in Early American kitchens. Representative pieces of Colonial furniture will be attractively displayed about the room.

2. Granville Village School
Registration Center

3. Home of Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Rodiman
Maple Street

This house was built in 1868 by Mrs. Rodiman's grandfather, J. Murray Gibbons, on the land previously owned by Isaac Hardin, whose bequest promoted the idea of planting maple trees along the highways.

The Rodimans have opened their home mainly that the public might view their fine collection of Indian relics, most of which were from the tribes of Connecticut Valley.

You will enjoy their attractive living room of interesting antiques which are heirlooms of the Gibbons family. Peter Gibbons came from Boston to settle in South Lane in 1756.

4. *Granville Public Library*

Granville Public Library will be opened for registration from 10:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. where tickets for the tour are available.

The historical room has fine and varied exhibits of interest and value, including antiques, items of clothing, books and papers of historical nature.

The idea of the historical room originated after the Library Club received a \$1,000 fund from William A. Bailey of West Hartford for the purchase of historical books of Granville. This fund is a memorial to his mother, Ellen Henrietta Bacon, a former resident of the town.

In the basement of the library will be a display of early farm tools, implements, and equipment.

5. *The Baptist Church*

Upon entering this church one feels a sense of peace and well-being. Its simple loveliness makes the atmosphere conducive to quiet meditation, thus removing one from the cares of the world.

This edifice was built in 1849 by Silas Noble. The original one, built by Silas Root in 1824, was moved across the street and made into a dwelling-house now owned and occupied by Miss Lillian Vecchio.

The Chapel was added in 1889 for the regular Thursday night prayer meetings.

The church was organized in 1790 by David Rose of Middle Granville, Aaron Spelman, John Root, and Elijah Spelman, leaders in the "Separatists" movement.

Rev. Silas Root was minister for many years. Today, many of his descendants may be counted among the parishioners.

6. *Noble and Cooley Drum Factory*

The oldest and largest toy drum factory in the world is situated in Granville. Drums have been made here for almost a century, and hundreds of thousands are produced annually. The industry was started in 1854, when Silas Noble and James Cooley began making drums in the kitchen of the latter's home. They made or had prepared locally all the parts for their drums, including the calfskins and sheepskins for the heads, and the leather "ears" for the braces.

Few drums were sold at first, but presently several dozens were disposed of, and in a year or two the partners had to look for roomier quarters. Many military drums were made by Noble and Cooley, and most of the Massachusetts regiments were equipped by them. Although today most of the drums are made of metal, formerly they were principally made of wood, mostly chestnut, bass wood and beech. The better drums were made of maple and birch. Today the original name is retained and Cooley's descendants carry on the business. They have made about 1000 different styles of drums, ranging in size from tiny ones with paper heads measuring only six inches in diameter to twenty-two inch bass drums. Since they are designed for the toy trade, they are brightly decorated, with colored shells turned out like postage stamps by a machine designed and developed in the drum shop.

From: It's an old New England Custom.

By Edwin Valentine Mitchell.

7. *House Built by Jesse Spelman — 1804*

Mrs. Jean A. Yardley

This charming old place is being restored in the manner of an 18th Century House. At the present time, the restoration has not been completed, but the living room will be open for visitors.

Here will be seen an attractive fireplace with early Dutch tiles. Fine bolection molding frames the fireplace. This molding was copied from the Butolph-Williams House in Wethersfield. The fireplace wall is very lovely with its random width paneling.

This room contains many beautiful pieces of early American furniture artistically arranged.

Rev. George D. Felton, a Baptist minister, lived here from 1845 to 1865. For many years he served on the school committee. Tradition has it that he ran a "Cellar Kitchen Academy" downstairs in this house.

The present owner is an interior decorator and dealer in antiques.

8. *Mrs. Minnie Champlin Scheiss*

Mr. Robert A. Dowling

The Champlin Homestead, part way up Granville Hill, and imposingly situated from the road, is a large hipped roof house of

the late 18th century. Its architectural distinction is to be seen in its dentil cornice on the exterior, and a similar motif on the mantels.

The centrally located Palladian window carries out in a fine manner the classic design. The large stair hall is another important feature.

Levi Buttles, one of the advance scouts of the Licking Land Company which settled Granville, Ohio, lived in this house. Many of the wagons bound for the west left from here.

A collection of early American pressed glass, which has been assembled by the family, is on display for visitors.

The Champlin family has occupied this home since 1843.

9. *Dr. Timothy Mather Cooley*

Home of Dr. & Mrs. Louis Stevenson

The historic old Cooley Mansion stands imposingly on the top of Granville Hill. It was built in 1815 by Dr. Cooley, and he lived there until his death in 1859. The house was passed on to his daughters, then to his son Samuel, to Samuel's daughter Hattie, then to her son, the present owner, Dr. Louis T. Stevenson.

About 1913 the back part of the house was rebuilt. The original front part is exactly as Dr. Cooley left it with the exception of installing steam heat and running water.

Of special interest in this house is a little room upstairs used by Dr. Cooley as his study, and the adjoining one occupied by his pupils.

Dr. Cooley was born in Granville on March 13, 1772, the son of Sarah Mather and Captain William Cooley.

He graduated from Yale in 1792. A few years later he married Content Chapman, a half sister of Isaac Chapman Bates, the United States Senator, who was born in Granville January 28, 1776 and died in Washington, D. C., March 16, 1845.

Dr. Cooley's first sermon was preached in Granville June, 1795. For 63 years he labored arduously among his people. He preached over 7,000 sermons, conducted 1,400 sessions of Bible classes, received into church membership some 400 persons, officiated at 500 funeral services, taught over 800 pupils, prepared 60 boys for the

ministry, and was a member of the School Committee for fifty years. The vital statistics he compiled, and the Parish Records he kept are being used today.

When he was fifty years a minister, the entire population of the town turned out to help him celebrate his Golden Jubilee. The festivities lasted for two days. Sons and daughters of Granville who had emigrated to the far corners of the United States came back on that auspicious occasion to pay him their tribute of reverence and gratitude.

10. *The General Store*

Granville Center

Owned by Mr. & Mrs. Willard A. Tryon

Antiques, mostly early pieces, hand crafts, old fashioned candies, and many other interesting wares will be on sale at the General Store.

The windows, west wall, the counters, and front door of this building pre-date the Revolutionary War. They were salvaged from a previous store which stood across the street and burned down. The present building was built by Joel Root and Israel Parsons in 1805.

11. *The First Church of Christ Congregational*

The historic Meeting House standing serenely on the Green, serves as a symbol of the spiritual heritage of New England. It was built during the pastorate of Rev. Timothy M. Cooley in 1802 to replace the first one situated west of Regan Road. The latter, in addition to one "consumed by fire", had served the entire town since the early days of the settlement.

With two other new churches in the western villages, the present site was chosen for its convenient location for the members of East Parish. Rev. Cooley served for 63 years as pastor.

In the churchyard is a granite monument containing three plaques inscribed 1845, 1895, and 1945. It was to honor Dr. Cooley for 50 years of service that the Jubilee was observed in 1845, and adjourned to 1895. The Third Jubilee not only honors Dr. Cooley, but symbolizes the tenacity and unity of purpose of the people of the town to carry on and maintain the ideals of their ancestors, the settlers of two hundred years ago.

12. *Joel Root, Esquire*

Home of Dr. & Mrs. Holland N. Stevenson

Granville Center

This dignified and beautiful home was built in 1814 for Joel Root, Esquire, country storekeeper and man of affairs.

Prior to 1861, Eleazur Brown manufactured powder kegs in an adjoining shop.

The house is of great interest to antiquarians because of its architectural beauty and detail, its charming, spacious rooms designed for gracious living, its doors, and its fireplace treatment.

Many of the antique furnishings are heirlooms of the Rev. Dr. T. M. Cooley family.

13. *James Cooley*

Law Office

Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ledger

This small salt box house, dated about 1800, located to the east of the Cooley residence, was probably built before the large house, and its plan would indicate that he first lived there.

In its beginning there were two front doors, one to the office on the right, and one to the living room and the kitchen on the left. In the living quarters each room had its fireplace.

The quaintness of this miniature house is heightened by the door garden treatment of its present owners.

14. *Town Hall*

Rest Rooms

15. *Home of Mr. & Mrs. William P. Wiggin*
Barnard Road

This "mansion house" with a gambrel roof was probably built by Rev. Jedediah Smith in 1757 after he purchased the land from John Spelman. The latter acquired it in 1743-44.

Rev. Smith was the minister from 1756 to 1776, when he was dismissed for his political sympathies with the King.

The house was bought in 1776 by Oliver Phelps. In 1786 Phelps purchased the rights from Massachusetts for the Genessee Tract in western New York. The year following he made a treaty with the Indians of that region for 2¼ million acres of land. While here in Granville Oliver Phelps served as town clerk and selectman for many years.

This house has been in the Barnard family for three generations.

Among the interesting features are its paneled walls, fireplaces, cupboards, arch ceiling in one bedroom, and its cheese room.

16. *Mr. Joseph Kent Gibbons*

The Old Lilacs

Mr. & Mrs. William S. Pratt

The "Old Lilacs", with its gambrel roof, is a very early type of house. It was probably built by an ancestor of the Gibbons family around 1750. In 1840 James H. Gibbons and his wife, Philura Gibbons, father and mother of Granville's "Soldier Poet" occupied the place.

Both were teachers in the district schools before their marriage. The mother, a woman of unusual talents, was very fond of nature and art, and had the gift of expressing herself beautifully in words. Here, their illustrious son, Joseph Kent Gibbons, was born. He attended the local schools, but when he was sixteen years old he entered a "select school" taught by Martin Tinker Gibbons at Granville Corners.

All during his childhood, as well as his short manhood he wrote inspired poems. When he was twenty years old he entered the office of the Westfield News Letter, where he continued to write. He signed his works "By a Minor".

When he heard the news of Fort Sumter he was determined to enlist. This was against his father's wishes. He was in the army less than a year when he was taken seriously ill with disease, and died very suddenly.

Thus, at the early age of twenty-two, Joseph Kent Gibbons, patriot and poet, passed away from earth. The simple story of his life, and the many poems he has left behind him, are his best epitaph.

In the kitchen of this old home is an unusual indoor well, with a mechanism which extends up into the attic. This is worth seeing. Out back are many old lilac bushes which should be noted for their size and apparent age.

17. *Blueberry Hill*

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Guy I. Gibbons

The present owner of this house is a direct descendant of Peter Gibbons, who came from Boston and settled in Granville at a very early date. Mr. Gibbon's father, the late Mr. Benjamin Gibbons, and his grandfather, Mr. J. Murray Gibbons, were storekeepers famous for their cheese. They had a special formula for curing it and founded a large cheese business. It is now being carried on by the present Mr. Gibbons.

This imposing square house of the central chimney type was probably built at the end of the 18th century. A large number of interior walls are sheathed in native pine elaborately fitted in the tongue and groove manner. This paneling will be noticed to be both horizontal and vertical in its installation. The continuous front stairs to the third floor is unique in Granville. The attic is a further interest since it still possesses its drying and smoking oven and general workroom for weaving, spinning, and the drying of herbs.

The first floor of this house has seen changes in the arrangement of rooms, but to one interested in old houses the original plan can be ascertained. The rear wing of the house could have been the original structure built by one of the early settlers of Granville.

Laurel Display

Nature lovers will be deeply rewarded by a visit to Phelon Hill laurel display which since 1939 has attracted visitors from all parts of the country.

The Westfield River Parkway Association annually sponsors the drive to this hilltop pasture, pink and white with acres of laurel, and considered by some to be one of the best displays in Pioneer Valley.

18. The Ezra Baldwin House (1763-1766)

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Sterling C. Walter

This house was built by Ezra Baldwin who was baptized in Durham, Conn., in 1737, migrated to Granville in 1763 and, according to the chimney stone, completed this house in 1766. The house is of salt box type with a plank frame construction. It has a double overhang and the original windows of 6 x 8 panes have been restored in the same style. The original double front doors are still in place, locked by the traditional cross bar. A rather unusual feature is the paneled summer beam in the dining room.

The central chimney is of stone to the roof, with brick construction above. There are four functioning fireplaces, the large one in the southeast living room having a "beehive" oven in the right rear. The original kitchen, now used as a living room, has the customary so-called "Dutch Oven" to the right of the cooking fireplace. The fireplace walls on both floors are paneled. With the exception of the southeast living room, floors are the original wide pine boards.

19. Captain Aaron Coe

Residence of Mrs. Walter E. Polbumus

Captain Aaron Coe came from Durham, Connecticut, about 1750 and was one of the first settlers of Middle Parish. He was twice married, first to Phebe Parsons, and second to Mary Seward. His first wife died before there was a cemetery here, so she is buried in Granville Center. The first grave in the West Granville cemetery is that of Calvin Coe, small son of Aaron and Mary Seward Coe.

It was Aaron who gave to the Middle Parish the Meeting-House Green. For many years he was a deacon of the church.

Later he served as Captain in the Revolutionary War, and led a company of militia in Colonel John Coe's regiment, which marched in November of 1776 to reinforce the Northern Army under Lieutenant Timothy Robinson.

It appears the force sent out from Granville, to help General Gates, arrived too late to take part in the decisive Battle of Saratoga.

Captain Coe died in 1794 and was buried with full military honors.

The house he built was a large structure with central chimney and a double overhang. The hallway is particularly beautiful with its icicle carving on the stair paneling.

Upstairs in the northeast bedroom the 23½ inch wide boards are well worth observing. Huge stones form the foundation of the center chimney, and a trip to the cellar is quite worthwhile. Here one can observe the large stones in the foundation.

This house has not been changed from its original design. At this time the house is in the process of restoration.

20. *Curtis Tavern*

Home of Carleton Safford & Rudolph Hendric

The Curtis Tavern, built in 1765, was the home of Aaron Curtis and Hannah Griswold who were married in 1763 in Durham, Connecticut and who came to Granville to establish their home and operate the Tavern. The date and "A. C." are carefully inscribed in the stone of the kitchen fireplace. Five Curtis children were born here before Aaron's death in 1801. It continued to be operated as a tavern by the eldest son, Nathan, until 1840 when it went out of the family. Mrs. Curtis wrote in a letter to friends in Durham that she could watch the young men (including her husband) training for the Revolutionary army across the street in the "green".

The house remains almost as built by Aaron Curtis. The public rooms, the bar, the ball room, the old kitchen, and the private sitting rooms and bedrooms can be seen. It was restored in 1940 by its present owners and it is used as a permanent display in their work of period interior designing.

The house adjoining the Tavern is now used in the same manner. It was built by Nathan Curtis about 1800. The portico is a 1953 addition.

21. A Second Church of Christ Congregational

The Second Church of Christ in West Granville was erected in 1778. The land was given to the Parish by Aaron Coe. It is interesting to note that Belcher Noyes, the last surviving land administrator appointed by the General Court, gave to Timothy Robinson, Titus Fowler, John Hamilton, and Benjamin Olds, 519 acres of the "Public Lands" for the express purpose of having a Meeting House in Middle Granville. In 1774 these men sold the land to Abijah Babcock and the money received was used to erect the present church.

Reverend Lemuel Haynes was the first minister. He was brought up in the home of Deacon David Rose. Deacon Rose was the advance scout of the Durham group, and it was he who erected the first frame house on East Hill, West Granville. He received a one hundred acre settling-lot for coming here.

The second minister was Rev. Aaron Jordan Booge, who came from East Granby. In 1795 the Rev. Joel Baker was ordained, and served as a faithful and beloved pastor for thirty-five years.

21. B West Granville Academy

In 1837 an Academy was erected in West Granville. It was built by public subscription, sums ranging from \$2.00 to \$100.55.

Thorough instruction was given in all branches of learning, and no efforts were spared for the intellectual and moral improvement of the pupils.

The tuition for a term of eleven weeks was \$3.00 for the common English course, \$3.50 for the higher English course, and \$4.00 for French, Latin, or Greek.

Good board was obtainable within walking distance of the Academy for \$1.25 and \$1.50 per week, fuel, lights, etc., included.

John Warriner of Springfield was the first instructor, and Noah S. Bartlett was the second.

22. *John Phelps*

Home of Miss Mildred A. French and Mrs. William E. Rogers

Next to the Village Green, just west of the church, stands the large imposing Georgian home built in 1790 for John Phelps, first High Sheriff of Hampden County. This beautiful house was made of bricks especially pressed for it at a local kiln. It has four outside chimneys which is most unusual for this hill section of Massachusetts. There are fireplaces in every room, with an exceptionally large one with a Dutch oven in the present dining room, which was once the kitchen.

Here for many years lived John Phelps and his wife, Betsy Boise of Blandford, and their eight children. John was born in Westfield and was graduated from Harvard College in 1787. He practiced law here and trained many young men to become lawyers, the most noted being his nephew, Patrick Boise, who later practiced law in Westfield.

John and Betsy Phelps were a very united couple, judging from the inscription on their gravestone, which reads "Their life, their death, their grave were one".

Of special interest is the entrance hall with its archway and graceful hand-turned maple staircase. On the stair rail is the little brass plate, placed there in the old days when the house was clear of all encumbrances.

This house has never had any changes made to the interior. It is now exactly as it was built in 1790.

In the cellar are the remains of the cells where prisoners of the High Sheriff were retained overnight, and the big fireplace where Rhody, the old colored cook, prepared their meals.

23. *West Granville School*

Rest Rooms

24. *Mr. Daniel Gillet*

Residence of Mrs. Pearle H. Klerx

The beautiful white mansion, beyond the schoolhouse, was built in 1800 by Mr. Daniel Gillet. He was a storekeeper and trader, coming here from Suffield, Connecticut. In 1806 he married Miss Edith Bates, a member of an illustrious Granville family.

According to the records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Daniel Gillet was the first master of Mt. Pleasant Lodge of Masons, which was started here in West Granville on June 13, 1808. On June 21, 1809 when the officers were being installed there were 150 brethren present. The meetings were held in the large ball-room on the top floor of the Gillet home. This Lodge adjourned in 1832.

At a later date the house was occupied by Mr. Patrick Boise, a prominent lawyer of his day.

This house has a large central hallway, and two large inside chimneys which afford each room in the house a fireplace. The rooms are very spacious with high ceilings.

It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Pearle H. Klerx, a dealer in antiques.

25. *Rooster Hill*

1811

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Durand R. Miller

This Classic Revival House has been carefully restored to its original condition. Title search shows that Babcocks, Nelsons, Ives, and Cooleys have lived, loved, and moved on through this house for over 143 years.

The house has a delightful situation, located on the top of Ives' Hill. Toward the west can be seen the outlines of buildings in the town of Tolland; to the east, East Hill and Liberty Peak, where a flag was raised on July 4, 1775, when we gained our independence from England.

This house is of the central chimney type but unlike other houses here, it has an unusually narrow front stairway. The interior is interesting for its various "Parson's Cupboards" in three

rooms, its rope molding details, and bake oven in the original kitchen.

Across the front of the house is a noteworthy swag and tassel frieze. This was once the home of Cyrus Ives, a highly regarded citizen of this village. He also served as deacon of the church for many years.

26. *Tolland Church*

The first meeting house in Tolland was built in 1795 just east of the present structure. The Church Society was organized in 1797. On June 23, 1798 the first minister, Rev. Roger Harrison, was ordained. At that time the church was called "The Church of Christ in West Granville", since Tolland was a part of Granville until 1810.

There were seventeen church members; the names included Twinings, Rogers, Mathers, Wrights, Hamiltons, and Moores. Thomas Twining and Marvin Moore were the first deacons.

The first church was struck by lightning and burned down. The present church was built and dedicated in 1842. The contractor was from Otis. The nails were made by Dennis Munn at his blacksmith shop near the church.

The church reached its highest point of prosperity in 1853 during the pastorate of Rev. Franklin Austin. The church was filled to overflowing. Every pew was sold to the highest bidder, and every seat was occupied. The membership was 99, and the minister's salary was \$425, a substantial raise over that of Rev. Harrison, who received only \$200.

The interior of the church has been changed several times, the most pronounced alterations being in 1874 when the box pews were removed and rebuilt to make seats. At that time the gallery in the rear of the Church was closed.

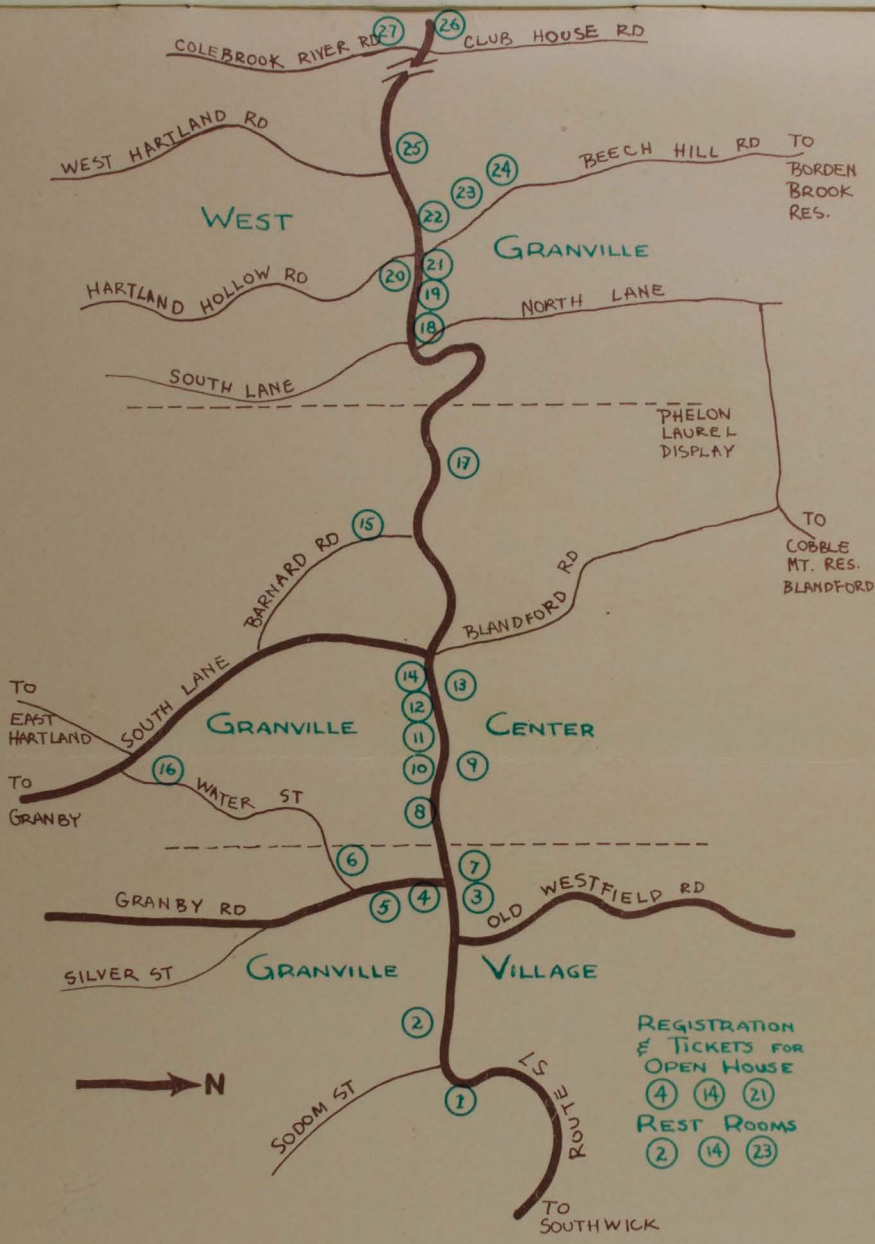
27. *The Parsonage* *Rev. Roger Harrison*
Home of Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bonadies

This old house, built in 1797, has recently been purchased for complete restoration. It was for twenty-four years the home of the beloved Rev. Roger Harrison, the first pastor of Tolland Church, who was affectionately known as "Priest Harrison".

An unusual feature of this late 18th century house are three balanced doorways, one front, and one in the center of each gable end. The gable end facing the church is entirely as built, whereas the others are to be replaced with parts found in the attic.

The interior walls of the house, upon the removal of wall paper, were found to be completely stenciled. This process of wall decoration was indigenous to this Sandisfield area, and represents a new study in the field of folk art. The stenciling was done by an itinerant painter, who traveled from town to town.

Rev. Harrison was a man of great ability. Besides taking care of his ministerial duties he found time to hold public office, and to prepare the youth of the town for college. His most prominent scholar was Gordon Hall, first American missionary to India.



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