

**(9) ROLAND LAFLIN HOUSE**  
28 Depot Street  
Built early 1800's

This home is a typical Federal style home with its symmetrical arrangement of nine windows and centrally placed doorway. Like 20 Depot Street, it too has a fanlight above the front doorway, but accented with a festoon of poured lead garlands. Constructed in the early 1800's, based upon its overall proportions, roof pitch and details, it was owned by Roland Laflin, who was also associated with the powder mill business. The present porch was added about 1905. Since about 1870, it too has been owned by members of the Phelps family. Helen Phelps lived there, and was a Southwick school teacher, charter member of the Southwick Historical Society, and worker at the Southwick Library. A modern rear addition connects to an old timber frame shed.



**(10) GINGERBREAD HOUSE**  
36 Depot Street  
Built circa 1815/moved  
1820's/remodeled ca. 1855

Oral tradition holds that this building was originally located on what is now the town green, and was used as the law office of John Mills, Esquire, in the early 1800's. He was the first lawyer in Southwick, served in the state senate, and was a U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts.

Sometime during the construction of the Congregational Church or Dickinson School (1824 and 1828 respectively), it was supposedly moved to its present site.

The most interesting visual features of this house are its decorative Victorian vergeboards adorning the gable roof ends, and the turned finials at each end of the roof peak. These Gothic features were probably added sometime between the late 1840's and about 1870, when the roof was also modified by being made higher, steeper and with greater overhang from the sidewalls. No other house in Southwick retains such strong Gothic features as this one.

**(11) TIMOTHY MALONE HOUSE**  
42 Depot Street  
Built pre-1855/1912

The 1855 Hampden County map shows a residence on this site, with the name "W.R. Brown". The timber frame rear ell and one or more of the outbuildings probably date prior to that year. Mrs. W. Phelps is shown as the owner on the 1912 Hampden County map. Timothy Malone purchased the farm, and in 1912 spent \$2,500 to build a residence, undoubtedly the front main section of this home. During his lifetime, he ran the general store at 108 Congamond Road, operated the farm on Depot Street, was appointed a Deputy Sheriff (Hampden County) in 1908, was the chief police officer of Southwick for forty-five years, and was a Superior Court officer.

The most striking attributes of this historic property are the symmetry of the main house, the two story porch on porch, bay window to the east, and its overall setting on a slight rise, surrounded by numerous early outbuildings, fields and woods. Multiple generations of Malones have owned and lived on this property during the past one hundred years.



**(12) EDWIN GILBERT HOUSE**  
3 South Longyard Road  
Circa 1840-50

The Edwin Gilbert House is a distinctive example of Greek Revival design in Southwick. Its gable end consists of a triangular pediment adorned with a matching window. The wide corner boards lack upper moldings, and are thus not technically pilasters. First floor window caps are slightly angled toward the sides, and are thus suggestive of pediments. Finally, the front doorway is recessed. With its present paint scheme of white trim and yellow clapboards,

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these features are visually enhanced. There are several compatible additions to the original house.

On July 13, 1852, Southwick businessman and sawmill owner Thaddeus Foote sold one half interest in the saw and shingle mills on Great Brook to Edwin Gilbert, as well as the one and one half acre parcel at 3 South Longyard Road, "with buildings thereon". Whether the last phrase refers to the house or other mill related buildings cannot be discerned. The house is indicated on the 1855 Hampden County map. Gilbert not only owned and ran the sawmill across the street for decades, but also served as selectman from 1875-1879, and was a state representative for Southwick in 1869, 1878 and 1884. For years, the home was subsequently owned by members of the Boyle and Fletcher families.



**(13) ROCKWELL-FLETCHER HOUSE**  
17 Depot Street  
Built circa 1822

On August 1, 1821, Saul Fowler sold to William Fowler the eastern end of his homestead at the junction of the "Sheep pasture and Mill road" "nearly opposite Major Laflin's House," for one hundred dollars. No buildings were cited. Shortly thereafter, he undoubtedly built the present home. William was a businessman involved in the Southwick gunpowder business. In 1842, he sold

the property to Dr. Joseph W. Rockwell, the physician in town who served for more than fifty years. For much of the 1900's, Rockwell's niece and her husband, William F. Fletcher, lived and owned the home. Fletcher was owner of the only gristmill in town, located on Great Brook near the Gilbert sawmill. The gristmill continued in operation until 1937.

The home is a fine example of a late Federal style home. The symmetrical front consists of nine windows with a central door, accented with an ornate transom. Attic gable ends are illuminated by circular windows known as fanlights. A kitchen ell, attached woodshed, and porch (now enclosed) are attached to the rear. A nineteenth century barn, altered, is to the rear of the property.

**(14) GRANGER-WHEATON HOUSE**  
5 Depot Street  
Built late 1700 or early 1800's

This home is one of only two known gambrel homes surviving in Southwick built before the Civil War. A photograph taken about 1910 depicts the house with white clapboards, shutters, and no front dormers. Early gambrel roofed houses were never common in the Connecticut River Valley, but scattered examples still survive. They were more expensive to frame, because of the roof, than simple Cape Cod style homes. They provided almost as much living space (but little or no attic) as a full two story residence, yet at a lower cost.

Two blacksmiths, Heaton Granger and Walter Wheaton, owned this property during much of the 1800's. The original blacksmith shop was located to the left of the home, but about 1890 was replaced by one located to the rear of the parcel. The "new" blacksmith shop was subsequently used as an antique shop during the third quarter of the 1900's. It caught fire and was subsequently razed in the past decade.



**(15) SAUL FOWLER HOMESTEAD/  
COUNTRY COLONIAL**  
478 College Highway  
Built circa 1800

Saul Fowler, son of a prominent Westfield tavern owner, is probably responsible for having at least the main original section of this property built, about 1800. He is believed to have started the original Southwick tavern on the site of today's Southwick Inn, about 1780. John Mills, a prominent lawyer and state politician, owned this home. He subsequently moved to Springfield, where he continued in law. He served as a Southwick selectman for four years, and four terms in the State Senate, where he became president of that body. He eventually ran for Congress against Daniel Webster.

The residence was made into a two family home through an addition, and Seymour Granger converted it into a general and dry goods store. Frank Osborne, Charles A. Reed, and a Mr. Rice are just some of the men who owned or ran the store here up to the 1960's. It has since been used as a gift shop by the name "Country Colonial".

Despite numerous additions and alterations, one can still discern the original design of the house, especially if one goes upstairs in the front portion of the store, where the bedrooms were.



# A SAMPLING OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF SOUTHWICK, MASSACHUSETTS CENTER

*With its iconic white New England meetinghouse, veterans monument, and streetscape of eighteenth through early twentieth century homes, Southwick Center is the visual, economic and historic focal point of the community. This brochure is intended to highlight just some of the historic landmarks in this corner of the Connecticut River Valley.*



compiled by the  
**Southwick Historical Commission**  
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**(1) SOUTHWICK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
488 College Highway  
1824-26/1924/1957

From the 1770's until the early 1820's, Southwick Center was in the vicinity of College Highway, Bugbee Road and Klaus Anderson Road, where the town's first meetinghouse, cemetery and several taverns were located. In June of 1823, the first meetinghouse burned down, probably by a lit candle left by the choir during an evening rehearsal. After lengthy community debate, it was decided to build its replacement a mile further north, where it joined a general store, tavern, small law office, and several other homes. The new meetinghouse was designed and constructed under the aegis of Capt. Isaac Damon, a prominent Northampton architect and contractor who was also responsible for the Congregational churches in Springfield, Blandford, and Simsbury, as well as court houses

and covered bridges throughout the region.

The building is typical for his churches, with the pitched or gable end facing the front, four monumental columns supporting a shallow porch (portico), window sash consisting of twelve over twelve (12/12) panes, and a tall steeple consisting of a square base with arched louvers (where the church bell is hung), topped by several octagonal plan stages and a gilt dome. Several additions to the rear, constructed in 1924 and 1957, provide religious education classrooms, office, kitchen, stage and social halls for church and civic functions.



**(2) COOLEY GRIFFIN HOUSE**  
476 College Highway  
Built circa 1840

Built about 1840, this home is a typical Greek Revival style residence, like many built between 1820 and 1860. Its attic gable end faces the street, has flush boarding, and is trimmed to form a triangular pediment. The front doorway is located to one side to correlate with the interior side hall and stairway, and the corners are adorned with wide boards and moldings to simulate flat columns or pilasters.

The wrap-around porch was added about 1910, and a second floor rear addition done about the same time.

The earliest known owner, Moses Loomis, was a state representative in 1839. During the early twentieth century, Cooley Griffin, who was active in town and Congregational Church affairs, owned it.



**(3) CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**  
454 College Highway  
Built 1928-29/1950

On May 9, 1929, Consolidated School, now the Town Hall, was dedicated. It was designed in the Art Deco style by Southwick born and educated architect, Malcolm B. Harding. The use of cream colored brick, rectangular lines, poured concrete, and low relief ornamentation in the form of

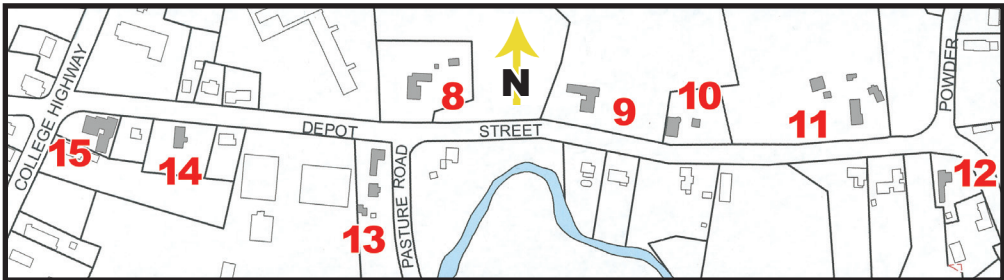
open books, suggestive of education, are all in keeping with the style. It has been said that the closing of twelve school houses and opening of just one large educational facility was the single largest consolidation in New England at one time. Only the front portion of the building was constructed at that time. After World War II, crowding occurred and the auditorium was divided into classrooms and the balcony was also used. In 1950, a six-room addition was constructed to the southeast to ease the crowding. For a time in the 1950's, Southwick was the fastest growing town in the state. Three new schools and multiple additions were built during the next fifty years, but no other additions were made to Consolidated until it was converted into a Town Hall in 1998.

**(4) GRAVES-KEENAN HOUSE**  
457 College Highway  
Built before 1762

This home is the oldest residence in Southwick Center having been built for Abner Graves, a blacksmith. Initially it had a center chimney with four fireplaces and bake oven, a slightly overhanging second floor, and S-shaped bricks supporting the timber frame. In 1778, Moses Mitchell acquired the property. From 1784 until his death, he served as a deacon in the Congregational Church.

During the period between 1790 and 1820, it was renovated by building out the first floor flush with the second floor across the front and right side, replacing the windows with new 12/12 sash, and replacing the front doorway with one embellished with a fanlight transom. This renovation may have been done by Solomon Smith, who bought the home in 1817. He was a selectman in 1812, a business man, an owner of the powder mills on Great Brook after the Laflin family sold the business, and part owner of the nearby saw mill.

For most of the twentieth century, the home was owned by the Keenan and related Gerry families. Despite some exterior changes, period fireplace wall paneling, early front stairway, wide pine flooring and other interior details remain.



**(5) BAPTIST PARSONAGE**  
473 College Highway  
Built 1886

This well preserved Italianate Victorian home with slate roof, brick foundation and bay window was constructed in 1886, immediately after the Southwick Baptists sold their former parsonage where the Old Library now stands. Fundraising included oyster suppers, strawberry festivals and public lectures. Members donated money and/or labor toward its construction, including L.A. Fowler who did grading and L.S. Weatherbee with Stephen Nash who constructed the supports for the basement.

For twenty-four years, it was used by the Baptist ministers serving Southwick.

It should be noted that the Baptist Meetinghouse was situated opposite and slightly north of the Congregational Church, in the vicinity of 509 College Highway.

From 1910 to 1919, Southwick and Granville shared a minister, who lived in Granville. From 1910 to 1930, the parsonage was rented out to Charles and Mary Stone. In 1930 the Southwick Baptist Church disbanded and sold the meetinghouse to Mrs. James J. Storrow. She had it dismantled and reconstructed in a slightly different form as the present west wing of the Tavern at Storrowtown Village on the Eastern States Exposition grounds. The parsonage was subsequently sold to the Pittsfield Electric Light Company, now Eversource, where the district manager, Glover E. Barton, lived until the 1970's. Since 1992 it has been owned by Norman H. Storey, a local real estate agent.

**(6) OLD SOUTHWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
475 College Highway  
Built 1892

While a small Library existed in Southwick in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, Rev. David L. Kibbe is credited with starting a public library in 1891 in the former Congregational Church parsonage. The books were moved to several general stores in Southwick Center. In 1892 the first town-owned library was constructed at the southwest corner of College Highway and Granville Road.

The architect was Augustus Holton of Westfield, a prolific designer who provided plans for countless Westfield properties, including residences, as well as the former YMCA, Gillett Block, Ashley Street School (razed), and Bismark Hotel. This Library combines features of the Colonial Revival style, with its general symmetry, hip roofs, and Palladian window in the front gable, while other Victorian-era features include embossed trim under the cornice and stained glass windows, some of which commemorate outstanding Southwick citizens.

The front room was the entire library for years, while the smaller rear room was used for town offices. That area was subsequently used for library stacks and study space beginning about 1950, while the front of the cellar was made into additional library space about 1975. Since construction of the New Library, the building has been used for storage.



**(7) SOUTHWICK INN**  
479 College Highway  
Built 1906

Since about 1780, a tavern or inn has been located on this site, initially kept by Saul Fowler. In 1905 it burned, and was replaced the following year by the front two-thirds of the present structure. The Springfield Republican of December 31, 1906, page seven, reads, "The Southwick Hotel has been recently built on the site of the old hotel by Harry Lamb. It is finished in oak-steam heated. Besides smoking and pool rooms has bar and usual guest apartments. "Best in county." \$6000 [price of construction]."

Over the years it has been called either the Southwick Hotel or the Southwick Inn. John O'Neil, his nephew George, Walt Saunders, the Battistoni family and Lynn and Walter Fiala have been some of the proprietors. John Whalley is the current owner, who had an addition built to the rear, as well as new roof, replacement wrap-around porch, new utilities, kitchen and accessibility features to the building. With the other iconic corner properties, it helps define the historic Southwick Center.



**(8) HEMAN LAFLIN-PHELPS**  
20 Depot Street  
Built circa 1820

One of the most striking historic homes in Southwick is this circa 1820 residence at 20 Depot Street. Built for Heman Laflin, he was the owner of the powder mills on Great Brook, which provided the wealth to build this impressive Federal style home. Presently it is the only building in Southwick that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The main structure is a square plan, with a low-pitched gable roof oriented toward the street. An eight-foot wide oval oculus is centered in the triangular-pedimented gable end, which is also adorned around the edge with decorative blocks known as modillions. The corners of the main house are treated with quoins, wood blocks simulating quarried stone. Above both the main and left doors are fanlights. A Victorian porch dating from the 1880's goes across the front. Initially, small gable-roofed porches or porticoes supported on round columns adorned both the front and side doorways and the windows were fitted with 12/12 sash. Interior features include a center hall, wide pine floors, period chair rails and window trim, plus numerous fireplace mantels and doors.

Since shortly after the Civil War, members of the Phelps family have owned the home. William, the first Phelps to own the property, was a cattle dealer, and was probably responsible for the installation of a walk-in freezer in the rear ell. His son, Charles, ran a small dairy farm and business and built the modest milk house to the rear of the house. His son, Reginald, graduated valedictorian from Harvard in 1930, authored/co-authored several books, and was a professor and dean at Harvard for decades. Marcus Phelps, a cousin to the family, is the present owner.

