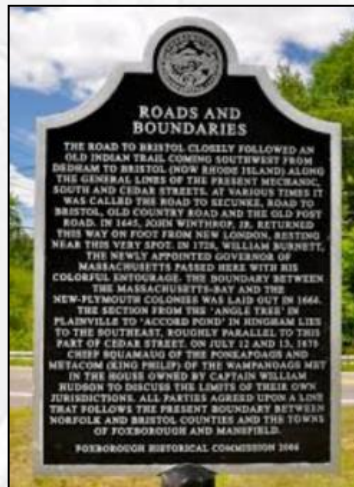


FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC MARKERS



DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2020</p> <p>On the hillside of Rock Hill Cemetery</p>	<p>FOXBOROUGH STATE HOSPITAL MULTI-GRAVE LOTS</p> <p>Some patients of the Massachusetts Hospital for Dipsomaniacs and Inebriates or its successor, the Foxborough State Hospital, did not have known family or family able to afford a burial upon their death. Subsequently, between 1906 and 1915, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts purchased six multi-grave lots on this hillside of Rock Hill Cemetery with the intent of providing a final resting place for these patients. Although there are no grave markers of any kind present, there are 125 patients buried within this hillside. Another 118 patients are buried throughout Rock Hill Cemetery, predominantly within separate family plots. In 1933, as needs increased during the Great Depression, the Foxborough State Hospital Cemetery on Cross Street was developed to continue to fulfill this intention.</p>	

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2019</p> <p>On Granite Street directly opposite Granite Terrace</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY HOLLOW</p> <p>On a hot summer evening, the windows were open to catch the breeze off the lake. Musical selections by talented members of the Pettee family could be heard in these lower elevations of Granite Street. It was said the musically inclined family would gather at each other's home for practice and the families had such a good time playing instruments and dancing that the intervale became known as "Happy Hollow." Fact or legend, it should be noted that the youngest drummer boy from New England to serve in the Civil War was one Herbert Pettee of Happy Hollow. The water stream provided power for a stone cotton mill built by Simon Pettee in 1834. His home was nearby as were those of his sons. In 1869, a large wooden addition was built behind the stone mill and used as a steam laundry. The stone factory was then converted to dwelling places for the owners and laundry workers and the addition was later used as a hall for neighborhood dances. One Edith Lynwood Winn was a gifted violinist and her father was a natural musician, a member of the Foxborough band. She was born in the stone mill and the family later occupied one of the homes built for Simon Pettee's sons.</p>	
<p>2002</p> <p>In the far corner of Rock Hill Cemetery - adjacent to Cocasset Lake on the Granite Street side</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE TOWN LOT</p> <p>Here in unmarked graves lie the poor, the destitute, the strangers known only to God. Struck down by death in our midst, they were afforded the decency of a proper burial by a caring community. Some were residents of the Town's Poor Farm. Others were from families simply too poor to afford a burial place of their own while still others were strangers never identified. When Rock Hill Cemetery was laid out in 1853, the Foxborough Cemetery Corporation set aside this section in which the Town could fulfill its obligation to the needy among us. The Town returned ownership to the cemetery in 1898. Burials in the town lot continued until 1968. A total of 137 commitments were made. Six individuals were later claimed by their families and removed to family plots. Thirteen were never identified.</p>	

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2019</p> <p>On Liberty Street between Town Hall and CVS entrance</p>	<p>KERR-CARPENTER-HAIGIS HOUSE</p> <p>Built in 1824 for William and Hannah Kerr, the beautiful house which stood on this site was home to some of Foxborough's famous families through the years. The most prominent was Erastus Payson Carpenter, possibly Foxborough's most influential resident. 'E.P.' founded the Union Straw Works and also started the town's first fire department, first printing plant, and served on committees that built the Town House and Memorial Hall. E.P. and his wife were responsible for the Victorian enhancements to the house in the 1870s. Doctor Peter Haigis purchased the house from the Carpenter estate in 1912. Dr. Haigis brought the home into the modern era, installing a new heating system and electricity, and along with his wife Ruth witnessed the dramatic changes in town in the early 20th century. Dr. Haigis died in 1941 but his wife Ruth remained in the house for another 40 years. After her death in 1989 the house was transformed into commercial space. In 2006 the house was in danger of demolition after it was purchased as a site for a new CVS store. Local banker Richard Stevens successfully led a drive to move and restore it on the corner of Central and Clark Streets where it still stands today.</p>	
<p>2001</p> <p>On the grounds of Memorial Hall</p>	<p>MEMORIAL HALL</p> <p>Proud of those who fought and died in the Civil War as well as those who assisted the war effort in so many ways, the people of Foxborough wanted "a more suitable monument" than just a tablet as a symbol of their appreciation. In 1868 they erected Memorial Hall at a cost of \$10,000 and dedicated it to "all those whose lives were touched by the war." Tablets inside the building honor the Patriots of 1776, veterans of the War of 1812 as well as the Civil War. The building was home to Boyden library from 1871 to 1968. Memorial Hall is now the town museum and archives, where the past is preserved with pride to reaffirm our faith in the future.</p>	<p>CENTRE BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>In 1783, Nehemiah Carpenter, Samuel Baker and Jeremiah Hartshorn conveyed to the selectmen and their successors in office forever four acres of land on which the meeting house had been built for use as a Town Common. Mr. Carpenter also gave one hundred and eleven rods of land near the meeting house for a Centre Burial Ground. As the deed was signed, Nehemiah noted the piece of land given by him "for a burying place is for that, and that only." Several graves would later be removed to Rock Hill Cemetery to provide space for the town's Civil War memorial.</p>

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2009</p> <p>At The Lodge Apartment Complex on Foxborough Boulevard</p>	<p>THE LODGE AT FOXBOROUGH</p> <p>Is built upon portions of the estate of Ebenezer Warren, who answered the Call in the battle Lexington April 19, 1775. He served in the American revolution with two brothers, General Joseph Warren, later killed at the battle of bunker hill, and Doctor John Warren. Ebenezer and his wife, Mary Tucker Warren, came to Foxborough in 1779 where he served as moderator, selectman, and on the school committee to establish school districts. He served many years in the state legislature and was a member of the state convention which adopted the federal constitution. He was appointed justice of the court of common pleas for Norfolk County serving until the abolition of the court in 1811. The Warren Mansion was destroyed by fire in 1905 and replaced by a stone cottage, later removed.</p>	
<p>2003</p> <p>On Wall Street in front of the Post Office</p>	<p>UNION STRAW WORKS</p> <p>Members of the Carpenter family became engaged in various straw manufacturing operations. In 1843 they built the Great Bonnet Shop at 18 - 22 Wall Street and in 1845 the Hamlet House at 12-16 Wall St. Erastus P. Carpenter then proposed that many small manufacturing operations in town should be combined into one large company that could dominate the industry. In 1853 the Union Straw works was erected on this site. It became the world's largest straw manufacturing operation offering employment to more than 6,000 men and women, including factory workers and those employed in a vast cottage industry, sewing and braiding straw at home. Ownership later passed to Wm. T. Cook & Co. and the Bemis Hat Co. The complex was destroyed by fire May 28, 1900 and never rebuilt.</p>	<p>BIRTH OF THE STRAW HAT INDUSTRY</p> <p>The making of the first straw bonnet in America is traced to Betsey Metcalf of Providence, R. I. who in 1798 made herself a copy of an imported bonnet on display in a store window. While attending Day's Academy in Wrentham, Betsey shared her skills with her friends, including many from Foxborough. Mary Clark and Ann Leonard were the first in this town to learn braiding and in turn taught Eunice Everett, Sally Mann, Patty Carpenter and her cousin Polly. Eunice was the first person in Foxborough to make a straw bonnet. The success of the young ladies in making products of straw prompted many entrepreneurs to commence manufacturing and an industry was born, bringing unprecedented prosperity and a community identity as the straw hat capital of the world.</p>

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2006</p> <p>Intersection of South, Green and Cedar Streets</p>	<p>FIRST SETTLER</p> <p>The first dwelling in what would become Foxborough was erected in 1669. It was located west of nearby Wading River on a farm laid out for Captain William Hudson who was a Boston tavern keeper. Hudson never lived here, but leased the property, first to Richard George and then to John Daniell. Hudson sold his farm in 1676 to Thomas Platt who in turn leased it to Thomas Brintnall of Chelsea. In 1689, a grandson of Thomas, Samuel Brintnall, Jr., became the first white child born in the future Foxborough. The old Hudson Farm was leased to Jacob Shepard of Mystic (Medford) who bought the tract outright in 1704. Former tenant Thomas Brintnall purchased land nearby in 1691 to erect a home in what he believed to be the Taunton North Purchase (a portion of which is now Mansfield). A later survey revealed he was still on this side of the line, the first settler to actually build and occupy his own home in what would become Foxborough. Following his death, his son moved the home across the line where Thomas, our unintentional first settler, thought he had built in the first place. This settlement was in the area that was set off to Wrentham in 1753 and became part of the new town of Foxborough when it was incorporated in 1778.</p>	<p>ROADS AND BOUNDARIES</p> <p>The Road to Bristol closely followed an old Indian Trail coming southwest from Dedham to Bristol (now Rhode Island) along the general lines of the present Mechanic, South and Cedar Streets. At various times it was called the Road to Secunke, Road to Bristol, Old Country Road, and The Old Post Road. In 1645, John Winthrop, Jr. returned this way on foot from New London, resting near this very spot. In 1728, William Burnett, the newly appointed Governor of Massachusetts passed here with his colorful entourage. The boundary between the Massachusetts-Bay and the New-Plymouth Colonies was laid out in 1664. The section from the "Angel Tree" in Plainville to 'Accord Pond' in Hingham lies to the southeast. Roughly parallel to this part of Cedar Street. On July 13, 1670 Chief Squamaug of the Ponkapoags and Metacom (King Philip) of the Wampanoags met in the House owned by Captain William Hudson to discuss the limits of their own jurisdictions. All parties agreed upon a line that follows the present boundary between Norfolk and Bristol counties and the towns of Foxborough and Mansfield.</p>
<p>2002</p> <p>At the edge of the parking lot behind Town Hall</p>	<p>THE RESERVOIR ON POWDER HOUSE HILL</p> <p>The circular granite structure to the rear of the Town Hall lot is the Reservoir erected by the Union Straw Works in 1858. A windmill provided power to draw water up to the Reservoir which was then gravity fed to the factory on Wall Street. Plans by the Foxborough Historical Society to use the facility as a museum 1909 proved unworkable.</p> <p>Earlier, the Reservoir site was occupied by a Powder House. It was erected in 1804 when voters decided to stop storing the Town's supply of gun powder in the garret of the Meeting House on the Common.</p>	<p>THE TOWN HOUSE</p> <p>Foxborough's first municipal building was erected on this site in 1857 to provide space for town offices and a police lockup. The Town's first fire station was located to the rear of the lot. The private English and Classical High School leased space in the Town House from 1858 to 1876. The Town then added a school wing to the building for the first public high school for local students. The Town House and school wing were destroyed by fire June 4, 1900 with a loss of life of three firefighters. The Center School was built on this site in 1901, serving high school students until 1928 and elementary students until 1963. The school was then demolished and the present Town Hall erected.</p>

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2000</p> <p>On South Street opposite Paula Lane</p>	<p>DORCHESTER SCHOOL FARM</p> <p>To help support its public school, Dorchester set aside a 650-acre farm in this vicinity which it leased in 1710 to Robert Calef for a total of 308 years. Solomon Hews was operating a tavern here in 1728 when Governor William Burnet and the contingent escorting him from Bristol to Boston stopped for refreshments. Hews lost the farm by foreclosure and it was broken up in 1772. The old tavern was demolished long ago.</p>	
<p>2002</p> <p>Near the mill site on Lakeview Road</p>	<p>LAKEVIEW</p> <p>Hervey Pettee built a thread mill at this site in 1813. A spring freshet in 1831 washed out the dam and ruined that factory. A stone structure soon replaced it. Charles Freeman & Son later operated a wool scouring mill. The flood of Feb. 2, 1886 tore out the dam and portions of the mill later operated by Alexander Ross. Lake View Park was opened by the Ross family July 4, 1906. The Norfolk & Bristol Electric Railroad spur line to the ballroom was discontinued in 1919. Lakeview was a popular swimming area for many years, maintained by the West Foxborough Mother's Club.</p>	
<p>2000</p> <p>On North Street near the railroad crossing and outfall of Crack</p>	<p>MORSEVILLE</p> <p>Populated by members of the Morse family since the early 1700s, this section of Foxborough was known as Morseville. By 1737, Jedediah Morse had dammed the Neponset River forming Crack Rock Pond and built both a saw mill and a bloomer forge near this spot. Leonard Morse operated a hoe factory in the mid-1800s. B. F. Boyden and sons later had a grist mill at the same privilege. A sense of community that centered on the Plimpton School for elementary students was further enhanced by the arrival of the railroad in 1886 and the opening of a depot and post office which formally established the area as North Foxboro. Passenger rail service declined with the advent of the electric trolley line which ran from 1899 to 1919. The post office closed in 1906.</p>	

DATE & LOCATION	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
<p>2000</p> <p>On the Common in East Foxborough</p>	<p>EAST FOXBOROUGH</p> <p>Settled by members of the Atherton, Boyden, Hodges, Morse, Pratt, Robbins and other families, This section was known as Robbins Corner for many years. The identity changed with the arrival of the railroad and the establishment of the East Foxboro Depot and Post Office. A sense of community focused on the Pratt School, the East Foxboro Community Club and a chapel. Claiming an unequal distribution of tax benefits by the more heavily populated center of town, residents waged an unsuccessful effort in 1902 to become a separate town named Sumner. As a compromise a new elementary school was built. The chapel and community club eventually closed, as did the passenger depot, mail service transferred to the central district in 1956.</p>	
<p>2000</p> <p>On Spring Street near the site of the original Paine School</p>	<p>PAINEBURGH - FOXVALE</p> <p>Originally settled as Paineburgh, taking its name from the many members of the Paine family who settled here, this section of Foxborough had a strong sense of community with its own elementary school, chapel, railroad station and post office. Railroad officials requested a change of name for the depot in 1888 to avoid confusion with similar names. Residents chose Foxvale to perpetuate the name of Charles James Fox, for whom the Town was named. The name of the post office was also changed. Improvements in local transportation brought about a decline in passenger rail service and the depot was removed. Mail service transferred to the central district in 1906.</p>	
<p>2003</p> <p>At the corner of Baker and Bird Street and Baker and Garfield Street</p>	<p>ENTERING BAKER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT</p> <p>The homes on Baker Street represent the people and diverse architecture from two significant periods of Foxborough history, the 19th century straw hat era and the 20th century transition to industrial manufacturing.</p>	

Foxborough Historical Commission
 40 South Street
 Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
 508.543.1248
memorialhall@foxboroughma.gov