

Plympton Village Historic District
A National Register District

The Plympton Village Historic District is centered on an historic common and flanked by the historic Hillcrest burial ground.

The District contains intact buildings and landscapes from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries and exhibits an array of architectural and landscape architectural styles, as well as many fine examples of funerary art. While the Greek Revival style predominates (reflecting the period of greatest prosperity), the area also contains buildings reflecting the Georgian, Federal, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Colonial Revival styles.

The tree-lined, long, linear form of the Plympton Green typifies the design of commons in many New England towns. The monuments and carvings of both the Hillcrest and First Congregational Church Cemeteries display the materials of the local environment as well as the work of notable local stone carvers, including Nathaniel Fuller.

For additional detail regarding the District and other aspects of Plympton history, visit the Plympton Historical Commission Web site at town.plympton.ma.us/cultural/hc.html.

Self Guided

Walking Tour Of The

Plympton Village

Historic District



Plympton Historical Commission

Plympton Green

Plympton was originally a part of Plymouth. The first European settlers arrived before 1680 and by 1695, forty-five families resided in the western precinct which is present day Plympton and Carver. Plympton was incorporated as a separate town on June 4, 1707.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Plympton's economic base was primarily agricultural. Plympton's road system has changed little from the end of the 1700s to present day. Main Street, which bisects the Plympton Green Area, served as the primary north-south route during the contact period (1500-1620), as it does today.

The Plympton Green Area has served as a focal point for the Town since its earliest days. A meetinghouse was erected on the southern end of the present-day Green between 1695 and 1698, when a separate parish was organized to serve the residents of the new precinct. It was replaced around 1714, when a new meetinghouse was erected and in turn a third meetinghouse was built around 1772 at the location of the present-day Civil War Soldiers' Monument. None of these survives. A fourth meetinghouse, the present-day First Congregational Church, was erected across the street from the Green in 1830.

The Plympton Green was established at a town meeting on March 16, 1702, when the town voted to set aside thirty acres for use by the ministry and as a militia training green and burial ground. In 1706, an acre of land was cleared to create a burying ground (part of present-day Hillcrest Cemetery).

In the eighteenth century, the Plympton Green served many purposes. At various times, the Green hosted the Town Pound, stocks and an armory. A Liberty Pole was erected in 1774, near the site of the present-day Grange Pump. In the late 1700s, the Reverend Ezra Sampson House (255 Main St.) was erected on the east side of the Green. This was the first of several residences to be built along the Green's eastern perimeter. Development in the Plympton Green Area quickened in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Numerous residences were built during this period.

Several monuments and memorials were placed on the Plympton Green. The Bandstand (ca. 1920), the octagonal, fieldstone base is topped with a wood-shingled cupola (erected in 2000). Bronze plaques commemorate those who served in WWI, WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The Grange Pump (1889) is southwest of the Bandstand. The Civil War Soldiers' Monument (1889) is north of the Bandstand and inscribed "Erected By The Ladies' Memorial Association Of Plympton To Commemorate The Deeds Of Her Loyal Sons Who Imperiled Their Lives For The Preservation Of The Union 1861-1865." The Deborah Sampson Boulder (1906) also lies north of the Bandstand. The large, granite boulder includes a bronze plaque inscribed with the following: "In Honor Of Deborah Sampson Who For Love of Country Served Two Years As A Soldier In The War Of The Revolution. She Was Born In Plympton Massachusetts December 17, 1760. This Memorial Erected By The Deborah Sampson Chapter, Daughters Of The American Revolution Of Brockton And The Town Of Plympton."





1 Central School
5 Palmer Rd. 1935

Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival brick and masonry building, has a rear addition built in 1955. Originally built as an elementary school, it was converted to Town House offices in 1974.



2 Plympton Public Library
248 Main St. ca. 1905

The library was designed in the Colonial Revival style by R.L. Young of Boston. A series of additions to the west of the building have brought this structure to its present size.



3 First Congregational Church Parsonage
252 Main St. 1853-1854

A 1-story, Greek Revival-style Cape, the Parsonage was turned to face the Green in 1987.



4 First Congregational Church
254 Main St. 1830

This is the fourth meeting-house for Plympton. The steeple has been damaged and reconstructed several times (1850, 1928, 1954). The entry portico was added in 1903. The school rooms addition was reconstructed in 2002.



5 First Congregational Church Cemetery
Rear of Church ca.1850

Established due to crowding at the original burial ground at the north end of the green, its grave markers date mostly from the 1860s - 1910s. A field-stone wall runs along the cemetery's north and south boundaries.



6 Gilbert H. Randall House
260 Main St. ca. 1890

This Queen Anne-style residence is clad in wood clapboards and shingles in a fish-scale pattern. Research suggests the house may have replaced an earlier building shown on the 1857 map. Outbuildings include a large, one-story, 19th-century barn.



7 Zacheus T. Parker House
264 Main St. ca. 1850

This Greek Revival-style house with gabled dormers was occupied by Zacheus Parker, a trader, who operated a store a few lots to the south.



8 Z.T. Parker Store
266 Main St. 1893.

This Colonial Revival-style building replaced an earlier store at the same location from 1857 -1879. In addition to offering "dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes," the store functioned as a post office.



9 Randall Shoe Shop
268 Main St. ca. 1875

The French-style mansard roofline on the right of the building represents an addition to the original 5-bay structure. The Randalls manufactured shoes, boots, and leggings utilizing steam power. As of 1910, the building was occupied by Bryant & Soule, a grocery store. It is now private residences.



10 Union Hall/Grange Hall
270 Main Street 1852

This Greek Revival-style building with granite foundation and roof with a fully returned cornice has served many purposes including meetings, concerts, dances, banquets, a school, office building, and now private residence.



11 Reverend John Briggs House
1 Elm St. ca. 1801.

This 2-story Georgian-style, hip-roof building was later operated as White's Hotel.



12 Reverend John Briggs Outbuilding
274 Main St. mid-19th century

This former outbuilding to the Rev. Briggs House at 1 Elm may have been built at the same time as the house.



13 Joshua V. Peck House
2 Parsonage Rd. ca. 1894.

This 1 1/2-story Queen Anne-style residence still has Peck's blacksmith shop as an outbuilding. The home rests on a brick foundation.



14 Nathaniel S. Lucas House
277 Main St. ca. 1840

A simple Cape built at the corner of Main St. and Mayflower Rd. Nathaniel Lucas is listed as a blacksmith in the 1867 directory.



15 Martin Perkins House
4 Mayflower Rd. ca. 1820

This 2-story, 5-bay, Federal-style residence consists of a rectangular main block with a hip roof and a gable-roofed ell. Martin Perkins is listed as a carpenter in the 1867 directory.



16 J. T. Ellis - L. B. Parker House
271 Main St. ca. 1850

A 1 1/2-story, 5-bay, Victorian Eclectic-style building with rectangular main block, the residence rests on a granite foundation. The building also exhibits some Greek Revival-style features, such as its center entry and sidelights.



17 William H. Soule House
263 Main St. 1843

This 2-story, Greek Revival-style building has a main entry located beneath a full-width, hip-roof porch supported by wood, Doric columns. The

Soule family traces its lineage back to the Mayflower.



18 George Sherman House
259 Main St. ca. 1845

This 2-story Greek Revival-style, rectangular, 3-bay-wide main block has an ell extension. The main block rests on a granite foundation. Corner Pilasters provide architectural ornament. It was built by George Sherman, a carpenter.



19 Reverend Ezra Sampson House
255 Main St. ca. 1776

This 2-story, center chimney Georgian-style building with small hip-roof rear ell extension was the first house built on the Green and once served as Plympton House (a hotel). Outbuildings include a ca. 1740 post & beam barn moved from Lake Street in Kingston. Rev. Sampson was a distant relative of Deborah Sampson.



20 Hillcrest Cemetery
Main St. and Palmer Rd. 1706.

Includes numerous headstones carved by Nathaniel Fuller and the Soule family, Plympton residents. It contains some of the oldest-known stone carvings in America.

