



A
Historic Walk
Past
Nashua Homes

Much history can be found in the older Nashua homes, and what follows is just a sampling. Five elementary school students, Amy Moses, Lisa Edson, Sara Haberman, Lisa Smith, and Corey Cerwinkse have enjoyed talking to homeowners and gathering information about the homes. At times it was like piecing together a puzzle, but an interesting puzzle it has been! Some pieces are still missing, and though much research has gone into these short narratives there were discrepancies in accounts about the homes. It is our hope the information here is quite accurate. There are, no doubt, other older homes which deserve mention in a booklet such as this. The homes here are ones which caught the eye and captured the curiosity of the students. Perhaps sometime someone else will develop another such booklet including more of the interesting homes in our community.

Enjoy a summer walk and history lesson as you journey back in time to the early streets of Nashua!

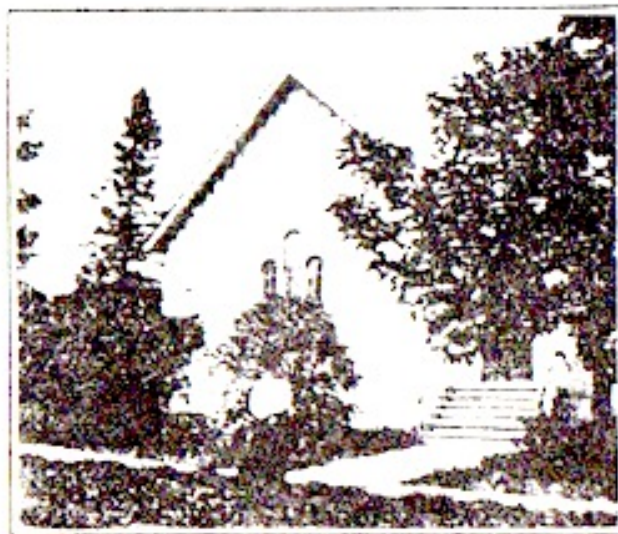
Chandler Home 524 Lexington

If you were walking down this street in 1863 you might have seen the home at 524 Lexington being built. A few years later you might have seen George Livermore on his lawn. He was the first in a long line of owners, followed by John Dana, William Scott, Ed Radke, Roy Scoles, John P. Young, and Ernest Russell. The living room was once two rooms, a parlor and a library. There were four chimneys, one in the living room was made into a bookcase. The main beam in the basement was hand hewed.

There is a small room off the dining room. In the late 1920's and early 1930's you could have seen Forrest Russell, a crippled boy peering out the east window on the first floor, as that was his room and he spent much time there. In the evening you would have found the full length shutters closed.

The home to the west across the street was originally the St. Marks Episcopal Church you see pictured here.

524 Lexington has been home to the Kenneth Chandlers since 1943.



Bloom's Home
407 Lexington Street

If you were taking a stroll down Lexington Street in 1903 you might have seen William H. Coler building this house.

Among the families who have lived here are a widow named Mrs. Wakefield and her children, William Pierce's, early Nashua banker William Getsch (late teens and 1920's), Duncan McCulloch's (1930's) Lew Harrison's, Corwin Dunlap's (1970's), and Katherine Wick, daughter of Duncan McCulloch who went on to become the first woman senator in the state of Iowa. In the 1970's this home also housed a beauty shop. The current owners are Dr. and Mrs. James Bloom.

Some of the unique features of this three story home at 407 Lexington are a built-in buffet and a sun porch. There is also an arched glass bay window in the ballroom.

While remodeling in 1988 the Bloom's found several old wheat back coins. Under the wall paper they found old stenciling done on the walls which was done in earlier times instead of wallpapering.



Storvik Home
401 Lexington

If you had been living in this home around the early 1900's you would have been living in the Coler addition. You also would have lived in style, probably having a maid working for you!

This home was built between 1858 and 1868. Some of the people who lived here are Mrs. John Parish, who was originally Helen Coler and later married a minister by the name of Whitten. She lived here for 55 years, from 1873 to 1928. She lost the house to R. U. Pierce, who sold it to W.F. and Charlotte Pierce. W.F. Borcharding later purchased it and sold it to Pearl Milligan, who converted it into apartments. Ruth Rhode, a math teacher in Nashua for about 50 years lived in the apartments at one time. Cary Griffith, another high school teacher, lived here in the 1970's followed by Wayne A. Tudor. Reverend Darrell and Ruth Storvik and their family have lived in the home since 1982.

On the north side of the house you will notice french doors with windows which came from Czechoslovakia. There are eight more inside the home. There is a casket corner nitch, which is an indentation in the wall along the spiral stairway so people could get caskets up and down the spiral stairs to and from the master bedroom when there was a funeral in the family.

Many people have speculated as to the purpose of a two foot wide space between two walls in this home and a cabinet that goes into it. It is left to our imagination who or what might have once been hidden there!

Lee's Home
404 Greeley

The interesting gingerbread trim on this home catches your eye immediately as you approach. And if the house could speak it would have many tales to tell.

In 1861 the property was originally purchased by the E.P. Greeley family, for whom the street is named. E.P. Greeley named Nashua in honor of his old hometown, Nashua, New Hampshire. The Sample family purchased the property from the Greeley's. The home has a long list of owners. John G. Laird, brother of early Nashua mayor H.B. Laird was one. Mr. Laird was an early hardware store owner, city assessor, and county supervisor. He was a popular man, notes the Nashua Weekly Post in 1896, as even when running as a Republican for county supervisor he won in a county which has for years "manifested democratic tenderness". Charles and Susan Johnson, M. M. Ransom, and the Hanson family (1940's) all lived here. Several more Nashuans have lived here, as the upstairs has been rented as apartments to many. People could be seen entering and exiting the home in the mid 1900's when a northwest room on the first floor of the home served as a dentist office for Dr. Kenneth Hanson.

It became a "teachers home" purchased by the teachers Roger and Eileen Klingman in 1974 and rented to former Nashua wrestling coach and teacher Gerald Bakke. Steve Lee, teacher and wrestling coach bought the home in 1979, renting out the upstairs to another teacher.

In the northeast corner of the unfinished basement of limestone walls and cobblestone floor is a coal room. The blackened walls are still noticeable from the outside where coal was shovelled in to heat the home in its earlier days.

Some of the original features that can still be seen in this home are its wainscoting, floor to ceiling kitchen cupboards, french doors, beautiful woodwork, stairway and hardwood floors. Some unique features include the unusual brass knobs and hardware throughout the home, hideaway bookcases, and a metal fireplace replicated in only a few other Nashua homes.



Hickok's Home
402 Cedar Street

William Woodward bought this land plot on September 8, 1852. Andrew Sample and John Holmes also owned the land before the house was built.

A love story is behind the building of this house. The spacious home was built in 1892 by Dr. L. H. Goodale. Dr. Goodale wanted to marry a Miss Jennie Spear. Jennie's father wished for his daughter Jennie to have a better home than he did. To please Jennie and her father Dr. Goodale had this attractive home built. The Goodales were married in 1888 and lived here happily until the 1930's. Art and Irma Harrison bought the house and rented out the upstairs. Irma lived here from the 1950's to the early 1980's until her death. It became the property of Carolyn Haus, daughter of the Harrison's and set empty until it was purchased by the current owners Harold and Helen Hickok who bought it from the Carolyn Haus estate in 1987.

The ornate exterior trim originally included a cupola on the porch section. The picture you see on this page shows the home as it was in 1896.

Some of its features are a big open stairway, a stained glass window, and a back stairway to the maids quarters. The stairs are half gone now, but the stairs are so steep they are now used as shelves.



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Turner/Stoner Home
312 Cedar Street

If you were a visitor in Nashua shortly after the Civil War in the late 1860's you might have seen Mr. Bean, a soldier in the war working on this seven room brick home. He was busily laying bricks from the Bradford Brick Factory.

Mr. Stevenson, a house painter, and his wife were the first owners. Dr. B.M. and Mrs. Dewey also lived there until Dr. Dewey's death. Dr. Dewey, pictured here, was Nashua's first physician and druggist, migrating here from New York in 1862. In 1866 he left his practice to lecture about the medical field in the midwest returning to Nashua each spring to work on his farm property. Dr. Dewey was also an early editor of the Nashua Weekly Post. The home was rented by Roy Cagley for a time, followed by a Mr. Melman who purchased it. In 1919 the home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Stevens. A former college professor also called this home at one time. Prior to the current owners the Fred Winters family lived here.



The house has only two small closets and families living here had to depend on wardrobes and other furniture for storage. A modesty partition was part of one bedroom, but was removed to make more space.

The house has double brick walls and a one room basement with limestone walls.

This is currently the home of Mrs. Debbie Turner, and her mother, Henrietta Stoner who have lived here since 1969.

Harris Home
208 Cedar Street

If you had come to this stately house high on its hill in the late 1800's for an afternoon tea a maid would have greeted you at the door. As you sat in the parlor you might have watched a pulley mechanism called a dumb waiter, deliver the food to the dining area.

You may have already noticed this house is almost identical to the Storvik home you already visited. Actually this house was built first by Sanford Ripley in 1856. E.P. Greeley had it built and Andrew Sample, known as a founder of Nashua, was the first to live here. Then Marshall L. Woodbridge, another well known early Nashua founder lived here followed by Ernest Woodbridge. The house was once used as a widow home, called Kendall Christian Women's Home in the 1920's. Ida Weeks lived here at one time as did Dr. Taylor, a dentist, who lived in the house in the 1940's, and Dr. Pels, a medical doctor who lived there after the war. Lawyer Les Turner and his wife Dr. Rosalie Turner made their home here in the 1960's.

This home has a circular stairway made of walnut. There are ten foot ceilings and french doors to the south. There is a patio on the northwest side of the house which is an original part of the home. There used to be leaded glass windows, now one remains over the fireplace. Oak floors are throughout the house. On the second floor there is a rounded wall on the west side of the house. Like Storvik's home, there is a casket niche in the wall by the spiral stairs. On the east side are beautiful arched windows.

The Ken Harris family have called this "home" since the 1970's.

Hampton House
102 Brasher Street



This home was built by John Harrison in the early days of Nashua and is probably the oldest house still standing in Nashua. Mr. Harrison, pictured here, was born in England and arrived in Nashua in 1856 at the age of 28. All but one of John's 9 children were

born in this home. Lew Harrison, a grandchild of John is best known for being Nashua's earliest millionaire.

Some of the other owners of the home include Maude Harrison, Daniel Westphall, Vernon LaBarge and Herman Wedeking. The present owners are Ted and Betty Lou Hampton, who have owned the house since 1987.

In Nashua's earliest days this entire block was a small acreage which consisted of a cabin, some cows and chickens. Just west of this home is the site of the cabin, believed to be the first home in Nashua, which was torn down in 1912.

Inside this house you would find eleven foot ceilings and open walnut circular stairways. The original bannister which Lew Harrison loved to slide down as a child is still part of the home. The long windows are original as is the front door. To enter the home you ring a door bell by pulling a knob. The home is all constructed with square nails.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wedeking removed the summer kitchen and an L shaped pillar porch that was on the north and east in 1965.

The Gossard's Home
701 Main Street

This elegant home at 701 Main Street was also part of the Coler addition and could be called a "bankers house". It was built by carpenter John S. and Polly Hall in 1858. Zephania and Emily Mitchell, and D. H. Henry were some of it's earliest residents. Mr. H. Dexter and William Getsch who were both bankers lived in this house. In the 1920's a widow, Mrs. Betty Jones lived here and as with most large homes in earlier days Mrs. Jones rented the upstairs to boarders. Fred and Myrtle Schoenfield recall living upstairs when they first came to Nashua. Mr. Yarger, a Nashua attorney lived here for a time and Mr. Henry Noble, who was a night watchman and his daughter Gladys Sears lived here in the 1940's with her two sons. The house was then owned by Leona Bushing Neunhoffer who sold it to Mr. Bob Gossard, who is also a banker, and with his wife Marcia has lived here since 1960.

Some of the interesting interior features of the home include a circular staircase with a carved banister that goes all the way through the floor to the basement. There was a maids quarters and back stairway, though the stairway has been removed. Original woodwork is throughout the house except for in the kitchen.

The Goings Home
824 Main Street

This land is also known as part of the Coler addition. The elaborate house was built in the 1880's. The first family to live in the house were the Howards, who owned the lumberyard in early Nashua. The Howards had two sons and descendants lived in this home until the 1950's. Some of the other owners were the John Gills who lived here in the 1960's, the Dennis Albert, who was a pharmacist in Nashua in the 1970's and the present owners, Dave and Jean Goings who then purchased the house.

There is a beautiful oak stairway, oak woodwork and hardwood floors throughout the house. The front door is solid oak and is about three inches thick. In the northwest corner on the second floor there were maids quarters with a narrow stairway leading to it. There are three etched glass windows throughout the house. There are three metal fireplaces in the house. There is an old water system in the attic which forced hot and cold water to faucets in the home. In the 1880's the two story garage you see in back served as a carriage house for the owners. In the backyard you also can find a marble gravestone for Bella, a dog which belonged to the Albers family who lived here in the 1970's.

John Coler



Laura Janssen's Home
1018 Main Street

As you went about your business in the summer and fall of 1870 you would have noticed loads of bricks being hauled to the southern end of Main Street. Those bricks were coming from the Brink farm, located southwest of Nashua, which is now the Wiess farm. If you strolled down Main Street on October 27 you may have stood with others and watched as the final bricks were being laid for this red brick home at 1018 Main Street.

The first owners were John and Jane Coler, then succeeded by George and Sara Everest, Teltic Baker, James Enders and the Falkners. The current owner is Mrs. Laura Janssen, whose family purchased the home for \$1600 in 1913 and has lived there since.

When they arrived there was evidence of an outside stairway on the south side of the house up to an outside door on the second floor. The house has been painted but the door still remains to what must have served as an upstairs apartment. There was no electricity or city water to the home in 1913 and the pump you notice on the north side of the home was the source of water for all uses. What was once the woodshed later became a kitchen. If you imagine hard enough you can almost see Nashuans from a hundred years ago enjoying a glass of lemonade on the simple porch of this tidy home.