

# Eliot, Maine

MAINE 200-PLUS-ONE  
HISTORIC SITE TOURS

MOSES GERRISH  
FARMER ROAD -  
MAIN STREET



**1. Eliot Meet Market/Stapes and Liebman Store. 41 Moses Gerrish Farmer Rd.** In 1892 Saunders [Sanders] had a store here. It was sold again in 1926 to James Turner and then Louis Willett moved his business here in 1945. Willett died, tragically, in a train and it was sold to Lindley Pease and became "Pease's Store". Gerald McDaniels and his wife purchased the business in 1949 and it became known as "McDaniels' Store" from 1949 to 1961. Their son Jerry then took over until 1984, when he sold to Alan Newson and it became "Newson's Store". Brad Stevens and Harry Bullard moved their business up the road from the original Eliot Meat Market, on Farmer Road, in 1986 and christened the building the "Eliot Meat Market". In 2004 it was sold to the present owners who renamed it the "Eliot Meet Market".

**2. Henry S. Culver home. 174 Moses Gerrish Farmer Road.** This house was moved from the river's edge, off Pleasant Street, to the homestead lot of Sylvester Brooks, over 175 years ago. In the early 1930s it was the home of Henry S. Culver, who was born in Ohio and was consul to Ireland. He lived in New Brunswick, Canada and Ireland before settling here because of Green Acre. He has the distinction of being the first Baha'i in Ireland.

**3. James W. Hanscom House, 153 Moses Gerrish Farmer Road.** Built in 1774, this family home was passed down to James W. and Olive Ann Hanscom. James (1822-1901) was a carpenter but sons Charles and Laban went into the grocery business. They opened a store that was situated to the right of the house between here and Stonewall Lane. Their sister, Mary Etta married George Staples, in 1893, who went into business with them forming the Hanscom and Staples Store which closed sometime between 1900 and 1910. Laban and Charles were still living here in 1910 along with their extended to what is now the Eliot Meet Market, to his sister Florence E. Shapleigh, the wife of James Howard Shapleigh, with brother Laban to have life tenancy. Florence died in 1912 and her husband quitclaimed the property, in 1916, to the Hagadorns who then sold off parcels. The

store was located somewhere on the property. There is some thought that the house at 161 Moses Gerrish Farmer road, built in 1880 (according to the tax card) may possibly be the store, given that the land was still part of the Hanscom property at that time.

**4. Eliot Meat Market. 147 Moses Gerrish Farmer Rd.** Robert (Bob) Beckert opened his market in 1958, Brad Stevens apprenticed with Bob in the 1970's while in High School and later took over the business. Bob died in 1984 and Brad was given ½ interest in the property, which he later turned over to Shawn Beckert in 1992. Stevens and his partner Harry Bullard moved the business to the old McDaniels store on the corner of Farmer Road and State Road in 1986 at what was then Newson's Store. Mary Ann Place bought the former meat market and ran a small eatery here called "Kim's Place" for a short time.

**5. Fillmore Moore's Bungalow Camp. 132,134,138,140 Moses Gerrish Farmer Rd.** Houses along here are on the site of the Bungalow Camp run by Dr. Fillmore Moore of New York from 1894 until the early 1900s as an adjunct to the activities at Green Acre. His camp was then on what was a cleared ridge of land with fields extending along here to 4 M.G. F. Road. A part of the Green Acre offerings, his design of an "open air bungalow" was a unique feature of his camp, as were his tree house dwellings. The camp focused on teaching the manual arts, health and the study of nature.

*Prepared by Rosanne M. Adams - 2020*

**6. Tobey House. 15 Mast Cove Rd.** Cobb's Camp/Brickyard/Libbey Garrison. Down this road, which was only a lane during the early years under our British rule, the specially marked trees of the King were cut and shipped to England to be used as Masts for the ships of the Royal Navy. During the 1800's Samuel Dixon had a brickyard near the river on the right hand side of this road. As we leave Mast Cove Road, on the right, at **15 Mast Cove Road**, is the **homestead of the Martin Parry Tobey** family. He was one of the owners of the schooner "Piscataqua" and one of the builders of the Eliot Hotel, at Green Acre. His home and the house he had built at **103 Farmer Road** were both used as boarding houses for Green Acre guests during the period of 1890-1920. Stanwood Cobb had his **Mast Cove Camp** at the end of this road. From 1924 until the early 1970s it provided children with a healthful summer environment as they learned to swim, ride horseback and participate in all sorts of out of door activities.

**7. Fellowship House. 1037 Main St.** Helen Ellis Cole, a wealthy woman and Baha'i from NY, left furnishings and the money for a place to provide housing for teachers at Green Acre. It was built in 1916 and designed by a woman architect, whose name we have not yet been able to discover. It has been used for community meetings over the years and housing for guests at Green Acre.

**8. Hammond Garrison/Boat Launch/Dead Duck Inn.** Here was the home of Joseph Hammond and was one of the few in the area surrounded by a stockade or palisade. Joseph Hammond was the son of William of Wells. He was a town clerk, councilor, selectman, deputy of the General Court, Major in the Militia, Recorder of Deeds and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Maj. Hammond died in 1709/10. He owned much of the land in this area at the time of his death and is buried in an old family cemetery, located further to the north of the pavilion.

**9. Hanscom Shipyard/Green Acre. 925 Main St.** John Hanscom, born in Eliot in 1748, bought what is now the Green Acre property from the Hammond Family, whose Garrison was next door. His sons William and Samuel were also shipwrights. William worked for Rueben Shapley in Portsmouth and later built in S. Berwick and Durham. He established a shipyard on the family's land by 1828. The son, William L. worked with his father and built his ship the Elizabeth Hamilton at this yard in 1847. William's third son Isaiah designed the famed clipper ship "Nightingale" and Samuel Hanscom, Jr, built and launched the ship here.

**The Sarah Farmer Inn** was built and opened in 1890 as the "Eliot Hotel". Dr. J.L.M. Willis, Martin Parry Tobey, Francis Keefe, George E. Hammond and Sarah Jane Farmer were the business partners. In 1894 Sarah Farmer started the "Green Acre Conferences," bringing lecturers from all over the world to share their views on such topics as religion, art, philosophy, sociology, health, and music, social issues and literature. The building at the entrance is the **original electric car waiting station** of 1902. Today it is administered by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States as a school and conference center. The programs are open to the public and visitors are welcome.

**10. Rogers' Cottage, 925 Main St.** Right side driveway. It was built by John Rogers son of Charles W. Rogers. It originally stood down near the water at the Green Acre. In 1870 it was moved to the main road. Pulled by oxen, it took about a week to move it and the family lived in it during the move. In the 1930's, operated as the Golden Cock Tea House, it offered hospitality and refreshment to the passerby.

**11. Dixon House. 922 Main St.** This was the home of Joseph H. Dixon (1839-1927). He served in the 27 Maine Regiment during the Civil War, known as the "Medal of Honor" regiment. He was very proud of his service, and of the medal, which he always wore for special occasions. He was very active in the GAR after the war, and kept the complete roster of the regiment. He was town clerk for many years, was one of the incorporators of the Advent Christian

Church in 1918 and served on the Executive Committee for Eliot's Centennial celebration in 1910 and in the Maine House of Representatives and Vice President of the Fogg Family Association.

**12. Church in the Woods. 850 Main St.** The Plaque tells us that the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting House of the Middle (Upper) Parish (now Eliot) was built seventeen rods southwest and nearer the river from this location. Built about 1699, it was 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, with a sidewall of 16 feet. By 1716 another meeting house was built on River Road, across from the end of Old Road.

**13. #8 Schoolhouse. 67 Greenwood St.** School district #8 was created in 1841 when the district was divided from Numbers 5 and 6. During its recent historical restoration by the Eliot Historical Society, it was noted that the construction elements point to a much earlier, 1700s, construction date. It served many uses after the closing of the school in 1908 - home of the Eliot Country Club, fire station, Eliot Civil Defense storage and storage for the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Today it serves as a museum and teaching tool for the Eliot Historical Society.

**14. Constructor Fernald House. 77 Greenwood St.** Frank L. Fernald was US Naval Constructor and grandson of Master William Hanscom the founder of the Hanscom Shipyard. The home was occupied by Alvah Remick and his heirs for eight decades. The original six room cottage has five Rumford fireplaces, trim with corner blocks and pumpkin pine floors. There was once an attached barn that was removed in 1946 to become a neighboring home.

**15. John Hammond Blacksmith shop. 1159 State Rd.** John E. Hammond, Jr. was born 16 March 1862 to John E. and Lydia Jane Ricker Hammond. He lived his entire life in the home of his father on Bolt Hill and married Carrie May Spinney (1870-1946). A blacksmith for over 30 years, having received his training as an apprentice in the shop of Gardner Jefferson Greenleaf (1831-1903) in Portsmouth, this was originally his blacksmith shop. In 1948, Wallace Cutting from Newington, NH put in a foundation and moved the shop over. Fixing up the old blacksmith shop for a home for he and his family.