BRADFORD COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Bradford Common Historic District was established by vote of the Haverhill City Council in 1975 to protect the integrity of the 86 houses and buildings of architectural and historical significance which comprise the district. The Common was established in 1751 at the time of the building of the new meeting house for the First Church where the granite monument now stands on the common. The small village had moved from Salem Street, near the old Burial Ground to this juncture of the roads to Salem and to Boston around which the district grew. Schools, churches, stores and apartments as well as examples of nearly every style of architecture to be found in homes of New England can be seen in this district. It is presently being considered for placement on the National Register.

1. THE WHITE CHURCH is the fifth meeting house to serve the first parish of Bradford. The church was gathered in 1670 and organized in 1682, building their first two buildings on the lot with the old Bradford Burial Ground on Salem Street. Their third building stood on the common facing south, and their fourth one, built in 1834, where the present one stands. This building was erected in 1848 from a design by Richard Bond of Boston. The actual work was supervised by Jedediah P. Carleton of Bradford. In 1927, Henry Ford was given permission to copy the design for his four Martha and Mary Chapels located at Greenfield Village, Michigan; Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Mass.; Richmond Hill, Georgia; and Macon, Michigan. The chapel to the right of the main church was added in 1879.
2. FIRST CHURCH PARSONAGE was erected in 1886 for the minister of the church and is still owned by the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund.
3. KINGSBURY HOUSE began as a simple Greek Revival house facing Salem Street around 1854. Later additions changed it considerably. Dr. John D. Kingsbury, pastor of the White Church from 1866 to 1901, and author of a history of Bradford, lived here for a number of years.
4. GOODELL HOUSE was erected between 1853 and 1857 in the Greek Revival style, though with later trim. It was built for Walter Goodell who began one of Haverhill's earliest insurance firms while living in Bradford.
5. ELLISON HOUSE was built in 1916 for John O. Ellison, head of a large automobile firm. It is Neo-Georgian in style.
6. JOHN PEABODY HOUSE was built in the mid 1700's and bought by John Peabody in 1797. Peabody was a blacksmith and head of a large and influential family for whom Peabody School on Salem Street was named. This Georgian farmhouse is a typical Essex County style house with a central chimney serving six fireplaces. This house is thought to be near the site of the original Kimball house built when Benjamin came to Bradford in 1663.
7. JOHN C. PEABODY HOUSE was erected by the grandson of John Peabody in 1875 on a portion of the old farmland.
8. FRANCIS PEARL HOUSE was built in 1888 by the son of Horatio Pearl.
9. WALLACE L. KIMBALL HOUSE replaced the Eliphalet Kimball House which was moved around the corner to So. Pine Street in 1906. It was built for Wallace Kimball,

son of Leverett Kimball, the silversmith. They were in business together in Haverhill. It is Neo-Georgian in style.

10. CHADWICK HOUSE was built in 1836-37 in the Greek Revival style by George K. Montgomery and Humphrey Hoyt as a double house. In 1865 it was bought by Harrison E. Chadwick, a prominent businessman and politician, who was also a noted orator who seemed to be giving the major orations at most Bradford celebrations and dedications.

11. ALBERT KIMBALL HOUSE was built in the Greek Revival style with Gothic Revival gingerbread trim by Mr. Kimball in 1846.

12. KIMBALL TAVERN began as a one room cottage for Richard Kimball and his new bride in the summer of 1692. Around 1707 the right-front half was added on and the upper floor finished off with reused wood – possibly from the town's first parsonage of 1668. In the 1790's Jacob Kimball added on the front entry tower, the rooms to the rear and finished off the two rooms in the new attic – probably needing the space for his newly opened tavern which operated from around 1795 until 1833 when Temperance feelings ran high enough to close most taverns. The house remained in the Kimball family until 1921 and was bought by Bradford College in 1967. It was restored under the direction of William Graves Perry of Colonial Williamsburg by 1970. It was in this house that the Bradford Academy was founded in 1803 at a meeting of thirty men of the parish. The room which sticks out to the right-rear of the Tavern was the old Bradford schoolhouse of 1761 which stood at the junction of Salem Street and Old Groveland Road and was moved here and added on around 1873.

13. ROBERT COGSWELL HOUSE appeared at this location in 1897 but may very well have been moved here from somewhere else.

14. ELIPHALET KIMBALL STORE was built in 1816 on Salem Street where the Chadwick House (#10) now stands. It was the first post office for Bradford and Eliphalet Kimball was the first postmaster.

15. SACRED HEARTS CONVENT was built in 1961.

16. MARY E. KIMBALL HOUSE was built in 1909.

17. VEASEY HOUSE was built between 1851 and 1858 in a simplified Greek Revival style. It was owned by the Veasey family for many years.

18. DEACON FITTS HOUSE was built in 1837 for Daniel Fitts, a shoe cutter. It is a country federal house and is located on one of the first side streets cut in Bradford which began as a "private way" in the Kimball farm.

19. CARLETON HOUSE was built in 1845 in the Greek Revival style by Issac Wheeler. For many years it was owned by George Carleton, Jr., a shoe manufacturer and real estate broker.

20. GOULD-AUSTIN HOUSE was built in 1875 by Joseph M. Gould, a cigar manufacturer. This Second Empire house was for many years the home of Electia Austin, widow of Alvah Austin.

21. GREEN HOUSE was erected in 1877 by Moses H. Green, a Haverhill grocer.

22. JAMES BARTLETT HOUSE was built in 1837 by Mr. Bartlett, one of the most active builders in Bradford in the first half of the 19th century. Constructed in the country federal style, the house originally stood on the lot now occupied by the funeral home on the opposite corner. It was moved to its present location by Dr. Francis W. Anthony in

1886 and he continued to use it as his office after building his new house on the old location. This house later served the town as a library until the 1930's.
23. DR. ANTHONY HOUSE is one of the four houses not yet in the district which it is hoped eventually will be. It was built in the Queen Anne style for Dr. Anthony in 1888.
24. THE BRICK STORE is another house not in the district. It was built prior to 1820 by Moses Kimball, Innkeeper at the Tavern, and was used as a store and shoeshop for many years before becoming a dwelling.

25. WARREN ORDWAY HOUSE was bought by Mr. Ordway in 1842 when under construction. He designed the house's finished style which is Italian Villa. The house originally stood on the corner of Carleton Street and South Main Street and was moved in 1910 to provide the lot to erect the Sacred Hearts Church.

26. SACRED HEARTS CHURCH was built between 1910 and 1914 where the Warren Ordway House stood. It is in the late English Gothic style. The original drawing called for a spire to top the square tower, but it was never built. The school across the street is on the site of the Dr. George Cogswell House.

27. WILLIAM COGSWELL HOUSE was built in 1886 shortly after Cogswell Avenue was laid out. William was a son of Dr. George Cogswell.

28. W.N. KIMBALL HOUSE was built in the Federal style in 1820 by James Bartlett. It originally stood on South Main Street where Cogswell Avenue begins. It was bought in 1831 by W.N. Kimball at the time of his marriage to Priscilla H. Hopkinson. He occupied it until the 1850's when he built the large house on South Main Street known as the Carleton School (#87). Mr. Kimball was a shoe manufacturer and dealt extensively in real estate. He was born and raised at Kimball Tavern, son of Moses Kimball, the Innkeeper.

29. CROSTON HOUSE appears to have originally stood at the corner of South Main Street and South Park Street where the Nathanial Kimball House (#85) now stands. Here in 1796, it began life as a one story village school house. In this building, Bradford's Sunday School, the third in New England, was founded by Mary Haseltine in 1814. It served as a school until 1832 when it was moved across the street where the Atwood House (#57) now stands. The original lot was used to build the "Old Brick" Schoolhouse. In 1850, this house was bought by Frank Croston who lived there until his death. In 1910 it was moved to its present location.

30. JEWETT HOUSE was built in 1895 by Allan M. Jewett.

31. TAYLOR HOUSE was built in 1895 by Elbridge B. Taylor, a grocer.

32. KINGSFORD HOUSE was built in 1904 by J. Murray Kingsford.

33. EDMUND KIMBALL HOUSE was built between 1821 and 1826 by Issac Morse. The style is country federal. It was bought by Edmund Kimball in 1853 and remained in the

family until after the turn of the century. Mr. Kimball was the son of another Edmund Kimball who fought at Bunker Hill. He was a dealer in Morocco leather but spent some forty years of his life in public service, including several consecutive terms in the General Court. He was also a leader for the local Abolitionist cause.

34. HOBSON HOUSE was built in 1826 by Issac Morse, a very active local builder. Daniel Hobson bought the house in 1835 and it remained in his family into this century. For many years it was used as a gift and clothing shop known as Marjorie Poore's.

35. APARTMENT HOUSE was built in 1967.

36. LEVERETT KIMBALL HOUSE was built between 1849 and 1851 for Mr. Kimball who was the son of Eliphalet Kimball (#9 & #14). It is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style cottage Leverett Kimball was active in the silver trade between 1840 and 1880 and his son continued the business into this century, making a great deal of local silverware still to be found in Haverhill homes.

37. ALFRED ORDWAY HOUSE was built as a joint commercial venture by W.N. Kimball and Guy Carleton in 1831. The lower floors held a shoe shop and a general store, with upper floors as apartments. In 1880, Alfred Ordway bought the left half of the building and lived in it until his death in 1922. He was the premier shoe baron of Haverhill, making hand-sewed ladies shoes which were reputedly worn by Queens and First Ladies. Mr. Ordway was also a major force in the purchase of the Whittier Birthplace and its creation as a museum.

38. CAHILL HOUSE was built in 1925 by J. Leslie Cahill.

39. FRANKLIN ENGINE HOUSE was built in 1855 to house the local Franklin Engine Company. It was built in the Greek Revival style and has an interesting window on the top floor with glazing in the shape of a star.

40. WILLIAM KIMBALL FARRAR HOUSE was built in 1868 by Mr. Farrar, and is a perfect example of the Tuscan Villa style. Mr. Farrar was a shoe manufacturer in Haverhill and was noted for having gone to the California gold fields in 1849 at the age of sixteen.

41. SMITH HOUSE was built in 1913 by Forrest V. Z. Smith, mayor of Haverhill from 1929 to 1932. It is in the Dutch Cottage style.

42. BARNES HOUSE was built in 1949 by James R. Barnes.

43. GREENLEAF SCHOOL was built in 1884 to be Bradford's Town Hall and four additional class rooms. It served as Town Hall until Bradford merged with Haverhill in 1897 but continued its use as a school – with an addition in this century – until the present time. It was also used as a first home of Northern Essex Community College

from 1961 to 1968; and later as the School Department Administrative Office for the City of Haverhill.

44. WILLIAM B. KIMBALL HOUSE was built by the son of William N. Kimball (#28 & #87) and grandson of Moses, the Innkeeper. It was built in the Italian Villa style between 1860 and 1865 and is still owned and occupied by direct descendants of the builders.

45. ISSAC MORSE HOUSE was built between 1849 and 1851 by Mr. Morse in the Gothic Revival style.

46. JOSEPH BRIGGS HOUSE was built in 1903 by Joseph W. Briggs.

47. DR. ATWOOD HOUSE was built by Issac Morse between 1849 and 1851. It was bought by Dr. George M. Atwood in 1895 and he lived there until his death. It is a mixture of architectural elements from a number of styles.

48. HORATIO PEARL HOUSE was built originally as a double house in 1836 by Issac Morse in the Greek Revival style. The Pearl family moved into half the house in 1850 and later owned and occupied the entire house. Following the death of Miss Annie M. Pearl, a well-beloved teacher, in 1934, it was purchased and converted into a new library for Bradford.

49. DURGIN HOUSE was built in 1894 by George E. Kimball but was occupied for many years by the Durgin family who were involved in shoe making in Haverhill.

50. CHADWICK MANOR was built in 1973.

51. GEORGE E. KIMBALL HOUSE was built by Mr. Kimball in 1916 and lived in by him until his death. It is a fine example of the bungalow styles with Swiss Chalet influences.

52. MORRISON HOUSE was built in 1926 for Charles E. Morrison, a musician, in the Dutch Cottage style.

53. PEOPLE'S METHODIST CHURCH was built in 1891 and shows influence from the shingle style as well as the Stick Style framing exposed.

54. PAUL HOUSE was built in 1893 by Rufus & Frank S. Paul.

55. SAMUEL P. HORNE HOUSE was built by the Hornes in 1936. It is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style. Mr. Horne was a shoe manufacturer and leading citizen of Haverhill.

56. MERRILL-HORNE HOUSE is another house not yet in the district. It was built in 1865 by John F. Merrill and is an imposing example of the Second Empire style. It was built in the same period that this style was introduced into Boston by Bryant & Gilman in new City Hall. The house has been in the Horne family for many years.

57. ATWOOD HOUSE was built in 1910 by Willard E. Atwood on the second site of the 1796 schoolhouse (#29).

58. ARTHUR HALL HOUSE was built in 1820 by Samuel Wood in the country federal style. For many years it was the home of Arthur Howard Hall, author of “Old Bradford School Days,” a vivid recounting of life in Bradford during the period of the Civil War.

59. EVANS HOUSE was built in 1913 by William R. Evans, Sr., a Haverhill shoe manufacturer, in the Georgian Revival style. It replaced a house which was moved about half way down Allen Street on the right hand side.

60. BLY HOUSE was built in 1886 in the Shingle style for Charles L. Bly, a Boston manufacturer and dealer in electrical supplies. It was designed by local architects, Perkins & Bancroft.

61. GILMAN HOUSE was built in 1886 in the Queen Anne style for Arthur Gilman, a lecturer at Bradford Academy and part of the family which owned the Bradford Hat Factory.

62. DOWNES HOUSE was built between 1834 and 1841 for William H. Kimball. The house, a blend of Georgian and Greek Revival styles, was bought by Benjamin Robert Downes in 1850 and has remained in the Downes family for most of the years since. Downes was a music teacher at the Academy.

63. HATCH HOUSE was built in the 1840’s in the Greek Revival style by Rebecca Haseltine Emerson, daughter Deacon John (#72). Mrs. Emerson and her husband, Rev. Joseph Emerson, were leaders in establishing educational opportunities for women. They profoundly influenced Mrs. Emerson’s sister, Abigail Haseltine, in her work at Bradford Academy and also Zilpah Grant and Mary Lyon, the latter founding Mt. Holyoke in accordance with their philosophy. The Hatch family bought the house in 1857 and occupied it until the death of Miss Mary Hatch, a beloved teacher, in 1939.

64. COGSWELL SCHOOL was built by the Town of Bradford in 1891. It was named for Dr. George Cogswell, long a resident and leading citizen of Bradford. He was active in all local affairs and served on Bradford Academy’s Board of Trustees for fifty-seven years.

65. HOWARD HOUSE was built by John F. Howard in 1917 in a California Spanish style. Mr. Howard made a fortune in salad dressing which he produced in his previous house on Kingsbury Avenue.

66. DANIEL KIMBALL HOUSE was built in 1846 for Jesse Kimball who died before it was completed. It is a fine Greek Revival style house with very fine Egyptian Revival columns resembling lotus blossoms. From 1851 to 1856, it served as a dormitory for the Academy. In 1856 it was bought by Daniel and Charlotte C. Tenney Kimball whose

family held it until the 1940's when it was used as the Bradford Co-operative Pre-School. This is the fourth house not yet in the district.

67. LENOX HOUSE was built in the Queen Anne style in 1890 by George W. Lenox, a Haverhill shoe manufacturer. Sometime after 1895, when his partner built the Briggs house (#75) across the corner, Mr. Lenox greatly enlarged the house and added the present Neo-Georgian façade.

68. TATIAN HOUSE was built in 1953 by Rita D. Tatian as a modern Cape.

69. ELLIOTT HOUSE was built in 1904 by Edwin Elliott.

70. WOOD HOUSE was built in 1898 by William Wood.

71. CHESLEY HOUSE was built in 1894 by Arnold Chesley.

72. HASELTINE HOUSE was built between 1781 and 1788 by Deacon John Haseltine. It is a Georgian farmhouse which originally stood on South Main Street where the Lenox House (#67) now stands and overlooked the Haseltine fields which went down to the Merrimack River. John was the great-great grandson of Robert Haseltine who with his brother were the first settlers of Bradford in 1649. A deacon in the White Church and one of the most prominent men in town, he was a founder of Bradford Academy and father of four very remarkable daughters. Mary founded the third oldest Sunday School in New England here in Bradford in 1814. Rebecca, a teacher, was a leader with her husband in the cause of women's education. Abigail was for fifty years the guiding light of Bradford Academy. Ann and her husband, Adoniram Judson, were the first American missionaries to a foreign land. They met in 1810 at a meeting of Congregational ministers at Bradford where the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was formed. In 1812 the couple were married here in Bradford and sailed a few weeks later for Burma.

73. CROWE HOUSE was built in 1903 by Johnson H. Green and takes its name from Arthur J. Crowe, a Vice-President of Lenox and Briggs, who occupied it for many years.

74. SAYWARD-RICHARDSON HOUSE was built in 1900 and lived in by two principals of Greenleaf School, Walter F. Saywood and Arthur C. Richardson.

75. BRIGGS HOUSE was built in 1895 by Charles L. Briggs in the Neo-Georgian style. He was a prominent shoe manufacturer and partner of Mr. Lenox.

76. GREENLEAF HOUSE was built for Benjamin Greenleaf, headmaster of Bradford Academy. It was built in 1821 at the time of his marriage to Lucretia Kimball. After the male department of the Academy was closed in 1836, Mr. Greenleaf served two terms in the General Court, helping to establish the state normal school system and a geological and natural history survey of the state. He was a noted author, being best

remembered for his “National Arithmetic” which was used in schools throughout New England for years after his death.

77. HAMEL HOUSE was built in 1929 for Louis H. Hamel, a highly regarded local leather tanner. It was built in the Colonial Revival style on the site of the Academy Building of 1841.

78. MYSEL HOUSE was built in 1914 in the Bungalow style which shows clear influences from Frank Lloyd Wright’s prairie school of architecture. It was occupied for many years by Dr. Hymen A. Mysel.

79. FORBES HOUSE was built in 1912 for George E. Forbes in the Neo-Georgian style.

80. CHANDLER HOUSE was built in 1890 in the Queen Anne style for Charles W. Chandler, a Haverhill shoe manufacturer.

81. BICKNELL CHAPEL was built for Bradford College in 1958 to a design by Nelson Aldrich of Campbell & Aldrich of Boston. The small meditation chapel has stained glass made in the workshops at Chartres, France.

82. ACADEMY HALL was built for Bradford Academy between 1868 and 1870 in the Second Empire style. The first two building for the Academy stood where the Hamel House (#77) now stands. This Hall was designed by Emerson & Fehmer and was erected by Clement & Cressey. The dedication address in 1870 was by the Rev. Phillips Brooks. The side wings of the building were added in 1892 and 1915, and the present portion in 1915 also.

83. DENWORTH HALL was erected between 1938 and 1940 in the Colonial Revival style to designs by Edwin S. Dodge of Ames, Child & Graves of Boston.

84. HASELTINE HALL was erected at the same time as its sister building. It honors the Haseltine family of Bradford, particularly Abigail, for many years head mistress of the Academy.

85. NATHANIAL T. KIMBALL HOUSE was built in 1888 in the Shingle style by design of Perkins & Bancroft, Haverhill architects.

86. MCGOVERN BARN was built as a barn by James H. McGovern and converted into a dwelling in the 1920’s.

87. CARLETON HOUSE was built for William H. Kimball as a private home around 1850. It is a fine example of the Italian Villa style. Issac N. Carleton had a private boy’s school here in the late 1800’s.

88. SARAH FARRAR HOUSE was built in 1894 by the widow of John B. Farrar, a shoe manufacturer and leading figure in town. It is in the Queen Anne style.

89. PALFREY HOUSE was built in 1886 by Hersey G. Palfrey, a civil engineer who was later on the staff of the Boston Custom House.

90. HOPKINSON HOUSE was built between 1856 and 1859 for Samuel W. Hopkinson in the Italian Villa style. It is the only house in the area to retain its belvedere (once both the Alfred Ordway House #37, and the Carleton School #87, had them.)

KIMBALL TAVERN

Benjamin Kimball came to Bradford in 1663 after marrying Mercy Haseltine, the daughter of Robert, the first settler of Bradford. He acquired land by purchase as well as his wife's inheritance and in 1692 at the time of his eldest son, Richard's, marriage, he gave him 6 acres of land and 20 pounds sterling to build his house with. The tavern began as a one room cottage with loft above, probably in that summer of 1692.

Around 1707, with a growing family, Richard expanded the house by adding on to the right front as well as finishing off the second floor. Much of the material used was reused wood from a building of the 1670's. In the parlor chamber may be seen the paneling added at this time.

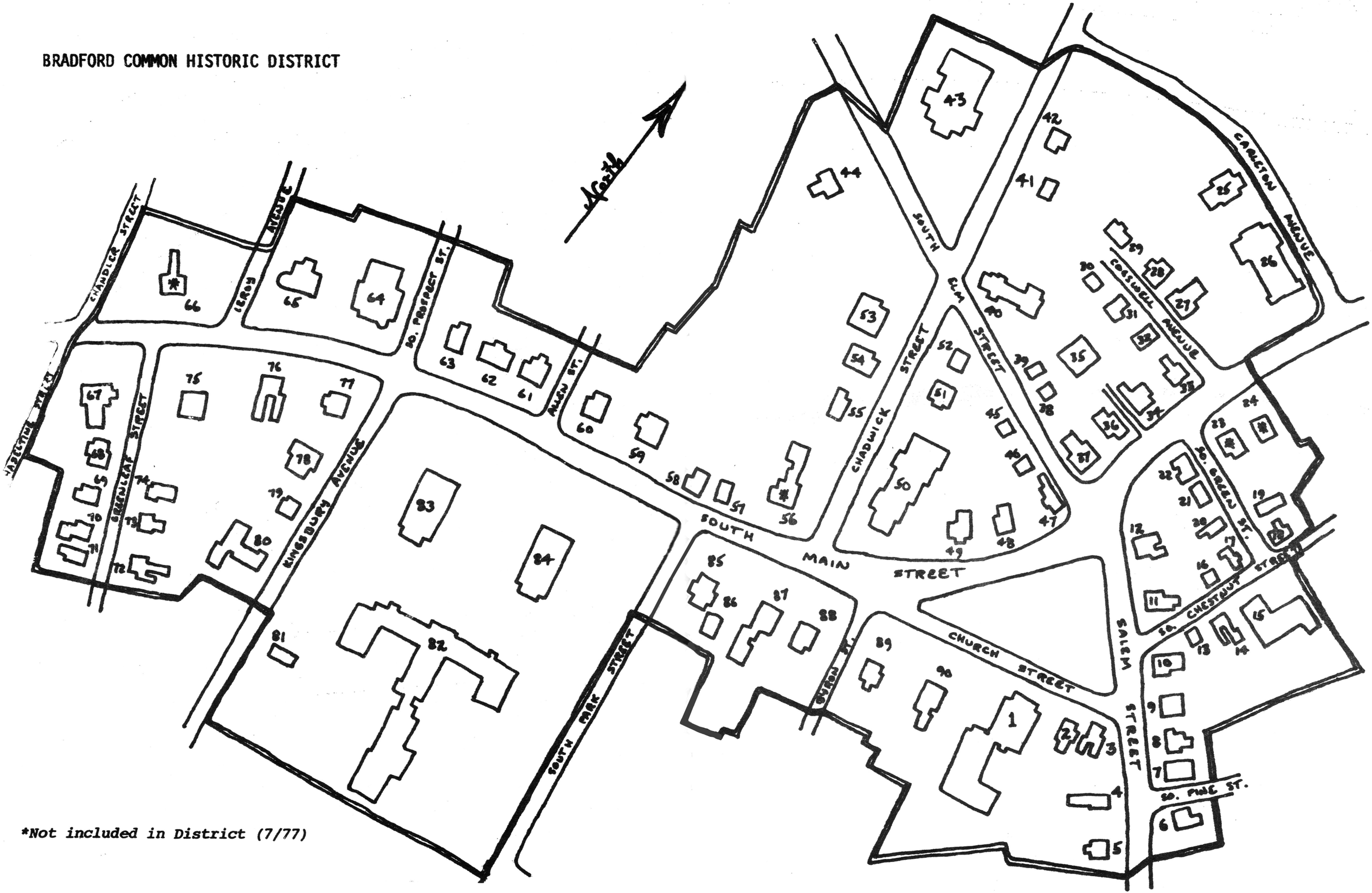
Richard died in 1711 and the house eventually passed to a younger son, Stephen. He was married in 1736 and may have redone the Parlor at that time, making the fireplace smaller and installing the paneling still seen there.

Following Stephen's death, his elder son Jacob inherited it. Jacob was responsible for the way the Tavern looks today, for in the 1790's, perhaps at the time he was planning to open the Tavern, he added on the back rooms, changing the roof line, and the entry tower and tap room. He died in 1797 and his son Jacob had an Innkeeper's license in 1799, the year of his marriage. When he died in 1802, the house passed to his brother Moses.

Moses Kimball was the Innkeeper from 1802 until his death in 1822. In 1803 he was host to the meeting of thirty local men who founded the Bradford Academy in the Tavern Room. He served as a trustee of the school, sent his children there, and took in borders (there were four boys and five girls boarding here in 1814).

The house next passed to Moses' son Jacob who with his mother continued the Tavern until the Temperance movement grew sufficiently to discourage them. In 1833 he returned to farming. Dr. George Cogswell used the parlor as an office after 1831. Jacob died in 1879 and the house passed to two maiden daughters, the last of whom died in 1921. It went out of the family for the first time and remained a private home until 1967 when it was purchased by Bradford College which had it restored to its 1800 appearance.

BRADFORD COMMON HISTORIC DISTRICT



*Not included in District (7/77)