

Boylston Avenue

Princeton Center Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 26, 1999 and March 10, 2006 (boundary increase) by the National Park Service. The westerly boundary for the district includes 18 Boylston Ave.



Wachusett House Hotel before 1910 (PHS)

Historical Site: Corner of Boylston Avenue and Worcester Road

Wachusett House Hotel (1822-1910), presently, Dingman Park (1983)

The first known dwelling on this piece of land was built by Phineas Gleason about 1750. Later this became the site of two lodging houses: the original Wachusett House tavern, built by John Brooks, Sr. (1789-1863) in 1822, and moved to 7 Boylston Ave. c.1847, and the second Wachusett House hotel (1847-1910), also built by John Brooks and sold to Phineas Beaman in 1859. Beaman subsequently enlarged and expanded it into one of Princeton's most prominent hotels during the time when hotel business flourished from 1866-1880. Remnants of the foundation of both the second Wachusett House Hotel, and its associated barn, and part of a granite stone wall that once marked the hotel property (all c.1847) still stand in Dingman Park. A portion of the foundation wall is readily visible in front of the Ali Pierce Memorial Bench. On the west side of the lot, near a paved pathway leading to the adjacent Wachusett House Apartment complex, is a beehive-shaped brick cistern, perhaps 6 feet in circumference. Its exact age is unknown but it appears to be late 19th century.

Today this site is a 1.84 acre public park set on a grassy knoll at the southwest corner of the intersection of Boylston Avenue and Worcester Road. The town acquired the land for this park in 1983, and was later named Dingman Park for Wesley Dingman, a former town employee.

(Excerpt from the Princeton Center National Historical Register nomination)

(Historical map references)

[1830 Town Public House]

[1857 Wachusett Hotel]

[1870 Wachusett House- P.A. Beaman, bowling alley]

[1898 Wachusett House]



Wachusett House Annex 1883 (PHS)

7 Boylston Avenue

Historical Name: First Wachusett House c. 1822

House history researched by the Princeton Historical Commission 2007

(Princeton House File-card 35)

Built: c. 1822

First Wachusett House building, owned by John Brooks, was moved in 1847 to its present site on Boylston Ave.

Leander Taylor, Charles Skinner and Dr. Joseph C. West were among tenants

Bought by P.A. Beaman & Son and remodeled and used as an "Annex" in 1883

Algernon T. Beaman -1917

P. Alden Beaman, son -1933

Irving H. Bottcher – 1956

Raymond Renaud -1959

B.A. Sundin and Son –Holden

It was first a two-family house. Other tenants were Joseph Brigham & family and Joel Reed & family. There were no tenants except Wachusett house guests after 1883. Part of the building was the original Wachusett House property, not purchased by P.A. Beaman and Son.

(Historical map references)

[1857 Brooks Store]

[P.A. Beaman]

[1898 Wachusett House]



12 Boylston Ave

(Princeton House File-card 36)

---Lundell built

Joseph Pierpont Reed

Daniel Partridge occupied

Samuel Davis owned

Mrs. Munroe and Augusta

John Maley – (house burned 1897, rebuilt 1898, burned again 1900)

Josiah D. Gregory bought land and built

Richard H. Gregory 1913 -1917

Everett W. Needham -1947

J. Henry Lanois -1952

Roger H. Vaughan -1956

(Historical map references)

[1898 map Maley]



16 Boylston Ave

(Princeton House File-card 37)

P. Doolittle built

Arnold Doolittle

Thomas G. Smith –bought Oct. 27, 1945



18 Boylston Avenue

Historical Name: Princeton Center School 1906

History researched by the Princeton Historical Commission 2008

(Princeton House File-card 38)

History of the Princeton Center School

The Princeton Center School District had two one-room schoolhouses from 1810 until 1884. In 1884 the two were consolidated into a single facility within the Goodnow Memorial Building.

In 1906, Remington Hamilton and Son, low bidder for the project, built the Princeton Center School. Upon completion, the Center School relocated to this new building, enrolling seventy-four students in grades 1 through 12. Originally a horse barn stood to the right of the school. A 2-story, wood-shingled addition was constructed in 1937 at the left of the façade. Playing fields which were acquired in 1937-1939 are located behind the school.

By the mid-1950s, students in grades 9-12 began to attend Wachusett Regional High School in nearby Holden, Massachusetts. Eventually the lower grades also exceeded the capacity of this building, and it finally closed as a school in 1991. Still owned by the town, but known as the Princeton Center, it currently houses a variety of civic and cultural activities including the Council on Aging, the Princeton Historical Society, and the Princeton Arts Society.

Joyce Anderson, PHC

__Boylston Ave

(Princeton House File-card 38a)

Built:

Jay Bruce –A frame c.1969

Robert Paine -1972



Boylston Ave
(Princeton House File-card 38b)
Built: Osgood J. Whittemore -1954
Drohan

Princeton House File transcribed by Alex Fiandaca, Princeton Historical Commission 2007
Map transcriptions: Joyce Anderson, Princeton Historical Commission 2007
Historical photographs courtesy Princeton Historical Society