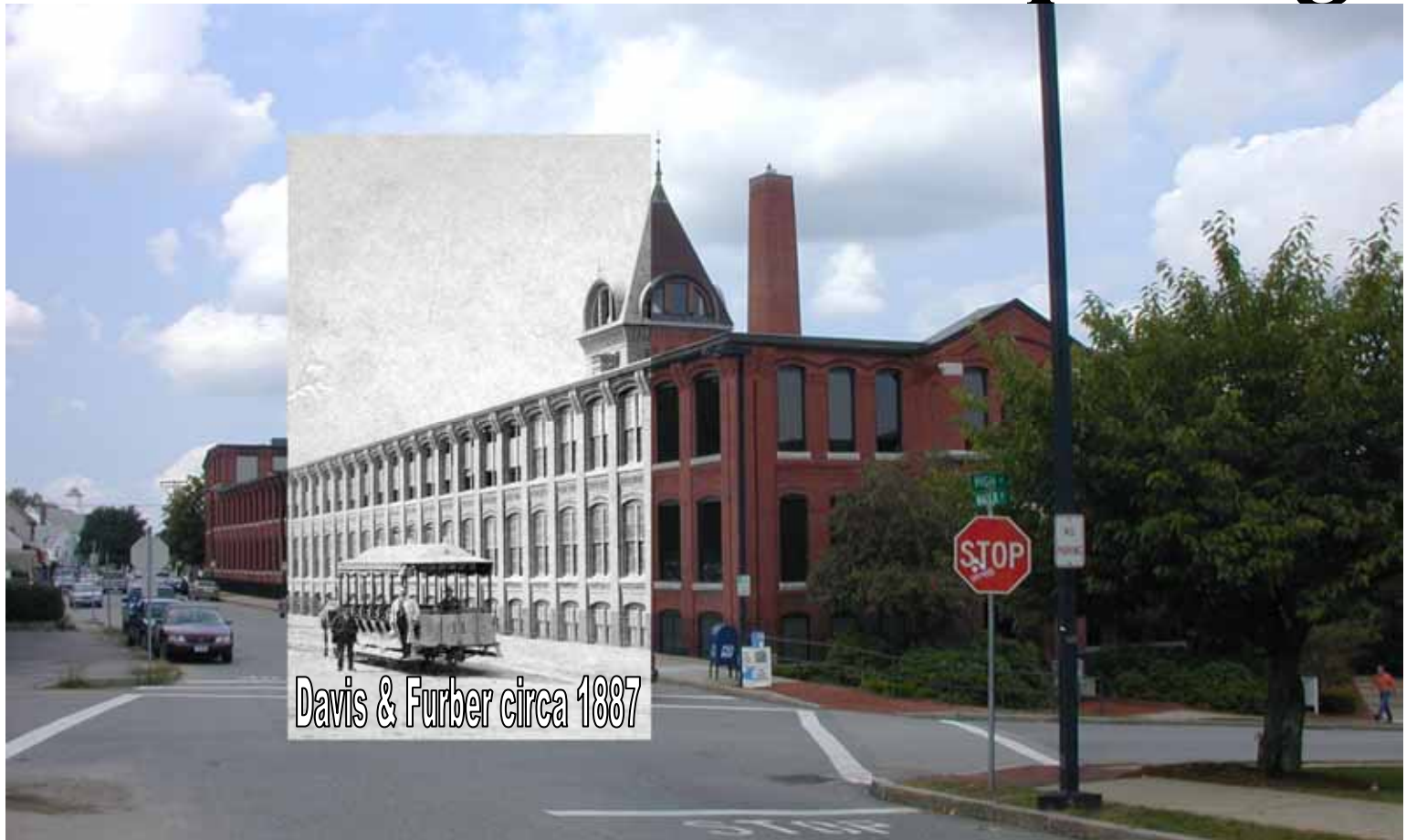


North Andover Historical Society 2011 Pathways to the Past: Rediscover Machine Shop Village



Saturday June 18, 2011

Hosted by 

**Events and Tours from 10AM – 4PM
21 High Street, North Andover**



21 High Street, North Andover, by intersection of Elm, Water, and High Streets, park at 57 High Street, Tours inside East Mill (formerly Davis & Furber) and/or walking around Elm, Main, and Water Streets.

www.NorthAndoverHistoricalSociety.org

Guided Tours and Special Events

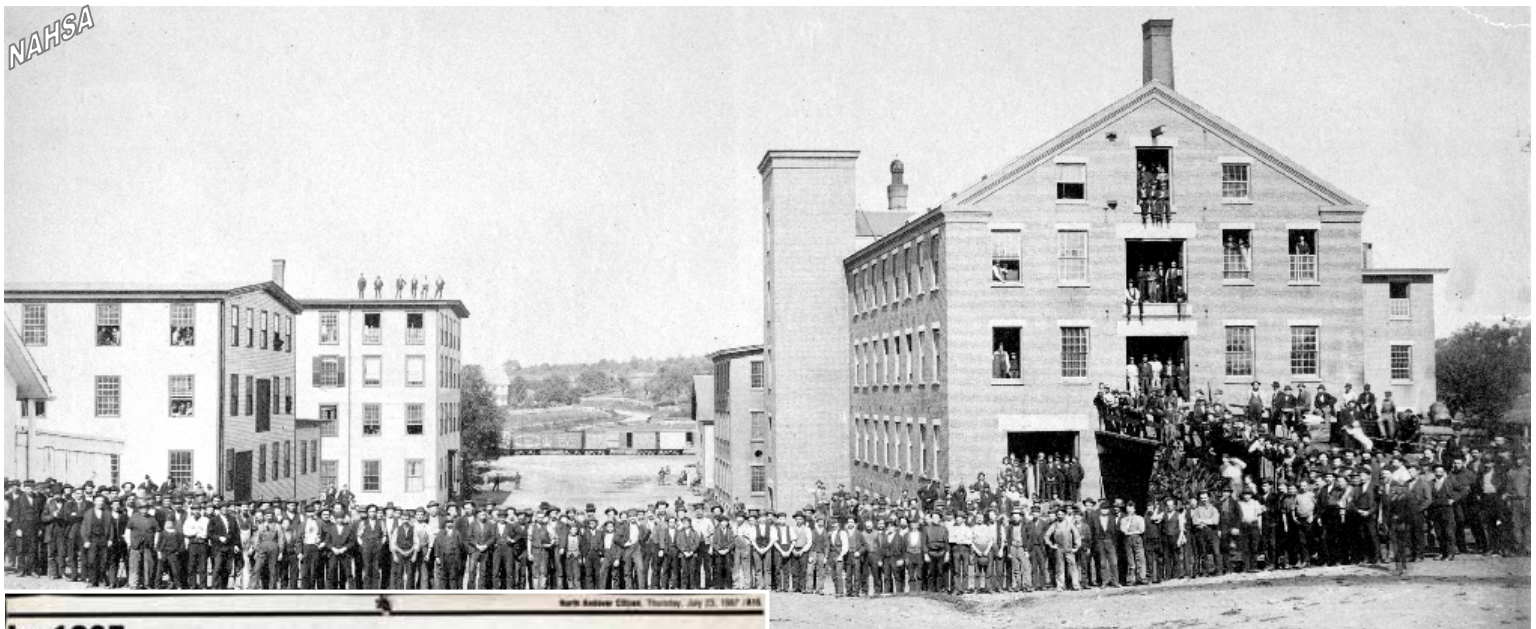
- 10:00 to 3:00 Guided Tours of Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm Street, with ongoing organ concert.
- 10:30 Guided Tour of East Mill (Signup required, max 20) Dave Rand and Carol Majahad (stairs, one hour)
- 11:30 Guided Tour of Elm, Main. and Water Streets (Signup required, max 20) Carol Majahad
- 12:00 to 3:00 Open House at NexAmp: presentation on installation of solar panels at East Mill
- 12:30 Guided Tour of East Mill (Signup required, max 20) Dave Rand and Carol Majahad (stairs, one hour)
- 1:00 Free Bell Choir Concert at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm Street
- 2:30 Guided Tour of East Mill (Signup required, max 20) Caroline Cole and Kathy Stevens (stairs, one hour)
- 3:00 Guided Tour of Elm, Main, and Water Streets (Signup required, max 20) Carol Majahad

Thank You to all who are sharing their homes and space with us.

- We recommend that you park in the East Mill parking areas behind 57 High Street.
- Restrooms are available at East Mill, 21 High Street
- You are walking on public sidewalks in a residential neighborhood. Do be very careful when crossing streets.
- Bring your hat or sunglasses and your comfortable walking shoes.
- When you are on private property, please be a considerate guest. Children are welcome, although strollers would be too awkward indoors. Please leave your snacks and pets at home. Cell phones on mute would also be appreciated.

Trinitarian Congregational Church – 72 Elm Street

- 10 - 3 Refresh yourself with a snack and support our youth group's mission trip this summer
Tours of the "Brown Church Painted White"
Learn about our church history, Century Pre-School, TNT theatre program
- 10 - 2 Estate Sale in Scout Cabin (household items, chic boutique, video games, books, cds, etc.)
- 1:00 Bell Choir Concert under the direction of Ms. Bev Valle
Organ music by Mr. John Schnelle on the third largest organ in the Merrimack Valley



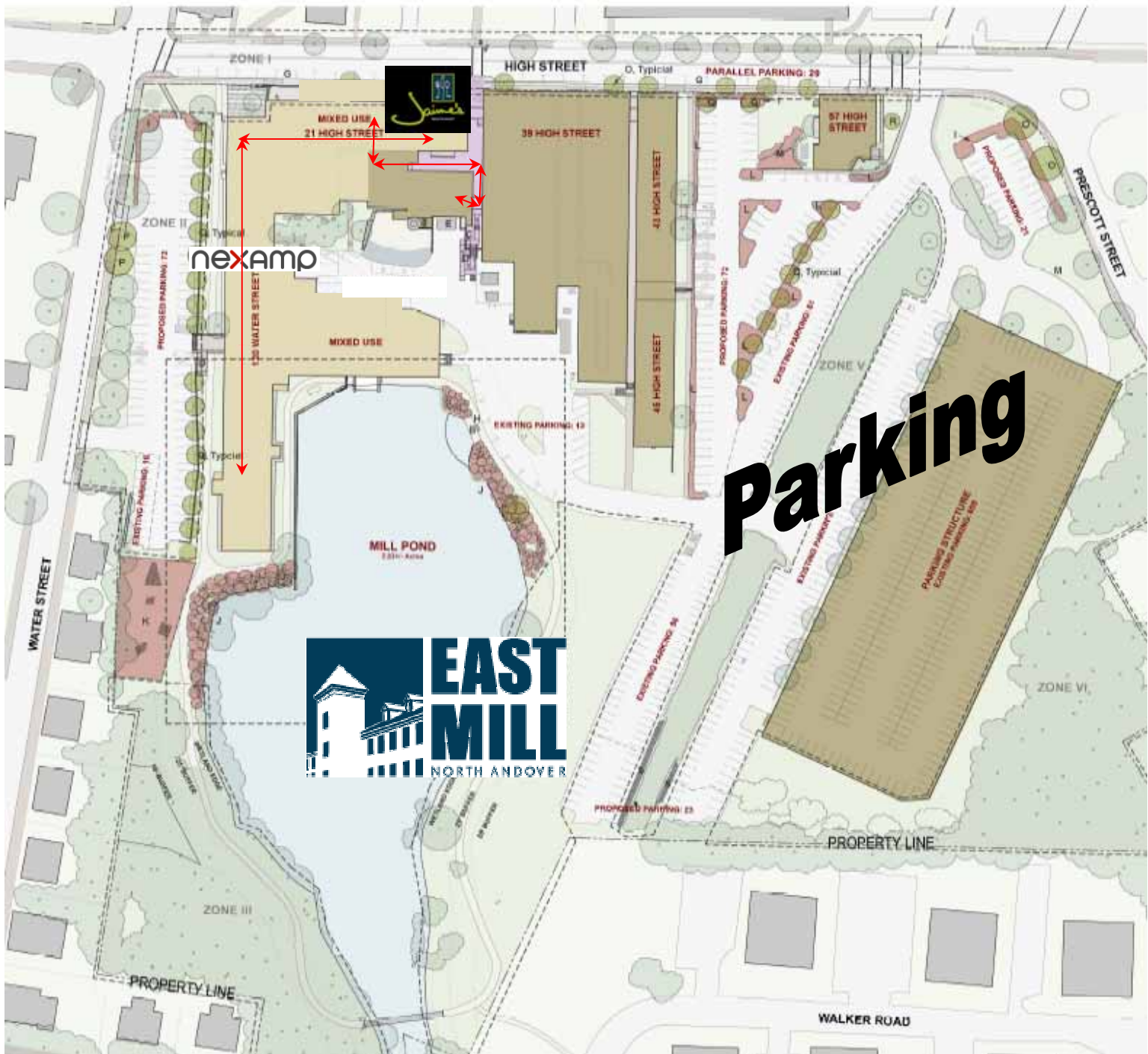
Above, the Davis & Furber Machine Company in its heyday in a photo taken in 1862 from the corner of Elm and Water Streets facing down the hill to the railroad tracks and up past Prescott Street to what would become the airport. At that time, the name Elm Street extended to Prescott Street and Davis & Furber was all on Elm Street. Now that segment of the street from Water to Prescott has been renamed High Street. The portion of Davis & Furber to the east of High Street is now known as East Mill, and 21 High Street is the right front building in this picture.

Tour of East Mill – all indoors, no stairs

Welcome to the lobby of East Mill, formerly the home of The Davis & Furber Machine Company. You are standing in the oldest surviving Davis & Furber building, erected in 1860. For a hundred and fifty years Davis & Furber equipment – the carding machines, spinning machines, looms, and finishing apparatus – set the standard for industrial cloth-making and put North Andover on the map as a center of industrial innovation. The company no longer exists, although its buildings survive and its machines continue to be used worldwide. The self-guided tour on the next pages (all indoors and with no stairs) takes 20 to 30 minutes. There is also an optional addition with no stairs and a longer guided tour involving stairs and significant walking described on page 3.

Don't miss the Good Day Cafe coupon attached to this book; see page 18 for free offer.

Follow the arrows to follow the self-guided tour:



Begin with the pictures on the lobby walls near the entrance:

Nine Partners: The textile industry was a leading edge technology industry in the early 1800s. Entrepreneurial young men formed partnerships, invented equipment, sold out to others, went bankrupt during financial panics, died from diseases that are preventable today, and tried again with new partners. These men were all partners in Davis & Furber or its several predecessor partnerships.

Foreman’s Club Meeting December 1949: These 78 formally dressed men are attending the winter banquet in a banquet Hall on Pleasant Street. The summer outing traveled to a park and included a catered picnic. Many long time North Andover residents will find their fathers or grandfathers in the list of names below the picture. Important people to notice are: Sam Rockwell(9), Treasurer and Managing Director; his son Forbes Rockwell(25), Vice President; and Davis Simpson(18), grandson of George Gilbert Davis.

Card Clothing, Mill Shaft Equipment: The machine is painted Davis & Furber green with red decorative details. Notice the names of partners George Davis, John Wiley, and J.M. Stone.

Gold Medal Award at Mechanics Exposition in 1890: Davis & Furber won many certificates and medals for the excellence of its machinery.

The Men who made Davis & Furber Mules (1925): A mule is an automatic spinning machine that makes yarn. The distinctive building is across the street (occupied by Converse) with a red brick exterior.

Four George Perkins Postcards: Images of the buildings looking down High Street (formerly Elm Street).

Now walk into the **Turbine Room / Electricity Museum** behind the lobby. The water wheel which originally powered the factory was located here. Water from Cochichewick Brook flowed into the building, turned the water wheel, and then flowed under the road to exit into Osgood Pond in the back. The waterwheel was replaced by a coal-fired steam engine. Then that was replaced by the red diesel powered generators that you see in front of you. They were used to provide Direct Current (DC) electricity until the plant closed.

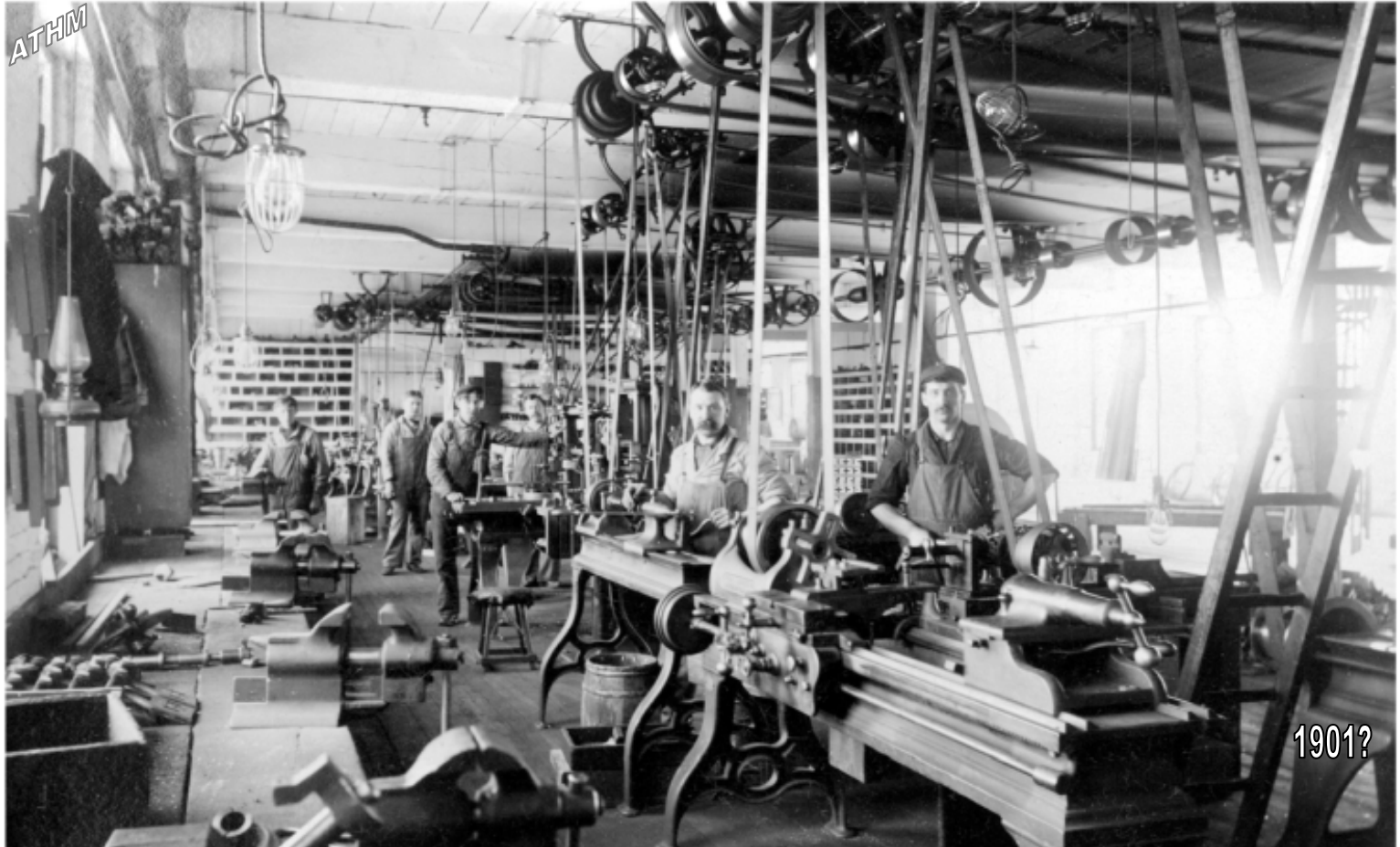


Optional: If you don’t mind a short walk outdoors and a gentle ramp (but no stairs), follow the arrows out the side door and around to the Art Space where there is an Andovers Artists Guild exhibition of “East Mill” artwork.



Return to the lobby.

Follow the tour arrows into **Jamie's Restaurant** (see page 18 for a free offer). The waterwheel turned a shaft. Gearing allowed this first rotating shaft to ultimately turn shafts that ran across the ceilings. In the picture below you can see the ceiling shafts that turn attached metal pulleys. Finally, leather belts drive the individual machines as demonstrated in the picture below. In Jaime's Restaurant you will see the shafts across the ceiling with the attached metal pulleys.



nEXAMP and View of the Millpond and Water Intake.

Return to the lobby and take the elevator to the 2nd floor. Follow arrows around to the south side of the building. You will come to the office of Nexamp, the leading clean energy planning, installation, and management company for business and government, founded by North Andover residents Dan Leary and Will Thompson. **Between noon and 3 PM** the Nexamp offices will be open to see a presentation on their installation of solar energy panels on the roof of this building.



Continuing on, you will see the millpond and Cochichewick Brook out the hall windows. Compare with the 1912 picture to the left.

RCG's East Mill

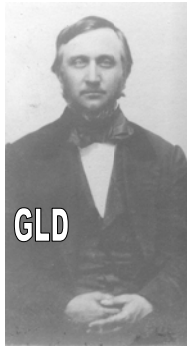


67 kW Solar PV System
North Andover, MA

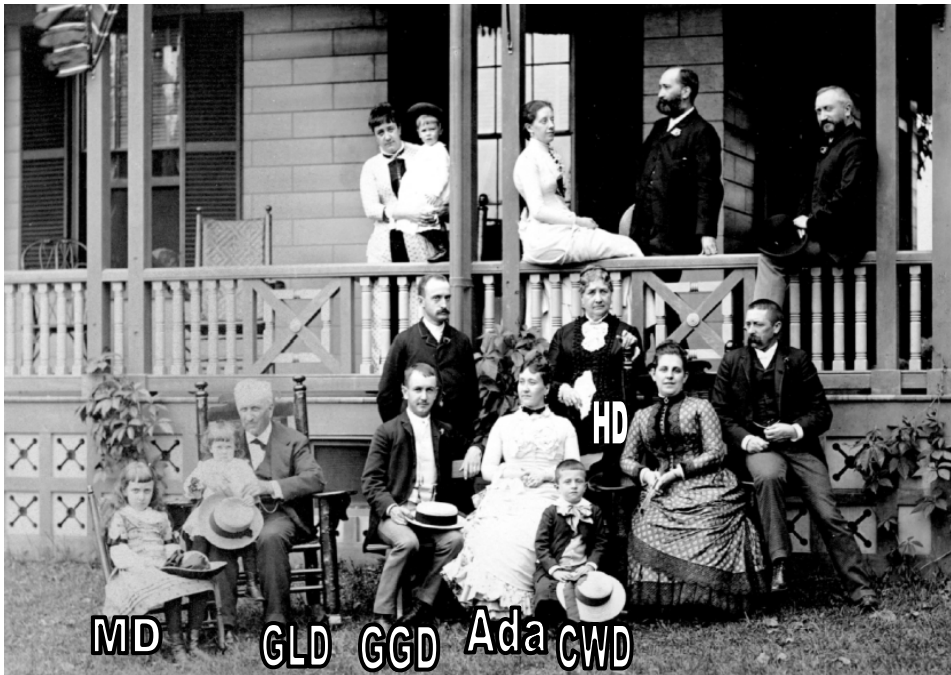
Return the way you came to the elevator and down to the 1st floor lobby.

The Extended Davis Family

Six generations of the extended Davis family worked at the privately owned business that became Davis & Furber. The first generation was 29 year old carpenter George H Gilbert who went into partnership with 32 year old blacksmith Parker Richardson in 1835. In the same year they rented the company-owned boarding house to Parker Richardson's widowed sister, Mrs. Roberts, and they hired George Gilbert's nephew, 19 year old George Lucien Davis (2nd generation), who moved from his home in Brooklyn, Connecticut, to Andover North Parish to learn the machinist's trade. Being single, he lived at the boarding house.



When George L Davis became a partner at age 25, he married his landlady's daughter Harriett Roberts. The picture below, taken in 1886 outside their house on Elm Street, shows George (70) and Harriet (65) Davis surrounded by their offspring. The Grandparents both lived several more years and outlived 9 of their children and 2 of their grandchildren.

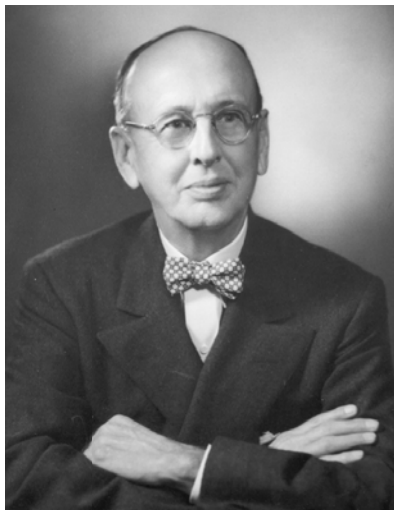


In the front, to the right of patriarch George L Davis, are his 42 year old son George Gilbert Davis (3rd generation) with his 32 year old wife Ada Whitney Davis. George G, an 1865 graduate of Harvard, worked for his father-in-law's banking firm for several years. According to his biography, "Mr. Davis connection with it ... might have continued except for his father's wish to have his son associated with him. In consequence of this wish, Mr. Davis renewed his business association with his father." George L and Ada lived to be 76 and 66 respectively, dying within months of each other in 1920.

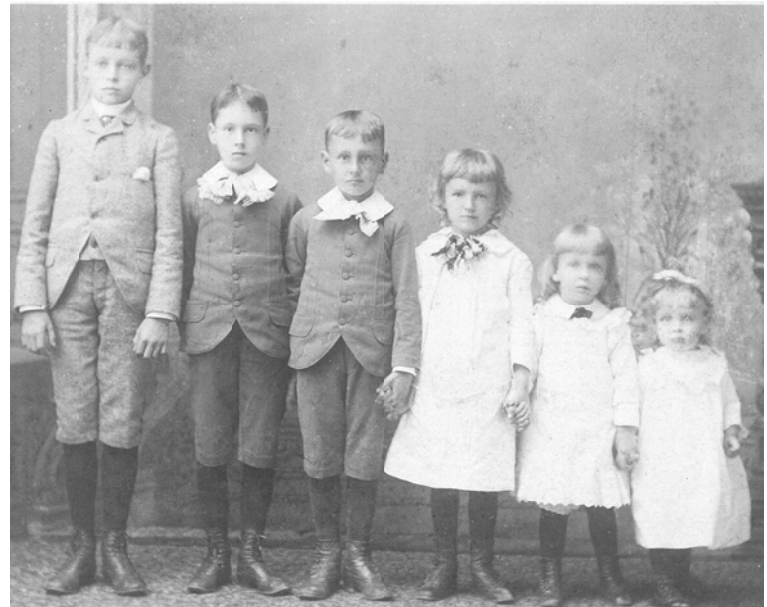
The 4th generation in the picture include 5 year old Charles W Davis (in front of his parents, Ada and George) and his 8 year old sister Madeleine (in leftmost chair).

Their sister Dorothy was born in 1890 after this picture. Madeleine and Dorothy lived long healthy lives as significant shareholders in Davis & Furber but uninvolved in its management. Sadly, Charles W Davis, died at age 16 in December 1897.

George G Davis's first cousin Mary Gilbert Davis Rockwell had six healthy sons, shown here, who were also 4th generation. Second from left is Henry Davis Rockwell (1876); third from left is Samuel Forbes Rockwell (1878).



George G Davis hired them both in 1898. Sam Rockwell, a 1900 graduate of Harvard College, became Treasurer and Managing Director upon Mr. Davis's death in 1920. Many long-time North Andover residents will



remember Sam Rockwell and will recognize him in the picture on the left. His son S Forbes Rockwell, Jr. (5th generation) will also be remembered by many. His son Sam F Rockwell, III (6th generation) worked briefly for the firm in the early 1960s. Family management ended with the eldest Sam Rockwell's retirement in 1964.



History of the Davis & Furber Machine Company

Isaac Osgood owned a sawmill/gristmill on Cochichewick Brook in the area now called Machine Shop Village. He lived nearby on Osgood Street, near today's North Andover High School. In 1835 he sold his forty-acre mill site and an adjoining seven-acre pasture to 29 year old carpenter George H Gilbert and Andover native blacksmith Parker Richardson, who were partners in the Gilbert & Richardson machine shop in Andover South Parish. They relocated their business and its 30-40 employees to this new location because Cochichewick Brook was a year-round stream which would dependably supply power to their equipment.

The first Gilbert & Richardson building in North Parish was a two story wooden building which was 100 feet long and 40 feet wide on top of a brick basement (1 on facing map). The firm quickly outgrew the 12,000 square feet of the original building and increased its size twice. The building itself is long gone. However, the second building, the 1860 steam powered Brick Block, exists today known as 21 High Street. This second building with over thirty thousand square feet of space illustrates the tremendous growth in the company's business during the period 1835-1860 due to the explosive growth in the woolen industry. The labor force of 30-40 workers in 1835 tripled to over 100 in 1860 and 350 during the Civil War.

The Andover North Parish 1830 map shows fewer than thirty houses around Isaac Osgood's sawmill site on Cochichewick Brook. When Gilbert and Richardson relocated their 30-40 employees to the North Parish in 1836, the newcomers put an immediate strain on the local housing market. Some became boarders with local families but rental housing was needed for the first time. The company provided it in the form of dwellings along Elm Street. Most were constructed and some were moved from other locations. When you take the walking tour, note the houses built in the 1830s-1840s. The tripling of the labor force by 1860 led to second wave of building of worker housing. In 1866 Davis & Furber owned 43 residential buildings. Trolley service from Lawrence to North Andover began in 1868. After that, mills ceased building employee housing.

The Gilbert & Richardson partnership was reformed several times with a shifting group of partners (See picture in the lobby) due to the national Financial Panic of 1837, bankruptcy, need for additional capital for expansion, and illness. Sounds similar to stories on today's business pages. The 1851 partnership name, Davis & Furber, was retained thereafter because it was a successful brand, in modern parlance, although Charles Furber died of typhoid at age 39 in 1857.

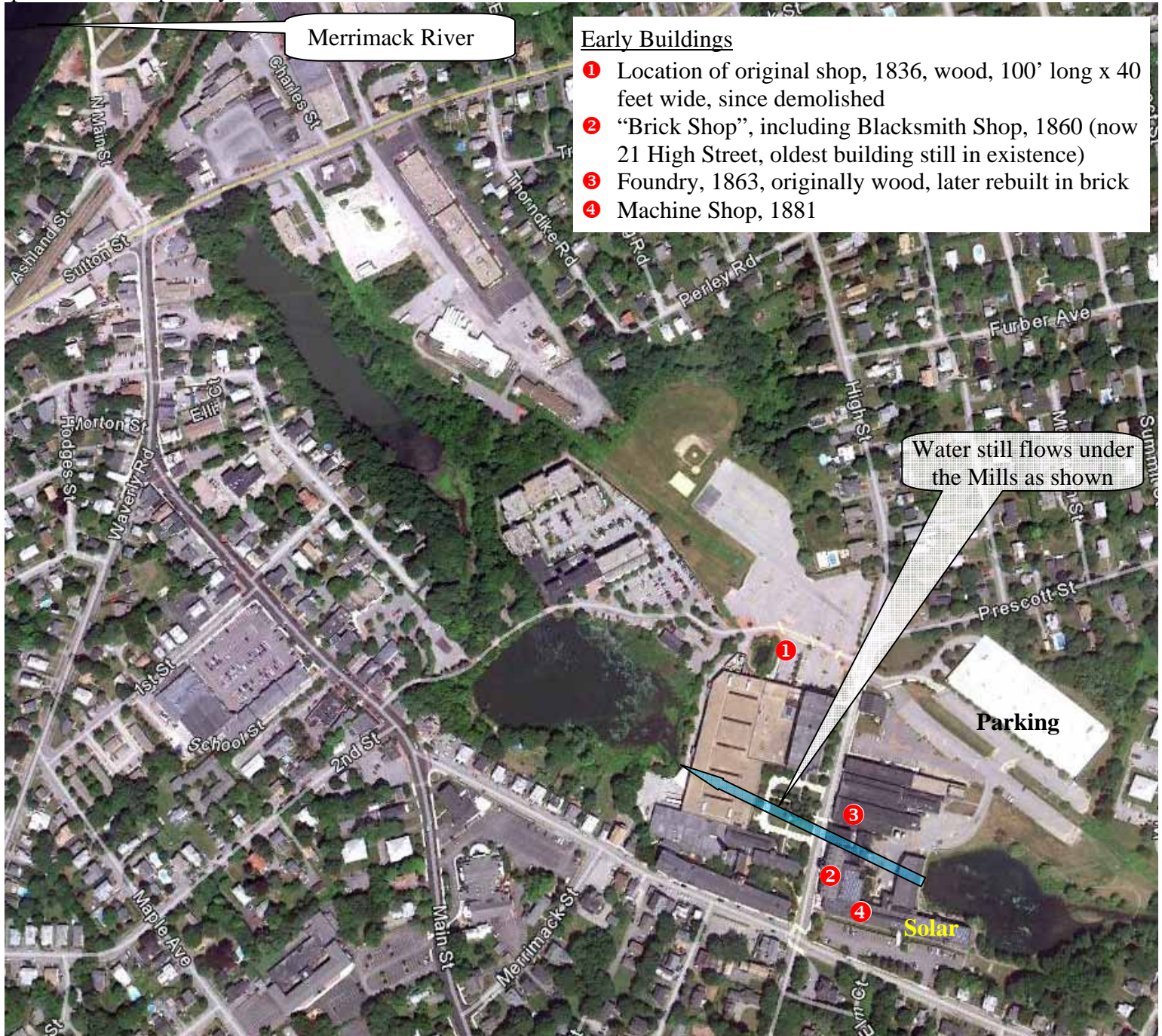
After the Civil War the Davis and Furber Machine Company continued to expand. Over 900 employees were on the payroll in 1882. The following year Davis & Furber Machine Company converted from a partnership to a privately held corporation with 67 year old George L Davis as Treasurer and Managing Director. He continued in this role until his death in 1891 when he was succeeded by his 47 year old son George Gilbert Davis, sometimes known as 'the second Mr. Davis' to distinguish him from his father. By the time of his death in 1920, Davis & Furber sold to customers worldwide a complete line of machines and supplies to fully equip a woolen textile mill.

George G Davis chose his second cousin Samuel F Rockwell to succeed him as Treasurer and Managing Director. Sam Rockwell's leadership encompassed the challenges of the Depression of the 1930s, the boom of the World War II demand for textiles, and the beginning in the 1950s of the decline of the woolen textile industry in New England. A local sign of that decline was the closure of the Sutton Mills in 1962. Throughout that over forty year period he adhered to the conservative principles laid down by Mr. Davis, including the requirement that all company directors

live in North Andover. He lived within walking distance of the company, as had the Davis men before him. His retirement in 1964 at the age of 86 was the end of an era in which top management lived and participated in the same community as their employees.

His successor presided over a period of rapid decline in the American textile industry, which moved south and then offshore. As a result of the recession of 1970-1, many New England mills ceased production, including two North Andover plants (the original 1813 Stevens mill and the Osgood Mill) in 1972. When Davis & Furber closed down its operation in 1981 it was the last of the four great textile enterprises in North Andover to die, and the last supplier of carding equipment in the United States. A year after the company had passed into history the neighborhood was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

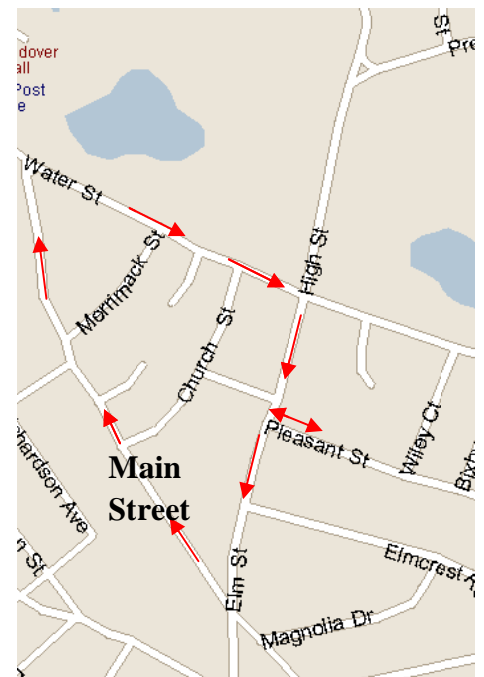
In 1983 the Davis & Furber Campus was sold by the Davis Family and converted into an office complex for large high-technology companies. After several boom and bust cycles in the office real estate market, the mill buildings were renovated again in 2007-2010 into a mixed-use complex that achieved federal historic preservation accreditation and reflected the values of a new generation of environmentally-conscious planning and shared living and working space. The campus remains one of North Andover's major employers, containing 36 companies and 21 apartments in the space once occupied by Davis & Furber.





Aerial photo by Gayton Osgood ca. 1960, from high over Stevens Memorial Library looking North

- Properties that may be explored (10AM-4PM 6/18/2011 only, please)**
- ✦ Mill Owner's Mansion: 93 Elm Street: Wiley House Grounds
 - ✦ Shop Keepers House: 88 Elm Street: Stephen Parker House Grounds in front of barn only
 - ✦ Davis family church: 72 Elm Street: Trinitarian Congregational Church, Outside and inside
 - ✦ Company Rental Housing for married Machinist: 65 Elm Street; Outside and inside
 - ✦ Master Mechanic's House: 257 Main Street: Outside and inside
 - ✦ Company Rental Housing for married workers: 6 Water Street (Rennie's Florist): Outside and inside
 - ✦ First jail: 73 Water Street (Top Notch Cuts): Outside and inside



Machine Shop Village walking tour – exactly 1 mile

We invite you to explore this village by walking up High Street (past Stacey's Olde-Time Pizzeria, see page 18) and Elm Street to the Library, down Main Street to Rennie's Flower Shop, and back along Water Street to East Mill. In this small area you will see mill owner's mansions, homes of affluent master machinists, and company-owned housing in which most workers lived. Machine Shop Village was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 because it's a remarkably intact example of a nineteenth century factory village with a full range of building types.

Walk on Elm Street from East Mill to the Library

As you walk up Elm Street you may be surprised to find company-owned housing dating back to the 1830s. These houses were built soon after Davis & Furber (then known as Parker and Richardson) opened for business. From the beginning, Davis & Furber employed many independent contractors, unusual for mills of the day.



John Wiley House

Although constructed of wood, the Church was designed to imitate the forms and details of carved stone, and the exterior walls were originally painted brown, with a bit of sand mixed in to complete the illusion. Inside the building, the same Victorian taste for bold patterns and strong colors produced "finely frescoed walls and ceilings" to set off the black walnut pews and furnishings. Many of these handsome wooden pews and furnishings remain.

This was the Davis's family church. In order to entice the orthodox congregation that had split off the more liberal North Parish Unitarian church to relocate downtown, George L Davis personally contributed \$10,000 to the building fund (\$10,000 in 1865 would be \$138,000 today) and his partners, John A Wiley and Joseph M Stone each added \$5,000 more. In addition, the Davis & Furber Company contributed a prime Elm Street lot and moved the existing boarding house to 14 Pleasant Street.

93 Elm Street (1864-5) John Wiley, Partner, Davis & Furber

A man of considerable wealth, John A Wiley could have built his American Second Empire mansion anywhere in North Andover. Yet he chose a small lot directly across Water Street from the loud, smoking shops of his company. Behind his house was a neighborhood of employee housing and Wiley actually subdivided his property to build his own employee "tenements" (10-12 Wiley Court). Directly across the street you will see:

100 Elm Street (1849) Ariel Cheney's house and livery stable

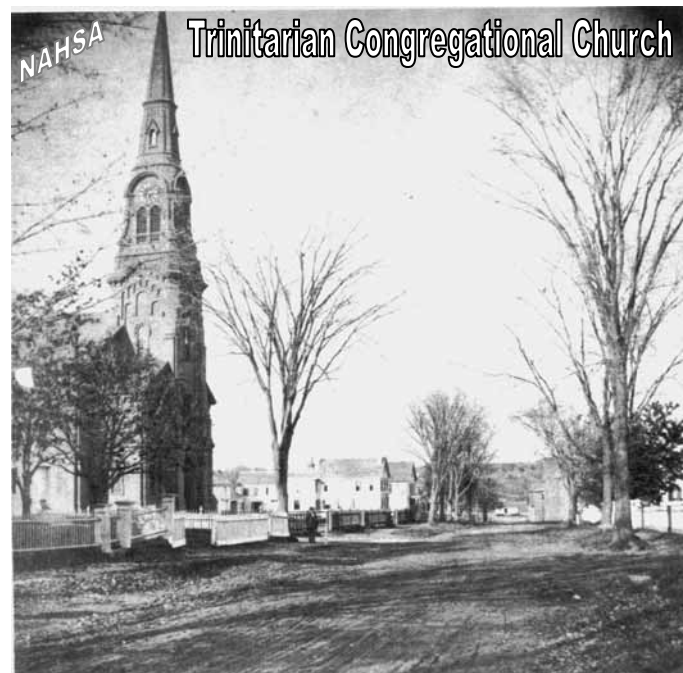
94-96 Elm Street (1860) Parker Store

88 Elm Street (1841-6) Stephen Parker House

Stephen and William Parker opened their store in 1836 and by 1860 Stephen Parker erected a new store building right next to his house. Stephen Parker died in 1865 and by 1870 his house was listed as one of George L Davis's many properties.

72 Elm Street (1865) Trinitarian Congregational Church

Although constructed of wood, the Church was designed to imitate the forms and details of carved stone, and the exterior walls were originally painted brown, with a bit of sand mixed in to complete the illusion. Inside the building, the same Victorian taste for bold patterns and strong colors produced "finely frescoed walls and ceilings" to set off the black walnut pews and furnishings. Many of these handsome wooden pews and furnishings remain.



Trinitarian Congregational Church

Notice that these earliest company built houses are remarkably similar to the privately built houses of the period. The half-house form of the two machinists' dwellings is practically a match for the form of two contemporaneous dwellings in the Centre at 80 and 36 Osgood Street.

Turn left onto Pleasant Street

14 Pleasant Street (1836) Gilbert & Richardson Boarding House

The proprietress, Mrs. Harriet Roberts (the widowed sister of Davis & Furber partner Parker Richardson), supported herself and her children by renting the boardinghouse building from the machine-shop company and then charging each boarder \$2.50 a week for meals and lodging. This was thought to be an excellent way for a widow to support herself. Fifteen to twenty single men lived in the boarding house. Their occupations ranged from day laborer to master mechanic or even to company partner: Mrs. Richardson's oldest daughter married the young George L Davis!

Return to Elm Street.

45 Elm Street (1906) Leverett Henry Downing

Designed by the Lawrence architect James E. Allen, the Downing House reveals Colonial Revival influences resulting in a building with a great deal of architectural character, and one of North Andover's most interesting early 20th century residences.

56 Elm Street (1848) Albert Blood, Master Machinist & Entrepreneur

46 Elm Street (1848) Elbridge G. Manning, Supervisor, Davis & Furber

44 Elm Street (1853) Horatio Dennett, Master Machinist, Davis & Furber

Horatio Dennett, Elbridge Manning, and Albert Blood were experienced master craftsmen who contracted with the machine shop company either to produce specific machine components or to perform specific operations within the shop. Each was a semi-independent businessman, who earned a respectable income. This should be borne in mind as we look at their trio of Greek Revival cottages today. As modest as these houses may seem to us, they were considered substantial and stylish dwellings in their own day. The construction of houses such as these was a luxury possible for only the uppermost ranks of the mid-1800s laboring class.

Horatio Dennett made a name for himself in North Andover history by heading the petition of 1855, asking for the Merrimack District (today's downtown North Andover) to be annexed to the new and beautiful planned city of Lawrence. This petition failed in the face of opposition by the Mill Owners and the competing petition put forth by the South Parish that split Andover into two towns.

28-30 Elm Street (early to mid 1800s) Quealey-Smith house and Barn

These houses were moved from vicinity of Salem and Summer Streets (near Taki's Pizza) between 1846 and 1850 as part of the campaign to supply housing for the Davis & Furber workers.

10 Elm Street (1881) Mrs. Susan M Blanchard

This is the fashionable, suburban home of a Lawrence merchant which was designed by a local architect, William C Richardson. Its tax assessment ranked it among the more valuable houses in town. When this house was built, the neighbor to the left was George Davis and the neighbor to the right was Joseph Stone, both partners at Davis & Furber.

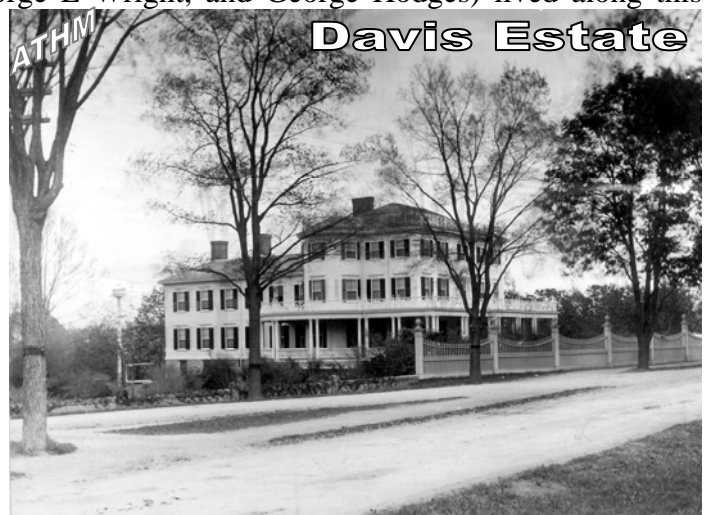
Walk down Main Street

At the intersection of Main Street and Elm Street, keep in mind that the Library was not built until 1907. Several mill owners (George L Davis, George G Davis, Joseph Stone, George L Wright, and George Hodges) lived along this section of Main Street.

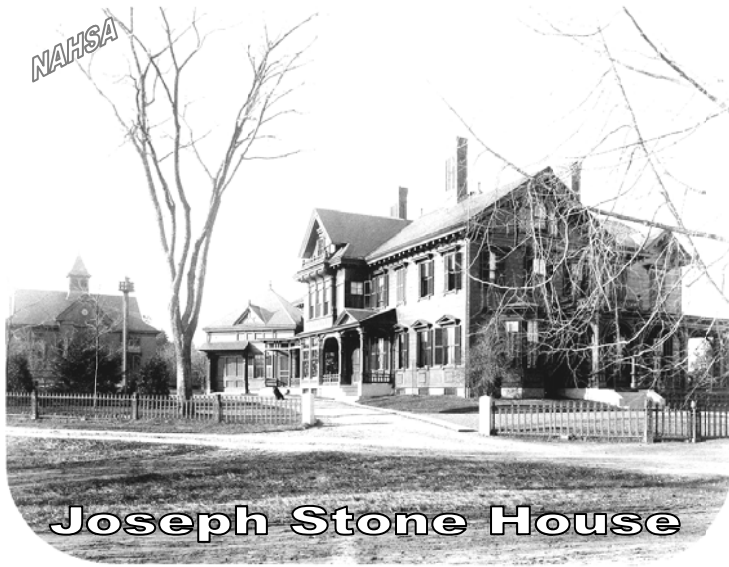
328 Main Street (ca 1860, 1898 & 1899, demolished 1929)

Davis Estate

Look across Elm Street for the one foot high foundation stones of the fence shown in the picture to the right. The many post-WWII houses across from the library occupy the land once forming the old Davis estate. Both the father, George L Davis and his son George G Davis lived here, just two blocks from their mills. After George G Davis's death in 1920 his daughters, Madeleine and Dorothy, chose to live elsewhere, in homes located in England, Boston, and Kennebunkport, Maine. Dorothy's son Davis Simpson was employed at Davis & Furber for many years.



The Davis House began as a mansard-roofed mid century mansion and was heavily remodeled to reflect the neo-Georgian taste in 1898 and 1899.



Joseph Stone House

341 Main Street (1840) Joseph Stone House, Partner, Davis & Furber

Joseph Stone was born in 1820 in Vermont and worked in New Hampshire mills prior to coming to Davis & Furber in 1860. His high style mid century house and barn were fitting for a gentleman of his position. Sadly, the house was demolished to make way for 20th century development.

281 Main Street (1922) George L Wright, President, Davis & Furber

The Wright House and its grounds present a well-preserved example of early twentieth century architectural and landscape design. The house itself is set on the crest of a low rise behind a deep front yard, while a low stone wall defines the distinction between public and private space. The view

presented to the public thus remains one of symmetry, formality, and precisely defined order.

266 Main Street (1839; 1847) George Hodges, Woolen Mill Owner, North Andover Mills

George Hodges was one of the wealthiest North Andover men of his day. The 1850 census says the Hodges household consisted of seven persons: the mill owner, his wife, three of their children, and two Irish servants. Domestic servants were uncommon in all but the most well-to-do rural households at mid-century, and the fact that George Hodges could support *two* of them (a man-servant and a maid) is a clear mark of his family's prosperity.

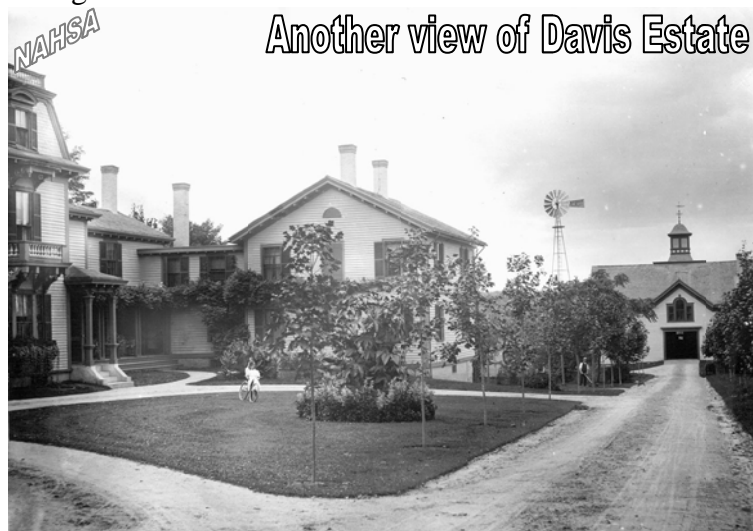
George Hodges choose to build his in-town mansion within walking distance of his company, The North Andover Mills, which were located behind Water Street (see photo and description on page 15). Around 1846, the original Greek Revival home was further updated with Gothic and Italianate detailing. This 1847 remodeling may have been sparked by the completion of Captain Nat Stevens' magnificent mansion (140 Academy Road) in 1846, and may explain why Hodges's added veranda bears a marked resemblance to the porches of the Stevens House. George Hodges in-town mansion is remarkable for the completeness of its grounds, gardens, fences and outbuildings.



266 Main - 1890s

🚗 257 Main Street (1881; 1888) George E. Wilson, Master Mechanic, Davis & Furber

George Wilson was a "machine erector" for Davis & Furber. His picturesque home combines a conservative Italianate form with Stick Style detailing. The house sits well back from the street and has a generous size lot to complement its expansive late Victorian scale. It was a single family dwelling and privately owned - a testament to one worker's ability to realize the American Dream and an indication of the higher pay scale of these skilled mechanics!



Another view of Davis Estate

247 Main Street (1880) Francis C. Clark

Local architect George Adams designed and built this Shingle style with Queen Anne decorative elements for Lawrence merchant Francis Clark. Clark is representative of the many successful Lawrence-based business men who chose to build their fine homes in North Andover. During this period, Lawrence's rise as a textile manufacturing city drove North Andover closer to its modern role as a suburban community of commuters.

196 Main Street (1901) St. Michael's Rectory

170 Main Street (1868; 1886; 1928; 1999) St. Michael's Church

Saint Michael's had its beginnings in the 1850s as a mission church out of Lawrence. It was the first Catholic Church in North Andover, and early masses were originally held in Mechanics Hall. The first Catholic church building, designed by James Murphy, was built on Water Street in 1868. The church building was moved from Water Street in 1886. In 1928, the wooden structure underwent a complete remodeling under the supervision of local builder, Louis McAloon, following the then popular Spanish Mission style. The 1828 church structure is still visible in the current structure.

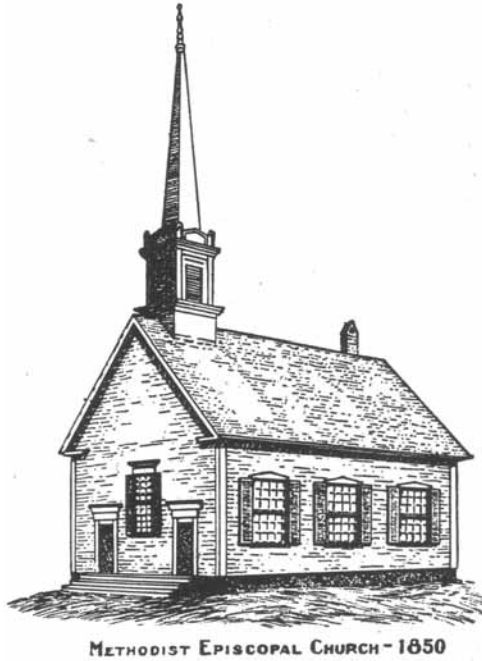


That these two churches were built in this area at this time was a sign of the movement of the center of North Andover.

158 Main Street (1849) First Methodist Episcopal Church

The first Methodist meeting was held in a school house at the corner of today's Second and Main Streets in 1845. By October 1849, construction began on their first church building between Main and Water Streets. Pews were sold at \$500 each to help cover the cost of the construction. In 1968, the Methodist congregation moved to their brand new building on Peters Street, and this building became St. Gregory's Armenian Church after December 1969.

If you followed Main Street to the left, you would be in downtown North Andover. Our tour turns right onto Water Street, where you will see employee housing from Mr. Hodges's North Andover Mills, and will lead you back to the Davis & Furber mill buildings.



Walk along Water Street

You are on the edge of North Andover's downtown. This area grew out of the series of mill service villages along the Cochichewick Brook, which displaced the Old Center as the commercial heart of North Andover. Most of the buildings along this section of Water Street range in date from the 1840s through the 1890s and have been heavily altered.

👉 6-8 Water Street, Rennie's Florist (free flower offer, see page 18)

Go on into Rennie's and try to imagine two families living in this building!

When you come out, look behind Rennie's at what is now called Sutton Pond Condominiums but which was originally North Andover Mills (picture top of facing page).

6-8 through 40-42 Water Street (1840)

The North Andover Mills built these eight identical one and a half story duplex cottages to rent to their married employees. Each side had less than 900 square feet of living space. And, town water, indoor plumbing, central heat, and electricity did not yet exist. The impact on the landscape must have been tremendous. The area along the Cochichewick was still mostly farmland in the 1830s, with only scattered houses and barns and, of course, the earliest mill buildings themselves. Within this still rustic scene, the neat row of prim little cottages that suddenly sprang up in the old Kittredge pasture must have struck an oddly urban note. The uniformity of the double cottages' design, the regularity of their placement, and the dramatic contrast between their own diminutive size and the impressive bulk of the new brick mill behind them were all features of a landscape of a new era, an era in which men's lives would be ordered by the needs and rhythms of the factory rather than by those of the farm.

148 Main Street (sic), North Andover Mills. ca. 1825

Kittredge Stone Mill, ca. 1825: Predating the North Andover partnership, Joseph Kittredge owned a woolen operation that was housed in this two-story coursed granite rubble stone structure set into the slope of a hill.

NAHSA

A taller, thicker dam was built in 1828.

North Andover Mill, 1838: The main factory building is characteristic of larger mid-1800s brick mills with its three stories, gable roof, granite detailed windows, and tied-in walls.

Stone Warehouse, 1844: This fieldstone storehouse (right-most structure in picture) was built by the North Andover Mill partnership. In 1899 M. T. Stevens bought this mill complex and renamed it Osgood Mills.



Water Street across from Church Street: Original Site of John White's Foundry (1838/9)

Although the building has long been demolished, the original foundry for Gilbert & Richardson and, later, Davis & Furber, stood here and was built and run by an independent founder, John F White. White apparently wasn't very experienced and he sold the business to Edwin Winslow of Boston. It wasn't until 1842 when Edmund Davis, an experienced iron founder from New Hampshire, leased the shop that the product improved. In 1917 Davis & Furber built their own foundry on this site.

73 Water Street (1865; 1875; 1982) North Andover Jail/Top Notch Cuts

Further evidence that the center of town had moved was the 1865 construction of a town "lockup" on Second Street. Inmates for the new jail, however, turned out to be scarce, and the building was auctioned off only ten years later. The new owner, George Morton, promptly moved the lockup to this site on Water Street and converted it to commercial use. In a time when materials were expensive relative to labor, it was fairly common to move a building.

Water Street and West (downtown) side of High Street, Office and Card Clothing Building #7, 1887



Manchester NH architect Augustus G Stevens' flat roofed brick building dating from the second growth period occupies the west corner. The front facade on High Street features a gabled frontispiece and a Romanesque arched entrance. Typical of this period, the walls are articulated vertically by bracketed piers, while segmented arched windows define the horizontal planes.

Water Street and East side of High Street, Machine Shop #1, 1860 (now East Mill)

On the east corner sits the very conservative structure that engineer Phineas Stevens designed during the first rapid expansion period of the Davis & Furber complex. The Greek factory features 6 over 6 windows with granite sills and lintels, tied-in walls, and a gable roof profile. See other photographs of this same view on pages 3 and 20.



Cochichewick Brook and the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution came to Andover in 1802 in the form of James Scholfield, a member of the Scholfield family who brought mechanical carding technology from England when they emigrated. James purchased a water privilege on Cochichewick Brook on a property now occupied by the North Andover Thrift Shop. It is worth driving down Main Street to 172 Sutton Street (↗ on map) to visit his original building to see the small scale of the first mills and dams. If you go before 1 PM, you may go inside Scholfield Mill. Park on either side of the street.

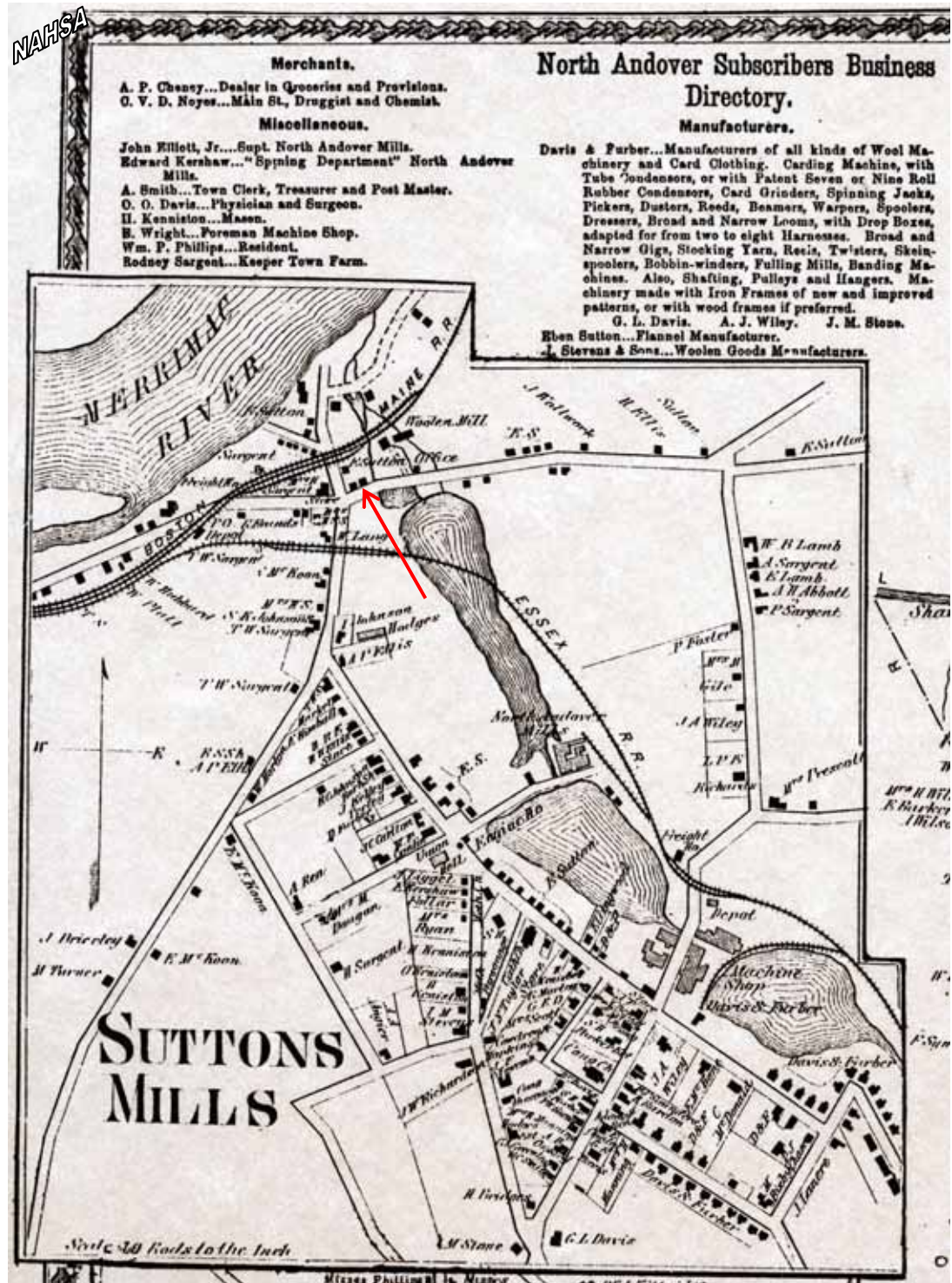


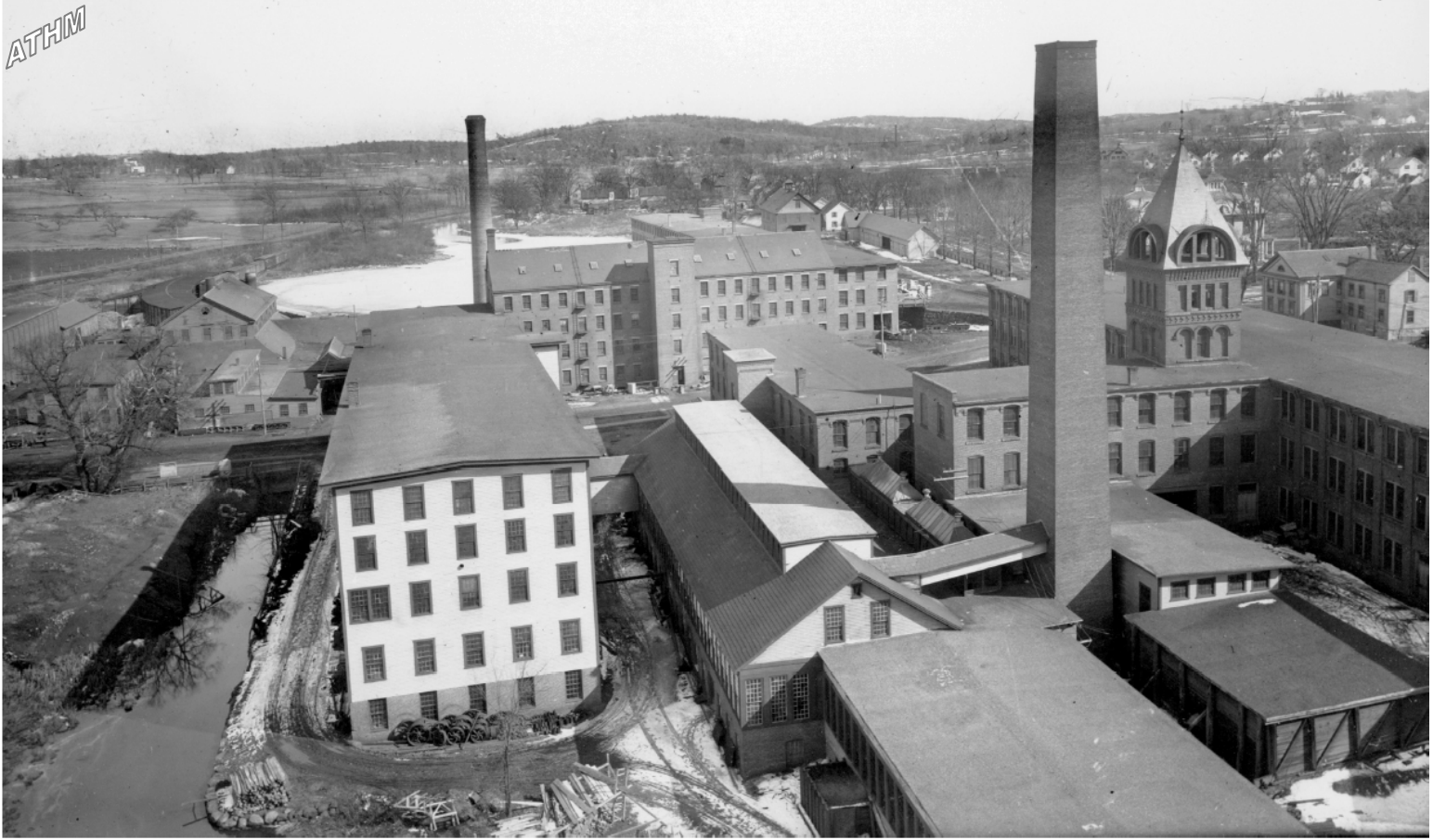
Walk over to the edge of the property to see how narrow the stream is; Scholfield's dam was only four feet high.

His water-driven card was employed in custom carding for local spinners, many of whom traveled a considerable distance to take advantage of the first such machine in the area. The sign in front of the building has a picture of a carding machine together with an explanation of its purpose.

Despite his popularity, James Scholfield's carding and cloth manufacturing ventures were not particularly successful. In 1812 the clothier sold his mill site and machinery. The following year Scholfield accepted a position as overseer at Nathaniel Stevens's woolen mill. This arrangement lasted only until 1815, when Stevens reportedly dispensed with the Englishman's services and took over the supervision of the mill himself. At this point James Scholfield, the man who had brought the woolen manufacturing industry to North Andover, disappeared from the town's records.

The 1872 map to the right shows several water-powered mills: Davis & Furber, North Andover Mills, and [Suttons] Woolen Mill, each by a dam in the Cochichewick River, but no mention is made of Scholfield.





Looking South-east from “case hardening chimney”, ca. 1908



Davis & Furber Mule in use at Stevens Mill



Card clothing group



Card clothing inspection

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- Good Day Cafe – Coupon attached to tourbook
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- Stachey’s Olde-Time Pizzeria – a free piece of pizza

One premium from each business per tour booklet; only during this event. Please show this page.

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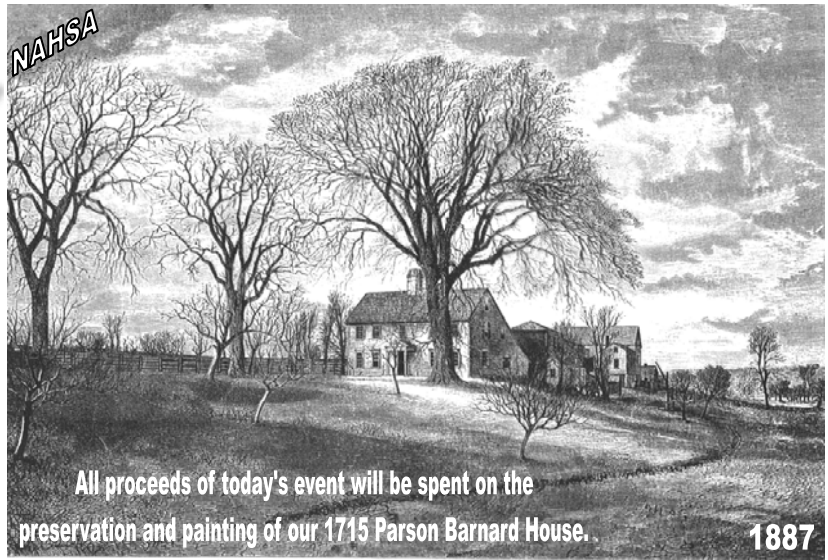


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All proceeds of today's event will be spent on the preservation and painting of our 1715 Parson Barnard House.

1887

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