



## West Hartford Village Historic District

*Historic Tour No. 7  
in the Town of  
Hartford, Vermont*

West Hartford Village is one of five villages in the town of Hartford, located in the northwestern corner. The district is an excellent example of a New England community that shares its two hundred years of diverse village history through architecture, early farms, and former railroad-related buildings. Most of the historic sites in this 47-acre linear district are on the east side of Route 14, once known as Main Street, along the White River. The historic focal point of the District is at the intersection of Main Street and Harper Savage Lane where two stores (#10 and #11) once existed. Historic sites still standing include 19th-century homes, a library, church, schoolhouse and two cemeteries.

The first residents of European descent were farmers and mill owners, with permanent settlement beginning in the 1790s. West Hartford grew as vehicles and trains brought more activity to the village. Traffic increased along White River Road (Route 14), a main travel route between Boston and Montreal. A commercial rest stop along White River Road was built to accommodate traffic. New structures were built when the railroad came to Town in the late 1840s. The c. 1870 house near Harper Savage Lane (#31) is a surviving sign of the railroad, as is another c. 1870 former storehouse built west of the railroad station (#30). While not located in the Historic District, a metal truss bridge was constructed over the White River and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge was removed in 2006 to allow the construction of a modern replacement.

More traffic brought more people. Land investors built new houses, changing the village landscape. Thomas Hazen III came to Hartford in the 1760s as a land speculator. He originally owned all the land in the West Hartford Historic District. The properties were later acquired by Francis Savage (1762-1817) and his wife Abigail Hazen (1768-1847), who was Thomas Hazen's granddaughter. Some of Savage's buildings are at #11 and #34 locations. Another land investor was Francis F. Holt (1825-1904), a successful businessman. He bought and sold several properties over the years, and lived in West Hartford (#14). Some of Holt's former properties are at #19 and #20 locations.

Village growth was hurt by two devastating floods in 1867 and 1927, in the 1950s when railroad service stopped, and by a decline in farming. Nevertheless, there are still many historic structures worth seeing. The oldest building in the District is the Federal-style, Georgian-plan Savage farmhouse (#26). C. 1795. The largest and last remaining dairy barn is a c. 1925 wood-frame bank barn (#32). Other historic farm buildings are a small English Barn (#5), c. 1828, another English Barn (#33) c. 1841, and a horse and carriage barn (#12), c. -1893.

Most of the historic homes are vernacular Greek Revival structures or Classic Cottages. The most significant building is the Greek Revival Congregational Church (#16). It has a bell tower with an octagonal bell chamber, pilastered openings, molded cornices and rakes and Queen Anne stained glass windows.

Other Historic District buildings of interest are a Greek Revival-style Store (#10), a Colonial Revival-style library (#9) that may have been built from a kit, and a school house (#7).

Historic roads of note are Tigertown Road, once known as the road to Beaver Meadow, and Stetson Road, once known as Jericho Road as it led to the hamlet of Jericho. Both are narrow, gravel roads where historic, rural farms can be seen.

West Hartford Village was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 15, 2004.



*The Inn (on left, above) stood where the White River now flows after the '27 flood.*

**1. Ingraham-Hazen House, 4784 Route 14, c. 1839, c. 1950:** This historic former farmhouse was probably built for Dr. David Ingraham (1770-1858) and conveyed to his son Silas (1815-1883) in 1854 as a wedding present. A wood-frame Classic Cottage, it has had several alterations, such as a porch and dormer added in the mid-20th century. The Ingrahams sold the sixty-acre farm to Levi Hazen in 1865.

**2. Clifford's Garage, 4775 Route 14, c. 1930, c. 1945, c. 1990:** not an historic site.

**3. Holden-Dudley-Hazen House, 4923 Route 14, c. 1831, 1983:** not an historic site.

**4. Dutton-Clark House, 4967 Route 14, c. 1850:** This 1 1/2-story wood-frame Classic Cottage on a former farm has modern day significance. It was purchased in 1995 by Anderson Laboratories, a business that tested indoor pollutants, designed testing systems and educated the public about air quality. Before buying the house, the company reported in 1993 about the adverse effects of gasses emitted by certain new carpets. This led to U.S. Congressional hearings on carpet label warnings. The company used the property's barn for research and development and the rest of the complex as office space. The house was probably built for Joseph Dutton who bought it in 1850 and sold it in 1853 to Sally Clark. It has the most elaborate porch in the district, with chamfered posts and Eastlake carvings.

**5. Everett and Allegra Hathorn House, 5001 Route 14, 1967:** not an historic site.

Though this house is non-contributing to the district, the c. 1828 English barn attached to the house is an historic site. The barn is small and typified Vermont's agricultural buildings of the time. It may have been built with a c. 1828 house that no longer exists.

**6. Ira Prouty House, 5031 Route 14, c. 1820:** The West Hartford Congregational Society converted this former farmstead to a parsonage in 1882. Originally, the building was constructed for Ira Prouty after he bought the land in 1820. It has an ell, greenhouse, attached barn, with a sugar house and open shed that probably dates to the late 20th century. In recent years, it became a private residence.

**7. John Downer House, 5083 Route 14, c. 1830:** This house was probably built for John Downer, an early real estate magnate in West Hartford. It was constructed in a transitional style incorporating Cape Cod and Classic Cottage elements. Historic photos show the house had a larger setback from the road before the flood of 1927. Located northeast of the house is a 1 1/2-story wood-frame barn.

**8. Tenney-Downer-Steele House and Store, 5099 Route 14, c. 1820 and c. 1845:** The building is a good example of a Greek Revival house with a store and post office. It was built in two phases and reached its full size around 1845. John Tenney built the house after buying the farm in 1820 from John D. Hazen. In 1827, he sold the property to John Downer. Downer deeded an interest in the building in 1828 to Baxter B. Newton, who operated the store until 1845. In 1846, Downer sold the property and #7 to Samuels Steele for \$1,100. Downer and Hazen were active real estate partners in West Hartford during the early 19th century.

**9. West Hartford Library, 5133 Route 14, 1928:** This Colonial Revival-style library with large entry porch is the last of five historic libraries built in Hartford. It was constructed after a former library across the street was destroyed by the 1927 flood. Hartford, Connecticut donated \$14,000 to Hartford, Vermont, as aid after the flood. West Hartford applied \$5,000 towards building a new library on land donated by Guy Place and his wife's brother, Vinon Wilkinson. It is possible the West Hartford Library was ordered by catalog and built from a kit.

**10. New England Protective Union Store/Munsell's Store, 5187 Route 14, c. 1856, c. 1905:** New England Protective Union bought land for a building in 1855 from Harper T. Savage. Their purchase came at a time when they had built over 800 protective unions from 1845 to 1860. After constructing the building, it was sold in 1859 to F.F. Holt, who accumulated more than 1,000 acres in Hartford, and used the building for storage for his adjacent store. R. Clint Musell, a West Hartford postmaster, bought the building in 1904 for a post office. This vernacular Italianate structure was built in 1856 or 1857. The second story was added about 1905.



*Church and school with horse stall sheds for the church.*

**11. Harper T. Savage Store/F.F. Holt Store, 5203 Route 14, c. 1849:** The building was demolished by fire in 2006. It was a Greek Revival commercial building built by Harper T. Savage, who saw the benefit of a store near the new railroad depot. He purchased all the land fronting on Depot Street, now Harper Savage Lane.

**12. Reuben and Addie Munsell House, 5213 Route 14, c. 1893:** Named after the Munsells, this 1 1/2-story Classic Cottage was constructed for merchant and postmaster Reuben Clint Munsell and his wife, Addie. At the same time, they bought properties #12 and #13 in 1892 and 1893, and he probably used #13 for a store and post office. A detached c. 1893 horse and carriage barn located behind the house was demolished in 2007.

**13. Burnham House, 5221 Route 14, 1999:** not an historic site.

**14. Butterfield-Hazen-Holt-Barrows House, 5235 Route 14, c. 1825:** This Federal-style, Georgian-plan house was moved slightly south of its original location by the 1867 flood. It was built for James Butterfield who bought the lot from John Downer in 1825. The property was sold a few times and in 1843, purchased by blacksmith Seymour Hazen. He sold it in 1861 to Francis F. Holt, who owned much real estate in West Hartford. The house was converted to a duplex. A c. 1880 horse and carriage barn is behind the house.

**15. Gaffield-Tenney-Hayes House, 5255 Route 14, c. 1825:** The Cape Cod-style house with a modern ell and addition was probably built for Riford Gaffield who sold it to Ira Tenney in 1829. It was sold again in 1851 to farmer Allen Hayes, who was Francis F. Holt's partner in a grain store and real estate dealings. Hayes' son, Henry, inherited the property and subdivided it, selling the rear portion to West Creamery Association in 1893. The West Hartford Creamery Association built a 1 1/2-story wood-frame processing plant on its portion of the property. The creamery building was demolished in the 1980s.

**16. Congregational Church of West Hartford, 5275 Route 14, 1832, 1860, 1884, 1891:** This 1 1/2-story wood-frame Greek Revival Church is one of the most impressive buildings in the district. Its octagonal bell chamber has copper roofing with a copper finial and round-arched windows. The window openings on the main level are glazed with Queen Anne-style stained glass. The church was first known as a meeting house, and has undergone changes over the years. In 1884, the church spent \$1,200 for renovating the pews, pulpit, and gallery for a choir, as well as buying new carpets, windows, pulpit furniture, wall treatments and a heating unit. Regular services ended in 1961.



*West Hartford Railroad Depot – no longer standing,  
was the lifeblood of the village.*

**17. District #5 Schoolhouse, 5309 Route 14, 1884:** This former schoolhouse was the third in West Hartford. The first one was in the village and converted to a house in 1820, and the second was destroyed by the 1867 flood. In 1903, the belfry was added after school children raised funds to buy the bell. The school closed in 1946, and in 1963 the town sold the building and it became a private home.

**18. Richard and Katherine Kenyon House, 5337 Route 14, 1970:** not an historic site.

**19. Ralph and Mary Kenyon House, 5363 Route 14, c. 1955, c. 2000:** not an historic site.

**20. Richardson-Currier House, 5399 Route 14, c. 1817:** This Cape Cod style house may have been built to replace a home damaged in the 1867 flood. Stephen Richardson was the first known owner, selling the property in 1838 to John Downer and Lucius Hazen. Downer and Hazen invested heavily in area real estate. They converted the building to the Congregational Church parsonage and sold it to the Rev. William Claggerett in 1847 who sold it in 1851. The house gets part of its name when John Currier, a carpenter, bought the property in 1867 and lived there with his wife, Laura.

**21. Oliver and Clarinda Clement House, 5505 Route 14, c. 1850:** A Greek Revival house with an ell and barn may have replaced a c. 1810s or 1820s house built by David Wilson. Wilson operated a sawmill at the rear of the property. Remains of a stone retaining wall on Tigertown Brook is evidence that a sawmill or mill dam existed. Oliver Clement, a painter, lived in the house with his wife, Clarinda.

**22. Hazen-Lowe House, 5519 Route 14, c. 1820:** This Cape Cod type-house once had a tannery. Built by David Hazen, who added the tannery behind it, the house was sold in 1834 to Noah Dutton who also operated a tannery as well as an adjacent sawmill (now part of #21). Dutton sold the property in 1842 to Willard W. Lowe and Calvin Rumrill.

**23. Frank and Gladys Sargent House, 5561 Route 14, c. 1956:** not an historic site.

**24. Harry and Reba Worthley House #1, 5573 Route 14, c. 1928:** This cottage with a wing was built for Harry and Reba Worthley. Worthley was co-proprietor of the F.L. Worthley & Son general stores, owned by his father Frank Worthley. The house originally had clapboard siding, and rear wing/garage dates to the 1970s.



**25. Harry and Reba Worthley House #2, 5575 Route 14, c. 1928:** This bungalow is the only Craftsman-style house in the historic district. Built for Harry and Reba Worthley, it was occupied by Harry's father, Frank. Harry lived south of the house (#24).

**26. Francis W. and Abigail Savage House, 5769 Route 14, c. 1795:**

*West Hartford School.*

This Federal-style farmhouse is probably the oldest building in the historic district. A small, c. 1817 private cemetery with about 28 graves from 1817-1885 is located south of the garage. A c. 1930 milk shed is north of the house, and a large dairy barn was once located near the milk shed. The house was built for Francis Whitmore Savage and Abigail Hazen Savage as an inn. It was the third one in Hartford, and probably the oldest inn standing. Savage ran it as well as the farm until he died in 1817. His daughter, Mary, married David Hazen, and their daughter Susan (born 1826) married William Howard Tucker. Another daughter, Amanda, married William's brother Samuel B. Tucker. The Tucker brothers purchased the property in 1858. William had a diverse career – painter, railroad survey engineer, farmer, railroad construction supervisor, traveling salesman, railroad clerk, reporter, and publisher of the only comprehensive town history, *The History of Hartford Vermont: July 4, 1761 – April 4, 1889*. The land was subdivided in the 1950s and what was once 200 acres became a 2.5-acre lot with a single-family home.

**27. West Hartford Cemetery, Route 14, c. 1820:** This two-acre parcel has about 200 graves with a variety of marble and granite gravestones, most dating to the 19th century. The oldest marked grave is for West Hartford's first postmaster, Phineas Parkhurst who died in 1830. It is likely there were grave markers dated before Parkhurst's, but in 1847 the east side of the cemetery was lost to railroad land, and several graves were removed. The cemetery was enlarged in the 1880s and has been overseen since 1921 by the West Hartford Cemetery Association. The site is also known as Tucker Cemetery.

**28. Clifford's Loam and Gravel, 37 Harper Savage Lane, c. 1960:** not an historic site.

**29. Rear Ell of Harper T. Savage Store, 42 Harper Savage Lane, c. 1900:** This store was demolished some time after the 1960s and the ell that once fronted on Depot Street was demolished in 2007. The store was built by Harper T. Savage.

**30. Railroad Storehouse, 56 Harper Savage Lane, c. 1870:** This building once served as a storehouse for the railroad, and then for a nearby store. It is located west of the railroad tracks on steeply sloping land. In recent years, the storehouse was converted to a residence. A c. 1880 two-bay shed/garage on the south side of Harper Savage Lane was built in the late 19th century.

**31. Patrick and Bridget Dunley House, 83 Harper Savage Lane, c. 1870:** This Cape Code-style house was constructed for railroad section hand Patrick Dunley and his wife. The Dunleys had emigrated from Ireland, probably to work on the railroad.

**32. Harper T. Savage House, 7 Stetson Road, c. 1846:** The area's only remaining dairy barn is a c. 1924 wood-frame bank barn southeast of the largest house in the district. The wood-frame modified Classic Cottage was constructed for Harper T. Savage, a well-known resident, who built two stores in West Hartford.

**33. John and Caroline Fuller House, 98 Stetson Road, c. 1841:** This farmstead is an example of continuous architecture in a farm complex. There is a c. 1841 English bank barn north of the house. Another barn, a c. 1900, 1 1/2-story barn and a shed are east of the house. The Greek Revival house has the best example of an ornamental doorway in the district. The house gets its name from John and Caroline Fuller, who purchased the property in 1840. Fuller operated a nearby sawmill (#21).

**34. Holt-Barrows House, 49 Tigertown Road, c. 1880:** According to early deeds, the first known land owner was Harper T. Savage and the first resident was Hamilton Barrows. The vernacular Italianate house changed hands several times, and was once owned by Francis C. Holt.



*After the 1927 flood.*

**35. Simons House, 147 Tigertown Road, c. 1845:** This Cape Cod house was built by either John Gilman or Elisha Culver. Culver sold the property in 1848 to Clark Simons, who sold it to Charles Simons a year later, and a year after that it was sold to Horace Simons. A horse and carriage barn northwest of the house has been changed over the years. It dates to several eras, from the early 19th century, to the late 20th century. The two-story barn with an ell and a wing may have been a shop built prior to the house.

*This web site recreates a brochure prepared with local funds from the Town of Hartford and a matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation through the U.S. Department of the Interior under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.*

*Hartford is one of thirteen Certified Local Governments in Vermont, and therefore, is eligible for these grant funds through the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission.*

*For more information, contact the Hartford Department of Planning and Development Services, 171 Bridge St., White River Junction, VT 05001 or (802) 295-3075.*

**All photos courtesy of Hartford Historical Society.**

**West Hartford Village  
Historic District**

Town of Hartford  
Windsor County  
Vermont

- Contributing Resource
- Non-Contributing Resource
- Cemetery
- Historic District Boundary

**Historic Note**

Before the 1927 flood, West Hartford village was on both sides of the road. Between the road and the White River were several buildings—notable were the Blacksmiths shop (opposite #10), a large inn which burned in 1924 (opposite #11/12), library and probably a few houses.

