

# Centerville Walking Tour Historic Structures

Centerville's Main Street is a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places and is a remarkably intact representation of a 19th century Cape Cod village center. Learn of the people and families who built on Main Street and the rich architectural legacy they left, which largely endures to this day.

**1. The Old Centerville School**, 524 Main Street, built in 1880 in the Classical Revival style for \$1700, was expanded in 1932. Used as the Village Post Office from 1957-1976, it is now a community meeting center.

**2. Captain Mazzeppa Nickerson** (1837-1912), who captained the three-masted schooner the *Belle Halliday* and also the *Clarabell*, built this Greek Revival/Italianate house at 508 Main Street in 1880.

**3. Captain Owen Crosby House**, 498 Main Street, was built in 1830 in the Greek Revival style by Owen and Mercy Crosby and was later owned by Captain Owen Crosby (1832-1913), a coastal captain who commanded the *Jonathan Cone*.

**4. Long Acre**, built by Isaac Bassett Crosby at 490 Main Street in the Greek Revival/Italianate style c.1880, was later owned by Captain Simeon Jones (1831-1903), who was master of the *Flying Fish*, either a coastal vessel or the clipper ship designed by Donald McKay.

**5. James Crosby**, builder/owner of 480 Main Street c.1855, originally built in the Colonial Revival style which was later remodeled in the Queen Anne style. He built most of the homes in Centerville with his two sons, Isaac and James.

**6. Captain Lewis Crosby** (1818-1872) was a deepwater shipmaster of the *Herbert Manton*, which was seized and scuttled by a Confederate privateer in 1861 but ultimately raised and sailed home to 470 Main Street (c.1830 Greek Revival) after the war; his son, William L. Crosby, was also a captain.

**7. Captain Russell Marston** (1816-1907) owned and commanded the Centerville-built coaster *Ouvie*, owned three restaurants with 600 employees, was an abolitionist and active member of the "Underground Railroad". He used the basement of his Queen Anne/Italianate circa 1857 house at 454 Main Street as a speakeasy during Prohibition.

**8. Ferdinand G. Kelley** (1818-1902) of 432 Main Street (Greek Revival, c.1844), owned and operated the village store with the post office located inside. He was the Postmaster, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, school committee member, and bank officer. He was instrumental in planting trees that lined Centerville's Main Street.

**9. Ferdinand G. Kelley's Store**, c.1830, 404 Main Street, Vernacular style, contained the Post Office in the right ell addition, which was later moved to the Old Schoolhouse.

**10.** On July 4, 1886, the Town of Barnstable dedicated a **Civil War Monument** at 402 Main Street on land donated by F.G. Kelley. It lists the names of the 32 Barnstable men who served in the Union forces.

**11. The Old Parsonage** at 382 Main Street was built c.1834 with Greek Revival influence. It served as the village parsonage and as the home of Captain George W. Hamlin (1826-1909), master of the *Louise and Edwin A. Stevens*, it later became the first home of the Centerville Historical Society in 1950.

**12.** The Full Cape styled **Asa Stevens House**, c.1820, was moved from Santuit to 364 Main Street by Asa's widow, Caroline Crosby Stevens, to be near her children, Elizabeth Stevens Cornish and Captain Asa Stevens Jr., coastal master of the vessels *Vesta* and the *Island City*.

**13. Andrew Gardner House**, 352 Main Street, c.1820, Cape style with Federal influences, was moved around 1866 from its original location and became the home and harness-maker's shop of Andrew Gardner for 40 years.

**14. The Weaver/George/Nickerson home** at 351 Main Street, c.1860, Greek Revival Vernacular, was built for George F. Weaver, painter, next owned by Dr. Charles F. George, a physician and school committee member, and finally by Samuel Nickerson, a mariner and first officer.

**15. Oliver Crosby House** at 377 Main Street, c.1830, Greek Revival Vernacular style, was built on land owned by his father, James Crosby, who left him the land and additional acreage in his will.

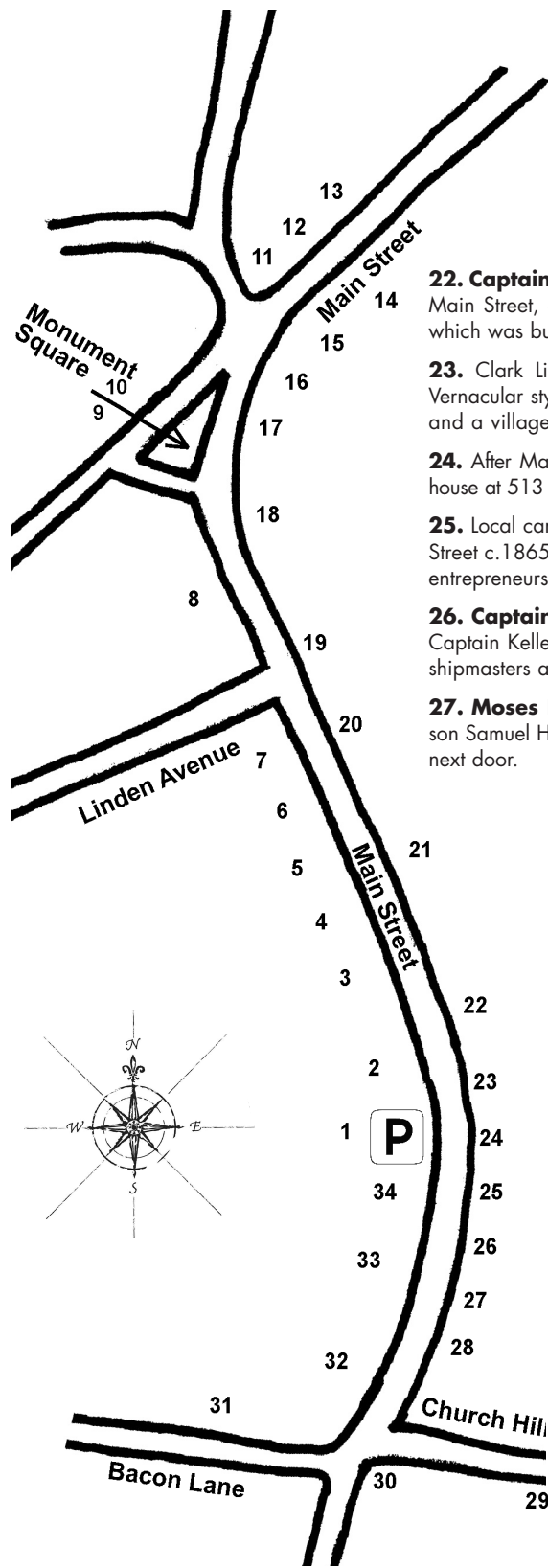
**16. Nelson Phinney** built his house at 393 Main Street c.1840, in the Greek Revival Vernacular style, later building the first wheelwright shop in the village, painting carriages, selling dry goods, peddling and auctioneering.

**17. Captain John Freeman Cornish**, coastal shipmaster, built this Greek Revival house in the late 1840's at 401 Main Street. He later became a stagecoach line owner, treasurer and tax collector.

**18.** The Late Federal style **Aunt Julia Crosby House** at 415 Main Street was built in 1834 by Gorham Crosby. He used it as his home and the village hotel, then sold it to Julia Smith Crosby, the widow of Captain Philander Crosby, and mother of six children. She painted the house yellow and called it "Buttercup Cottage."

**19. Gorham Crosby** (1809-1883) built this Greek Revival style house in 1858 at 445 Main Street to replace his smaller 415 Main Street home. He used it as a hotel. Crosby also farmed and cultivated cranberries, operated a stage coach line, originated Beechwood Cemetery, and founded Liberty Hall and Howard Hall.

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**20. Captain Eli Phinney**, a deep-water shipmaster, built 463 Main Street c.1855, in the Greek Revival style. He later raised cranberries, as well as serving as a school committee member, truant officer and in the Legislature.

**21. "Fernbrook"**, built in 1881 at 481 Main Street in the Queen Anne style by Howard Marston, restaurateur and abolitionist, was later owned by Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, inventor of the Technicolor movie process, and then by the Carmelite Order. Fernbrook has hosted many famous visitors including Walt Disney, Cecil B. de Mille, Gloria Swanson, Cardinal Spellman, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. It is now an inn.

**22. Captain Hilman Crosby**, son of Captain Lewis Crosby, built his Cape c.1830 at 497 Main Street, and was a coastal shipmaster of the *Josephine G. Collier* and the *Saginaw*, which was built in Centerville.

**23.** Clark Lincoln built this **"Tin Shop"**, 507 Main Street c.1845, in the Utilitarian Vernacular style as his blacksmith shop. It was later used as a plumbing and stove business and a village gathering spot.

**24.** After Mary Lincoln's death in 1952, the **Centerville Historical Society** acquired her house at 513 Main Street c.1840. Additions added in 1962 and 1972.

**25.** Local carpenter **David P. Nye**, built this Greek Revival/Italianate house at 523 Main Street c.1865. It blends nicely with the later more stately homes of ships' captains and local entrepreneurs along Main Street.

**26. Captain David Kelley House**, 539 Main Street (c.1850, Greek Revival style) Captain Kelley (1819-1871) and Captain John Baker (1836-1916) were both deep water shipmasters and owners. It has been used as a guest house since the 1930s.

**27. Moses Hallet House**, 547 Main Street c.1830, Full Cape, was moved by Moses's son Samuel Hallet from Craigville Beach Road; both were owners and operators of the store next door.

**28. Moses Hallet Store/1856 Country Store**, c.1856, at 555 Main Street, Stick style, was originally a shoe store, later a general store run by Moses and Samuel Hallet, with a specialty of confections, ice cream and fruit. Today the shop sells penny candy and gift items.

**29. Austin Bearse**, an early settler from 1639, built the Cape style house at 38 Church Hill Road c.1686, married a native-American Wampanoag princess, Mary Hyanno. They had a large family with many direct descendants still residing nearby.

**30.** The Greek Revival styled **South Congregational Church**, 565 Main Street, was originally built on Phinney's Lane, Centerville's original settlement area in 1796 but was dismantled, moved and enlarged in 1828.

**31. Reverend Elisha Bacon** (1799-1863) pastor of the South Congregational Church, maintained a private school here after retirement in his c.1850 Greek Revival at 32 Bacon Lane. It later became the home of Captain Henry A. Bearse (1835-1878).

**32. Captain John Case** (1821-1869) husband of Mary Bacon Case, daughter of Rev. Elisha Bacon, relocated this Greek Revival to 558 Main Street c.1845; it was later owned by Captain Augustine Childs (1829-1914) also a coastal shipmaster.

**33. Harrison G. Phinney**, carpenter, built this modified Late Greek Revival/Queen Anne style house c.1879 on the site of Liberty Hall and operated a grocery store at the corner of Main and South Main Streets.

**34.** In 1879, **Gorham Crosby** donated land when the original school was built at 524 Main Street. It has been used as a popular playground ever since.

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