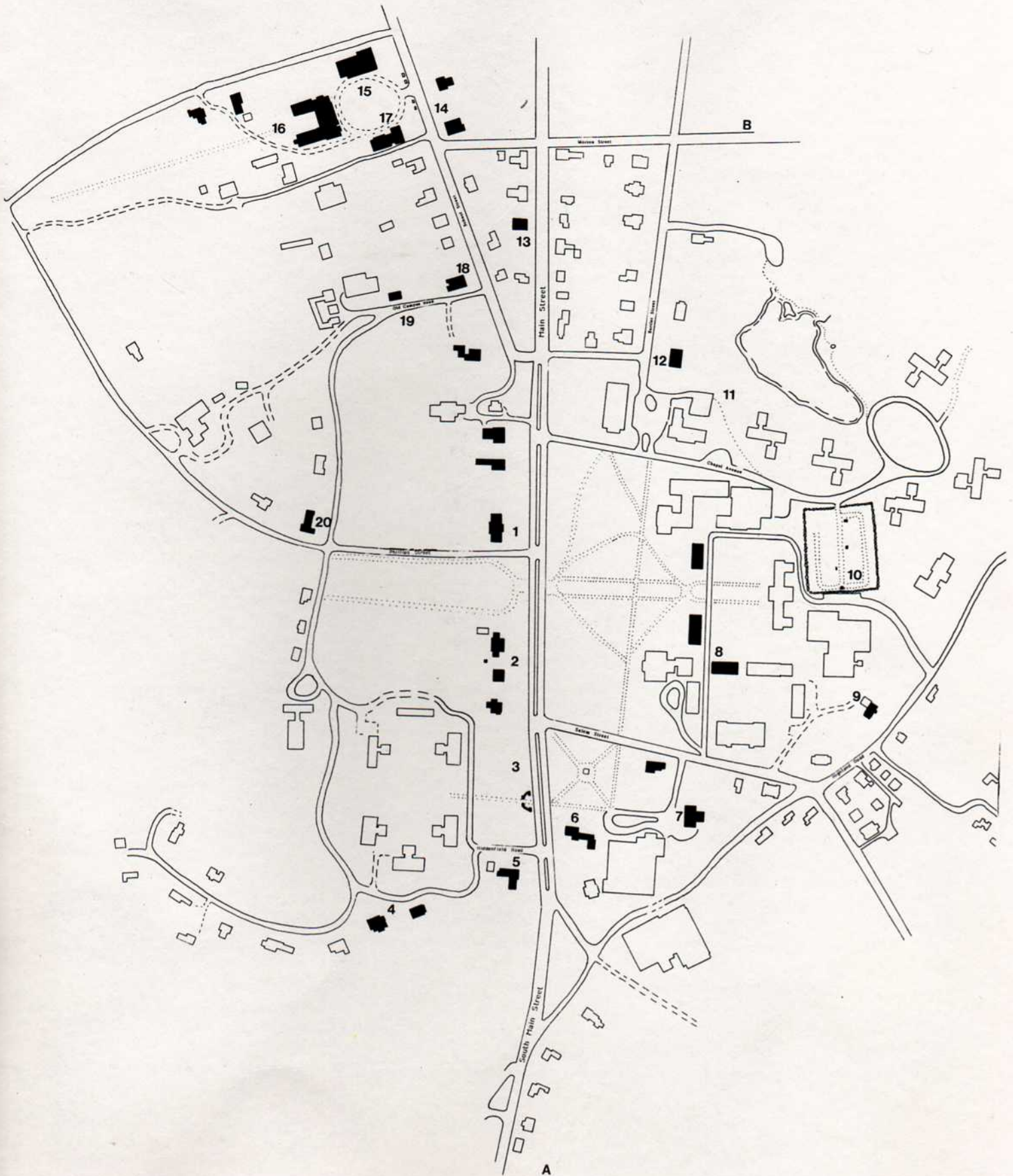


ACADEMY HILL WALKING TOUR



This walking tour brochure encompasses the Academy Hill National Register Historic District and represents three significant educational institutions in Andover's history: Phillips Academy (1778), Andover Theological Seminary (1808) and Abbot Academy (1829). However, Academy Hill, Andover Hill or "The Hill" appears today primarily as created by trustee and benefactor Thomas Cochran (1873-1936) and his architects Charles Platt, Guy Lowell and the Olmsted Brothers between 1921 and 1933. Phillips Academy (PA) and the Seminary (ATS) shared the same Board of Trustees while providing separate student curricula and degrees until 1908 when ATS left Andover. The 1920s design embraced both campuses, placing Samuel Phillips Hall (1924), the administration building in the Georgian Revival style, as the centerpiece. The older Federal style buildings were restored and sometimes moved while several Victorian structures were demolished. Symmetry united the buildings as well as the sweeping lawns. Abbot Academy (AA), which merged with Phillips in 1973, was not incorporated into Cochran's grand design. Abbot Circle illustrates the late 19th century ideals no longer apparent on the PA campus. To better understand the evolution of AA and the other institutions the tour will focus on the older surviving structures, their original locations and on associated individuals. All three schools were leaders in national education and their members contributed to the country at large as well to the town's development. Andover, formerly South Parish, was founded in 1711 by such families as the Abbots, Holts and Chandlers. They built their meeting house at Central and School streets and brought Samuel Phillips as their first minister.

1

Here at **Main and Phillips streets** stood the first PA building and the George Abbot farmhouse where Esquire Samuel Phillips (1715-1790), his brothers, John and William, and son, Judge Samuel Phillips (1752-1802), made final plans to establish a private school of traditional learning. **Plaques on the R. S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and on granite further west near Old Campus Road mark these sites.** In 1880 Andover's historian Sarah Loring Bailey wrote that the Academy's first building was a 35 by 20 foot carpenter's shop that was moved from Solomon Wardwell's estate (now 1 Highland Street) to this corner. The founding men were the sons and grandson of Reverend Samuel Phillips, first minister (1711-1771) of South Church, and the parsonage at nearby School and Central streets was their home.

2

Central, Phillips and Salem streets were colonial ways and Main Street was the Essex Turnpike (1806-8). "Faculty Row" developed on both sides of the PA's Main Street lot. Looking north, Double Brick, **169 Main Street** (1829), was built as the first dormitory and set the prototype for the Latin and the English Commons (1834 and 1836), now demolished, which were rows of wooden dormitories on Phillips Street and Old Campus Road. **173 Main Street** (1833) is named for Reverend Edwards Park, ATS professor of Sacred Rhetoric (1836-47) and Christian Theology (1847-1881). Walk south to **189 Main Street** (1809), longtime home of Austin Phelps, ATS professor of Sacred Rhetoric (1848-1879). Note the recently restored small building in the rear; it was the writing study of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (1844-1911), author of successful books and articles, many on women's rights, and volumes of poetry. Pease House, **193 Main Street** (1816), was built by David Hidden, a master carpenter, and first occupied by Leonard Woods, ATS's first Chair of Christian Theology (1801-1854). Churchill House, **195 Main Street** (1882), originally built on the archaeology museum site in the Queen Anne style for ATS professor, John Wesley Churchill, was moved here in 1901.

3

The site of **Mansion House** (1782), marked by a small stone and plaque, was Judge Samuel Phillips' home and nearby are an elm and chestnut tree thought to have been planted by him. Note the plaque on the west side of the nearby **Phillips Gateway** which commemorates the site of a successful print shop and bookstore. Andover's association with the printing business dates to 1798. With ATS's founding, Eliphalet Pearson, PA's first principal, established a printing press nearby at the "Old Hill Store." Printers, Abraham Gould (house at 238 South Main Street) and Timothy Flagg (house at 234 South Main Street), expanded the operation to the writing (including foreign languages), printing and binding of technological texts, religious tracts and a newspaper. Jonathan Leavit, binder, joined the printers and resided at 244 South Main Street. (The Andover Historical Society (AHS) collection contains many of these publications and Flagg's portrait.) In 1832, Mark Newman, Jr. joined the group and a new building was erected on this site.

4

Tucker House, **12 Hiddenfield Road** (1881), was considered fashionable and the finest house on "The Hill" when completed for William Jewett Tucker, ATS's Bartlett Professor of Sacred Rhetoric, at a cost of \$17,500. At that time it replaced the Phillips farm on Main and Phillips streets. However, by 1929 it did not meet the plan for an expansive vista from the new Samuel Phillips Hall, so it was moved to this location. As for the Blanchard House, **6 Hiddenfield Road** (c1787), it was moved two times. Built for John Blanchard near the library on Salem Street, it became a dormitory (1802) and was moved east to the Commons site and then in 1950 was transferred to its present location. Like his nephew Amos, original owner of the AHS headquarters, John Blanchard and the heads of other local households contracted with the schools to board students. The symbolic significance of the Blanchard House is described by Scott Paradise in the "Phillips Bulletin" (April 1927) as the building "that together with our school has watched from its hilltop every state in the panorama of our existence as a nation."

5

The Stuart House, **215 Main Street** (1810), writes Sarah Stuart Robbins in Old Andover Days (1909) "though perfectly simple, was large and commodious. Behind and about it were the barns, sheds and storerooms ... our own cow, and our hens, ... horse and carriage ... The house was painted a pure and austere white ... no building on the Hill was painted any other shade until my sister and I

... having seen on a visit to Newburyport, that the fashionable color for houses was then a delicate drab, went to the painter, procured a sample and without consulting our parents, ordered our house painted in the worldly shade."

6

Newman House, **210 Main Street** (1809), housed Mark Newman, third principal of PA (1795-1809), deacon of South Church, Abbot Academy trustee, bookseller and printer. His descendent, Charles Henry Newman (1872-1944), photographer, vividly captured countless views of the community and of PA and AA, many of which are in the AHS collection. Hardy House, **9 Salem Street** (1804), was the residence of Alpheus Hardy, president of the PA/ATS Board of Trustees (1858-1887). Another noted occupant was Principal John Adams (1810-1833), who had ten children of his own as well as students living there.

7

Bulfinch Hall (1818), first called the "Brick Academy," was erected on this site to be in line with the older "Seminary Row" and was designed in the same Federal style. No document connects Boston architect Charles Bulfinch with this building but local tradition and recent research by Charles Fagan ("Essex Institute Historical Collection," April 1989) make a strong case. During its construction Bulfinch served as architect of our country's new Capitol, but his presence is evident on campus because he had recently completed Pearson Hall.

8

Pearson Hall (1817), originally Bartlet Chapel and the center of "Seminary Row," was moved in 1922 and renamed for PA's first principal (1778-1786), Eliphalet Pearson. As a Harvard graduate, Pearson came to Andover to teach in the public school system where his classroom was, according to legend, used as a laboratory for his classmate Samuel Phillips' gunpowder experiments. Samuel had a mill on the Shawsheen River. ATS was founded by the local Abbot and Phillips families and by Newburyport's Moses Brown and William Bartlet. **Foxcroft**, formerly Phillips (1809), and **Bartlet Halls** (1821) stand firmly on high ground, showing, as Dino Valz's writes in AHS's Spring 1987 Newsletter, "that ATS is a stronghold of Evangelical, Calvinistic Trinitarian Congregationalism." Early seminarian, Justin Edwards, minister of South Church (1812-1827), expanded lay participation in the religious life of the town's only church. He organized 70 males in a Society for Reformation of Morals, established a Charitable Society for women and created the Juvenile Bible Society.

9

On the edge of campus near Highland Road is the former Phillips District Schoolhouse (c1830), now **The 1924 House**, which was originally on Highland between Salem and Main streets. Andover's first school in the neighborhood was built in 1714 adjacent to the South Church, then in 1755 a district system was created. By the 1820s, Phillips District was established. District schools became obsolete and by the 1890s, this one had been moved first across the street, where carpenter C. B. Mason converted it to a house for Ira Eastman, and then to its present location.

10

Return to Chapel Cemetery (1820) and follow the center path from **Leonard Woods' gothic style monument** to Chapel Avenue. Families of ATS and PA faculties are buried along with some early students of both schools. Midway are the **Calvin and Harriet Beecher Stowe family** and the **Samuel and Caroline Jackson family plots**. Samuel was West Parish's first minister and Caroline led the Maternal Association and Ladies Seamen's Friend Society. The **Dove's monument** represents a prominent manufacturing family which was a benefactor of ATS.

11

Take the foot path along the east side of the Andover Inn to **Rabbit Pond**. Looking counter-clockwise, imagine such features around the pond as a windmill, golf course, dam, golf clubhouse and a bridge as identified on Professor Arthur Pease's map of 1900. Before that time the pond had been the watering hole for ATS's Chandler farm.

12

80 Bartlet Street (1828), first located on Chapel Avenue, was the ATS manual training shop. Harriet Beecher Stowe took a fancy to this stone building and remodeled it into her family home. Harriet, a well known author, published **Uncle Tom's Cabin** in 1852, the same year her husband took a teaching position at ATS. The Stowe House was utilized as PA's inn after 1887 until the Andover Inn was built in 1930, then it was moved to this site. Curiously the front porch that Harriet added to make this structure more residential was relocated to the rear of the 148 Main Street barn.

13

147 Main Street (1820s) is called America House because in 1832 Samuel F. Smith, a 24-year-old ATS student, wrote the patriotic lines beginning "My Country 'tis of Thee" in his room here. In newspaper interviews, Smith said he was spontaneously inspired by German music a friend had given him during the time he rented from Elizabeth Hitchings, a widow who also made a living by selling paper dolls from her home.

Morton House, **23 School Street** (1832), is of brick construction attributed to local mason Benjamin Gleason. The second owner, Marcus Morton, lived here at the time of the town's division between the North and South Parishes and served as Andover's first moderator in 1855. Draper House, **27 School Street** (1868), exhibits ornate details of the Second Empire style rarely seen in town. Warren Draper, sole proprietor of the Andover Press from 1849, was very successful and became an AA advocate and benefactor.

Abbot Academy (1829) was founded by members of Andover families: Amos Abbot, State Senator; Rev. Milton Badger, South Parish; Amos Blanchard, Andover National Bank cashier; Hobart Clark, Merrimack Mutual Fire Insurance Company President; Samuel Farrar, Andover National Bank President; Rev. Samuel Jackson, West Parish and Mark Newman, PA trustee. Support for this female academy was reinforced by non-voting Andover women including: Elizabeth Adams, Emily Adams Bancroft, Abigail Stuart, Elizabeth Phelps and Sarah Abbot. These women influenced the site choice and Sarah Abbot's generous contribution for the first building influenced the trustees to name the school Abbot Female Academy instead of Andover Female Academy.

Walk between McKeen and Draper Halls to the **Old Oak** and **Maple Walk**. From the early years, student life was oriented to this area, called Davis Park, and extended to the "The Grove," a wooded area along Phillips Street. Note **20 Abbot Street** (c1840) which was once South Hall and originally faced School Street. Purchased by AA in 1865, it was moved to Abbot Street in 1889. Recently retired Principal Philena McKeen resided here and renamed it Sunset Lodge. To the east is **16 Abbot Street** (1860s), or Sherman House, which was the former home of the Shearer family and named for an AA French teacher when it became a dormitory.

Return to **Abbot Circle**, a designed space specifically chosen by the AA community and town neighbors. The Olmsted Brothers prepared planting plans for the Circle. Boston architects, Hartwell and Richardson, were commissioned to build the main and central structure, Draper Hall. **Abbot Hall** (1829, rehabilitation proposed for 1993), the first AA building, was built by local carpenters, David Hidden and Amos Holt, and originally faced School Street but was later moved back and turned to face the Circle. French Hall was taken down to make way for McKeen Hall. **Draper Hall** (1890, rehabilitation scheduled for 1992) was named for trustee, Warren Draper, and **McKeen Hall** (1904, rehabilitated 1991) commemorates the McKeen family. The **John-Esther Memorial Art Gallery** (1905, rehabilitation proposed for 1993) was an addition to the campus funded by John and Esther Smith Byers.

Clement House, **12 School Street** (c1821), was built for Jonathan Clement, PA teacher (1819-29), who was licensed to run a boarding house. Later, William Marland managed a popular eating club here. The building's plaque explains the English Commons. Before following Old Campus Road around to Phillips Street, look at Samaritan House (1824), 6 School Street. It was originally built on Chapel Avenue as an infirmary for ATS students, but was moved here to the former site of Main Building in 1929.

Draper Cottage (1893), designed by A.W. Longfellow, was the first of the new residence halls built to replace boarding houses and old dormitories on **Old Campus Road**. It sits alone unlike the rows of English and Latin Commons. Besides the Commons, the Abbot farmhouse, also known as the Shawsheen Eating Club, and Peabody Hall, a student center, have all been demolished. Today, Old Campus retains one side of buildings, those on the west side of Main Street, and is only identified by the road's name.

Farrar House, **21 Phillips Street** (1810), was built for Samuel Farrar (1773-1864) on the corner of Main and Phillips streets. Samuel, a lawyer, was the first president of the Andover National Bank (1826-1856) as well as a PA trustee (1802-1846), AA trustee (1828-1851) and the ATS librarian for 33 years. Clement and Farrar Houses are the only buildings from the schools' early period near the original campus.

Further places of interest: **A. Pearson Farm, 254 South Main Street** (1860s), produced in 1880: 3450 gallons of milk, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes and 140 bushels of apples, much of which was sold to the adjacent schools. **B. Phillips farmhouse, 54 Morton Street** (1780s), built by Judge Phillips (1752-1802), was a farmhouse with a series of attached barns and sheds that at different times served as a store, dormitory, dining hall and for a short time in 1818, as a classroom building. Originally located at Main and Phillips streets, it was moved in 1880. "A Walking Tour of PA" published by the school is available in the Admissions Office.

Map by James Batchelder, research and text by Barbara Thibault, design and production by Graphic Communications Department, Greater Lawrence Technical School. The preparation of this brochure is part of a series made possible by the Andover Arts Lottery and the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street, Andover MA. C1992