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**JAMES DAVIE BUTLER**

Compiler of *Rutlandia*



*James D Butler*

# THE EARLY HOMES OF RUTLAND

## James Davie Butler's *Rutlandia*

Edited by Dawn Hance\*

When James D. Butler arrived in 1787, Rutland's east parish was a fledgling community. Just three years before, in 1784, the county seat had been moved from Tinmouth to Rutland. This change brought an influx of lawyers, craftsmen, and entrepreneurs, all of whom needed housing. As a result new shops and homes were rapidly springing up along Main Street and upper West Street.

By the time James Davie Butler, Jr. was born in 1815, the business section of town was well established. After receiving his common education in Rutland schools he went on to graduate from Middlebury College in 1836 and the Theological Seminary at Andover in 1840. Afterwards he was a professor at Norwich University, Wabash College in Indiana and the University of Wisconsin. However, he maintained close ties with Rutland and returned in October, 1870, to speak at the centennial celebration. A copy of his *Rutlandia*, two notebooks of miscellaneous historical notes, has been forwarded by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The section on houses, written circa 1838, is by far the most complete. Following his quotations, which are in italics, are the editor's comments which have been gleaned from the following sources: Rutland land records, *History of Rutland County* by Smith and Rann, *Rutland Herald's*, historian Henry Hall's biographies and interviews with William Storer, Rev. Heman Ball, William McConnell, and Lot Keeler, and Chauncey K. Williams' interviews with Silas Pratt and Charles K. Williams. The Henry Hall and Chauncey K. Williams papers can be found at the Vermont Historical Society.

These personal accounts are a valuable resource for learning about early Rutland. In 1765 there was only one log house in the east village. According to Silas Pratt when he came to Rutland in 1775 there were three houses in the village. Sylvanus Brown lived north of Temple's (64 North Main Street). A Mr. Brayton resided in a house, later occupied by Judge Samuel Williams, located on the parsonage lot between the Congregational Parsonage on Aiken Place and the Congregational Church at the corner of Aiken Place and North Main Street. John Smith lived where James Porter's house and store stood (Park Pharmacy property). By 1790 the town boasted of 22 houses. William Storer stated there were two master builders in wood when he came to Rutland in 1788 — John Ramsdell in the East Parish and Alpheus Taft in the West Parish.

The following sections of *Rutlandia* contain information about many of the early houses in Rutland. Please note that when Butler says that a certain house was built "by" in most cases he actually means that it was built for that person. Unfortunately, the editor is not an architectural historian and cannot say which houses standing today are the originals.

### EAST SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET FROM TEMPLE STREET TO WOODSTOCK AVENUE

#### 1. *Temple's was built by Jonathan Wells about 1810-1812.*

Jonathan Wells, an unmarried gentleman, had this large brick home built as his residence. Unfortunately, he did not get to live there very long since he died in the epidemic of 1813. At that time the *Rutland Herald* listed his assets at upwards of \$100,000. Subsequent owner Robert Temple, plagued by financial indiscretions, committed suicide in the north middle room on the lower floor in 1834. This property is located at 64 North Main Street — Carroll, George and Pratt Law Office.

\* Dawn Hance is a regular contributor to the *Rutland Historical Quarterly*. Her most recent contribution was "The Early Militia in Rutland," Vol. XIV, No. 2. In addition she has written bicentennial histories of Pittsfield and Shrewsbury.



64 North Main Street (See 1)

2. *Hall's, 1795, was built where the Temple house now stands by Judge Sam. Williams for a printer, — Mr. Kirkaldy from Albany, father of the Post-rider.*

Judge Samuel Williams, co-owner of the *Rutland Herald*, built this house for his printer, James Kirkaldie, who died in 1796 at the age of 26. His son David Kirkaldie was a well known post-rider. Evidently this house was moved and still in use in 1838, as Butler refers to it as Hall's in one notebook and Touslee's in another.

3. *Fargo's was built before 1787 — the west end of it was built by Judge Sam. Williams as his residence. The east end of it had been erected long before and is one of the oldest houses about.*

The old section was occupied by a Mr. Brayton in 1775. Williams lived on the Congregational Parsonage lot on Aiken Place. Butler relates that Williams remained in Rutland after the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777 and was impressed by the British to help build a causeway between Fort Ann and Whitehall, New York. He escaped, but was nabbed by a Vermont scout who thought him to be a spy. However, Lt. Samuel Beach recognized him and Williams was set free. Butler says that Williams resembled the Pope in David's picture of Napoleon's coronation. The *Coronation of Napoleon* by Jacques Louis David can be found in Volume 14 on page 13 of *World Book Encyclopedia*\*. He was six feet tall and had a commanding presence. Among his accomplishments were co-founding the *Rutland Herald* and acquiring the common for the town. He died in 1800 at the age of 44 as the result of a logging accident in Plymouth.

This house was probably moved when the parsonage was built sometime prior to 1832. At that time Fargo occupied a house that was placed upon a lot conveyed to Mary Arnold by Asa Hale.

\* 1980 edition

**4. Mitchell's built as a parsonage.**

This building had been erected by 1832 on Aiken Place. At the time Butler wrote this, Rev. Mitchell was the pastor of the Congregational Church. This property is located at 1 Aiken Place.



Grace Congregational Church

Architect's rendition of the North Church (See 5)

**5. North Church built 1819.**

The second East Parish Congregational Church was built of brick at the north corner of Aiken Place and North Main Street. Major Gershom Cheney, master builder who oversaw much of the work, made the following entries in his diary: December, 1819, "this summer built the new brick meeting-house in part — 300,000 brick. I have worked the most part of the summer and superintended the building of the brick and timber. Ephraim W. Bisbee took charge of the cornice of the house and up one tier of timber above the bell — the cost thus far has been about \$7,000." On September 19, 1821, he wrote "Dedication of the new brick meeting house to-day; about 1,000 people."<sup>1</sup>

**6. Brown's built 1793 by Gov. Smith.**

This building was constructed for Governor Israel Smith by Gershom Cheney, who came from Londonderry, New Hampshire, to Rutland in the spring of 1793. When Smith died in 1810 the *Rutland Herald* inserted a cut of a coffin beside which walked J. D. Butler, Captain J. Prentiss, Hon. A. Thompson, Hon. P. Smith, Dr. T. Hooker and Hon. I. Clark. This property is located at 44 North Main Street — Aldous Funeral Home.



44 North Main Street (See 6)

WOODSTOCK AVENUE BETWEEN NORTH MAIN STREET AND  
BELLEVUE AVENUE

7. *Carruth's built since 1812 by him from Sudbury, Mass.*

This house was located on the north side of Woodstock Avenue.

8. *Cook's built 1795 by John Butler on the spot where Bell's now stands.*

This house, which stood on the present site of the Royal Market, was moved to the south side of Woodstock Avenue, circa 1820.

9. *Avery's built about 1830 by Charles Avery for his father.*

Thomas Hooker sold this lot to Elisha S. Avery in 1831. It is located on the south side of Woodstock Avenue (in early times known as the Rutland-Stockbridge Turnpike) just east of the Cook property.

10. *Keeler's built by Lot Keeler about 1828.*

Dr. Porter sold this property, which is located on the north side of Woodstock Avenue, to Lot Keeler in 1828.

11. *Pratt's, a part of the Gould Tavern.*

Part of the old Gould Tavern (see #26) may have been moved to this site when the new brick Franklin House was constructed in 1829. This lot is located on the north side of Woodstock Avenue a little east of the East Street intersection.

12. *Knight's built before 1787, on the ground now occupied by Dr. Porter's — inhabited by a Perry, Judge Chipman, Goddard, John Prentiss and Dr. Porter.*

This building originally stood just west of the present Park Pharmacy. It was moved from West Street to Woodstock Avenue, circa 1831, to make room for Dr. Porter's new house.

EAST SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET FROM WOODSTOCK AVENUE  
SOUTH TO TERRILL STREET

13. ***Hick's built about 1800 by John Prentiss, or by Osgood, Todd. Occupants P. Osgood, Todd.***

Scott's 1854 map refers to this property at the south corner of Woodstock Avenue and Main Street as the Episcopal Parsonage. At the time Butler wrote this entry Rev. Hicks was the Episcopalian minister. This home was the John Prentiss house, later occupied by John Richardson.

14. ***Thrall's built by Samuel Walker, 1790, from Bradford, [Massachusetts].***

Samuel Walker, a Harvard graduate and lawyer, delivered the July 4, 1803, oration at the courthouse. A cannon, which had been used at Fort Vengeance in Pittsford, was wadded too tightly. As a result, when William T. Hall discharged it, the cannon burst and Hall was decapitated. George Downs also sustained serious injuries.

15. ***Porter's built about 1792 by Trowbridge Maynard — lived in by Will. Hall, Will. Page, Doug. Smith, Bela Paul, 1822, Wright [a lawyer], Allen, Balch, Mallard, Asa Wood, Dr. Green, Foot, Judd, Porter.***

Trowbridge Maynard, a saddler, was a lieutenant in a cavalry company of militia when he died in 1801. He was given a military funeral. Afterwards his widow, Rachel Harris Maynard, married James D. Butler Sr. and bore James Jr., the author of *Rutlandia*, in 1815. No doubt the Butlers rented this property to various people.

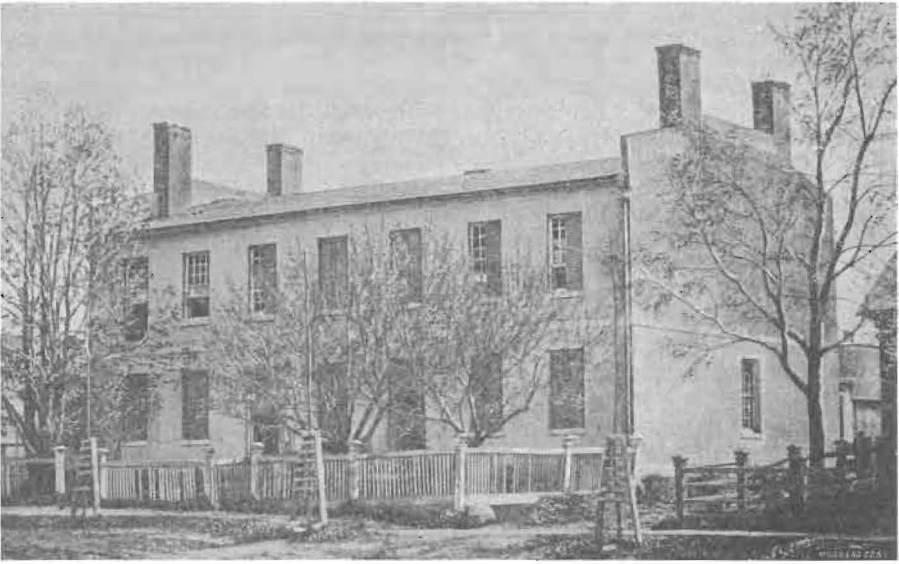
17. ***Butler's built 1799.***

James and Anthony Butler had a store on this site as early as 1794. An account book that they kept in 1796 is still in existence at the Wisconsin State Historical Society. James D. Butler Jr. made the following entry shortly after his father's death: "In 1842, June 3rd, he departed this life in the east room of his house (lower floor) a little before 8 p.m. Friday. His sister Mary, his wife, his wife's nephew, Chas. Harris, his nephew James Butler of Boston, were at this bedside." Butler had come to Rutland in 1787, worked as a hatter, later ran a store and died a respected member of the community. No doubt he was the source for much of the material contained in *Rutlandia*.

James D. Butler recalled in his genealogical work *Butleriana* that the brick house measured 55 by 36 feet and had an annex in the rear. For over 40 years his father operated his store in the southern section of the building, which escaped the fire of 1843 because the southern wall was solid brick with no windows. Four fireplaces were bordered with tiles each depicting one of Aesop's fables. Shortly before Butler sold his father's house in 1867, he took two mementoes with him to Wisconsin. One was the brass door knocker in the form of an American eagle with arrows in one claw, an olive branch in the other, and the shield on its breast inscribed J. D. Butler. The second item was a high wall-clock made in Rutland by Nichols Goddard and marked number 11.

18. ***Fuller's built as a store of one story before 1797 by Jonathan Wells and of two stories by Abijah Lathrop as both a house and store.***

According to the December 8, 1894, edition of the *Rutland Herald*, James Anthony had a hat shop in the alleyway between Butler's Store and Lathrop and Lawton's Store. Joseph Green, who was to board the stage the next morning for Boston to buy goods for his store, stopped at the hat shop in February, 1814. Anthony robbed and murdered Green and concealed his body under the woodpile in his shop. Several days later the body was discovered and Anthony was tried and convicted for murder. On the day he was to be hanged, April 15, 1814, he hanged himself in the jail on South Main Street, thus disappointing 10,000 people who had come to witness the execution. In 1845 the house and store of the Frederick Fuller estate burned.



The James D. Butler residence (See 17)



View of Main Street showing the Reed Tavern at the far left and 18 South Main Street at far right (See 19-29)

19. *Reed's built by Esq. Reed, about 1797. It included a store built by John Prentiss in 1788. Just south was a one story house of Mrs. Williams with a stoop to the south.*

William McConnell gave the following description of the property. "Hitchcock lived & kept tavern in one story frame house where Reed tavern was . . . I think Mrs. Parmelee kept tavern there afterwards — her husband had left her — her reputation bad — Risley (Benj.) kept tavern after Mrs. Parmelee did in same place — her husband began keeping tavern there with her & her conduct was such he left her." Mrs. Abigail Williams was the widow of Elisha and the mother of Judge Samuel. Issacher Reed operated a tavern on this site for many years. In 1826 his establishment was called the Coffee House. It burned in 1845 when Elisha Warner was the owner.

20. *Hooker's Store built by Judge Mattocks 1792, to let. Occupied by John Prentiss — father of Mrs. Newell — James Prentiss etc.*

Dr. Thomas Hooker, the village apothecary, ran a drugstore on this site. It was painted yellow and burned in the fire of 1845.

21. *Hooker's built 1788 by John A. Graham, author of the History of Vermont — a lawyer — before occupied by office.*

Fort Rutland, which was burned in 1777 after the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga, was located on this site. The above house was once occupied by State Treasurer Samuel Mattocks. When he left Rutland in 1792 to pay \$30,000 in specie to New York to release its claim on Vermont lands, he was accompanied by four mounted guards, armed with pistols. Mattocks followed in a chaise and as the entourage left this house the guards fired a farewell salute.

EAST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM TERRILL STREET SOUTH  
TO EAST WASHINGTON STREET

22. *Daniel's Store built 1792-3 by John A. Graham — a chamber as an Episcopal Chapel. It was long the residence of his younger brother Judge Burr Graham — and a Wheeler [Obadiah] of poke-weed poison memory.*

This three story building has been occupied as a store for over 150 years. On July 1, 1798, a gale blew the roof off along with the Montrose coat of arms, and moved it from its foundation. It narrowly missed being consumed by the fire of 1845 since there were only ten feet between this building and the one to the north (Hooker's) which did burn.

Graham was known for his eccentric personality. Butler tells the following anecdote: "John A. Graham once met several people from Connecticut, at Rutland. He showed them the place, and escorted them to Danby. There they dined. By order of Graham the innkeeper took no pay of the strangers. As Graham had no money, he sat down to appearance writing, but in fact, like Anthony Ledger, devising how to escape the reckoning. Just then rode up a man, calling for lawyer Graham, who proved a client, and gave Graham a fee. He paid his bill with the air of a millionaire." This property is located at 2 South Main Street — Lindholm Sport Center.

23. *Gove's built 1797 by the Gove family, where a tavern barn had stood in 1787.*

This was Jesse Gove's home for many years. It stood just north of the old Gove Tavern. Later it was occupied as a store.

24. *Barrett's Store built 1815 by Jesse Gove to be let as a store.*

The story is told that Nathaniel Gove leased the land on which the courthouse was built in 1792 to the county. He stipulated that the courthouse must face north with a plank walk connecting it with his tavern which once stood on this site. It is curious that Butler did not mention the old tavern.

25. *Rutland County Courthouse built by the county after 1792.*

The courthouse, which originally faced north, was built in 1792. However, the land was not deeded until 1807 when Cephas Smith Jr., who had married Nathaniel Gove's daughter, transferred it to the county. In 1828 the building was bricked up and in 1844 was extended twenty feet. Reuben R. Thrall deeded the piece for the extension. Main Street was never the same after fire destroyed the courthouse and the Franklin House in 1868.



26. ***Beman's Hotel built by Darius Chipman, of one story gambrel roof, before 1787 as a dwelling house.***

In 1793 Darius Chipman sold these premises to Joseph Munn who kept tavern here. Henry Gould bought it in 1809 and it was known as Gould's Tavern until 1829 when the old structure was replaced by a new brick building. At this time it became known as the Franklin House, a popular stage stop. It burned in 1868 when a lantern exploded in the barroom, causing one of Rutland's most disastrous fires.

27. ***Hodges' built 1793 by Crafts and Ingals from Walpole as a store.***

According to a 1796 deed, Joseph Munn rented this 30 by 40 feet piece of land sufficient for building to John Smith for six dollars a year. William McConnell stated that Smith erected the store. Later owners were Royal H. Gould and George T. Hodges. The store on this site burned in the fire of 1868.

28. ***Strong's Store built 1814 by Moses Strong Sr.***

In 1814 this building was constructed of brick. Strong rented out much of the space, but his son John did run a store here for some time. It burned in the fire of 1868.

29. ***Strong's built 1794 by Nathaniel Chipman as his dwelling house.***

In 1794 Daniel Chipman sold this property to Nathaniel Chipman, a prominent Vermont lawyer, for 200 pounds. When Darius Chipman deeded it to Jonathan Parker in 1808 it was described as where Samuel Gordon "now lives". Moses Strong bought the property in 1810 and likely lived there until circa 1840 when he moved to the Strong Mansion. The Chipman house was constructed with a brick wall built between the inner and outer walls. The bricks served as an insulator and as a firewall. The building nearly burned during the 1868 fire, but wet blankets placed on the cornices saved it from destruction. This property is located at 18 South Main Street — Berkley, Veller & Greene Real Estate Office.

30. ***Aumsber's [should read Ormsbee's] built 1794 by John Curtis, a sometime partner of John Prentiss — as a store.***

For sometime this property was owned by Polly Smith, who granted a life lease to her father-in-law, Cephas Smith Sr., in 1813. Later it was owned by Frederick Hopkins who arose from his sick bed to supervise the removal of the court records during the fire of 1868. This house was probably removed, circa the 1880s, when East Center Street was laid out.



Jack Veller

18 South Main Street (See 29)

31. *Page's built 1792 by Christopher and — Webber. Sold to Sam. Prentiss. It at first stood near the site of the present printing office. [see #67].*

Deeds place the Justice Webber house about 14 rods south of Nathan Osgood's house (see #68) in 1796. Samuel Prentiss bought this land located on the east side of Main Street from Nathaniel Gove in 1794. Likely the house was removed to this site sometime between 1796 and 1804. From 1808 to 1850 William Page lived here. This house is probably the most mobile in town for it was moved again, circa 1869, to make way for the John B. Page home (Sycamore Inn). Presently, the old house stands at the southeast corner of South Main Street and East Washington Street (2 East Washington Street). The John B. Page house is located at 24 South Main Street.

When William Page was president of the Rutland Bank, he would bring the money home, place it in a chest in his bedroom, lock it and put the key into his pantaloons pocket. In 1833 someone entered his room and stole the chest containing \$7,000. A \$700 reward was offered.



Dawn Hance

2 East Washington Street (See 31)

32. *Howard's built by Jeremiah Dewey a blacksmith — of a gambrel roof — the frame was put up before 1787.*

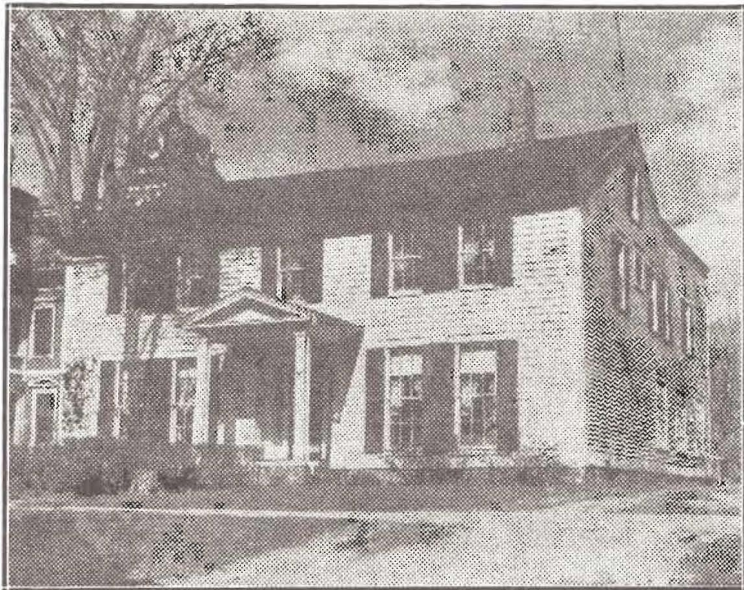
In 1792 Nathaniel Gove sold the property, where he was living, to Jane Williams, wife of the Reverend Samuel. The house once had a central chimney measuring twelve feet square at the base. It was built of stone up to the second floor, and then of brick to the roof. The original upright planks, covered by clapboards, still remain. It is said that Major Gershom Cheney built this house. Since he did not arrive in Rutland until 1793, it is likely Cheney added the second story to the original one story building. The property is located at 26 South Main Street — Charles Tuttle Co., Inc.

33. *Howard's Shop.*

In 1842 this shop was occupied by Asa and Nathan G. Howard, chairmakers. This building was located at 28 South Main Street — Charles Tuttle Co. Inc.

34. *Baptist Meeting House.*

This building was erected during the summer of 1827. It caught on fire in 1846, but the blaze was extinguished. It was torn down in 1871-1872.



Rutland Herald

26 South Main Street (See 32)



Rutland Historical Society

Baptist Church (See 34)

EAST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM EAST CENTER STREET  
SOUTH TO KILLINGTON AVENUE

35. *Rathbone's built 1793 by Jona'. Bell, Sheriff — came from Tinmouth, in the battle of Saratoga.*

Jonathan Bell, who had served as sheriff for 18 years, died in 1804 at the age of 49. He bought this property in 1799 and in 1806 his widow sold the premises to Dr. John Cleveland. This house nearly burned in the fire of 1846.

36. *Alvord, built 1794 by Alvord of Northampton, [Massachusetts].*

William Alvord and his family owned this property for many years. In 1846 this building burned.

37. *Alvord's Shop.*

William Alvord was a cabinetmaker by trade. This shop burned in 1846.

38. *Burdick's built 1790 of wood by Christopher Webber, a potter.*

Jared Burdick bought this property from E. W. Bisbee in 1822. The fact that Butler mentions it was made of wood indicates it was probably bricked up sometime before 1838.

39. *Burdick's Shop.*

Jared Burdick had a brick carriage shop here. In 1839 Widow Burdick's new shop was unroofed by a gale. It burned in 1846.

40. *Cheney's of recent erection by Hiram [Cheney].*

41. *Pratt's, lived in by Parker — one of Rogers Rangers — wore a three-cornered hat.*

Abel Parker bought this property in 1800.

42. *Hiram Cheney's lived in by Dr. J. Porter.*

43. *Sukey [Susannah] Cheney's, built by her.*

44. *Brick house by Tim. Cheney, father of Eliakim.*

Timothy Cheney, an early Rutland mason, made bricks on David Tuttle's property. It is said he had the first brick house in town. According to William Storer, who came to Rutland in 1788, Cheney was the only bricklayer in town at the time. Storer states, "he had several sons who worked with him at making and laying brick, he used frequently to say of himself, that he carried on his business more independently than any man he knew, for he not only made his own materials, but he made his own workmen."

45. *Howard's and Butterfield's by them.*

This house seems to be a two family residence since, when Ephraim Butterfield bought the property, he acquired the southern half of the house and lot.

46. *Baptist Parsonage on the site of a cottage built by Barzillai Dewey and which originally stood on the green.*

George W. Dewey sold this property about 1832 for \$800 to Samuel Griggs, Ebenezer Howard and William Green, who, no doubt, were a committee to obtain a Baptist parsonage.

EAST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM KILLINGTON AVENUE  
SOUTH TO MOON BROOK

47. *Dr. Green built 1794 by [Dr.] Ekekiel Porter, who sold to Dr. Green and went to Indiana, and there died.*

Dr. Porter sold this property to Dr. Joel Green in 1816. This house originally stood at the south corner of South Main Street and Killington Avenue (in early deeds called the road to Medway, and later Green Street) until it was moved a few rods east when Christ the King Church was built. Dr. Green was noted for his lovely flower gardens. This property is located at 66 South Main Street — Christ the King Church Rectory.

48. *Wheelock's built by him of wood 1788. Brick about 1805.*

Originally this house had only two stories. A third story was added later by Josiah Huntoon. Eleazer Wheelock ran a tavern in this building and in 1799 a most unfortunate incident occurred. A stranger gave liquor to Wheelock's son John and as a result the child went to his grave in his eighth year. Later generations knew this as the Brock House. The property is located at 76 South Main Street.



66 South Main Street (See 47)



76 South Main Street (See 48)

49. *Capt. Joseph Bowker died before 1787. He lived about opposite the Tuttle house — His house was standing within my remembrance. He lived on southern slope of the hill and just above the parsonage. Lived in by Freeman within my remembrance.*

Capt. Joseph Bowker, president of the Vermont conventions that proclaimed Vermont's independence and that formed the constitution, had settled in Rutland by 1773. He died a most respected citizen on July 11, 1784 at the age of 59. Butler adds that Bowker "lived off the psalm", and that his wife was a popular midwife. Several historians have tried to pinpoint the exact location of his house. The editor mapped out the Bowker farm according to the division of his estate. Then by following the deeds she found that Bowker's widow Sarah had married Moses Sargeant by 1785. In 1794 the Sargeants were living on a five rod lot fronting South Main Street. After measuring the various pieces it was found that this lot is situated just north of 100 South Main Street.

William McConnel stated that he thought the Sargeants lived in the Bowker house. Henry Hall wrote in the mid-eighteenth century that the Bowker house stood near the house then occupied by Miss Hannah Cole (later Mrs. Samuel Kimball). The editor believes Miss Cole resided in the old school (#57) which was probably moved to 100 South Main Street between 1832 and 1839.

50. *First parsonage.*

In 1787 Nathan Osgood bought this property from the Bowker heirs for five pounds. He probably erected a building in which he and Dr. Isaac Green operated an apothecary shop the next year. Later deeds describe the property as being "the house and potash at the foot of the hill".

East Parish church records indicate that in December, 1789, it was decided to procure a house for Dr. Samuel Williams, and to move his family and effects into town. No doubt it was rented from Osgood. Butler states that the parsonage was the "last house on the left before one going south" to Moon Brook.

51. *Some way east from Haynes' lived a Mr. Risley.*

Rev. Arus Haynes was the Baptist minister from 1837 to 1840. No doubt he lived at the Baptist parsonage. (See #46)

#### WEST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM MOON BROOK NORTH TO MADISON STREET

52. *Brewery, half way from Tuttle's to the brook — 100 feet long — by Atley or Atwell who died about 1795. He was an Englishman, his disease was what is styled the camp distemper.*

In 1799 Russell Rogers advertised that he was in the malt business at the distillery near the house of Capt. David Tuttle.

53. *Tuttle's built as a tavern by Nathan Tuttle, son of Ichabod of W. Rutland before 1787.*

After the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777 Nathan Tuttle chose to remain in Rutland. One day, while partially intoxicated, he encountered a group of Indians and Tories. An altercation ensued and Solomon Johns ran his bayonet through Tuttle. The body was weighted and thrown into Otter Creek. For years his disappearance remained a mystery. Probate records indicate that Tuttle owned all the land on the west side of South Main Street from just north of Madison Street south to the foot of Gouger Hill. This property included a log cabin. Afterwards, Ichabod's son, David Tuttle, bought his uncle's land and lived there until his death in 1820. Likely Butler meant to say this house was built by David as, in another place, he says David Tuttle's house was built in 1784 by Col. John Ramsdell. The tavern was located nearly opposite the Bowker house.

The *History of Rutland County* quotes Reuben R. Thrall as saying, . . . one of the first stocks of goods in the village was owned by one of the Osgoods and was sold from the house then occupied by Captain David Tuttle, which stands on the west side of Main Street — the only double house on the street. At the time the goods were placed on sale the house was in process of building. The chamber was occupied by a clergyman, and when he was absent on Sundays, a woman who also lived in the house, or part of it, would go up stairs, take up one of the loose boards which then constituted the chamber floor, let her boy down through to the storeroom by rope, where he helped himself to such of the goods as she directed. The boy was arrested for the theft, and when his mother upbraided him for stealing he replied, "Mother, you taught me to steal." He afterwards went to South America, and it is believed was there executed for murder . . .<sup>2</sup>

According to Henry Hall, Dr. Isaac Green and Nathan Osgood were partners as apothecaries on the east side of Main Street half way down the hill towards Moon Brook. Dr. Green boarded at the old red house opposite. No doubt the old red house was Tuttle's. It was still standing in the 1880s. Possibly this double house is still in existence at 105 South Main Street.



61 South Main Street (See 54)

WEST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM MADISON STREET NORTH  
TO WASHINGTON STREET

54. *Judge Strong's* built by *Darius Chipman* about 1800.

In 1794 David Tuttle sold one acre located at the northeast corner of his farm to Ralph Pomeroy and Daniel Pearson for 40 pounds. Two years later Pearson transferred the property to Darius Chipman for 200 pounds. In 1817 Chipman sold to Nathaniel Gould. The house has been called the Nathaniel Chipman home, but records indicate it was always owned by his brother Darius. About 1840 Moses Strong bought the property. It is still referred to as the Strong Mansion and is located at 61 South Main Street.

55. **Mrs. Beman's built after 1792. On the site of this or a little south a house had been built by Fred. Hill. The present building was erected by Elnathan Darling after 1800.**

Frederick Hill, Rutland's first postmaster, bought this property in 1791 and sold it to John Cook in 1801. It was later owned by John Richardson. Butler indicates that the Darling house was built of brick.

56. **Mrs. Buck's built by George Buck after 1792 and before 1800.**

George Buck was a cabinetmaker. According to deeds this property was occupied by his mother.

57. **School-house built about 1794-5. Now second house this side of the brook on the left.**

In 1792 Thomas Hale sold this 30 by 30 feet piece for six pounds to the Second School District. In July, 1818, the district sold the schoolhouse, lot and stove for \$105 to Moses Strong, who sold it to Hannah Cole in 1832. No doubt Moses Strong moved the building to the east side of South Main Street north of Moon Brook. The editor believes that this building stands at 100 South Main Street.



Warren W. Dexter

100 South Main Street (See 57 and 49)

58. **Old jail built 1792 — doubtful whether north or south of the present building.**

The jail had been built by April, 1792, on Thomas Hale's land. At that time he deeded a lot to Sheriff Jonathan Bell, excepting where the new jail stands. In 1807 Elnathan Darling sold the same lot to Rutland County.

59. **Stone jail built 1809 or 10.**

On February 6, 1811, the *Rutland Herald* printed an editorial which criticized the conditions at the old jail and urged the building of a new one. Darius Chipman advertised in the *Rutland Herald* on July 20, 1814, that he was moving his law office to a new location south of the "new stone gaol". The stone jail must have been built a few years later than Butler thought.

60. **Bailey's brick building built by Royal Gould, merchant, about 1815-16.**

61. **Moses Strong's built by William Hale, a carpenter, in 1799.**

William Hale left town soon after he built this house. Rev. Heman Ball owned it at the time of his death in 1821 and is said to have died suddenly while sitting in a chair in the northwest room. According to Henry Hall's biography on Ball, the house is "now second south of the corner of Madison and Main Sts., then located on what is now southwest corner of Washington and Main Sts." Likely it was moved from the latter corner to its present location after 1854, since it does not appear on Scott's 1854 map. It was probably moved to make way for Huntoon's (presently Clifford Funeral Home) which was built circa 1855. It had not been moved when Butler wrote this account. The building is located at 73 South Main Street — King Apartments.





73 South Main Street (See 61)

62. *Goldsmith shop of Will. Story, located ½ way between the above and Alvord's.*

William Storer, a well known goldsmith, came to Rutland in 1788. The given location puts his shop on the green. However, in 1792 he advertises that he is one door south of the jail.

WEST SIDE OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM WASHINGTON STREET  
NORTH TO COURT SQUARE

63. *Barrett's built by Thos. Hale about 1804. A farmer, he owned our east pasture.*

Thomas Hale's home was located here at the time of his death in 1812. His widow married Moses Turner and in 1817 advertised it as a boarding house. Afterwards, it was owned by James Barrett, Jr. for many years. This property is located at 29 South Main Street — Keyser Crowley Banse Abell & Facey Law Office.

64. *Foot's built by Capt. William Butman — from south of the village.*

William Butman, a sea captain, bought the property in 1832. Formerly Butman had operated a tavern in the southern part of Rutland. Perhaps the bricks for this house were obtained from his brickyard, for in 1811 John Williams advertised that he was selling bricks at Capt. William Butman's brickyard. In May, 1835, a gale blew in a gable on Mrs. Butman's brick house. This property is located at 27 South Main Street — Earle J. Bishop Law Office.

65. *Horace White's built by Darius Chipman about 1793 or 4.*

This was the first house built on this lot; Foot's was the second. In 1819, when Nathaniel Gould sold the property to Miles W. Blanchard, the market house standing thereon was excluded. Blanchard carried on a saddlery and carriage painting business here. Solomon Foot bought the property, which included both houses, in 1838.

66. *School House built in 1818 or 1819.*

William Hall sold this lot to the Second School District in 1818. The schoolhouse was constructed of brick and was to be completed by November, 1819. It is shown on Scott's 1854 map.

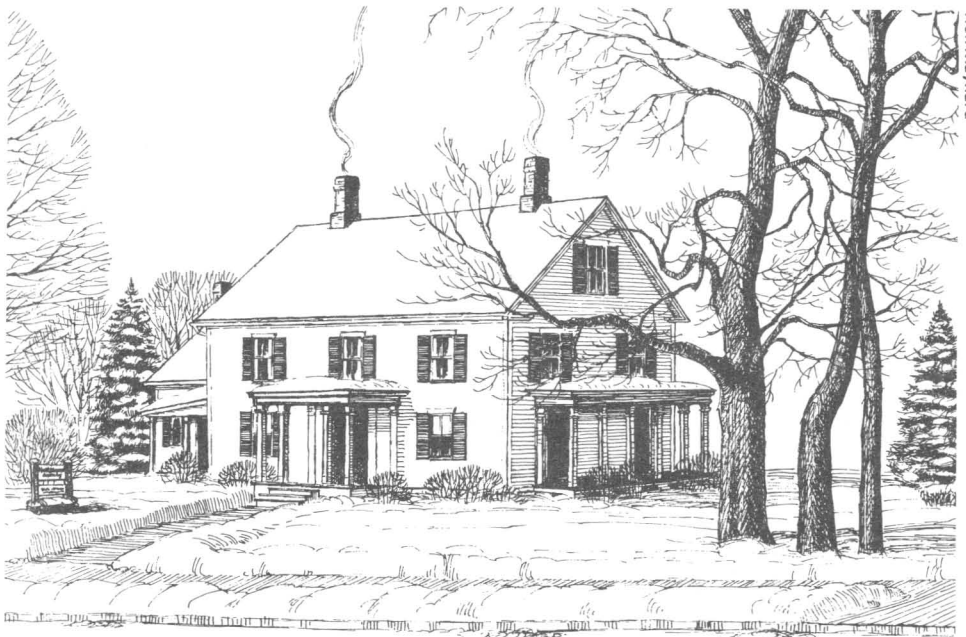
67. *Printing office. Law shop of Cephas Smith.*

Cephas Smith, Jr. died in 1815, so the building was erected prior to that date. In 1825 this white shop, located between the brick schoolhouse and William Fay's house, was occupied by a milliner. On October 24, 1826, Fay advertised in his *Rutland Herald* that he was moving his printing office and bookstore to the new building prepared for that purpose on the corner of the green near the bank. Butler does not mention the bank, but Fay deeded the land on which the bank was built in 1824. The bank is now occupied by the Rutland Historical Society. At that time Center Street did not exist, so the bank faced north towards the green.



Rutland Historical Society

27 South Main Street (See 64)



Hull Maynard

105 Center Street (See 68)

68. *Maj. Fay's built by Nathan Osgood, merchant, 1793. Prepared where Burt's hay scales stand.*

Nathan Osgood sold this property to Cephas Smith, Jr., a noted lawyer, in 1796. Smith lived there until his death in 1815. His widow sold the house and office, circa 1818, to William Fay, proprietor of the **Rutland Herald**. It has not been determined where Burt's hay scales stood. In the 1840s Burt and Mason had a store, previously occupied by Burt's uncle, William Fay, on the west side of North Main Street about opposite the Rutland Texaco Station. Burt also ran a store a little south of Lindholm's Sport Center. However, since Osgood never owned either of these properties, the editor feels the site has not been identified. Charles Burt later bought the Fay home. This property is presently located at 105 Center Street — Hull Maynard Agency.

#### WEST SIDE OF COURT SQUARE GOING NORTH

69. *George T. Hodges' built 1792 by Sam'l Mattocks, State Treasurer.*

In November, 1790, when John Smith sold this property to Mattocks, it included "a large two story house and kitchen now building commonly called John Smith's new house." Between this house, located at the southwest corner of the green on Court Square, and the old bank now occupied by the Rutland Historical Society, stood Anthony Haswell's printing shop which burned in the fall of 1792. No doubt Mattocks had rented the office to Haswell, who had just started to print the **Herald of Vermont** when the shop burned. A lottery was authorized to raise funds for repairs. When Mattocks' estate was probated in 1809, the property included an office recently occupied by William Baxter.

70. *William Hall's built by John Smith, a blacksmith, about 1794.*

Capt. John Smith sold all his property to William Hall in 1807 and moved to Johnstown, New York. Henry Hall, the prominent Rutland historian, often quoted in this article, was the son of William Hall.

71. *Hall's shop built by him after 1804 or 1806.*

William Hall was a saddler by trade. In 1809 he moved into his new brick shop adjoining the store formerly occupied by John Smith and Co. (Mason's Hall).

72. *Mason Hall built by John Smith as a store — and the upper part as a lodge after 1800.*

In June 1802, John Smith advertised his new store. By 1804 he had deeded the upper floor to Center Lodge No. 6 for their Masonic meetings. Fire nearly destroyed the building in May, 1833, leaving only the lower story and the walls intact. By 1834, it had been repaired and was sold to James Barrett, Jr. This property is located at 3 Court Square.

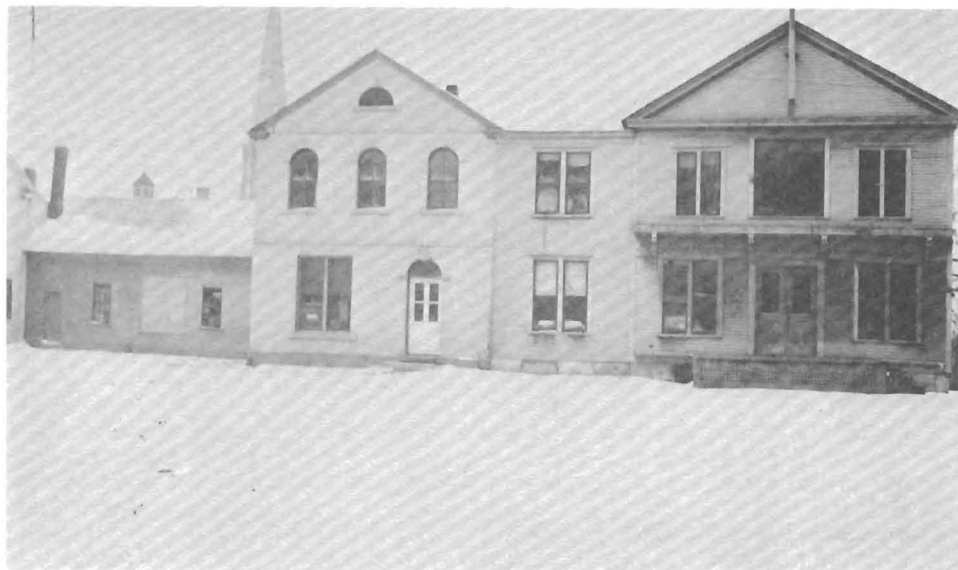
#### SOUTH SIDE OF WEST STREET FROM MAIN STREET WEST TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL

73. *Knowlton's.*

Butler gives no description of this property. Possibly, it was a new building, since it was not on the list of houses in an earlier notebook. Since at the time Knowlton owned both #74 and #75, it is more likely that Butler was simply using Knowlton's as a heading.

74. *Capt. Brown's built about 1797 & 1798 by a company as a gun shop — 1000 muskets at \$13.50.*

On July 9, 1799, the **Rutland Herald** detailed the Fourth of July celebration and stated that Capt. Butler's company of militia was armed with new muskets and bayonets made by the manufactory at Rutland. A 1799 jail bounds map lists Robbins and Company in that area. In 1798 John Robbins, Calvin Robinson and Royal Crafts bought this property and sold the same in 1803. This lot once had five rods frontage on West Street and included the present Anderson and Kenlan Law Office. In 1841 the house and new large bakery were offered for sale. It is likely the gun shop stood at 24 West Street.



3 Court Square (See 72)



26 West Street (See 75)

75. *The Red house built about 1790 with broad window by Nathan Osgood near the hay scales as a store. Bought and removed by McCarter, a tailor. His daughter was my first school mistress.*

According to Henry Hall, the first schoolhouse, which burned about 1785, stood at the northeast corner of the green just south of the hay scales. Nathan Osgood deeded one acre for the common (where the bandstand is located) in 1790. The transfer stipulated that all buildings were to be removed by June 1, 1790. No doubt the store stood at the northeast corner of the green until that time. When McCarter sold the property in 1795, he referred to the building as the Martin house. The dates 1790 and 1791, carved into the beams, are still visible. This property is located at 26 West Street — Anderson and Kenlan Law Office.

76. *Long house built about 1792 to let by Judge Mattocks. Burned.*

Henry Hall states that Benjamin Fay's long one story house on West Street burned in February, 1832. Probably, it should read 1831, since in July of that year Fay signed an agreement with William T. Knowlton and Luke H. Whitcomb. They were to erect a house and outbuildings, to replace those that burned, to be valued at \$700.

77. *Touslee's (sic) built by Thomas Hale previous to 1787.*

This property which once measured over nine rods frontage on West Street and included the lot to the east, was described in early deeds as where Moses Hale lived and died. In 1819 Hale died at the age of 93. In 1828 his son Asa sold the lot to Samuel Towslee. This property is located at 38 West Street — Dr. Donald Wolins Office.



Dawn Hance

38 West Street (See 77)

78. *Cheney Ruggles' built before 1787 by Daniel Reed. Burned 1790 and rebuilt by him.*

Butler states that Dr. Daniel Reed was the second physician in Rutland. He married Damaris Mead, daughter of James Mead, Rutland's first settler.

79. *Pattison's built as a shop by Storer.*

William Storer, a goldsmith, sold 36 acres between the Cornell and Thomas Hale farms to Moses Strong, circa 1810. When John Ruggles died, the Pattison shop was listed in his real estate inventory.

80. *Ledget's.*

Butler gives no description of this property.

81. *Chipman Thrall's. On the site of this a small house like Touslee's [see #77] was a rather old building in 1787. It was built by Moses Hale, father of Asa. His former residence had been at the foot of the hill where the creek now flows. The present building was erected by a Nathaniel Cornell, a sea-faring man, in 1805-6. It had been owned by a Hibbard, a minister.*

Augustine Hibbard preached in the East Parish Church from May to November in 1788. Butler relates that afterwards he went to Pittsford for a year, ran away with a girl to Canada and became a sheriff.

William McConnell said that Moses Hale lived in a one story house near J. C. Thrall's. On June 11, 1853, the *Rutland Herald* reported that workmen had unearthed a body near the old Chipman Thrall place. There was evidence that the body had been buried in a coffin. Since none of the older residents could recall any such burial, it was assumed to be an early settler. The remains were removed to the village cemetery. The Thrall farm is pictured on the front cover of *Rutland In Retrospect*.

NORTH SIDE OF WEST STREET FROM WEST STREET CEMETERY EAST  
TO NICHOLS STREET

82. *Maj. Stevens lived in a mean house east of the burying ground (West Street Cemetery). The farm had been owned by a Walker whose son was the first white child born in Rutland. These Walkers removed to Whiting.*

This log house belonged to Gideon Walker and shows up on the 1774 map. According to William McConnell, "Stevens lived near centre of West Burial Ground in log house — didn't live there more than one, two or three years. Gideon Walker had lived in the same house Stevens did & had left." The Walker child (probably Amos Elmer Walker born in Rutland May 25, 1775) was the first white child born in the East Parish.



Rutland Historical Society

27 West Street (See 84)

83. ***Fisher's built by Maj. Ruggles.***

Gershom Cheney Ruggles sold the John Ruggles house to James W. Fisher. This property is located at 31 West Street.

84. ***Pierpoint's built about 1792 by Nathaniel Bell.***

William McConnell states that John Smith, or he and his brother William Smith, built the Pierpoint one story house. Samuel Mattocks bought this new house from John Smith in 1793. At Mattocks' death the one story house went to his daughter Rebecca Miller. Robert Pierpoint bought the property from John Merriam, circa 1815. This property is located at 27 West Street.

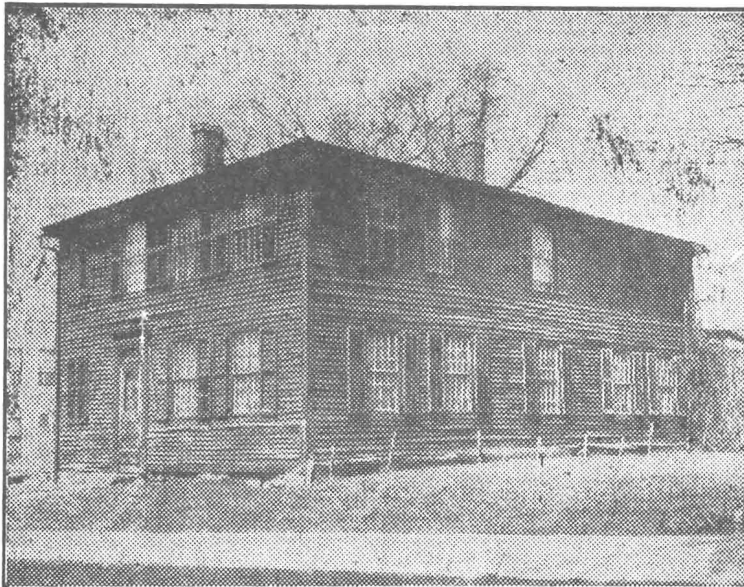
NORTH SIDE OF WEST STREET FROM NICHOLS STREET  
EAST TO MAIN STREET

85. ***Jenkins' built by William Smith 1792.***

In 1797 Elias Buel sold this farm to William Jenkins of Cheshire, Massachusetts. Another account says that this house was built by George Broughton. The house originally faced east towards the military road which passed over Pine Hill to Fort Ticonderoga. The house was never painted. Later it was occupied by Ambrose Lincoln Brown. This building was torn down during World War II.

86. ***Green's built as a court house before 1787.***

This building was built in 1784 when the county seat was moved from Tinmouth to Rutland. It was a gambrel-roofed building with two rooms. The west room, used as a courtroom, had a floor, but the east room, used as a grand and petit jury room, had only a dirt floor. The building was torn down in 1912. The old log jail stood northwest of the courthouse, directly west of the first Episcopal Church on Main Street.



Rutland Herald

The Jenkins house (See 85)



Old Rutland County Courthouse (See 86)

**87. Page's built by Maj. Elias Buel about 1790-2 as a public house.**

In 1796 Buel sold this property to Crafts and Ingalls. Two years later Ingalls sold his mansion house to Rev. Heman Ball who deeded it to Abel Page in 1815. (Page was Mrs. George Custer's grandfather.) In 1818 the tavern almost burned, but the blaze was extinguished. Alanson Dyer advertised in 1841 that he had refitted the Page Tavern. His beds were new, his liquors free from impurities, his coffee clear, his meats not too overdone or too rare and his toast commonly good (never burnt). In 1857 the building, known as the American House, was destroyed by fire. James Barrett's Store, which was built in 1845 at a cost of \$2300 and stood west of the hotel, also burned.

**88. Dyer's shop built by Abel Page as a saddlery.**

This new shop opened May, 1817. It burned in 1857.

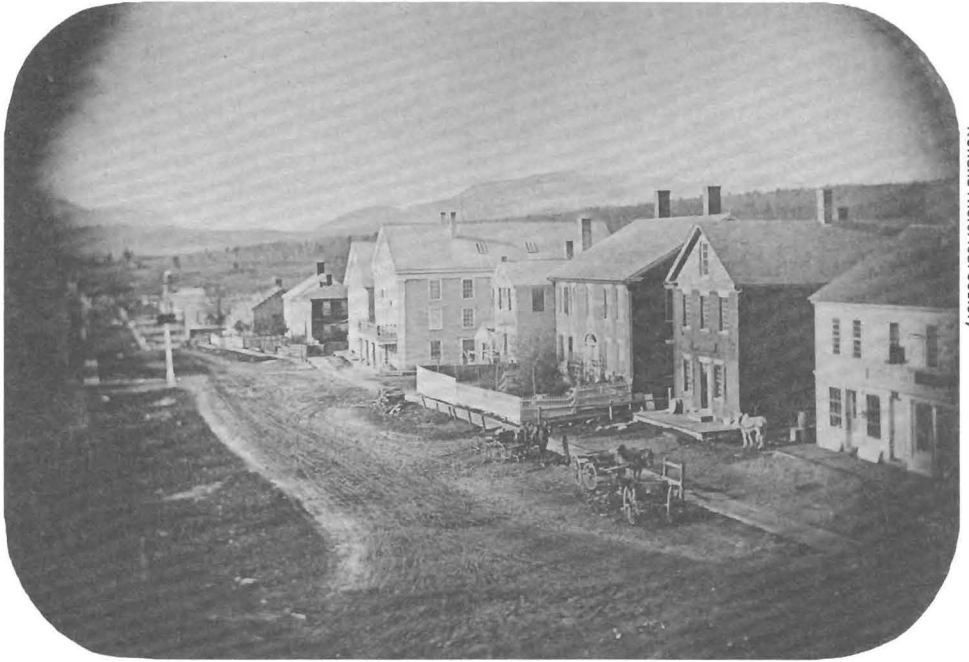
**89. Porter's built before 1787, lived in by Nathaniel Perry — afterwards occupied by John Prentiss, Nat. Chipman.**

William McConnell related that "Nathan Perry kept tavern then in the old J. Porter house which he built where the Dr. J. Porter now lives, same building now on turnpike." In 1800 William Storer sold this property to Nicholas Goddard, who deeded it to Dr. James Porter in 1814. This old building (see #12) was moved to Woodstock Avenue, circa 1831, when Dr. Porter built a new brick house on West Street. Both buildings stood just west of Park Pharmacy.

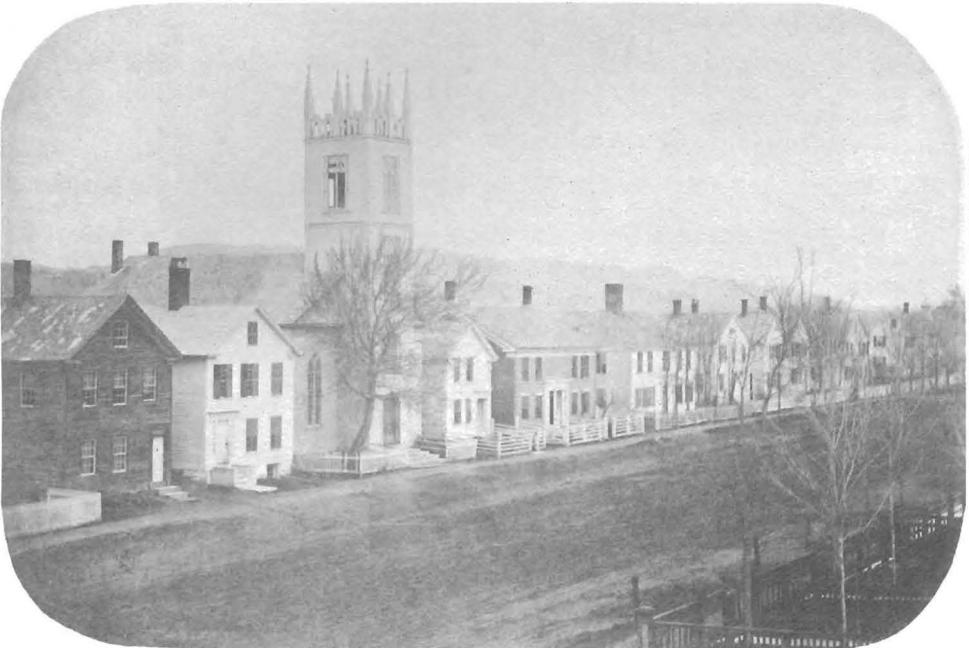
**90. Porter's Store.**

In December, 1817, Dr. James Porter removed his store to the brick building one door west of Capt. Lord's. Butler states the store was built in 1817. In 1820 Porter was giving out free kine pox matter for smallpox vaccine at his store. This property is located at 7 West Street — Park Pharmacy.





An 1857 view of West Street showing from right to left 91, 90, 89, 88, 87, Barrett's Store, 85, 84, and 83. The old courthouse, which set back from the road between Barrett's Store and the Jenkins house, does not appear.



An 1865 view of the west side of North Main Street looking north from West Street. From left to right are 92-102.

91. *Lord's built by an Eliot of Sutton as a house store and occupied by Nat. Gove as a Tavern before 1787 of one story, with a large stoop to the east.*

William McConnell stated that "Nathaniel Gove built same as now building on Lord corner & lived in it with his family Nov. 1786 — his brother John Bachelor lived with him — Once before Court House was built N. Gove was living in Hay-scales house & his corner house roofed partly boarded up floor consisted of loose boards & boards fixed up for seats & Supreme Court sat there in warm weather — believe Moses Robinson of Bennington presided." In 1808 Benjamin Lord, a goldsmith, bought the property and sold it to Daniels and Bell in 1831 before moving to Georgia.

WEST SIDE OF NORTH MAIN STREET FROM WEST STREET NORTH  
TO NORTH MAIN STREET CEMETERY

92. *Bennett's.*

Butler gives no description of this property. Hiram W. Bennett, a jeweler, had a shop on this site. Lack of a deed indicates that he probably rented the building. In 1847, he built the courthouse clock, which never kept very good time.

93. *Cook's.*

Again Butler gives no description. In 1836, Edgar Ormsbee sold this lot to Orel Cook with the stipulation that any building constructed upon it must have two stories. In March, 1839, Cook opened a hat shop here.

94. *Episcopal Church*

In 1832, Luther Daniels and Daniel Bell sold this property for \$450 to the Episcopal Church. The church, which was built that year, was torn down in 1868.

95. *Porter's Office.*

Benjamin Lord sold this property to Charles K. Williams for his law office in 1829 with the stipulation that the building thereon could not be used as a schoolhouse or a huckster's shop.

96. *Burt's built by Ashbel Cook. He was a tailor and a farmer, and had lived where Wm. McConnell now does [site of McDonald's Restaurant on South Main Street] 1792.*

This was John Cook's house in 1808.

97. *J. Porter's put up about 1790 by the wife of Solomon Buel, eldest brother of Jesse.*

Solomon and Sophia Buel sold this lot to David Smith, who died in 1804. His widow, Lydia, married William Fay. Rev. John Hicks was living here in 1835 when Fay sold to Dr. James B. Porter.

98. *Cheney's moved from where Cook's shop now stands. Built 1792 by Ozias Fuller as a store.*

Gershom Cheney, 2nd, was a cooper by trade. Perhaps this building was removed from the Royal Market property or from #93 to this site.

99. *Judd's, a part of the old jail.*

Ethan Judd, tinsmith, was selling portable ovens in 1834. According to deeds his shop stood on Patty Strong's property.

100. *Blacksmith put up by Carruth 1810.*

In 1817, Daniel Carruth advertised his prices for the following:

House tongs and shovels	\$3.00
Hoe	.67
Axe	1.75
Shoeing horse	1.00
New plough irons	.17 per pound



37 North Main Street (See 104)



41 North Main Street (See 106)

101. *Goldsmith's by Lord & Goddard 1810.*

In 1797, Samuel Walker sold to Benjamin Lord property about 1½ rods north of Brewster's Bake House on the west side of the Great Road opposite Pomeroy and Hooker's Drugs and Medicine Store, which had long been used as a shoemaker's shop. The date may be wrong on this shop, for Lord & Goddard, who made silverware and clocks, dissolved their partnership in 1805.

102. *Strong's by the wife of Return Strong about 1810.*

Return's wife was Patty Needham Strong. The house was later occupied by her son-in-law, Moses Hawks.

103. *Daniels' built 1790-1 by Ashbel Cook as his place of living.*

In 1795, Ashbel and John Cook sold this property to Ozias Fuller for \$1000. Fuller lived here for over 20 years.

104. *Jackson's built by Christopher Crafts, an Irishman, as a shop and house. He was a chair-maker.*

Elias Buel sold this property to Crafts in 1795. The house was probably built soon after. In 1805, Crafts was in financial distress and lost his shop, which was on the opposite side of the road, and his house, down to the very partition, to his creditors. Later the house was owned by Ebenezer Knight. This property is located at 37 North Main Street — Royal's Hearthside Restaurant.

105. *Orel Cook's hat shop.*

106. *Bell's built by Orel Cook about 1820 on the site of a house built by John Butler about 1792.*

Cook bought this property from his mother Rachel in 1805. Cook's father Ashbel was with Ethan Allen at the taking of Fort Ticonderoga. Rachel cooked provisions for the troops for that mission. When Cook built this new house, he moved the old one to Woodstock Avenue (see #8). The 1820 brick house has inner walls and partitions made of brick. This property is located at 41 North Main Street — The Royal Market.

107. *Hosford's, Rev. Walker's built by Judge Samuel Williams for David Smith (first husband of Mrs. Maj. William Fay) as a book bindery & house about 1796. Red house, stood till (————) just north of Bell's.*

This property was later owned by William P. Graham and eventually by Charles K. Williams. The house once stood at 45 North Main Street — The Ginger Tree.

108. *Williams' built by Nathan Osgood 1799 as his dwelling.*

This house was sturdily built with a 50 feet long and 12 inches square roof tree cut from a large oak. It is fastened with foot long oak pegs. There were two chimneys and eight fireplaces. In 1817, Osgood's brother-in-law, Charles K. Williams, later governor of Vermont, bought the property and died there in 1853. He made many improvements. This property is located at 49 North Main Street — The Governor's Table.

109. *Tenney's erected as a public house by Post or Barr before 1787.*

In 1782, William Barr was licensed as a tavern keeper. His inn stood at the southwest corner of North Street and North Main Street. Barr also deeded the land for the church and cemetery. The pound stood just north of the cemetery.

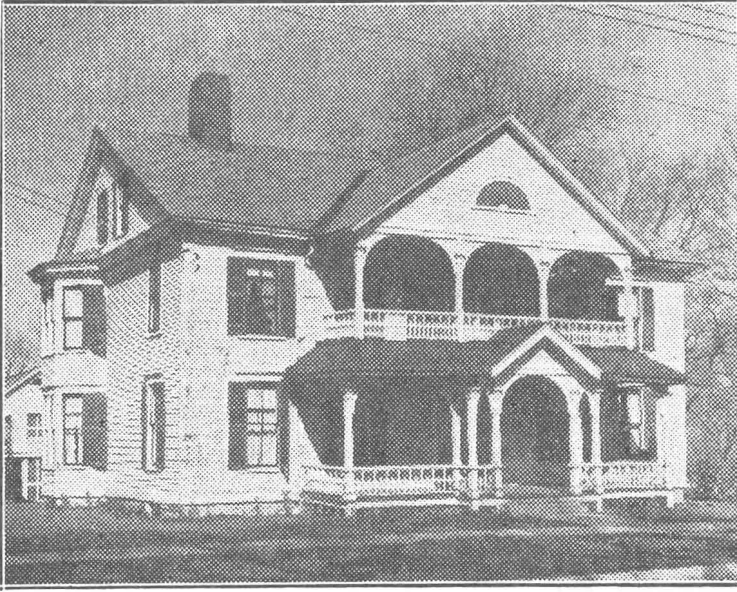
110. *Old Meeting House nearly finished before 1787.*

This building, erected in 1784, housed the first Congregational Church in the East Parish until 1821. Butler says it was built by Col. Ramsdell and Issacher Reed. It was a two story, square building with central door. There were two rows of windows and no stoves for heat. The great front door was so badly joined that snow sifted through the cracks and blew up the aisles. It was located at the northwest corner of North Street and North Main Street.

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1. H. P. Smith and W. S. Rann, ed., *History of Rutland Co., Vt.*, (Syracuse, N. Y., D. Mason and Co. 1886) p. 350-351.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 398.



49 North Main Street (See 108)



Architect's rendition of the Old Meeting House (See 110)

## Main Street Park

by Dawn D. Hance

Many New England towns had a common which was used as a public gathering place, or in early days sometimes for pasturing animals. Rutland was no exception. Although it went by the various names of Federal Square, Courthouse Square, the Green and the Common, it is known presently as Main Street Park.

The land for the common was officially deeded to the inhabitants of Rutland in 1790. In January, Thomas Hale sold about four acres for 10 pounds to (Judge) Samuel Williams and others. It was to be used for the "exclusive purpose of a Publick Green or common ever to be kept open for that purpose". This section was used as the parade ground for military exercises. A few days later Nathan Osgood sold the inhabitants another acre priced at 18 pounds. The stipulation of this deed was that all buildings, timber and fencing were to be removed by June 1, 1790. This acre comprises the northeast section of the park. The land that Hale deeded lies to the west and south. John Andrew Graham, Rutland's first lawyer, named the new common Federal Square due to its proximity to the County Courthouse, which was then located on West Street.

An editorial written in the June 8, 1830, **Rutland Herald** deplores the condition of the village green. Evidently the town was in the process of upgrading the park, but the work was at a standstill.

Permit me to enquire of my fellow citizens, through the medium of your paper, whether it is designed further to prosecute the contemplated improvement of the common in our village, or suffer what has already been expended upon it to become a loss. I was much pleased with the plan when it was first suggested to me, and expected soon to have seen this valuable portion of our village surrounded by a genteel circular railing, and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. In this way, what is now the repository of lumber and filth, might easily be made the most interesting portion of our village. If attended to now, a great portion of the labor is already expended, but if suffered to remain long in its present condition, the whole will remain to be done hereafter.

Perhaps the editorial had the desired effect, for soon after the improvements were made. Ten years later a Miss Hale painted a view of the common and nearby buildings. The scene depicts the common encircled by a white fence with four gates, young shade trees, a water pump at the corner of South Main Street and Court Square and a sign at the northeast corner of the park. In early times this last mentioned corner was the site of the whipping post, where people were punished for their crimes. They were stripped to the waist, had their hands tied to the ring in the post and were whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails (a whip of knotted cord). Afterwards the sheriff poured rum over the wounds.

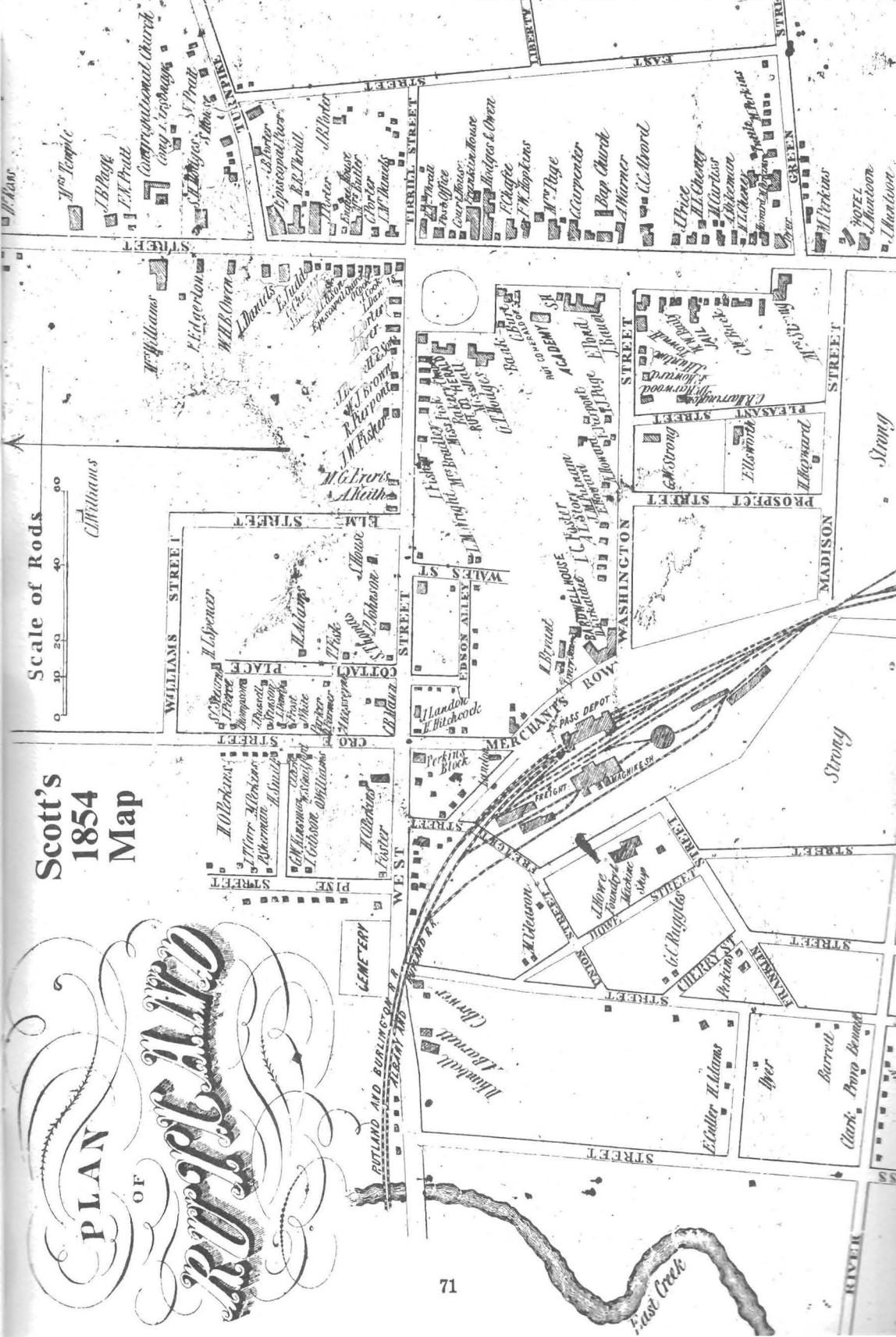
The green was the scene of many long-forgotten events — military musters, parades, banquets and various celebrations. Today the park is still in use as a public gathering place. During the summer the Rutland City Band gives concerts, and artists and craftsmen exhibit their works. Some people come just to sit on a park bench and enjoy a warm day.

The white fence and the water pump were removed long ago, but through the years additions such as the band stand, benches, monuments and the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth have been made. Nearly everyone who passes the park notices the Green Mountain Boy Monument, a reminder of days when that hearty band protected our frontier. This bronze soldier seems to have chosen to travel no farther, remaining behind to stand silent sentry over the green.

Scott's  
1854  
Map

PLAN  
OF  
**RUTLAND**

Scale of Rods



**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**101 CENTER STREET, RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701**  
**(802)775-2006; 775-0179**

The Rutland Historical Society was founded in 1969 to preserve, study and disseminate the history of the original Town of Rutland as chartered by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth in 1761, now comprised of the City of Rutland (1892) and the Towns of Rutland (1761), Proctor (1886) and West Rutland (1886). The Society maintains and operates The Rutland Museum in the historic Bank of Rutland building built in 1825, now owned by the City of Rutland, and The Vermont Farm and Rural Life Museum at the Vermont State Fair. A research library and the historical collections are maintained in the Museums and the historic Nickwackett Fire Station. Gifts or bequests of articles of historical interest or money are welcome at all times and are deductible for income tax purposes.

The Society publishes the Rutland Historical Society Quarterly for the members and presents public historical programs throughout the year at the Rutland Free Library in the Nella Grimm Fox Room. The Annual Meeting of the Society is held on the third Wednesday of October.

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of dues to the Treasurer, Sanborn Partridge, 62 Ormsbee Avenue, Proctor, Vermont 05765. Membership entitles each member to a subscription to four issues each year of the Quarterly, a copy of the Annual Report, the right to vote at business meetings and the benefits of supporting the Museums, monthly programs, library and collections. Dues are \$3.00 a year for regular members and \$5.00 for a family membership; for those wishing to give the Society further support a contributing membership is \$10.00; a sponsor membership is \$25.00; a sustaining membership is \$100.00 (minimum); and a life membership (one payment only) is \$100.00. Members wishing to pay two or more years' dues in advance are encouraged to do so to reduce costs. The expiration date of each membership is listed on the mailing label of the publication. Please send change of address on Postal Service Form 3576 (a postcard available free of charge at your local post office).

Manuscripts are invited; address correspondence to the Editor.

**Editor: Michael L. Austin**  
**Managing Editor: Jean C. Ross**

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RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
101 Center Street  
Rutland, Vermont 05701

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