



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

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773 Ca. 1839
Main Street
Charlton

785 Main St Ca. 1852
June
1981

On the left is a picture of the home of Edward Sherry and his family who moved to the hamlet in 1959. This house lot was once a part of the Raymond four acre tract, and stands on the west side of the lane that led to the Raymond tannery.

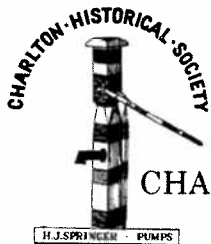
David Teller resided here when he was occupied as boss carpenter when the Charlton Academy was built in 1859. The first deed to be found for this property was in 1839 so we have to assume that this house was built in the same period of the Jones house, to the east.

The Plummer family resided here in 1920 and Howard Plummer spent his youth here. For many years Thomas Plummer was the caretaker of the Pine Grove Cemetery on Stage Road. About 1950 the house was nearly destroyed by a fire in a partition in the second story of the house.

The right hand picture is of the Lloyd VanHeusen home. This lovely house, with its Gothic gingerbread trim, has been owned by the VanHeusen families since 1901. Frank VanHeusen, uncle of Lloyd, purchased this property in 1901, and at that time the First Methodist Episcopal Church stood on the east half of the lot. Mr. VanHeusen removed the church in 1902 and used the lumber to build one of the barns that stand at the rear of the house.

For the past 145 years this house stands as a tribute to the diligence of the early religious groups to worship in their separate ways.

The congregation was first affiliated with the Galway synod but in the latter years it joined the Burnt Hills synod. The early settlers had many religious beliefs but slowly the church congregations diminished as the early settlers passed on.



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Ca. 1795

769 Main St. Charlton



Ca. 1791

June 1981 775 Main St

The house pictured on the left is the home of Robert Hayner and family. They moved to the hamlet in 1971, and have since then made many improvements to the interior of the house, while maintaining the colonial facade of the exterior. The original siding was of batten-boards but were replaced by cedar shingles by Fred Myers. Mr. Myers was a local carpenter until his retirement. The Myers family moved here prior to 1916.

William Ely, an early tanner, purchased this property in 1797 from Elijah Spencer. In a mortgage book we learn that Joshua Harmon resided here as early as 1795.

The Paymond House, pictured on the right, was purchased by this family in 1824, and operated a tannery and bark-mill until about 1879.

The John Morgan family purchased this property in 1939, and is now owned by Ann Morgan, widow of John Morgan. John Morgan operated a school-bus for Charlton children to attend the B.H.-B.L. Schools. After his retirement Mr. Morgan operated a mower-service until his death in 1974.

Both of the above house-lots are a part of Small Lot 4, of the 5,000 Acre Tract of the Patent.



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777 Main St.
Charlton



September
1981

Ca. 1823

This house, as well as many others, has seen many changes. The early siding was replaced by wood shingles by Dr. A. M. Burt which hid the Greek Revival facade, and later this was replaced by beveled siding.

Dr. Burt had the front porch enclosed with glass so that his ailing wife to rest while consuming fresh air, as well as to wave to her friends as they passed by in their horse and buggies.

Dr. Burt was a practising osteopath at Amsterdam before moving to Charlton. With his limited knowledge of medicine he vainly tended the ailing of Charlton residents, mostly by dispensing pills. Many who failed to pay their doctor bills gave him the cruel nickname of the "Fill Doctor". Dr. Burt was very conscientious in his duties to the community. He made house-calls in the summer by horse and buggy, and in the winter of 1919 he made calls with a Model T Snowmobile. It was a sight to behold Dr. Burt coming across the field over snowdrifts that would flounder a horse.

This house also served as an office for Dr. St. John until he sold the property to Dr. Burt in 1906.

In 1825, Elihu Curits resided here and operated a blacksmith-shop at the rear lot.

While the Kaszubski family resided here, in 1953, they felled a large tree on the front lawn. In the trunk was embedded a sword, and some musket balls, no doubt placed there by a veteran of the Civil War.



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JUL • 65

781 Main St 1965

Main St., Charlton
September 1981



1978

Here we find a drastic change in the characteristic view of this house, built before 1832. The left picture was taken when this house had siding of asphalt shingles. The picture on the right shows this house as it was in 1978 when Peter Schrader, a Glenville contractor, renovated the building. It is now the home of the William Hunt family.

In the 19th. century the Slover family resided here while they operated their store at Killeen's Corners. In that period there was a lovely veranda that ran the breadth of the house.

Seldon Ely purchased this property, in 1832, and operated a tan-lot at the south end of the house lot. The Ely families built a leather factory adjoining the west end of the house. When the Slover Store was destroyed by fire, in 1906, the family converted the leather-factory into a small grocery store. This building was removed during the Great Depression.

The Slover families are a part of Charlton's heritage, and their genealogy has been traced back to 1695, when Isaac Selover taught school at Flatlands, New York.

The Levi Packard family resided here, and after the Civil War he wrote a brief history on Charlton, which is a source of information for historians. His work was included in verbatim in Sylvester's History of Saratoga. Prof. Packard taught school in the Old Academy.

This house is located in the south bounds of the Historic District, and is located in Small Lot 4, 5,000 acre tract of the Patent.



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771 Main St.
Charlton



October
1981

Ca. 1839

This home was purchased by Miss Claire Mallard, in 1976, and had previously been renovated by C. Fritz Schaus in 1969. Here we wish to explain some of the changes that occurred over the years past. The picture window was installed to give more light for the operation of a shoe-repair shop by Burdette Price when he resided here in 1945.

History often repeats itself for in 1839, Harvey Jones operated a harness and boot shop in this wing. Previously the Jones harness shop had stood at the northwest corner of the lot next to the tannery lane. Legend tells us that Hiram Jones used the lumber removed from the demolition of the first Freehold Church. The harness shop was still operating in 1866, as listed on the Beer Atlas. During the recent renovation, an error was found in the land deed, so Mr. Schaus and Mr. Sherry agreed on a common boundary line in the center of the tannery lane. The tannery lane had been discontinued as a public lane in the 19th century.

It appears that a house stood on this lot before Mr. Jones built this house, as in the mortgage books we learn that one VanYevern owned this lot, with a house located here.

In the early days neighbors must have been real friendly, as the east end of the house is only a couple feet away from the home of the Hayner family.

The giant locust tree, over the years, has stood here to act as a lightning protection for the house. When this tree is felled it will be interesting to count the annual rings and learn whether VanYevern or Jones planted this tree.



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Main St.
Charlton

October
1981

833 Swaggerstown Rd

Ca. 1862

When Jeremiah Smith returned from his activities in the Revolution, he continued his law practise while raising sheep on this farm. After the War Mr. Smith defended a group of Dutchess County landowners who were being sued for land taxes the government was trying to collect unfairly. He pleaded their cases to the highest courts and with such diligence that the case was finally dropped for lack of enforcement by the government attorneys.

In 1777 Mr. Smith sold 16 acres of land to John Rogers at the Alplaus Kill, where Rogers built a sawmill, the first in the territory. Another tract of 34 acres was sold to Dr. William Mead in 1794, which is now the Marvin farm. At the death of Jeremiah Smith, in 1829, this farm contained 62 acres of land, but now only one-half of this amount is now attached to the house and barns.

Martin, grandson of Jeremiah Smith, purchased this farm from his father Archibald Smith for \$800.00, which indicates that there was no house on this farm at the time. This fact gives credence to the folklore that the first house was destroyed by fire, and replaced by Martin Smith in 1862. Also the artistic Gingerbread trim relates to this period.

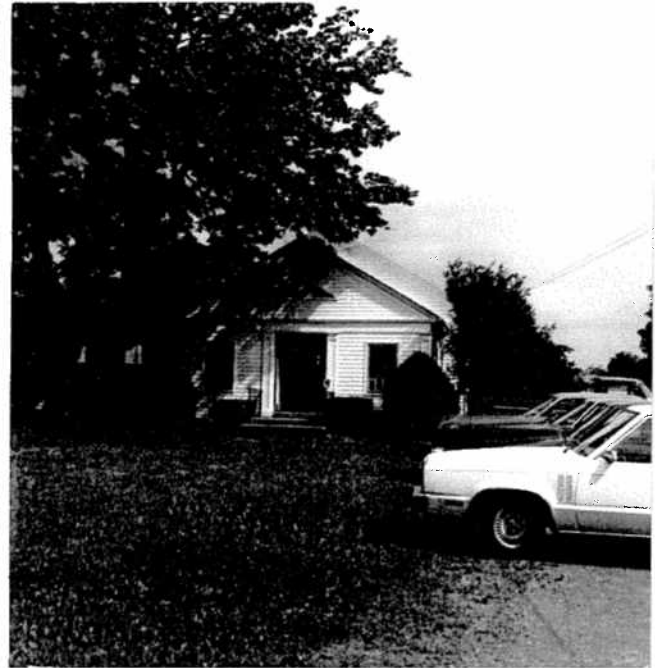
Harold Fobian, longtime Justice, spent his declining years on this farm. When Fobian retired he sold off tracts of land as building plots.

This farm is a part of Small Lot 4, 5,000 acre tract of the Patent, and is in the Southwest bounds of the Historic District, now on the Register of Historic Places.



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768 Main St., Charlton

The history of the Freehold Presbyterian Church is an important part of the heritage of the Town of Charlton, as well as the Historic District. In the year 1775, a group of Freeholders, from Freehold, N.J. settled at the east section of the town. They named their settlement "New Freehold".

In the year 1786, the Freeholders purchased a plot of ground from William Clark, and here erected a house of worship the following year. This building was removed and replaced by another in 1804. The second ediface was also removed and the present church was built in 1852.

During the restoration of the church, in 1970, the building was struck by fire, and the restoration had to be done over again.

The original Academy, a house of higher learning, stood at the southeast corner of the church-lot. It was built in 1859, and destroyed by fire in 1946.

The present Memorial Academy was built for additional Sunday-School rooms in 1950. This build was also struck by fire, in 1970, and had to be completelt restored by the congregation.

The original deed for the church-lot was filed in the Albany County records, in Liber M, page 69, and then refiled in the Saratoga County records, in Liber 105, page 127, in the year of 1949.

This lot is a part of Lot 1, of Great Lot XI, in the XIII Allotment of the Patent.



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., Charlton, Ballston Lake, N.Y., 12019

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778 Main St. Charlton Ca. 1897



780 Main St Ca. 1804
November 1981

To the west of the Freehold Church stands this colonial 2½ story building which is the Manse, and has been used as the home for the church ministers over the years.

The first Manse was destroyed by fire and was purchased from Levi Bostwick, who operated the first general store in the hamlet. The store has been referred to as the Belding Store, and stood at the corner of Jockey St. and Main St. The present Manse was built in 1897 and was the home of Rev. Walter A. Hitchcock, who married Mary Maxwell, a Charlton girl.

Presently Rev. Robert Bunnell is pastor of the Freehold Church. His wife Margaret is also an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church.

The house pictured on the right is owned by Norbert Gelston, who is employed by the General Electric Company. Mr. Gelston presently is employed out of State, but hopes to retire to this home.

Presently Dawn Slocu, resides here as a tenant. She was a member of the Women's Army Corps during W.W.II.

Early deeds point out that this house stood on this lot as early as 1804. It ranks with many of the first houses in the hamlet, and gives distinction to the Historic District.



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754 Main St.-December 1981

The picture on the right is the home of the Serapilio family, our new and welcome neighbors.

Charles Colebrook, in 1843, purchased this house-lot, and soon after built this house.

In 1849, Benjamin Knapp resided here, and operated a wagon and blacksmith shop that stood north of the house. Over the years the many owners have made alterations to change the facade of this house, yet it still retains the gracious wide trim, so popular in the Greek Revival period. It is not presently known when the brown shingles replaced the painted siding, but even with this change this house lends charm to the Village Historic District.

On the left is a picture of the bronze plaque donated by the trustees of Union College to commemorate their early graduate, who distinguished himself throughout the State of New York.

Gideon Hawley graduated from Union College in 1809, and in 1813 was appointed the first State Superintendent of Schools. He established the "Common School System" whereby all children were able to acquire a free education. Such cost was raised by taxes.

Historians have distinguished this Charlton man with the title of "Father of the Common School System", a fine attribute for a farmer's son.

In 1973, the brush-lot was cleared and made into a park to commemorate Gideon Hawley Jr. The park was dedicated by the town in 1974, and now contains over 200 varieties of wild and domestic flowers to grace the walks around the gazebo, and to the honor-roll commemorating our veterans of foreign wars, and the Revolution and Civil Wars.

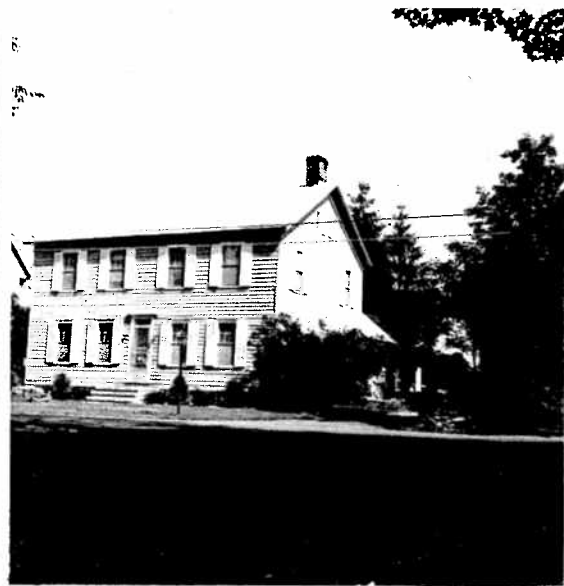


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1891



Ca. 1804

784 Main St. Charlton

782 Main St

December 1981

The house pictured on the right is the home of the Newman family. It is located to the east of the John W. Taylor Hall.

In an 1851 deed this house was referred to as the "Mechanics Hall". No explanation for this name has yet been found. Jason Millard resided here in 1816. Possibly he operated a tavern here before he built the one in back of the firehouse, which later became known as the "Cromer's Hotel". This house-lot was one of five owned by Susanna Lighthurn in 1804, and extended from the Manse lot westward to Emily Farrel's driveway.

The building pictured on the left is the John W. Taylor Hall, now owned by the town, and dedicated as such on June 1, 1976, in honor of John W. Taylor who served in the Congress as Speaker of the House for one term. He held the distinction of being the only Democrat from New York State to hold this office for a full term.

In 1890, a group of Charlton citizens organized a fraternal order affiliated with the national order of Knights of Pythias, a fraternal order of brotherly love. They named their fraternity the "Silver Acorn Lodge" #279, and built this hall in 1891.

In later years this order was in joint ownership of this hall with their sister order the "Golden Acorn Lodge." Jointly they sold the hall to the town.

The interior has lately been renovated to include offices for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Justices and Highway Superintendent. The upper room was converted into meeting rooms for the various town committees. As fraternal orders are slowly disappearing, it is fortunate that the town board had foresight to procure this building and preserve it as a landmark to enhance the village.