

A RESOURCE GUIDE: HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF YOUR OWN HOUSE AND THE TOWN OF WHATELY

WHATELY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Digital

Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/>.

Searchable by name, year of birth, year of death, and/or location. (Last name required.) Photos of individual gravestones and some family information available. (If you have been unable to find the grave of an individual who lived in Whately, search nearby towns (e.g., Deerfield, Hatfield, Sunderland) or search state-wide.)

Direct links to Whately cemeteries are available on Whately Cemetery Commission <https://whatelycemeteries.wordpress.com/>, as well as on the Whately Historical Society webpage.

Franklin County Registry of Deeds. <http://www.masslandrecords.com/franklin>.

Search property records 1663-present by name; filters available by town and date range. Deeds and other historic documents (e.g., mortgages) may be printed.

Historic Maps of Whately.

Eleven maps of town, 1795 to 2005, are available on the Whately Historical Society website (<http://vhist.com/mcc/towns/whately/whately-maps/>). Two maps (Walling, 1858, and Beers, 1871) identify buildings by family and business names, and several include detailed insets of Town Center, East Whately, and West Whately. PDFs may be enlarged and printed. Large print versions of many of these maps are available in Dickinson Library.

Others include Charles Waite's schematic drawing showing the locations of houses by family name (1880) and Don Sluter's redrawn (and much more legible) version of the 1830 Benjamin Cooley map, which shows the town's topography, the layouts and names of streets, and the location of buildings. Links to both are at <https://whatelyhistorical.org/whately-history-resources/historic-maps/>.

MACRIS (Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System). <http://mhc-macris.net/>.

Massachusetts Historical Commission's searchable digital database of its historical resource inventory forms. Whately forms include areas (neighborhoods and farms); buildings; structures (mills, dams, etc.); burial grounds; and objects (Stockade marker, Milk Bottle). Each entry includes dates, historic photographs, a written narrative and bibliography. Print copies of most forms are available at the Whately Historical Society.

National Register Historic District registration forms (Whately Center and West Whately). 2003.

<https://www.whately.org/historical-commission/pages/whately-national-register-districts>

Detailed narratives about the architectural and economic history of Whately's two neighborhood historic districts, including descriptions of individual buildings organized by historic period (Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, etc.) and a brief archaeological description of each area.

U.S Census Records. <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/census/online-resources>

Records available for the 1790 – 1940 censuses, with information on those living in the community on each census date. Online access is available to subscribers of *ancestry.com* or with registration at *familysearch.com*. The public libraries in Amherst, Florence, Greenfield, and Northampton provide access to the library version of *ancestry.com*.

Printed

James M. Crafts, *History of the town of Whately, Mass, including a narrative of leading events from the first planting of Hatfield, 1661-1899*, Orange, MA, 1899.

Narrative history of the development of town with information on the location of many individuals' homes, sites of businesses, etc. Includes genealogical listing of town residents by family name.

Also available online: https://whatelyhistorical.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/craft_history_of_whately.pdf. Hard copy reprint available for purchase at the Whately Historical Society.

Ena M. Cane, *Whately Massachusetts, 1771-1971*, Whately, MA, 1972.

Very readable update of the Crafts history with expanded sections on the development of roads, town government and institutions, and industries. Crafts' genealogy is extended until 1970 for those family members who "carried on in Whately history".

Reprint available for purchase at the Whately Historical Society.

Whately Building Permits.

Paper files of building permits issued from late 1960s through 1988, organized partially by year of issue and partially by name. Some permits include copies of plans. Useful reference for those seeking information about additions or renovations to their houses.

Available for review in Town Offices. (More recent permits are indexed online and available through the Town Assessor's Office.)

Whately Historical Society.

Extensive collection of documents, photographs and other materials relating to the history of the town, its institutions, and its residents. Curatorial volunteers, who are available to help locate and provide copies of documents and photos, may be reached at info@whatelyhistorical.org or by visiting the Museum (currently open Tuesday mornings, 9-12).

The Society also owns two original manuscripts prepared by Town residents, which are available for research use onsite: **Gertrude Bardwell**, House and Business List, n.d., and **Georgeann Dufault**, Houses 1700-1800, n.d.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Digital

Historic New England. <https://www.historicnewengland.org/preservation/for-homeowners-communities/your-old-or-historic-home/architectural-style-guide/>.

Guide to architectural styles, 1600-1955, using houses owned by Historic New England as examples.

Printed

Sylvester Judd, *History of Hadley, including the early history of Hatfield, South Hadley, Amherst, and Granby, Massachusetts, with family genealogies* by Lucius M. Boltwood, Northampton: Metcalf, 1863.

Includes brief mentions of Whately, with some reference to early ministers and account of the separation from Hatfield. Genealogies include a number of individuals buried in Whately.

Louis H. Everts, *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, Philadelphia: 1879.

Includes information about some Whately residents and images of their homes. Available in Dickinson Library's non-circulating collection.

John J.G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977. (Photographs from the Historic American Buildings Survey of the American Association for State and Local History.)

Illustrations are blurred, black-and-white photos. Good definition of architectural terms and stylistic descriptions.

Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*, NY: Bonanza Books (Crown Publishers, Inc.), 1980.

Elevations, floorplans, and photographic illustrations organized by period.

Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Illustrations of styles and details in photographic, schematic, and line-drawing presentations. Very useful guide to architectural terminology.

Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, University Press of New England, Hanover, 1984.

Although set in Maine, this book provides an excellent history of the connected house and barn buildings common in our area, with good descriptions of typical layouts and derivations of the style.

Tracy Kidder, *House*, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1985.

Describes the process of building an historically inspired house in Amherst and the interaction of the contractor, carpenters and owners, including a detailed description of early local building practices, such as how wood was cut and cured, which woods were used for which parts of the building and why.

J. Ritchie Garrison, *Landscape and Material Life in Franklin County, Massachusetts, 1770-1860*, The University of Tennessee Press, 1991.

Chapters 6 and 7, Farmsteads and Dwellings, provide helpful background. Passing references to Whately.

Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture, an Illustrated Encyclopedia*, New York, 1998

A good reference book for abstruse architectural terms with helpful pen and ink drawings.

Thomas Durant Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, University Press of New England, Hanover, NH, 1998.

Excellent descriptions of the structures of various types of barns and farm outbuildings as well as the traditions and innovations that each represents.

James F. O'Gorman, *Connecticut Valley Vernacular, The Vanishing Landscape and Architecture of the New England Tobacco Fields*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2002.

Most of the book deals with Connecticut, but there are one or two shots of Whately, and the descriptions are relevant.

***To receive a digital copy of this document with live links, please send an email to
historicalcommission@whately.org.***