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## Houghton-Sprague House: Period Details to Houghton Garrison House

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Arch Date?

## PERIOD DETAILS TO HOUGHTON GARRISON HOUSE

### Entryway

First period stairway with smoke chamber. At the top of the steps there is vertical field paneling as well as earlier horizontal sheathing. Continuing into the attic there is a wall of raised paneling, which may indicate the stairway was open at one time.

### Keeping room

Carved and painted ceiling. This would have been the original room of the house and is probably the oldest. Early field paneling on fireplace wall with an intact bake oven and ash pit behind a raised paneled door. Early block printed wallpaper has been retained on the north wall. This example probably dates to 1820.

### Dining room

Field paneling which dates the room to probably early Georgian. The Rumford style fireplace hides an even larger fireplace behind it.

### Back room next to Kitchen

Although later, this fireplace also has an intact bake oven and ash pit behind a raised carved paneled door.

### Room above the Keeping room

This is the room where the real treasure is hidden. Although it looks like a very nondescript room, behind the 19<sup>th</sup> century plaster raised paneled walls exist. The east wall is entirely intact together with a firebox which is supported by the granite block visible in the keeping room. Throughout the house pieces of raised Georgian paneling are stored which all belong in this room.

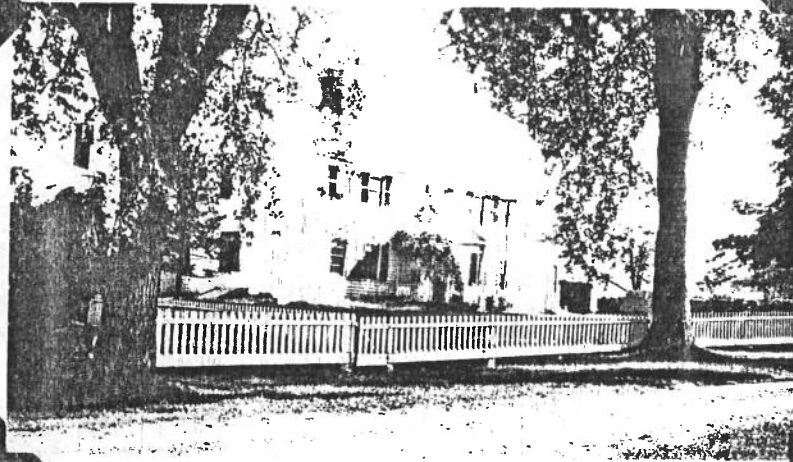
### Room above the dining room

Raised paneling is on the fireplace wall. This room has the widest floorboards in the house. Both front rooms are Georgian in appearance and probably date around 1740-1760.

### The East shed.

There are set kettles located in this shed that has been remarked upon by every describer of this house. One is iron and one is copper. Although the exact use is unknown, at least to me, fire could be built in the massive brick structure that houses them. Both east and west sheds are 19<sup>th</sup> century. The entry way outside of the west shed has the earliest exterior features of the house which is old clapboards with hand hammered nails.

For study



The old Houghton House showing the three stages  
of occupation-all ancient -and built on land that  
John Prescott, the Founder of Lancaster, sold to Ralph  
Houghton in 1669.

Back of the House  
on other side of  
page →

[Houghton Garrison House, DATE unknown,  
Harvard Historical Society, photo # 1231.2]

THIS PHOTO SHOWS THE BACK OF THE HOUSE AND  
A GLIMPSE OF THE LAWN BEFORE IT WAS SOLD OFF  
+ TOWN DOWN FOR THE NEW HOUSE + BARN !!



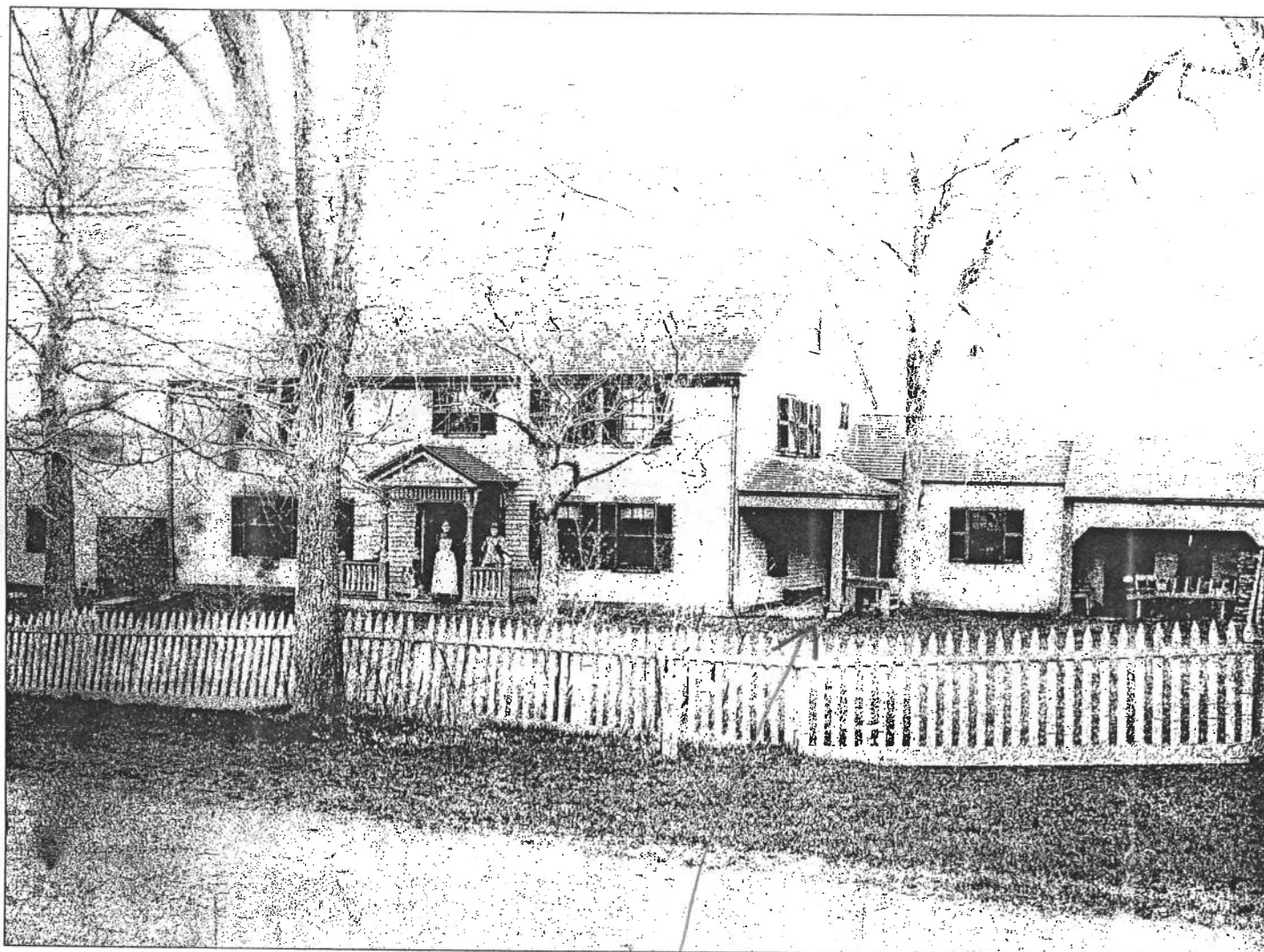
[Houghden Griegsen House, Dec 1891. Harvard Historical Society # 12337]



204 WEST BARE HILL ROAD

*This late 1600s Garrison is thought to be the oldest remaining house in Harvard. A Garrison was a small heavily fortified house where the early settlers would gather in times of danger. It remained in the Houghton family for six generations and then became home*

*to the Sprague family for over three generations. Fred Sprague enjoyed photography and took many pictures in the 1930s for the Historical Society. His sister Elizabeth, a college art teacher, had an artist's studio in the little shop on the Common at 1 Littleton Road.*



Shallow Stone lined  
wall is here ...



UNITARIAN:

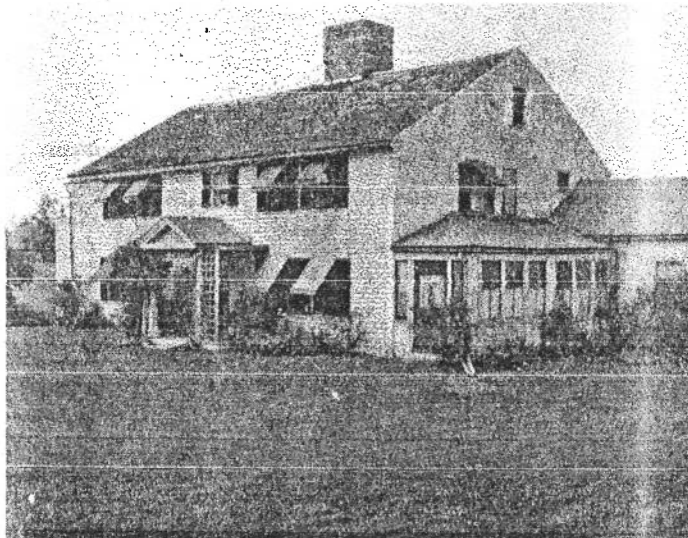
Reminder - Picnic at Ather-  
ton's this coming Saturday, 4:30  
p.m.

"Progress consists, not in the  
annihilation of yesterday by to-  
day, but in keeping that essence  
of yesterday to create this bet-  
ter today."

Jose Ortega Y Gasset

"Politicians are a set of men  
who have interests aside from  
the interests of the people,  
and who, to say the most of  
them, are at least one long  
step removed from honest men.  
I say this with greater free-  
dom being a politician my-  
self."

Abraham Lincoln



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Morrill G. Sprague,  
West Bare Hill Road, one of the oldest, perhaps  
the oldest, inhabited house in Town. A garrison  
house, begun in 1648.

Sprague land that  
has been set aside as  
conservation property  
abutting the house -

there is  
a lot of  
development  
pressure

the house  
is still  
remaining  
+ it's  
property is still  
here

old barn was here, the property was divided off + sold  
+ the old barn was torn down

Within Still River there are some outstanding views of Mount Wachusett and the southern New Hampshire mountains. One of the best vantage points is from a beautiful field, acquired by the Commission from Morrill Sprague in 1981. In 1998 an additional 63 acres stretching back to Bare Hill Pond were purchased. The land abuts conservation lands for a combined total of 171 acres. This holding beautifully both the agricultural and natural character of Still River.

The trail passes through the open fields currently leased for crops. Please respect the local farmer. At the edge of the woods there is a granite bench sited to the view. The trail then leads into the woodlands following an old wood road. From here one section heads off through uplands to an escarpment overlooking Bare Hill Pond and then winds back to the main trail. Another section follows the old wood road to a large white pine and a secondary trail leading to the edge of wetlands by the pond.

Approx. walking time main trail: 1 1/4 hrs. - moderate

