

## ***MENDHAM BOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT.....***

### ***RESIDENTIAL PRESERVATION***

*G* rass still grows on Main Street, Mountain, Hilltop, New, Hampton, Orchard and Prospect Streets. The houses in the Historic District are predominantly single-family and two story, set back from the street with modest front yards. The streets are shaded and regularly spaced oaks and elms add to the character of the streets. Most of the homes are frame, some with their original clapboard or shingle siding. Many have had aluminum or vinyl siding added in recent years.



*The original National Register District boundary included streets laid out before the incorporation of Mendham Borough in 1906. The expanded District in 2012 now includes additional properties that help to illustrate the village's historic significance beginning with its 18<sup>th</sup> century settlement and extending to the years prior to WWII, after which the development patterns changed. Properties in the District now include dwellings associated with the earliest settlement in the vicinity, a number of modest late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings and several dwellings that represent the "Country Place" period at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Varying in architecture, some homes are still known by the name of their original owners. The residential building thought to be the oldest within the Historic District is the Daniel Babbitt/Silas Thompson House on the corner of West Main and New Streets.*



*While the homes that line East and West Main Street are part of the historic past, some homes on New and Prospect Streets share a long history. Prospect Street was originally known as Seminary Street, and New Street was so named because it was the second street laid out in the village's center. There were no other streets laid out prior to the incorporation of the borough in 1906.*



*Styles of the homes and architectural details incorporated in our Historic District range from New England style to East Jersey cottage (Cape Cod) to Federal to Greek Revival to Italianate to today's more modern styles. Homes built before WWII are part of the contributing homes to the period of significance. Given an economic downturn in the latter half of the nineteenth century, there was not much building, and therefore, there is not a great deal of Victorian*

*architecture in the village. At the turn of the century, there was a major building boom in Mendham. Fully one third of the structures in the original Historic District were built between 1890 and 1930.*



*The expansion completed in 2011 includes of particular interest three eighteenth century dwellings at the west end of Main Street: the stone David Thompson House, the stuccoed-stone Sutton house, and the frame Lebbeus Dod House.*

*David Thompson has been described as "the local squire" and was captain in the New Jersey*



*Militia during the Revolutionary War. His house was constructed by his father-in-law, Daniel Cary, a stonemason who came to the area to build a meetinghouse in Morristown. A nearby gambrel-roofed vernacular dwelling was the home of Lebbeus Dod, (1739-1816), a highly skilled artisan who, along with his three sons, Stephen, Abner, and Daniel, was well known for finely crafted mathematical instruments and clocks. Lebbeus reputedly invented the parallel rule protractor.*





Several highly styled mansions were erected on the village outskirts during America's "Country Place" era of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. These include the William Coringley house, the James H. Loree house "Clarendon", the Mary Teese house, the Florlence Hyde House and the Samuel Streit house. All are fine examples of their type, reflecting a variety of Revival styles and are representative of Mendham's history during the Gilded Age. There are more of these type homes throughout the southern portion of the Borough, but they are not included in the formal Historic District.

The neighborhoods of Hampton Street, Orchard Street, and portions of West Main Street (west of Country Lane) and East Main Street (East of Halstead Road) are comprised of dwellings built during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting the growth of the merchant and working classes in Mendham as agriculture began to decline in economic importance in the area. Some of these are simple dwellings of popular types that were introduced during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, while others are good examples of modestly scaled early 20<sup>th</sup> century Revival and Craftsman styles.



