

# Historic Sudbury Tour

Welcome to the Sudbury Historical Society's tour of thirty five Historic Sudbury sites.

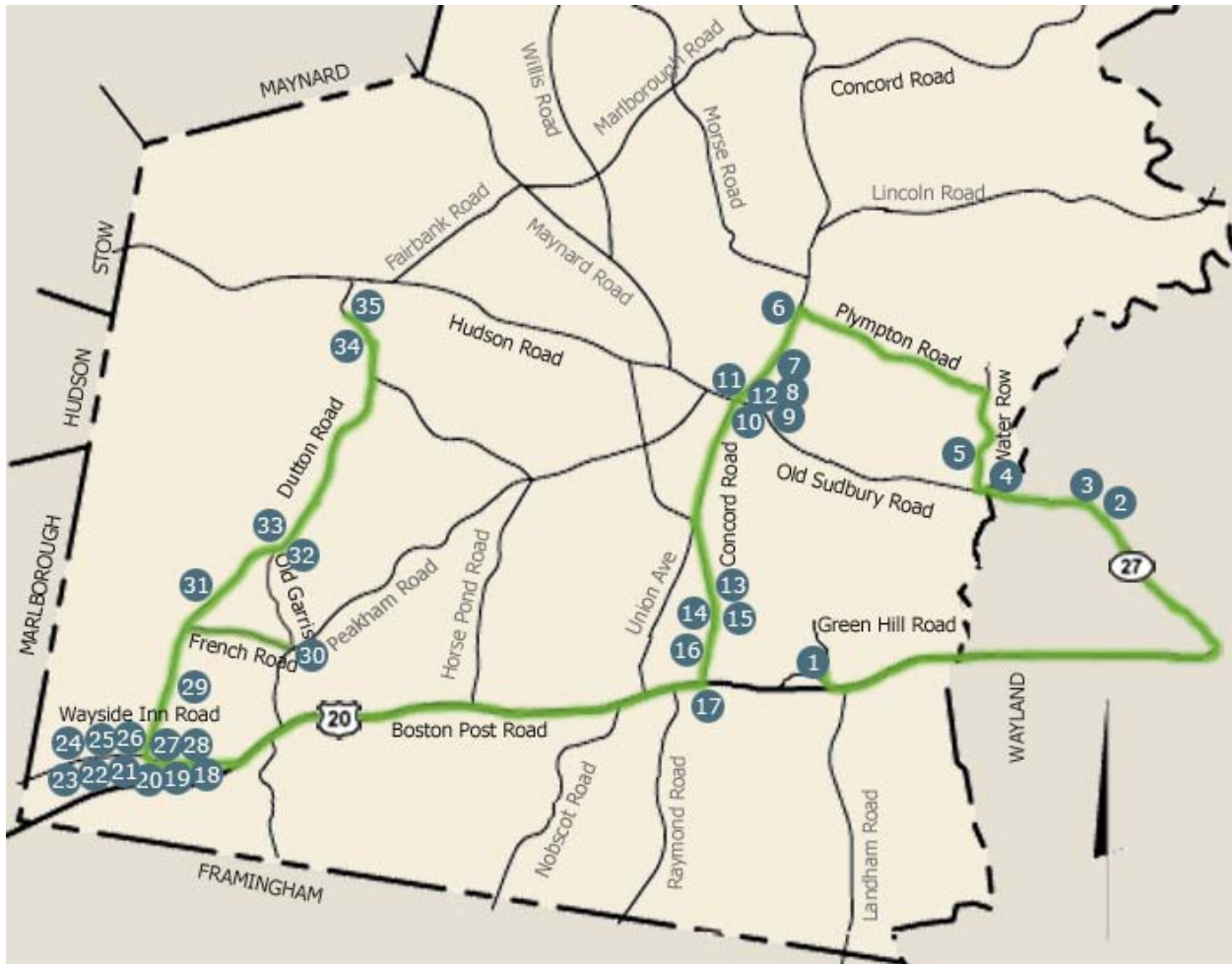
Driving and walking the entire tour takes about three hours. Or, you can take the tour virtually with the fully illustrated tour available at the Sudbury Historical Society's web site at:

<http://www.sudbury01776.org/walk.html>

The illustrated tour also contains additional information and trivia about each of the sites on the tour.

A google maps version of the tour which can be used to get detailed directions can be found at:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=108565565599018333933.00047a22a5a5fe1f539df&z=14>



### **Stop 1. Native American Communal Grinding Stone**

*Intersection of Green Hill Road and Singletary Lane next to 29 Green Hill Rd. Parking available on road.*

One of six known communal grinding stones located in Sudbury, this six-foot diameter granite boulder has a large primary grinding surface and a secondary surface sometimes called a "seat". It was used for centuries by the native Nipmuc people before the arrival of the first English colonists in what is now Sudbury.

### **Stop 2. The North Cemetery in Wayland**

*65 Old Sudbury Road, Wayland. Parking is available in the cemetery.*

The second stop on this tour is at the center of the original 1639 town. The Sudbury Plantation was settled in 1638 and incorporated a year later. In 1780, the original town split in half - Sudbury on the west side of the river and East Sudbury on the east side of the river. East Sudbury was renamed Wayland in 1835.

The boulder at the crest of the hill marks the location of the original town meeting house which was rebuilt three times. The first meeting house was built shortly after the settlement of the Sudbury Plantation in 1638 and its incorporation in 1639.

### **Stop 3. Lydia Maria Child's House**

*91 Old Sudbury Road, Wayland. No parking available near the house. The home is private property.*

The home of Lydia Maria Child between 1850 and 1880. Child was one of the most famous abolitionists in America, and the woman credited with igniting the movement.

### **Stop 4. Four Arch Bridge**

*Near 121 Old Sudbury Road. Parking available on the old road to bridge.*

By 1643, a wooden bridge that crossed the Sudbury River at this location was the primary connection between the settlements on the east and west sides of the river. Starting out as a footbridge, then a cart bridge and was rebuilt several times over the next 143 years culminating in the fine stone bridge that survives to this day. In this time period, Sudbury spent more money repairing these bridges than it did building and rebuilding their meeting house.

### **Stop 5. Haynes Garrison House**

*47 Water Row. Parking is available along the road.*

Only the foundation remains of the Haynes Garrison, one of six fortified houses that existed in Sudbury at the time of King Philip's War in 1676. The Haynes Garrison House was 42' long and 25' deep and was able to successfully give refuge to the settlers from King Philips warriors during the Sudbury Fight in 1676. The Haynes Garrison House site is the only King Philip battle site left basically untouched in Sudbury.

### **Stop 6. Ralph Adams Cram House and Chapel**

*435 Concord Road (chapel) and 427 Concord Road (house). Parking available at the chapel only. The house is private property.*

The home of America's foremost ecclesiastical architect, Ralph Adams Cram occupied this house from 1900 to 1942. He was internationally famous for his reinterpretation of the Gothic style of architecture and incorporating it into modern structures.

Adjacent to his home is the Cram Chapel built to his designs in a primitive Medieval style. The chapel was built entirely by hand by local Sudbury craftsmen and is decorated by some of the leading craftsmen of the Arts & Crafts period.

### **Stop 7. The Town Pound**

*Town Center at 350 Concord Road. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

The Town Pound is an enclosure in historic Sudbury Center where stray cattle, horses, sheep and swine were rounded up and kept. It was built for \$20 dollars in 1797. While many towns in Massachusetts had a Town Pound, this is one of the few that still survives today.

Adjacent to the Town Pound is a reconstruction of the Hearse House. This house contained the town owned vehicle used for transportation of bodies from homes to the First Parish Meeting House and the cemetery.

### **Stop 8. Revolutionary War Cemetery**

*Town Center at 334 Concord Road. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

The Revolutionary War cemetery was created in 1716 by a vote at Town Meeting. It was the second cemetery in Sudbury and first on the west side of the Sudbury River (the first cemetery in Sudbury being the North Cemetery described in Stop 2 of the tour). The oldest burial stone still existing is that of Sara Noyes, who died in 1727 at age 29.

The graveyard holds the remains of 47 soldiers who were recorded to have fought in the Revolutionary War, including Deacon Josiah Haynes, who was one of two Sudbury men who were killed died on April 19th, 1775 at the Battle of Concord (the first battle day in the Revolutionary War).

### **Stop 9. Loring Parsonage**

*Town Center at 288 Old Sudbury Road. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

The Loring Parsonage, built in 1730, is one of the oldest buildings in Sudbury Center. It started as a two room house, one over one, with a fireplace on the right and then it was expanded into a four room house, two over two, with a massive center chimney.

The house was built for Reverend Israel Loring, as the minister's parsonage. It became "his homestead" as he refers to it in his will. He lived here with his family until his death in 1772 at age 90.

### **Stop 10. The Hosmer House**

*Town Center at 310 Concord Rd. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

The Hosmer House was built in 1793 in the Federal style by Elisha Wheeler. It was later bought by James Willis, who ran the Sudbury General Store and Post Office from the large room on the right side (in the picture) of the first floor, with the entrance via the porch. A large room over the store was used as a ballroom by the community.

In 1959, noted artist Florence Hosmer, whose family purchased the house in 1897, deeded the property, as well as 497 of her paintings, to the Town of Sudbury on condition that the contents of the house would be on display to the public as a memorial to her father.

### **Stop 11. First Parish Meeting House**

*Town Center at 327 Concord Road. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

First Parish Meeting House was originally built in 1723 on what was known as the Rocky Plain. It was an unusable plot of land for agricultural purposes, covered with rocks and poor soil. The present structure was built in 1797 re-using material from the original, smaller structure.

The Meeting House design was purchased from Benjamin Thompson of Boston, and was built by journeymen builders. It has design elements borrowed from England's famed architect Christopher Wren.

### **Stop 12. Grange Hall**

*Town Center at 326 Concord Road. Park in lot behind Town Hall.*

The Sudbury Grange Hall #121 stands to the left of the Town Hall opposite the town common. It was built in 1849 as the Center District School House, a simple one-story schoolhouse for grades one through four. In 1849 when people completed four grades they were considered educated enough for farming life.

The Sudbury Grange #121 purchased the Center School from the town in 1890. As the Grange Hall, it was the center of Sudbury social life. For over a century, residents have gathered here for companionship, political discussion and education. It is now owned by the Sudbury Foundation (a non-profit organization providing educational support).

### **Stop 13. Leonard Goulding House**

*88 Concord Road. Park at the Wadsworth Cemetery. The house is private property.*

The Leonard Goulding House is one of the oldest houses in Sudbury, though it was originally built in East Sudbury (now Wayland) in 1690. Known then as the Moses Brewer house, it was taken apart and moved to 88 Concord Road in 1922 by Mr. Leonard P. Goulding.

The house was originally built as a two room house around 1690. One hundred years later in 1790 an addition was added and it became the saltbox house you see today. In 1991 it was re-sided and re-roofed in the authentic original style and kept as a saltbox.

### **Stop 14. Israel Howe Brown House**

*71 Concord Road. Park at the Wadsworth Cemetery. The house is private property.*

The Israel Howe Brown house is located at 71 Concord Road. Israel was descended from Edmund Brown, the first Deacon of the church of Sudbury in 1640. Israel was born in 1791 on the 200 acre Brown homestead in Nobscot. Israel lived in this house in Sudbury until his death in 1879.

It is believed by some that the (no longer standing) attached barn of Brown's house was an important station on the "Underground Railroad". According to oral tradition, around the time of the Civil War, fugitive slaves stayed/rested in the barn before being transported to safety by Brown in a hay wagon with a false bottom.

### **Stop 15. Wadsworth Cemetery**

*Opposite 71 Concord Road. Parking is available at the cemetery.*

Near this cemetery over 1500 Native American warriors under the leadership of King Philip (Metacomet, son of Massasoit) attacked militiamen under Captain Brocklebank of Rowley and Captain Samuel Wadsworth of Milton on April 21, 1676. Wadsworth and approximately 30 militiamen were killed after the Native Americans set the woods on fire forcing the militia to retreat.

In 1852 a granite obelisk was erected with funding from the State and the Town as a monument to Wadsworth and his company of men. Their remains were then moved to a tomb under the 21 foot monument. It was at this time that the town decided to name the cemetery "Wadsworth Cemetery" as a memorial.

### **Stop 16. Goodnow Library**

*21 Concord Road. Parking is available behind the building.*

The original Goodnow library was built in 1862. This was thanks to John Goodnow who had left a bequest in his will of \$20,000 and 3 acres of land on which to build a public library. Goodnow also included a bequest to erect the building for \$2,500. The construction costs were slightly over budget, totaling \$2,691.35, including \$32.43 for setting out shade trees.

The Goodnow Library is one of the earliest Free Public Libraries in Massachusetts to have its own building dedicated for use strictly as a library.

### **Stop 17. Mill Village**

*365 Boston Post Road (the intersection of Concord Road and Rte 20). Parking is available at the rear of the buildings.*

The center of the Mill Village Area is the intersection of Concord Road and Rte 20. It has been a commercial center in South Sudbury since 1659 when Peter Noyes and Abraham Wood built a gristmill on Hop Brook.

By 1889, South Sudbury was the industrial and manufacturing center of the town and was considered quite progressive. It consisted of a General Store, post office, machine shop, blacksmith shop, school house, church, grist mill, a junction depot, the Goodnow Library and 50 homes.

### **Stop 18. Wayside Inn Gate House**

*47 Wayside Inn Road (adjacent to Wayside Inn parking lot). Park opposite the Wayside Inn.*

This barn is the only original barn remaining on the Wayside Inn property. When it was built, it was originally located about 50 feet from the Wayside Inn. In 1904, Innkeeper Lemon moved it to its present location, about 200 feet away from the front of the Inn. He did this after the town agreed to build a new section of the then Boston Post Road. This road is now called the Wayside Inn Road and it was meant to preserve the integrity of the Inn by diverting traffic away from the front stoop of the Inn.

### **Stop 19. Wayside Inn Barn**

*47 Wayside Inn Road (adjacent to Wayside Inn parking lot). Park opposite the Wayside Inn.*

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### **Stop 20. Wayside Inn Underpass**

*South of Wayside Inn Road. Park at either the gristmill or the Wayside Inn.*

In 1925, Henry Ford wanted to divert heavy traffic away from the Inn. For the then astronomical sum of \$280,000, he built a one mile bypass of the Post Road that runs from the intersection of Rte 20 and the Wayside Inn Road in Sudbury to 200 feet past the traffic light in Marlboro where Wayside Inn Road joins Rte 20. Construction of the bypass began in 1926, continued throughout 1927 and it was officially "inaugurated" in 1928. Ford sold this new portion of Rte 20 to the state for \$1.

### **Stop 21. Wayside Inn Cider Mill**

*South of Wayside Inn Road. Park at either the gristmill or the Wayside Inn.*

This 18th century building was purchased by Henry Ford in New Hampshire in 1930. Although it was equipped by Ford to function as a cider mill or press, it was never actually operated as such. It was used to store grain for use in the Grist Mill when Pepperidge Farm leased the Mill in 1952 to 1967, and then again when King Arthur Flour Company leased it from 1967 to 1969.

### **Stop 22. Wayside Inn Grist Mill**

*131 Wayside Inn Rd. Park at the gristmill or at the Wayside Inn.*

Construction of the mill was started in 1927. It was completed and opened on Thanksgiving Day 1929. Henry Ford had ordered it to be built as an example of the use of water power and automation.

John B. Campbell of Philadelphia designed the mill. The exterior is cut stone from Mount Nobscot and other local Ford land. The mortar is recessed to give the appearance of dry-wall construction. Some of the wood (largely not visible) used in the mill's construction is chestnut cut from standing diseased trees killed in the 1912 chestnut tree blight.

### **Stop 23. David How Dam and Original Mill Site**

*South side of Wayside Inn Road near the gristmill. Park at either the Gristmill or the Wayside Inn*

The original mill located on the Hop Brook was built by David How between 1727 and 1744. The remains of the mill and surrounding buildings were torn down by Henry Ford when the new gristmill was built.

### **Stop. 24. Wayside Inn Boys School**

*150 Wayside Inn Road (north side of Wayside Inn Road, unmarked). Park at either the Gristmill or the Wayside Inn.*

Henry Ford was extremely interested in education, particularly "hands-on" education, which emphasized augmenting "book learning" with the teaching of trades, such as farming and mechanics. Throughout his career he started and maintained at least 46 schools throughout the world. Perhaps his most successful local school was the Wayside Inn Boys school which opened in 1928.

The school came into being in the pre-depression years when 31 underprivileged, orphaned boys between the ages of 14 and 15, all wards of the state, arrived at the renovated Calvin Howe House opposite the Grist Mill dam. Ford's stated goal was to give each boy a high school education, paid wages, and the opportunity to learn a trade while working six hours a day on the Inn estate.

### **Stop 25. Martha Mary Chapel**

*99 Wayside Inn Road. Park opposite the Wayside Inn.*

Diagonally across the Wayside Inn Road from the Mill stands the Martha Mary Chapel. This building was conceived by Henry Ford and was built using the timber from pine trees on this property which had blown down in the 1938 hurricane. Much of the work was performed by people who lived, worked or attended one of the three schools on the estate.

Ground was broken in 1939 and completed with the installation of a weather vane on Ford's birthday, July 30th, 1940.

### **Stop 26. Redstone School House**

*10 Dutton Road next to the Martha Mary Chapel. Park opposite the Wayside Inn.*

The Redstone School House (also called the "Mary Lamb School House") was originally located on the side of the Redstone Hill in Sterling, MA. The School House had been torn down, but the wood had been recycled into a barn/garage. Mr. Ford bought the barn, and had it dismantled and brought to Sudbury in 1926, where after extensive research it was reassembled as the building before you, as close to the original as the evidence indicated.

The school was opened in 1927 as part of the Sudbury School System initially with the intent of using it primarily to educate the children of his employees.

### **Stop 27. Boston Post Road/Kings Highway**

*North side of Wayside Inn Road by Dutton Road (69-59 Wayside Inn Road). Park opposite the Wayside Inn.*

This practically untouched segment of the Boston Post Road (originally called the King's Highway) was built around 1670. The preserved stretch starts between two granite pillars, with wrought iron gates attached, leading up to the Wayside Inn.

### **Stop 28. Longfellow's Wayside Inn**

*72 Wayside Inn Road. Parking available across from the Inn.*

The Wayside Inn is America's oldest operating Inn. It has offered hospitality to more than eleven generations of wayfarers and is the subject of poem, song and history.

By 1706 David How had built a two room homestead in South Sudbury for himself and his wife, Hepzibah Death. Obtaining a license in 1716, he expanded the original building and opened an Inn. When first licensed, it was called How's Inn or How's Tavern. The license allowed David How "to keep a house of entertainment for travelers" which meant he could serve alcohol and offer hospitality to strangers. Early laws of the Massachusetts Bay Colony required an Innkeeper to provide for a man, his horses and his cattle.

### **Stop 29. Ford's Carding Mill**

*126 Dutton Road. Limited parking at the start of the driveway.*

In 1930, Henry Ford purchased a carding mill in New Hampshire and had it reassembled here. Carding is the process of preparing fibers such as wool or cotton for spinning.

Power was intended to be provided by an overshot steel wheel, shown in the picture below. The wheel can now be seen just off the road to the left of the building as it was never installed. This building was never utilized as a

carding mill, but instead was adapted to be used as a machine shop and laboratory by students of the Wayside Inn Boys School.

### **Stop 30. Walker House**

*20 Old Garrison Road (intersection of Old Garrison and French Road). No parking is available. The house is private property.*

The Sudbury Assessor's Office (in 2009) dates this house back to 1667 and it is the oldest house on their list of houses. The Walker home is thought to be the first free school in the community. The basis of this assumption is a reference in the Town Report of 1680 which reads: ".....and for teaching to write or cipher, here is Mr. Thomas Walker."

### **Stop 31. Wayside Inn Boys School Dormitory**

*181 and 182 Dutton Road. No parking is available. Both houses are private property.*

The Solomon Dutton House, originally at 181 Dutton Road (now at 182 Dutton Road) was renovated into a dormitory to allow the expansion of the student body of Henry Ford's school to 50 boys in 1931.

Three attached buildings formed the dormitory. In the 1950's the buildings were split into four separate dwellings. 181 Dutton Road had been the center of the dormitory. The Solomon Dutton House, now at 182 Dutton Road, was originally the east wing of the dormitory.

### **Stop 32. Walker Garrison House**

*Near 314 Dutton Road (near intersection of Old Garrison Road and Dutton Road). Parking available on west side of road.*

The Walker Garrison House built was about 1680 by Thomas Walker to defend the settlers from attacks by Native Americans. There is no sign of this building today.

The interior had a huge center chimney, very large rooms, and walls made of vertical three inch thick planks fastened with wooden tree nails. Originally the windows had thick shutters on them, so that the occupants could close and shoot through the shutter openings when attacked. The Garrison burned to the ground in 1897, when sparks from a passing coal burning steam engine of the Boston & Maine Railroad landed on the wooden roof.

### **Stop 33. Wayside Inn Railroad Waiting Room**

*Near 314 Dutton Road (near intersection of Old Garrison Road and Dutton Road). Parking available on west side of road.*

The Wayside Inn Railroad Waiting Room was a very stylish Japanese design built by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1897. It was described as a cozy, comfortable depot then. It is not known who designed it.

The building was burned by vandals in the 1940's. There are no remains of it visible today.

### **Stop 34. Pratt's (Stearn's) Mill**

*505 Dutton Road near Pratts Mill Road. Park in the small lot by the dam.*

A mill at this site was first erected by Daniel Woodward as a saw mill in 1740, but has since belonged to several owners. It also functioned as a shingle, grist and bolting mill in the early 1800s. The mill made powder kegs for the Union Army during the Civil War, ammunition boxes during World War II, and wooden shell cases during the

Korean War, all the while continuing to make stone ground corn meal. In 1875, it was owned and operated as a saw mill by N. L. Pratt.

### **Stop 35. Babe Ruth House**

558 Dutton Road. Park by the Pratt's Mill dam. The house is private property.

558 Dutton Road was originally built around 1790 and was known then as the Perry Home or Elm Farm. Its fame dates to a much later time when it was the home of Babe Ruth from 1916 through 1926. During the Babe's residency, it was known as Home Plate Farm.

Ruth sold the farm to Herbert and Esther Atkinson, who increased the lot to 250 acres from 140 acres, and established Sudbury Laboratories in the barn. Sudbury Laboratories became famous in the late 1940's for producing an inexpensive "Soil Testing Kit" that allowed the gardening public to test their soil themselves.