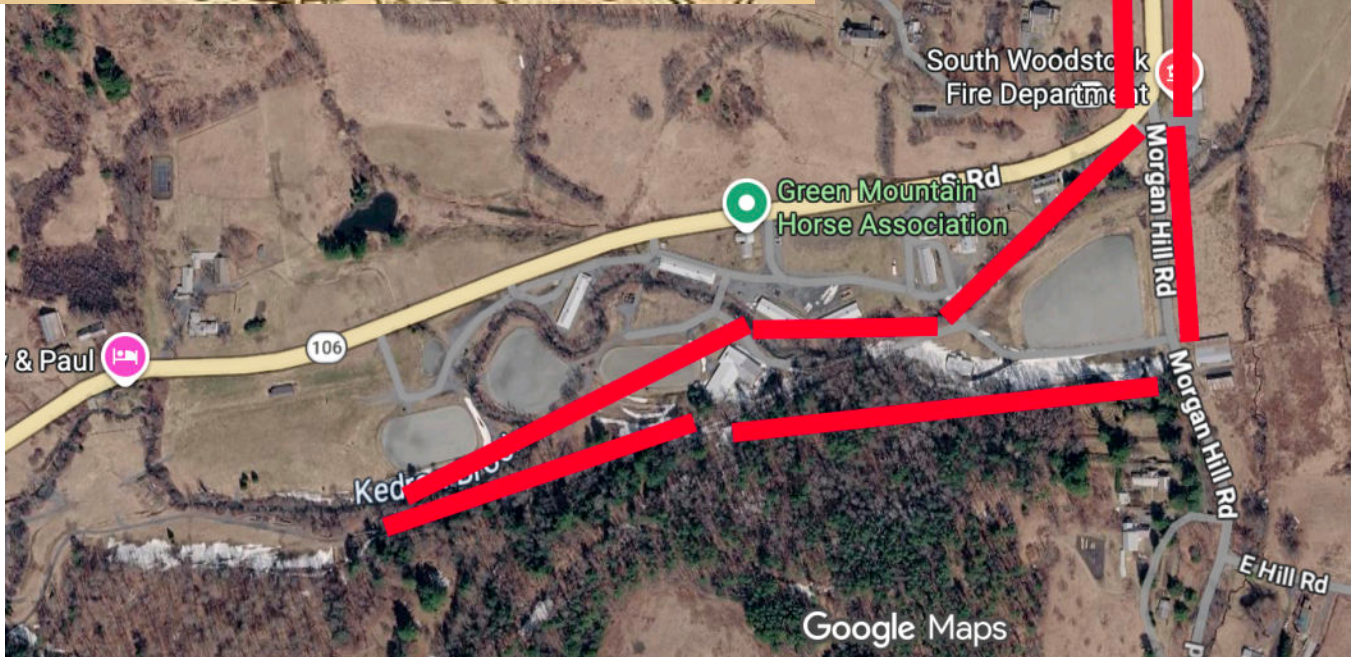
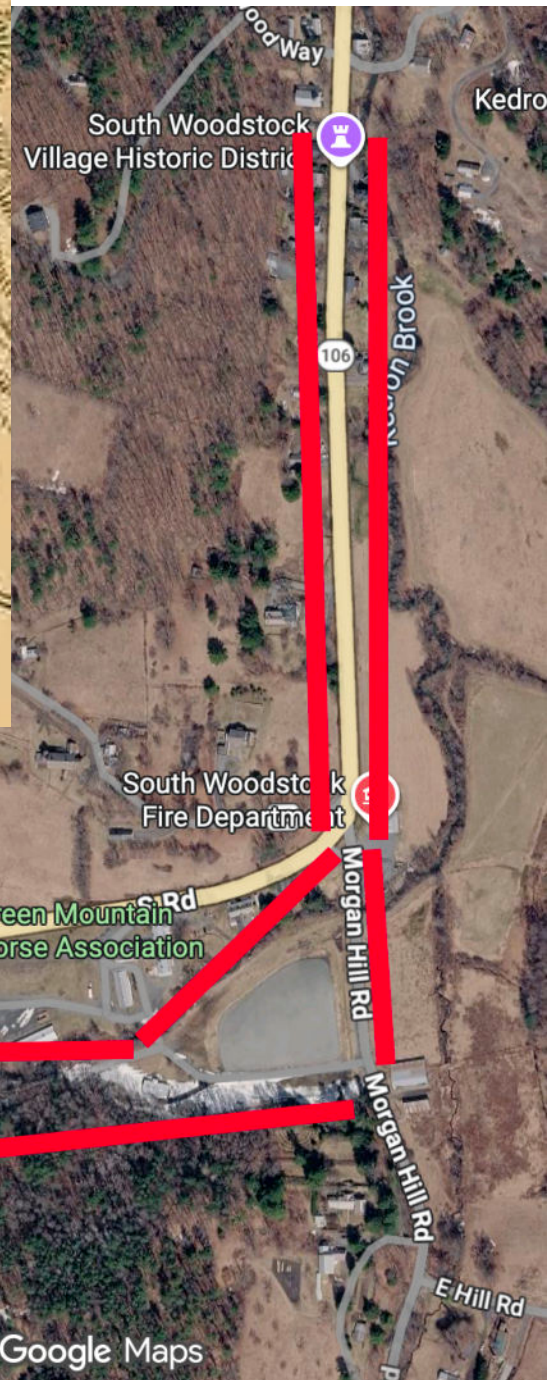
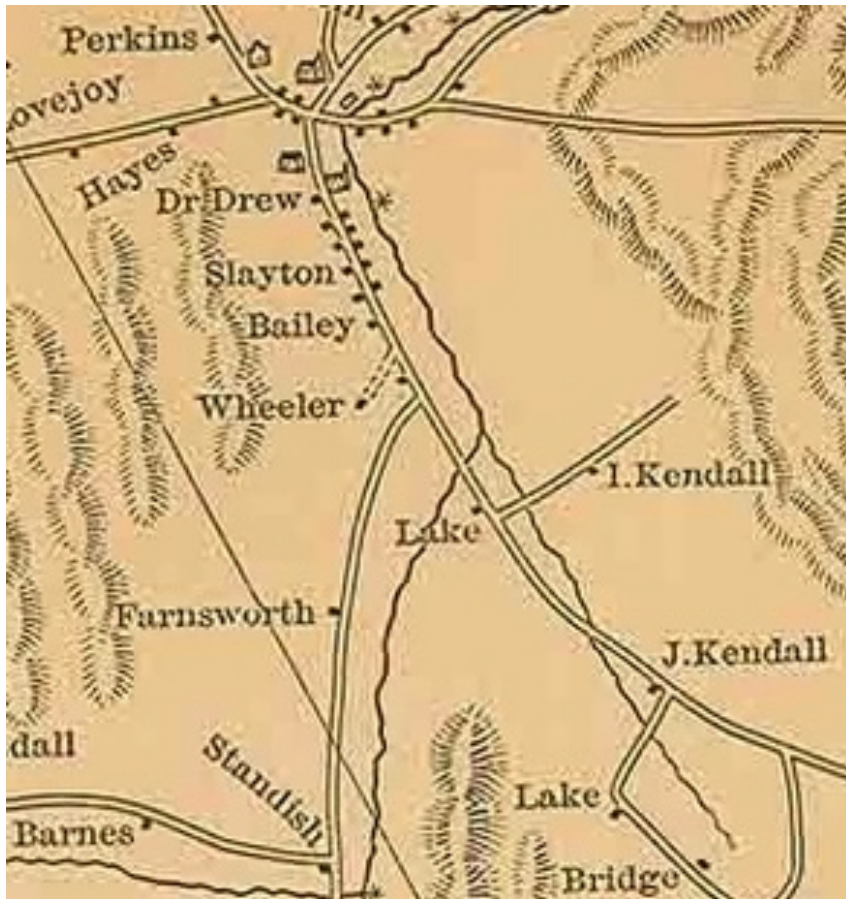
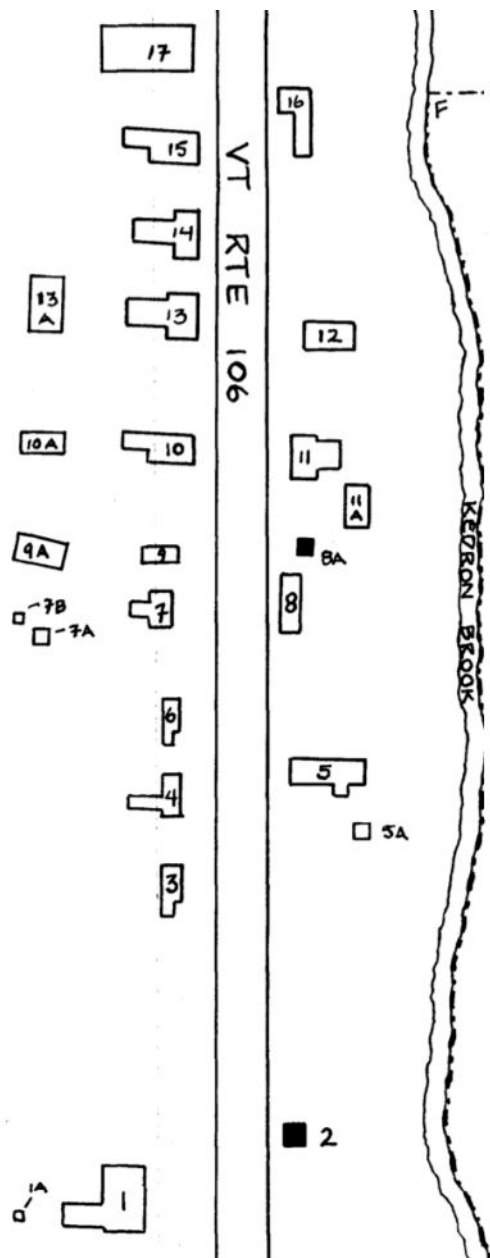


Upwey Farm & Main Street Hike

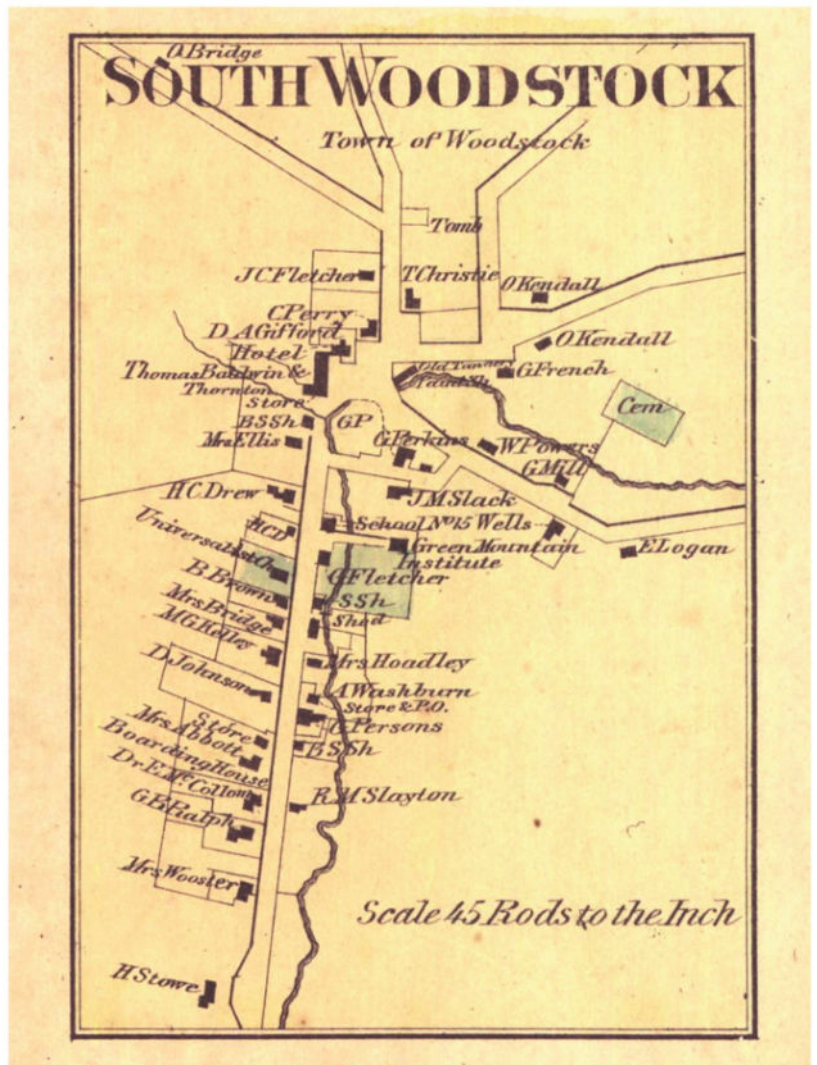
23/4 miles 2 hours





- 1 Giles House
- 3 Schneider House
- 4 Roberts House
- 5 Paul Kendall House
- 6 Cashion House
- 7 Freeny House
- 8 Shoves's Woodshed
- 9 Bartel Store
- 10 Schuler House
- 11 John Cottle House
- 12 Murphy House
- 13 Carol Wood House
- 14 Dale Kjerrulf House
- 15 J. Burns House
- 16 H. Burns House
- 17 South Chapel

- A Moon's Mansion
 B Farnsworth House
 C GMHA
 D Tack Shop
 E Ira Kendall
 F Town Farm
 G Fire House



The information included in this rough sketch undoubtedly contains some errors. It is a gathering of the information from the 1982 National Register of Historic Places application and three fine books which are much more complete in detailing the properties and history of the Upwey Farm, the Country School and the Green Mtn. Horse Assn. We expect it to be an evolving work and encourage people to correct its errors.

We urge you to locate a copy of these important South Woodstock books::

Made in South Woodstock, Vermont

Tales from the Village that Raised Me

by Karl Wood, 2009

Woodstock Country School, A History of Institutional Denial

by William Boardman, 2023

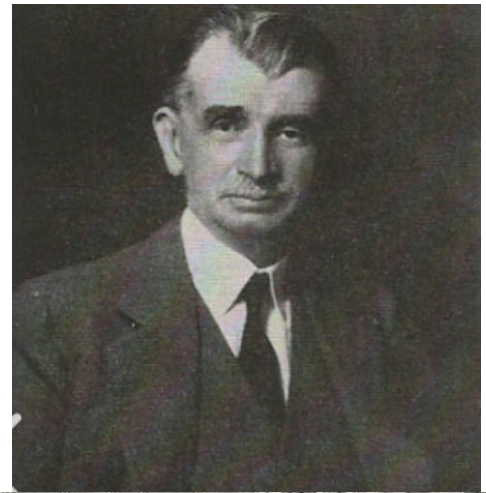
Valley of the Kedron

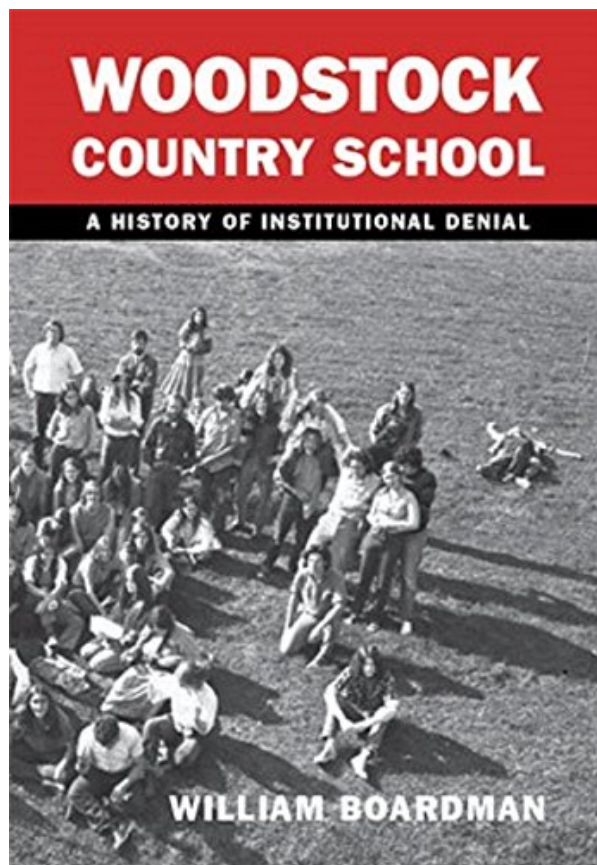
by Mary Grace Canfield, 1940

Moon Mansion	A	1812
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		Hanss Family
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
	Lake	L. C. Kendall
The story of the Upwey Farm begins with Owen Moon's purchase of this house in 1909. A newspaperman from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, his background was in journalism. He owned newspapers in Trenton, New Jersey and North Carolina. A graduate of Swarthmore College, he married Margaret Scott, of Scott Paper Company fame. For a time Owen ran that family business as well. But South Woodstock was his love and where he thrived. Through numerous purchases he created a model farm of over 1200 acres. It employed over 20 people or more at times. He bought the Cottle Federal building on the hill in 1921, ultimately selling it to his friend Howard Giles in 1933. He bought the nearby Town Farm brick home dating from 1809 in 1937. In the same year he added the Blake Farm (1787). It was sold to R. F. Lewis in 1945.		

Upwey Farms was named for a valley in England that Moon had visited in his travels. Renowned mostly for his breeding and showing of Morgan Horses, he also raised sheep, goats, turkeys, even donkeys, and of course cows. In 1917 he imported Suffolk Punch draft horses from England and bred and sold them through out the country. He had goats, sheep, donkeys, turkeys and of course cows. In 1938 he won the National Jersey Butterfat Championship. There were 200 other cows and at times upwards of 100 horses on the property. His apple orchards were extensive, producing upwards of 6000 bushels per year.

Mr. Moon created a large riding oval in the flats by Rte 106. This was the venue for the various horse shows. He also carried on the tradition of the 60, then 80, then 100 mile rides. He was a huge benefactor to the village, bringing in electricity and even street lights. He died in 1947, and was survived by his wife, who generously helped many of his former workers to gain homes that had been part of the Moon Estate.





WCS was founded 1944 as a small progressive preparatory boarding school. For grades 9-12. Its history is remarkably told in Bill Boardman's book, ***Woodstock Country School, A History of Institutional Denial***. Woodstock resident Bill Boardman was a student at the school, then teacher, ultimately its biographer. His book is fascinating, it details the rise and the fall of an amazing institution. Available on Amazon!

The Woodstock Country School rose on the wave of American energy and idealism following World War II. For most of its 35 year existence, the school was an exciting, successful, esteemed experiment in American education - one that could still be thriving now.

This remarkable history, written by an alumnus and former teacher at the school, reads like a novel, as dozens of characters struggle first to build the school, then to

save it. Despite their good intentions, WCS foundered on their frailties, irresponsibilities, and a fatally imperfect understanding of what made the school so magical for so many.

"You could call it a Rorschach history," says Boardman, who attended WCS from 1952 to 1956 and taught there from 1971 to 1976, "or maybe a collage, since there are hundreds of voices telling the story, each from his or her own perspective, yet there is a remarkable shared perspective of an essentially ineffable institution."

Owen Moon was an early benefactor., the school was originally located farther north on Church Hill Road above the Green on Border Lane. Housed in a former Inn, a November 1954 fire was devastating, It was a total loss, though the foundation still remains, filled with water and carp. It was decided to purchase a portion of Upwey Farm and to move the school south. The Moon Mansion was the girl's dorms, the Kendall barn became the library (now the tack shop). And the Upwey barn resurfaced as classrooms. The Giles House became the principal's home.

The school was "acknowledged as a leader in the progressive education movement" and in the 1960's gained national for its open curriculum.."

The tumult of the late '60s and 70's rocked the school, and it struggled to continue, ultimately closing in 1980. Later that year a consortium of local residents collected \$1.06 million dollars to buy Upwey Farm and deeded most of the land to the Vermont Land Trust. In 1981 John & Dorothy Byrne buy Upwey Farm from the Land Trust through a cause that allowed the use they intended which was to bring back the Morgans and Suffolk Punches. Tom Debevoise was hired as farm manager.

Farnsworth House	B	1787
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		Scott & Tara Layne
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
		A. Farnsworth
The Farnsworth House was built in 1787 by Jonathan Farnsworth, one of the oldest surviving homes in South Woodstock. “The foundation stones are white limestone. Mrs. Azubah Burnham, a daughter of Jonathan, lived out her days in this house as did her grandson, John Blake. The place has since early in the 1770's been in the family of Jonathan Farnsworth and his descendants. A photostatic copy of his deed to this land appears in the Valley of the Kedron. It is dated 1774 and was made out under the laws of the Province of New York, and the land described is in the County of Cumberland, New York Province. There was no Windsor County at that time. Farnsworth built his first log cabin on the hillside above this house.” Robert Lewis Sr. bought this property from Owen Moon.		

Green Mtn Horse Assn.	C	?
	Builder	Current Manager:
		Tina Barr
The GMHA, founded in 1926, it was created by a small group of enthusiasts to replace the struggling Rutland Horse Show. In 1929 it moved from Rutland to the Windsor County Fairgrounds (now the Billings Farm?). In 1932 it migrated to Upwey Farms adjacent to the famous oval. It was a move made in heaven, considering the involvement of Owen Moon. Around 1956 it bought 56 acres adjacent to Upwey Farm to form its permanent home. It is the nation's oldest continuously operating horse association. Its mission is to preserve horse trails, and to foster horsemanship and youth education.		

It holds clinics and competitions including class offerings for jumpers, hunters, equitation, breed classes and carriage driving instruction. South Woodstock’s Tina Barr is the association manager. It oversees more than 400 miles of horse trails on its facility. Between the Kedron Brook and Route 106. There are over 1500 members and dues are very reasonable at \$90 for an individual.



Tack Shop	D	?
	Builder	Owners Matt & Laura Spittle:
		Matt & Laura Spittle
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
Originally the barn for the Ira Kendall property. Then the Woodstock Country School’s library, it was purchased in 1986 along with 11 open acres by Laura Gordon and Charlotte Sterling. Operated now by Matt and Laura Spittle, it is the home of the Vermont Horse Country store and the Vermont Horse Country Real Estate firm. Check out it’s website for a variety of equine related products, clothing and properties for sale.		

Ira Kendall House		E	1815
	Builder	Current Occupant:	
	John Lake		
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:	
		E. Slayton	
There is very little available information on this property. Hopefully we can learn more from Matt Spittle on Saturday's hike.			

Town Farm		F	1809
	Builder	Current Occupant:	
	Stephen Farnsworth	?	
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:	
	Wheeler		

The house and lands that were to become the Town or Poor Farm was originally the home of Stephen Farnsworth, the first settler on this spot. It was built in 1809. It was a portion of the adjacent Cottle property (Giles House). In the early years of the 1800s it became a home for the destitute and/or mentally ill, as was the policy in those days before the current welfare state when the poor were the responsibility of each town. People were expected to work for their room and board if possible.

In 1937 Woodstock residents voted to discontinue the Town Farm after nearly 100 years and it was offered for sale \$12,000. Owen Moon snapped it up.

In Karl Wood's book he recounts his visit to the Town Farm after it was decommissioned. Apparently there were cells where mentally deranged people were held, with no apparent source of heat. Most of the residents were simply indigent, though, and many were able through time to leave and lead productive lives.

Fire House	G	?
	Builder	Current Chief:
		Chip Kendall
South Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. Karl Wood recalls the day in his parent's kitchen that the first meeting to form the fire department was held, when he was eleven years old. He remembered well in 1947 when the military donated an old pumper to the SWFD. The current building is the second one at this location. Karl's friend Howard Burns was elected chief in 1957. Upon Howard's death Karl became chief and held the office for ten years. Following that Chip Kendall and Fred Barr held the top office, but that's a story for another time. It is the center of many community events but could use more volunteers!		

Giles House	1	1796
	Builder	Current Occupant:
	Warren Cottle	McClains of Alabama
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
	Bailey	H. Stowe
The exquisite Gerogian house owned most famously by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Giles was built by Warren Cottle in 1796. Considered the first trader in the South Parish, Warren later joined with Amasa Ransom in operating a store. However, their luck eventually turned and shortly after the store failed in 1798, Warren moved to Missouri. The Giles House was bought by artists Howard and Evelyn Giles in the middle 1930's. Howard taught art in New York City and several of his works were in museums there. He was a benefactor to the town and instrumental in the creation of the South Woodstock Fire Department. The cover of Karl Wood's book is an example of his artistry. In 1982 the home was owned by John J. Byrne. Joyce Maura says that his house was owned by American Express when she moved here permanently in 1975, followed by Maryellen and Paul Lenett. She reports it had a really beautiful "Library " with dark wood trim from Africa, dark mahogany and imported wood from Brazil. "I don't know if it's still there or got painted?" It's two massive interior fireplace chimneys accentuate this amazing building.		

Schneider House	3	1860
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		?
		1869 Map Owner:
		Mrs. Wooster
This house, built just before the Civil War, is architecturally defined as a Classic Cottage. I believe a Mr. Mounce lived here who was one of Owen Moon's first employees. Brock Carpenter, who was the Giles's woodworker and caretaker, lived here and took care of their house and gardens. Karl Wood recounted a story in which Brock was hired to replace the weather vane on the Community Church steeple. Rather than risk his life and limb climbing up to remove it, he shot it down with a deer rifle. Brock and Karl were Civil Defense radiation officers during the Cold War. Awarded Geiger counters and white CD helmets, they were in charge of the bomb shelter built next to the Giles's driveway. By 1982 this house was owned by Ernst Schneider.		

Larry Roberts House	4	1819
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		?
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
	Slayton	G. Ralph
One of the older houses in the Historic District, the Roberts House is a 2-1/2 story, Federal Style "I" house with five by one bays, a gabled roof, and clapboard siding. It was owned for many years by Larry Roberts who was an employee of the Woodstock Country School, as well as a leader of the local Boy Scout Troop. Larry passed away recently and the home was sold and completely renovated. This is a pre-renovation depiction.		

Paul Kendall Jr. House		5	1854
	Builder	Current Occupant:	
		Matt McGuire	
		1869 Map Owner:	
		R. M. Slayton	
This 1-1/2 story, five by four bay, brick house has been modified throughout the years yet retains its original Greek Revival character. Although the gable end faces the street, the entrance is centrally located on the south eaves facade. Heavy, square panelled Doric columns support the one-bay entrance porch and also extend the length of the north elevation supporting the open, screened, rear porch. Barbara and Paul Kendall, Jr. lived here when they owned the Kedron Valley Inn.			

Cashion House		6	1840	
	Builder	Current Occupant:		
		?		
		1869 Map Owner:		
		Dr. E. McCollom		

This is a 1-1/2 story, five by four bay, Cape Cod house with a standing seam metal roof and an off-center brick stove chimney. According to Joyce Maura, this house belonged to Christine and Babe Mosher from the late 1960s until sometime earlier in this century. Prior to that a gentleman from Massachusetts owned it (Mr. Rood?) but rarely visited it, his nieces used it on weekends when attending horse events at GMHA.

This gentleman created a remarkable parquet floor in the living room that stood up beautifully during the Mosher's tenure. Previously he had installed the parquet work at the old Boston Gardens. "Unfortunately the young girl who bought it in the early 2000's had the floor ripped out and replaced it with carpet! "

The National Registry of Historic Places indicates it was owned by Grace Cashion in 1982, Christine Mosher was Grace's daughter.

Freeny House	7	1813
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		?
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
		Mrs. Abbott
Built in the Federal style, this is a 2-1/2 story, five by two bay, brick "I" house. It's front porch and line of trees fronting the road were all removed by new owners in the last decade. In 1982 it was owned by Colonel Robert Freeny.		

Shove's Wood Shop	8	1930
	Builder	Current Occupant:
	Benjamin Wood	?
A blacksmith shop stood on this site until it burned down around 1930. Benjamin Wood then built the present structure from designs supplied by Ivan Shove. It first served as a knitting mill, but was altered in 1943 to serve as a woodworking shop for Ivan. Karl Wood has written, "One of the last attempts to bring industry back to South Woodstock was made by my uncle Benjamin Wood and his wife Alice." They had met while working in a knitting mill in Lebanon NH. They moved to New York City, but missing Vermont moved back to open their own shop. It was going well until 1941 when illness and the war had a double impact. It was later purchased by Owen Moon. During the war pallets were made here. Ivan Shove bought it and used it as a woodshop. His wife ran the post office here for a time. They were listed in the National Registry application as owning it in 1982. Until recently, when it was rebuilt and remodeled as a residence, you could still see evidence of its use as a woodshop.		

Bartel Store		9	1855
	Builder	Current Occupant:	
		?	
		1869 Map Owner:	
This building once served as a fulling mill and then as a store and post office. Around 1976, it was converted into a residence. Louis Bartel, a German gentleman ran the store, Karl Wood, as a young boy, was amazed by a sign that hung by the shelves: “Soup ten cents a can, two for a quarter”. Karl says the post office was located in four different locations during his lifetime. Being appointed postmaster was a political plum, so changing circumstances often resulted in a change of the postmaster and a new location for the post office. Karl witnessed the aftermath of a shoot-out at the store when he was a young boy. It involved several revolvers. A disgruntled lover barged in and shot Fred who stood behind the counter. He was new beau of his gal Eva. No one was injured except the shopkeeper’s wife who took one in the arm. In 1982 it was owned by Col. Robert Freeny about whom I wish more was known.			

Schuler House	10	1854
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		?
		1869 Map Owner:
		D. Johnson
Also known as the Gingerbread House. This house is an outstanding component of the Historic District because it is an excellent vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style. It is also the only example of this style in South Woodstock. Diane Wood reports that “this home was owned by John Ralph when I was a kid living in Misery Mansion. He was an old batchelor and didn't like doing dishes much. He would rinse and stack his dirty dishes on the counter, dining room table, and dining room chairs until he completely ran out, before he'd spend a whole day washing and drying them.” He was an avid reader and would encourage us to "look things up" by hiding hard candy inside his reference books so sweets would fall out when you slid them off the shelf. In 1982 it was owned by George & Pru Shuler.		

John Arnold Cottle House	11	1825
	Builder	Current Occupant:
	John A. Cottle	Jennifer Knowles
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
		G. Parsons
Known locally as the Lutz House, it is an elegant, 2-1/2 story, Federal style brick house with a low-pitch gable roof with two tall interior-end brick chimneys and a five-bay facade. The interior is noteworthy because of the dance hall on the second floor and a fiddler's stand in the corner. Built by John Arnold Cottle, this building at one time served as a store and post office before these services were transferred to the former Bartel Store. Jabez Cottle's son, John Arnold Cottle, followed his father and uncle's cue by building this home for himself, another impressive Village property. Herbert Lutz resided there as of 1982.		

Murphy House	12	1840
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		?
		1869 Map Owner:
A previous home of the Shoves. It is located along Kedron Brook and has been majorly remodeled. Karl Wood reports that in the days of his youth sewage was dumped directly in the streams, which was a tough thing when the water level was low. Like in summer! I think we're all glad that now most homes in the Historic District are hooked up to the Sewer facility. In 1982 this property was owned by Harold Murphy		

Carol Wood House		13	1826
	Builder		Current Occupant:
	Frank Hemenway		Carol Wood
	1832 Map Owner:		1869 Map Owner:
			M. G. Kelley
Similar to its neighbor, the Kjerrulf House, the Carol Wood House is an admirable Federal style design distinguished by brickwork details common throughout the Woodstock region, wall piers and recessed arches. This house has an interesting history for Diane Wood. "It was one of the houses owned by Owen Moon and it was later the Infirmary for The Country School. The school nurse and her young family lived there. They always affectionately referred to it as "Misery Mansion". It was renovated by the Weddell's, who bought it from Country School, before being bought by Carol and her husband.			

Kjerrulf House	14	1826
	Builder	Current Occupant:
	Frank Hemenway	Dale & Kathy Kjerrulf
	1832 Map Owner:	1869 Map Owner:
		Mrs. Bridge
Another home of the Shoves, they lived here in 1982. This house used to host the post office in the back addition for many years. Kathryn Shove was the post-mistress. Her husband, Ivan, had the woodworking shop in the former Kedron Sweater Mill building across the road. When Diane Wood was a toddler, there were three distinguished looking gentlemen who would come for their mail every morning in their suit coats, buttoned collar shirts, ties and fedora hats. If we were in the yard of Misery Mansion which was next door, they would always make a great show of sweeping off their hat, and bowing low. "Good morning ladies!" they would exclaim. We would repay them by picking grubby handfuls of lawn flowers like dandelions and clover. They were Mr. Leppert , (Larry Robert's house), Mr. Gillett, (brick house beside it) and Mr. Cashion. (Grace Cashion house).		

J. Burns House

15

1820



Builder

Current Occupant:

?

1832 Map Owner:

1869 Map Owner:

Billy Brown

A memory from Diane Wood: “Jim and Helene Burns were the owners of the little house next to the church. They were great friends of my grandparents and my Dad told a wonderful story about them. Jim had dug a large hole in the front yard, possibly for a new septic system. Think very large hole. That night when Jim padded back to bed after a trip to the bathroom, he noticed , by the light of the moon, that there was a skunk curled up on the quilt at the foot of their bed where Helene was sleeping. Not wishing to awaken his sleeping wife, or wanting to let the skunk remain where it was, Jim decided he would take both the skunk and the quilt outside. Quietly. Gently. Well, somehow he managed to get it out into the yard and was sliding him away from the house, dragging him on the quilt, when Jim stepped backwards into the hole. He, the quilt, and the skunk landed in a heap in the bottom of the pit. Before the skunk could recover, Jim scrambled out of the hole leaving behind the quilt and a bewildered skunk. Once he recovered his breath, Jim started worrying. How was the skunk going to get out of the hole? Jim peered into the hole. The skunk had righted itself and was pacing around on top of the quilt. In a moment of wisdom, Jim decided to leave the quilt where it was for the night. He retrieved a board from the shed and ever so slowly slid it into the hole, making sure not to present an identifiable target. I would have loved to have been there when Helene went to make the bed the next morning and discovered her hand sewn quilt in the bottom of the hole in the front yard!

And one from Joyce Maura: This was the home of an old lady named Burns and she died in it. The house sat empty for years... The house went up for auction and Wade Treadway, (the realtor, bought it and paid alot for it. Mario and I bid on it. Wade’s son did a total renovation and they put in up for sale a couple of years later. They lost their shirt on it! He ripped off the porch and kinda made a mess of it, it was a cute little abode in it’s original design.

It was owned by Mrs. James Burns in 1982.

H. Burns House	16	1870
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		Susan Hickey
		1869 Map Owner:
		G. Fletcher
This is a vernacular, L-shaped, one-story clapboard house with a saltbox form built on a bank below the Academy on the west side of the brook. According to Diane Wood: The little white house perched on the bank of the Kedron was owned by Jim and Helene Burns and contained a strangely configured rental apartment. “My parents rented it as newlyweds in the early 1950's. The living room and bedroom were downstairs on the brook level; the kitchen and bathroom were upstairs. The refrigerator was inside the garage, which occupied the right hand side of the upstairs. The only counter in the kitchen was on a hinge so it could drop down in front of the bathroom door. If someone was cooking, anyone needing to use the facilities had to crawl under the counter. The staircase between floors was so narrow that when my mother was pregnant she couldn't turn around on the stairs. If she wished to reverse direction on the stairs she had to complete her current trajectory and pop out into the room to turn around. I picture this like a champagne cork.” In 1982 it was owned by Mrs. Helene Burns.		

South Chapel	17	1839
	Builder	Current Occupant:
		Trustees of South Chapel
		1869 Map Owner:
In 1836 The Chapel Society formed to build a community church to replace the earlier meetinghouses that were either too small or too decrepit. It was built using materials from the earlier churches. Sundays were split between the the largest denominations who met twice a month each. If a fifth Sunday occurred in a month, the lesser congregations were able to use it. With better roads people had access to Woodstock churches and things changed. The South Woodstock building fell under the auspices of the Universalist Church. It was completely renovated in 1956 including a modern heating system to replace the two woodstoves similar in design to those in the Academy. Now a multi-denominational board oversees the church and funerals and weddings are held, and community events on the holidays. South Chapel is an impressive Greek Revival meetinghouse with a variety of architectural detail. Like the Green Mountain Perkins Academy its verticality is stressed by means of a three-stage tower. Marshall Mason was responsible for the design of the facade, belfry, and interior gallery, Galo B. Ralph excavated the ground and laid the foundation; John Lake and Hiram Holt did the joinery work and made the pews; and Otis Wood, later builder of the Green Mountain Perkins Academy, laid the siding and shingles.		