



# Norwell Historical Society Town Scavenger Hunt Answers

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Click on the number clue  
to go to the corresponding  
answer.

QUESTIONS?  
[click here to email the Society](#)

# 1

You are at the Jacobs-Collamore Cemetery. There are many members of the Jacobs and Collamore families buried here (they were among the first European settlers to live in the Assinippi area).

Unfortunately, graveyards weren't always well-respected in the olden days. Many of the gravestones that used to be here were used as the base for this road or even as doorsteps for the homes in this area!

Thankfully, over the years residents have given back the stones they have found, and in 2013 three of the gravestones were re-installed in the cemetery.

This cemetery is open to the public, so you are welcome to walk in and read the writing on the three replaced stones up close.



# 2

This photo was recently given to the Historical Society and we date it to the early 1900s because of the style of clothing in the picture.

The house on the left is on the Norwell/Hanover line and is referred to as “The Line House.” It is now Hingham Savings Bank—but it is WHITE in the photo! A former resident of this area told the Society that the brick used to be painted white.

Looking closely at the house on the right, it is easy to recognize the barn—but the house now has TWO CHIMNEYS at each end, not a large center chimney. That same resident told us that in the 1920s, the center chimney was removed and the two end chimneys were added.

When the Society is investigating old photos of Norwell, we look closely at these details (windows, chimneys, trim style) to figure out which house is in the picture.



# 3

The Assinippi Universalist Church is on the Hanover/Norwell line. This photo was taken on the front lawn of the church—but you’ll notice the building looks very different today.

The church in this photo burned down in 1893 and **the church you see today is an entirely different building.** Henry Jacobs (who used to live in the Jacobs Farmhouse) wrote his mother 4 days after the tragedy:

*“I was so sorry to hear the news of the burning of your little church that I almost cried. I don’t see how you had the courage to start right out to get donations for a new one, of course there is no use in crying over spilt milk. It does seem hard though that just as everything at the church had been gotten into such a beautiful condition it should have needed to burn up. I will gladly give you funds toward the new building.”*

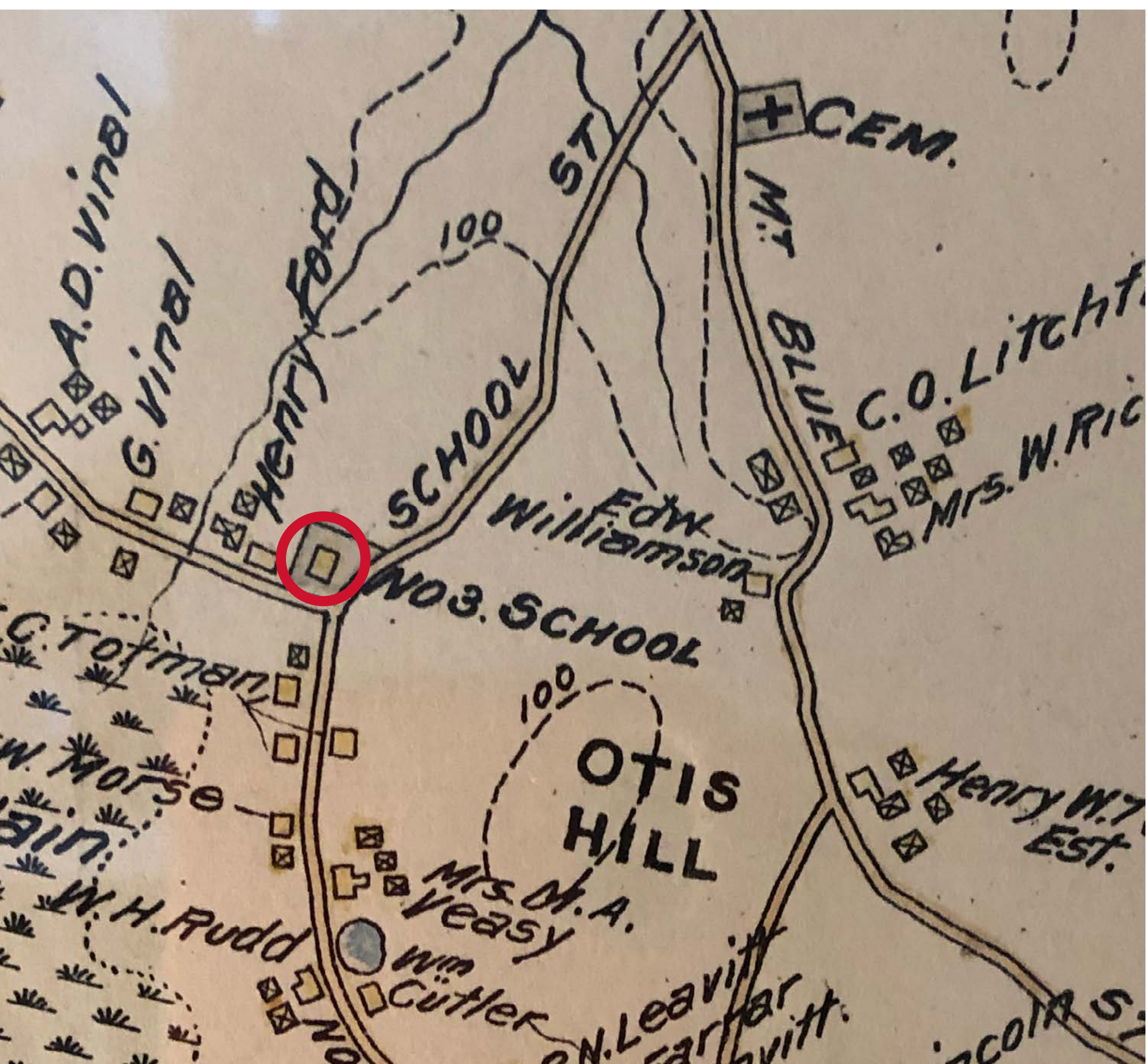


# 4

The District No. 3 Schoolhouse used to be at this corner—hence the street name. The school was closed in 1901, and in 1919 the building was moved to Hingham.

Cap'n Bill Vinal (after whom Vinal School is named) attended this one-room schoolhouse as a boy.

Below is the 1903 map of the area, showing the location of the school.



# 5

Norwell was named in 1888 after Boston businessman and summer resident Henry Norwell (shown below).

Prior to 1888, our town was called South Scituate (or "SS").

This boundary marker shows "S" on one side (Scituate) and "SS" on the other (South Scituate) and was erected before 1888 and the town's name change.

Prior to becoming South Scituate in 1849, we used to be part of Scituate.



# 6

Cuffee and his wife Flora were enslaved people who lived on Mount Blue in the 1700s.

The name “Cuffee” is a traditional first name often recorded in African-American culture, and it is believed to be derived from the Akan language name “Kofi,” which means “born on a Friday.”

Norwell’s Cuffee was enslaved by Joseph Clapp, who lived in the house that used to stand next door to the end of Cuffee’s Lane (unfortunately it was demolished in 2007).

The barn that stood on the Clapp property still stands and has been converted into a home.

The kiosk has information about Cuffee, but to find out more you can click on [this link](#) and read an article on Cuffee, Flora, and the Grandison family.

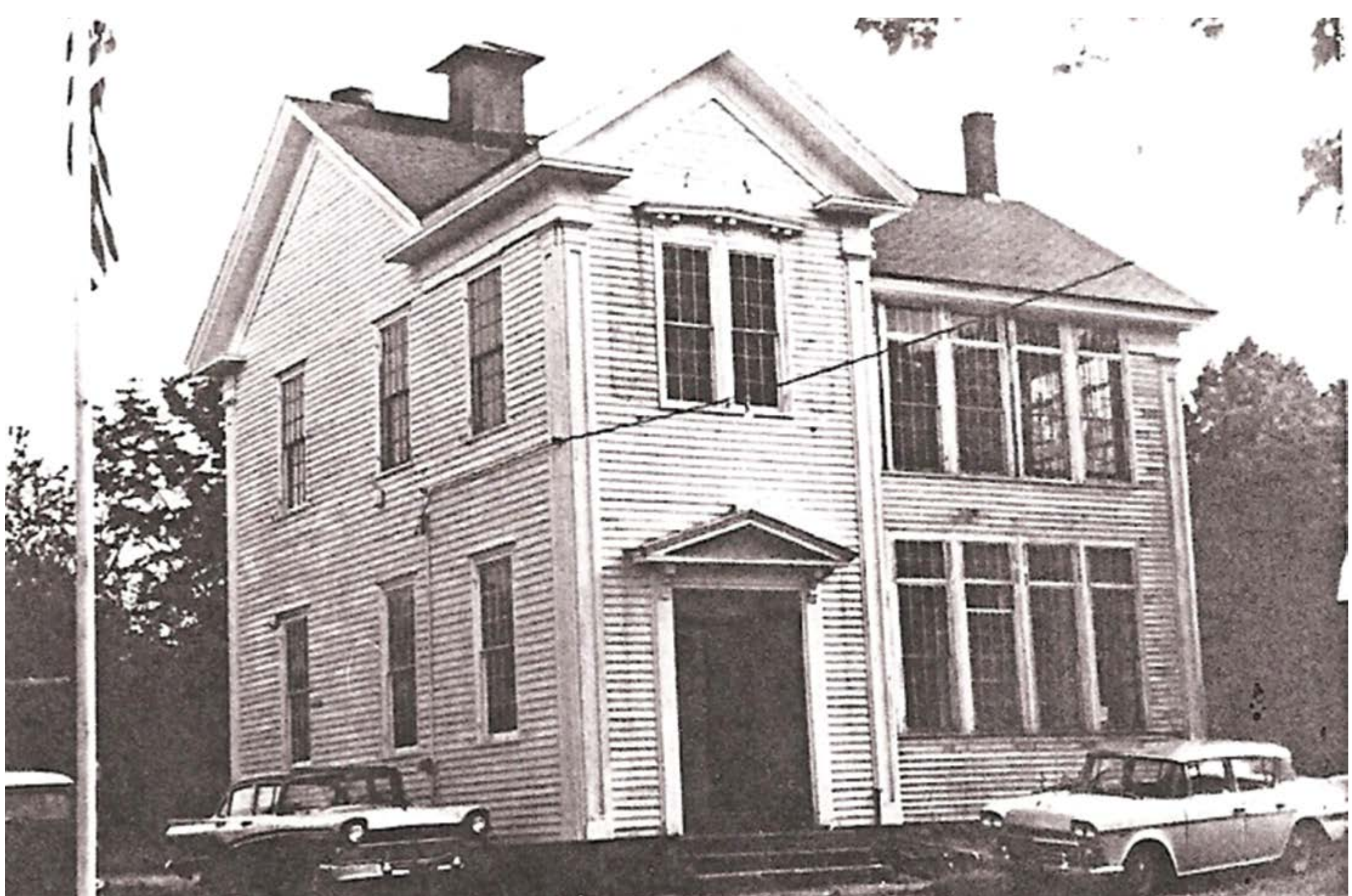


# 7

The Center School was located at what is today the ATM and parking lot of the bank in Norwell Center. It was demolished in 1965.

Center School was an elementary school, and many older residents still recall attending as children.

Former Norwell police officer Ted Baldwin was interviewed many years ago and recalled his time at Center School and his teacher, Mrs. Ella Osborn. To read Mr. Baldwin's story of being hung by the collar of his coat on a wall hook, you can click on the photo of the school below and scroll to page 3 of the newsletter.





# 8

The large brown monument in the center of the Town Green honors those citizens who died during the Civil War.

The three-paneled grey monument across from the James Library honors Norwell citizens who died in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War.

This rock and memorial plaque are located across from the State Police barracks and it is not as forthcoming—merely stating “To Those Who Served Their Country in Time of War.”

The answer is at the very top of the plaque, where it says:

1917      Honor Roll      1919

It wasn't until after World War II that **World War I** was referred to as “*the First*” World War.



# 9

In 1919, a group of South Shore citizens formed the North River Historical Society with one mission in mind: to create large plaques commemorating the various shipyards that used to line the North River. The Society wanted these plaques to be visible to boaters on the river.

100 years later in 2019, the Norwell Historical Society joined with other South Shore Historical Societies and, using money from the State Community Preservation Act, **re-painted and re-erected** all of the original signs—including the Chittenden Shipyard sign.

As you can read on the sign, over 71 ships were built at Chittenden Shipyard. To see a photo of the last ship to be built at this shipyard—the *Helen M. Foster*—click on the logo below and scroll down to “Buildings & Misc. Photos.”

