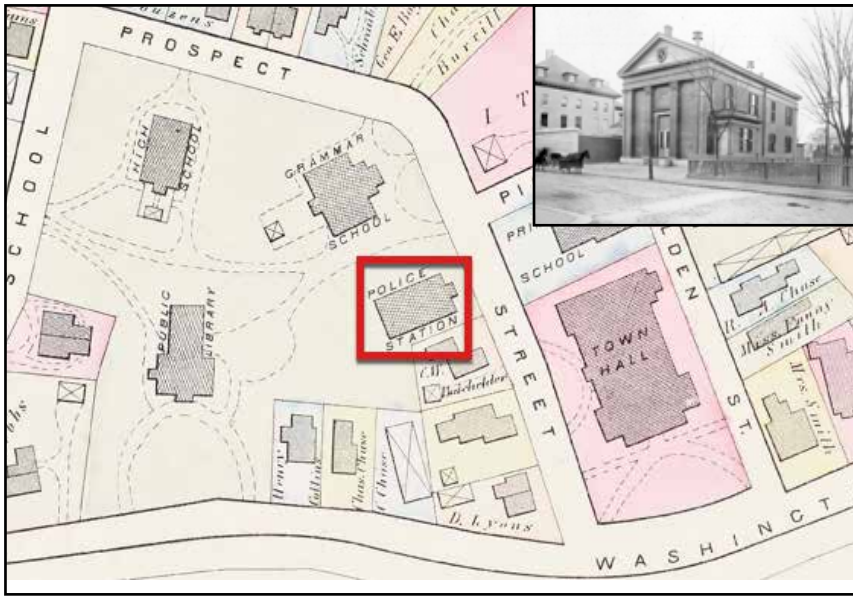


Places & Faces in Brookline Village

The growth of the area known today as Brookline Village was spurred by two events in the 1840s. The first was the construction of a new Town Hall on Prospect Street, off Washington Street, in 1844. The second was the coming of the railroad to Brookline in 1847.

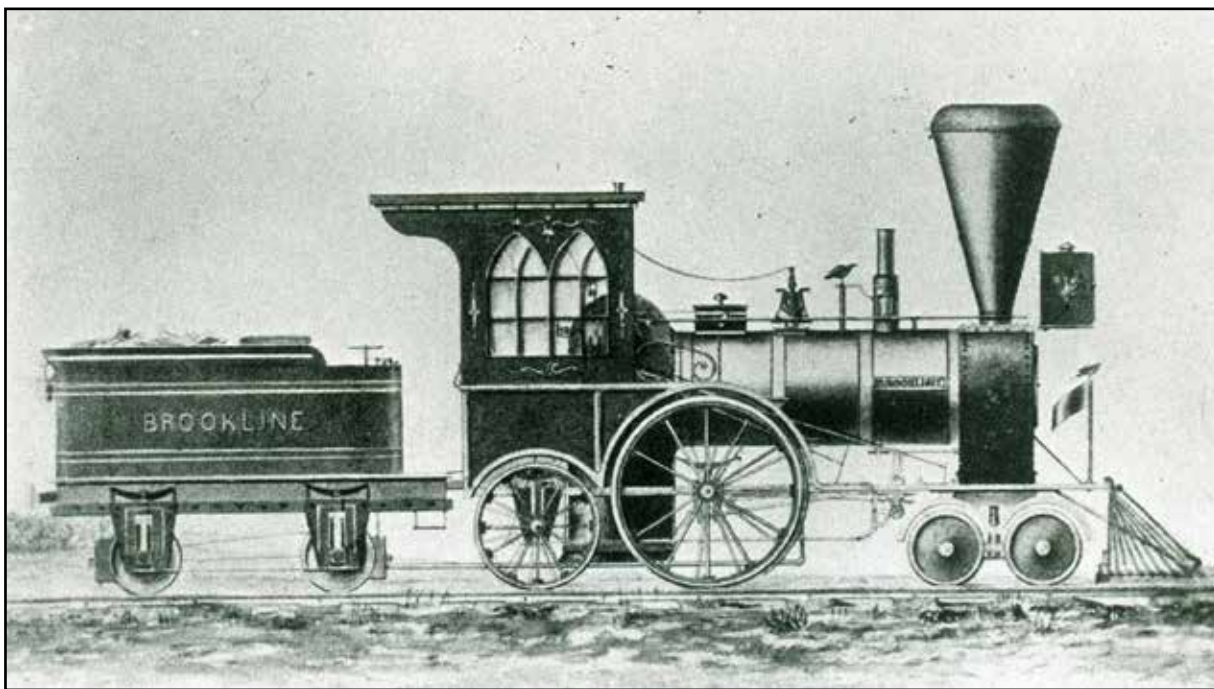


The 1844 Town Hall (inset above) replaced the first Town Hall on Walnut Street. It's shown in its later role as the police station in this map from 1874, one year after it was replaced by the third Town Hall across the street.

The following decades saw the growth of a new municipal center of Town in the block bordered by Washington, School, and Prospect Streets. New buildings included the original Pierce School (built in 1855 and still in use today), the first High School (1856), and the first library (1869), as well as a new fire house (across Washington Street, 1873).

The arrival of the railroad from present-day Kenmore Square followed the route of today's Riverside Line, joining horse-drawn omnibuses in making the Village area more accessible. Electric streetcars were added toward the end of the 19th century with the Village Square Transfer Station a key connection between east-west and north-south routes.

Lower Washington Street (the section of today's Route 9 between Boylston Street and the Muddy River) became the Town's first commercial district with businesses lining both sides of the street. Commercial development also spread across the railroad tracks toward Harvard Square, the intersection of Washington and Harvard Street, especially after the Civil War.



The locomotive that brought the railroad to Brookline in 1847 (left), and the Village Square Transfer Station (right) at the intersection of Washington, Boylston, and High Streets.



Village Square, looking toward Boston with Mission Hill on the right, in 1937.

The Lower Washington area was also the site of residential growth, much of it home to Irish immigrants and their descendants. Housing grew on both sides of Washington, around Pearl Street to the north and several streets, since eliminated, where the Brook House is today.

Village Square, with its commercial properties, and the nearby neighborhoods known as The Farm and The Marsh were wiped out under urban renewal in the 1950s and 1960s. More changes are coming, with new developments underway along Washington Street east and west of Brookline Avenue.

North of the train tracks, the commercial area appears much as it has for more than 100 years. Businesses change, but the attractive brick buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries remain.

This exhibit from the Brookline Historical Society offers a glimpse of the Brookline Village of the past—how it's changed and what's been lost: a look back as we look toward the future of this vital neighborhood of our community.

Brookline Historical Society
<http://brooklinehistoricalsociety.org>
Questions? Comments? Email brooklinehistory@gmail.com

Woolworth's in Brookline Village



Source: Brookline Historical Society

Source: Brookline Historical Society

Woolworth's occupied half of the first floor, space now divided between Starbucks and Vizio Optic, until closing in 1989. The Historical Society was lucky to obtain the two photographs above of the interior of that store from another historical society. Sales banners hanging from the ceiling (below left) in one of the photographs helped us to date the images to 1914.



The banners advertise a Spring Sale, April 20th to April 25th. Why six days, not seven? Because from Puritan times until 1983 Massachusetts Blue Laws banned Sunday store openings. (April 19th was a Sunday in 1914 and 1926, but the clothing appears a better match for the earlier date.)


One puzzle: there are skylights clearly visible in the photos. How can that be in a two-story building? Records in the town building department provide the answer: the building was originally only one-story at the back; the second story was added to that part of the building later.

Paine's News Corner



Source: Public Library of Brookline

William D. Paine was a fixture in Brookline Village for more than 60 years. His stationery store in the Seamans Building at the Corner of Washington Street and Davis Avenue served local needs from 1895 to 1956.

<p>Remember TO CALL UP REGENT 0307 for School Supplies and the delivery of daily and Sunday Papers</p>		<p>PAINE'S NEWS CORNER 256 Washington St. Brookline BOOKMAN STATIONER CIRCULATING LIBRARY</p>
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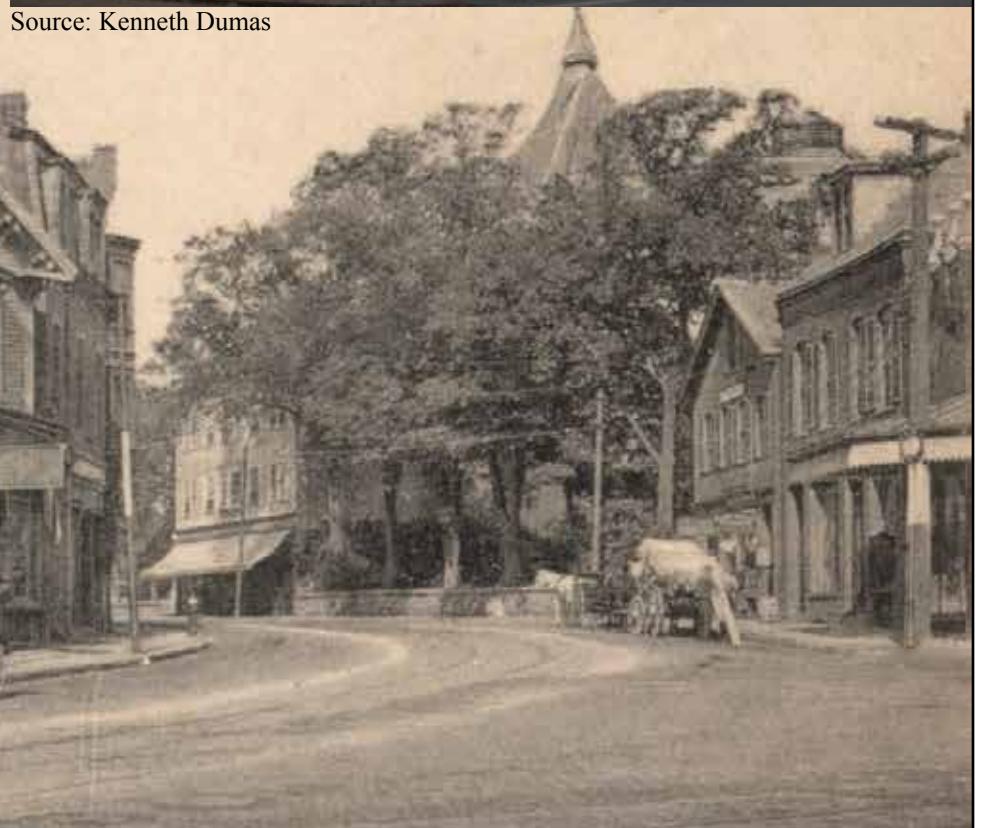
BROOKLINE DIRECTORY, 1925



Source: Public Library of Brookline



Source: Kenneth Dumas



Established 1895

PAINES' STUDENT STORE

TYPEWRITERS

45 Years a

Stationer—Newsman—Toyman—Bookman—Picture Framer

256 WASHINGTON STREET BROOKLINE

Telephone BEAcon 0307

Goodspeed's Livery and Stable



Source: Public Library of Brookline



Source: Public Library of Brookline



Source: Public Library of Brookline



Source: Kenneth Dumas

M. GOODSPEED,
Hack, Boarding and
Livery Stable.
WASHINGTON ST.,
opp. Town Hall.
TELEPHONE 8-2.



This brick building at 316-320 Washington Street, which now houses offices and a Chinese barbecue restaurant, was for many years the home of Goodspeed's livery stable. The old stable entry is easily recognizable in today's arched entrance to the restaurant, directly opposite Holden Street near Town Hall.

By 1874 Goodspeed was operating the Washington Street stable, first in partnership with Grafton Stone and later as sole proprietor. The stable, which began as a three-story wooden building was later expanded and remade as a brick structure.

Goodspeed's provided boarding for horses and horse-drawn vehicles. Customers could also rent horses or arrange for a hack, or horse-drawn taxi. The S.S. Pierce Company kept its horses and delivery wagons at Goodspeed's after opening its Coolidge Corner store in the 1890s.

Munroe Goodspeed was succeeded in the business by his son Carl M. Goodspeed (1872-1956). The stable remained in operation, under subsequent owners, until the early 1930s when it was converted to other uses.

350 Washington Street

1905



Source: Brookline Historical Society

1895



Source: Brookline Historical Society

Built in 1873 on Washington Street to house Hose Co. #2 and Hook & Ladder Co. #1 (shown above), this building served as a firehouse until the 21st century. It has since been incorporated into the Town's Public Safety Building housing police and fire headquarters.



Source: Kenneth Dumas