

**COMMEMORATION  
OF WARREN'S  
BICENTENNIAL  
1789 - 1989**



This booklet is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the granting of the Charter to the town of Warren by the General Assembly of Vermont on October 20, 1789.

It is a follow up on the project started by a group of Volunteer Senior Citizens to assemble pictures of the early days of Warren with information concerning them. There are a number of albums in the Warren Public Library concerning this material.

Many thanks and appreciation go to the people who lent their photographs to be reproduced and to the following ones who helped in the identification:

Goldie Carleton Taylor  
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## THE BEGINNING

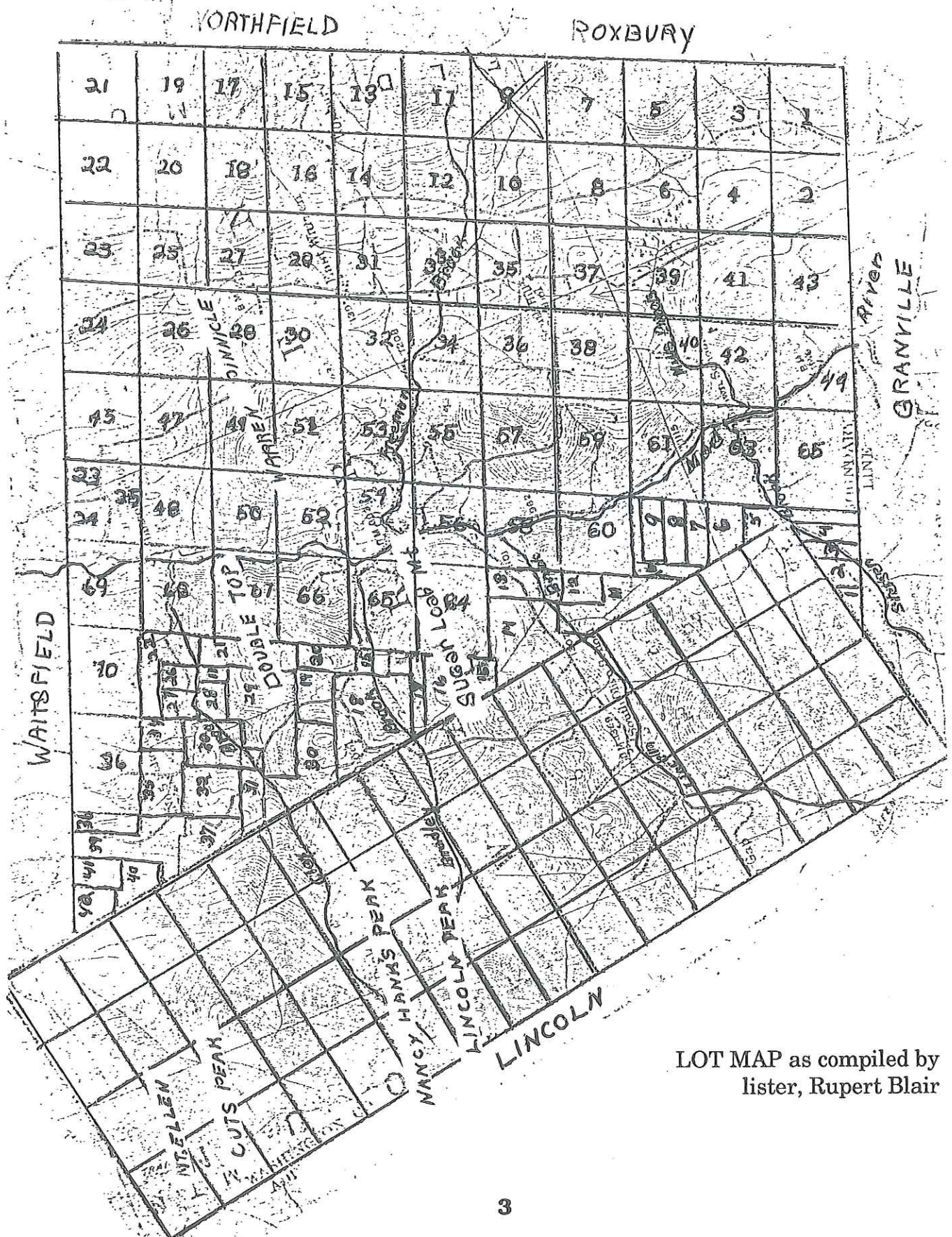
Warren began with a land grant on November 9, 1780. It was issued to John Throop and sixty-seven associates. Nine years later they had the fee for the charter but found they did not have the required acres. The solution was to add Warren's Gore, which was located far to the north in Essex County. On October 20, 1789 the Charter was finally issued. Thirty-five years later four tiers of lots were added from the town of Lincoln. Vermont Year Books have listed the acres as being 27,390.

The ownership of the lots was decided by having the names of the men in one hat and the lot numbers in another. A name was drawn and then a lot number to go with it. Very few of the direct descendants of these men remain. Their names have been replaced with ones from all over the world. Shares were granted for the benefit of Middlebury college, a county grammar school, a minister of the Gospel, support of the ministry and for an English school.

### Names from the old LOT MAP:

Fuller	Kimball	Farnsworth
Lyon	Joadam	Fay
Tolman	Whitcomb	Pierce
Strong	Brainard	Swan
Adams	Kent	Wilcocks
Barker	Baldwin	Tracy
Hale	Austin	Child
Jacobs	Marcy	Strong
Olds	Brace	Hawley
Durkey	Andrus	Roberts
Frisbee	Barlow	Kimball
Beach	Smith	Mosley
Goodrich	King	Leavett
Spencer	Chamberlain	Ripley
Hatch	Swan	Duncan
Thomson	Hopkins	Wolcott
Catline	Seymore	

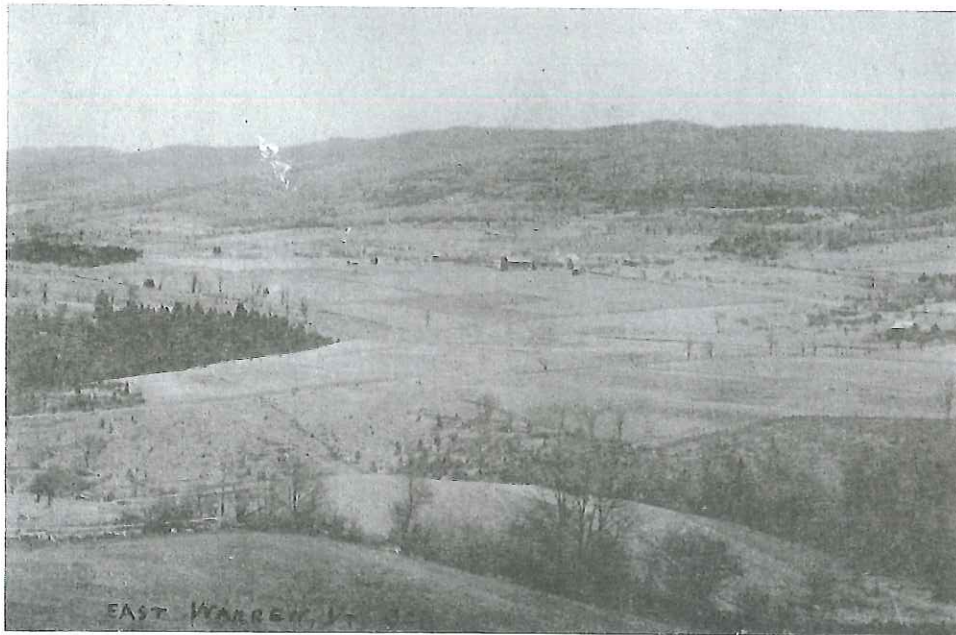




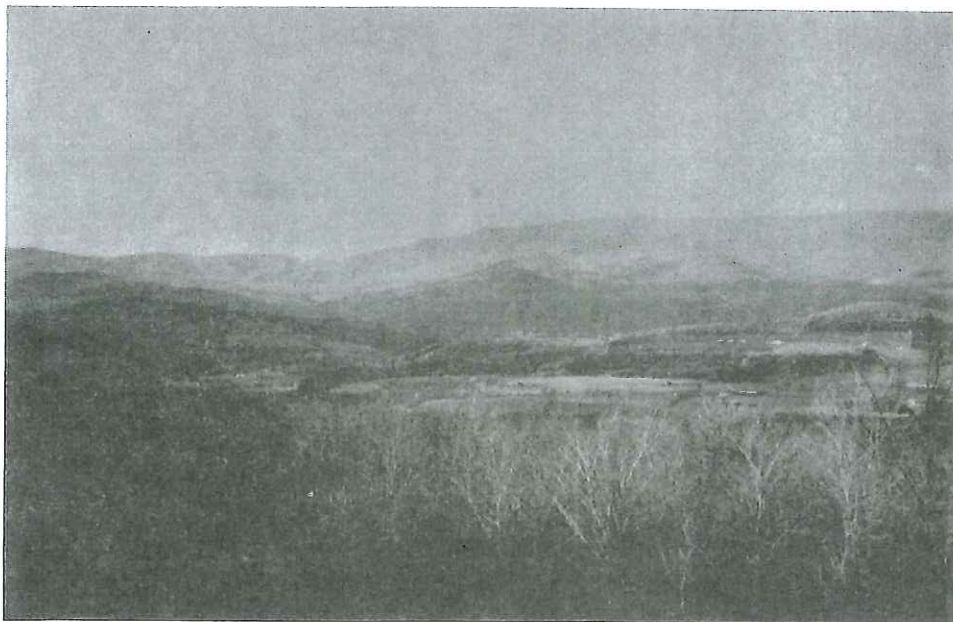
LOT MAP as compiled by  
lister, Rupert Blair



A small hamlet grew in the Eastern part of Warren. There the best farm land lay. It was in this area the business of the town was transacted from 1789 to 1824.



This view of the East Warren Four Corners was taken from an old postal card. Below is a photo taken in 1986. Both were taken from near or on the Blair Farm on Fuller Hill Road.



The first frame house built in East Warren was on the farm of Judge Epham's in the north end of the Post Road. There is still an old farm house in the general area but the farm has long gone into development. The photo below shows the old farm house where Ernest and Ruth Robinson Brooks lived for many years. Ruth was the Warren Town Treasurer.





This farm house was the home of Fred Mobus, son of John and Kate Fehrle Mobus who originally came from Germany. Many of their children and their descendants have made this valley their home and have been active in the life of this area. The house was built around 1809 and sets on lease land.

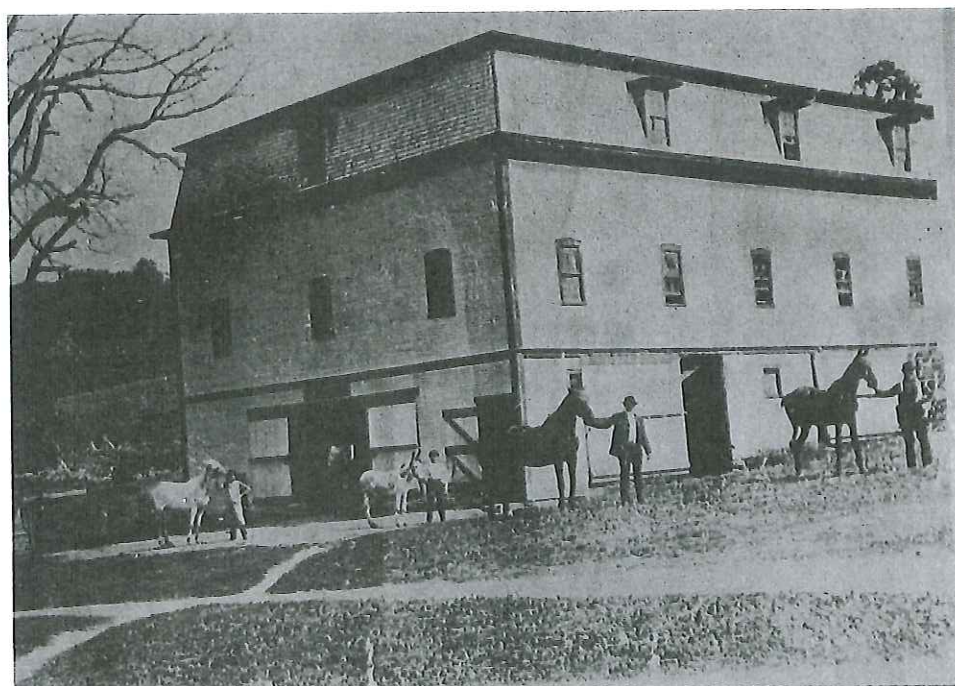




This photograph of the Mobus home taken in 1986 shows changes under new ownership.



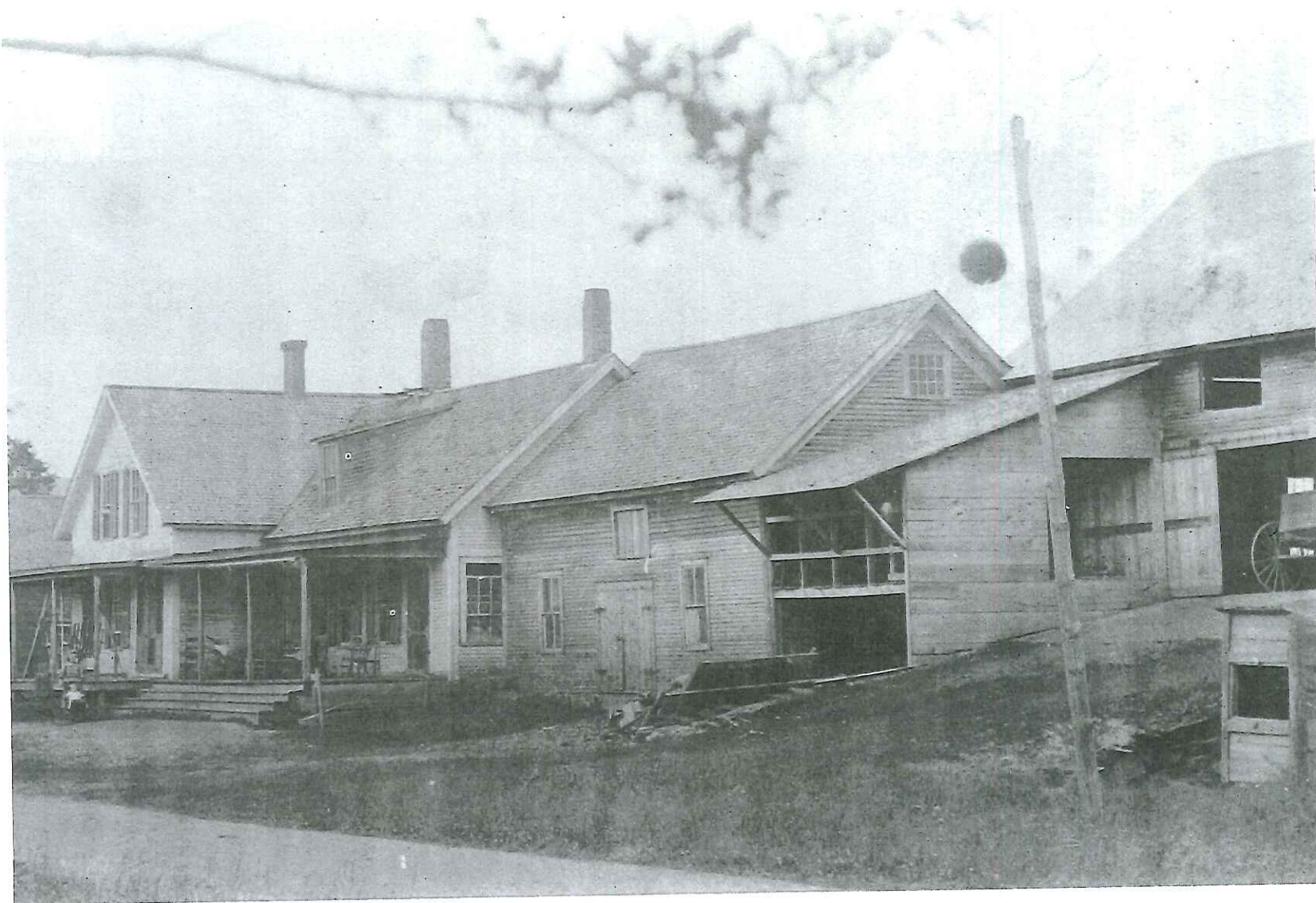
The old barn was destroyed by fire a few years ago. All that remains of this building, built by one of the Mc Claughin brothers is the tall fireplace built when it was converted into a home.





The Old Daniels Farm at one time was a huge operating farm. It now is the location of Applewood Stables dedicated to the activities that go with horseback riding. The barn which was gradually being destroyed by time was torn down in 1987



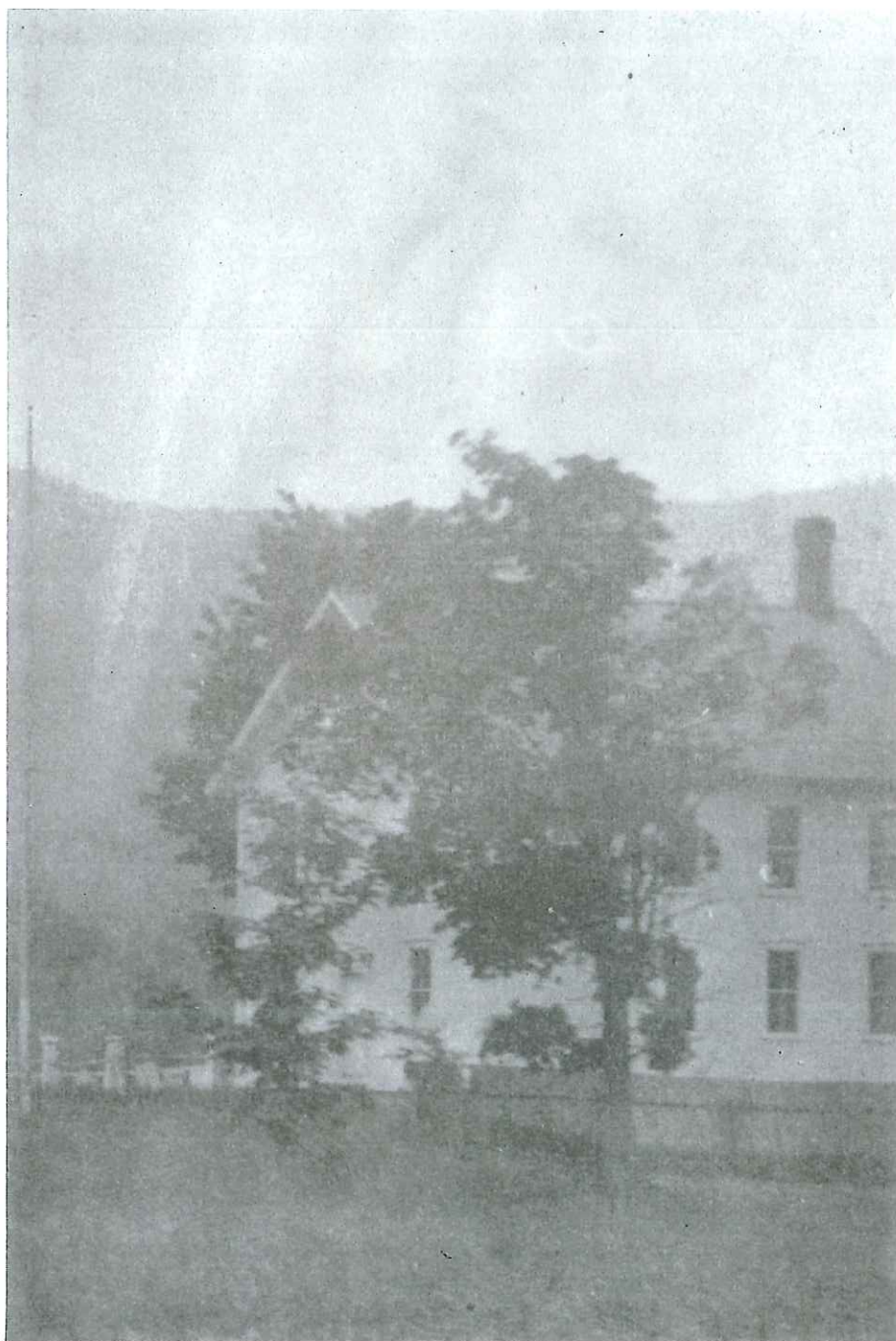


This is an early picture of the Campbell house that stood at the North Four-Corners where much of the business was done. Note how the entire structure was joined together! Today it would be considered a great fire hazard.



Before 1805, all education was done in the homes. It was voted to divide the town into two sections or districts and build a schoolhouse in the northern section. It was located at the North Four-Corners on what became known as the Commons. The present building is being used as the East Warren Grocery.

In 1960 the student population in East Warren had dwindled to such a number that the pupils were transported to the Warren Village school.



The East Warren Methodist Church was the first one to be built in the town. A grant was obtained from the Vermont Legislature. In those days Church and Government were closely united. People settling here were from places without religious freedom yet some body was needed to govern their daily lives and unite the people.

The box pews seated fifty people and were still in place when the roof and walls caved in. The beams were transported from Ripton and the windows were Gothic type. This place of worship erected during 1833 and 1834 was the heart of this settlement for over one hundred years and then left to the elements. The last service was held in 1928 by Pastor Pearl Daniels.

The cemetery was laid out in 1805 on one and one-half acres at a cost of \$30.00.

The horsesheds were for the use of the horses while their owners attended the meetings.



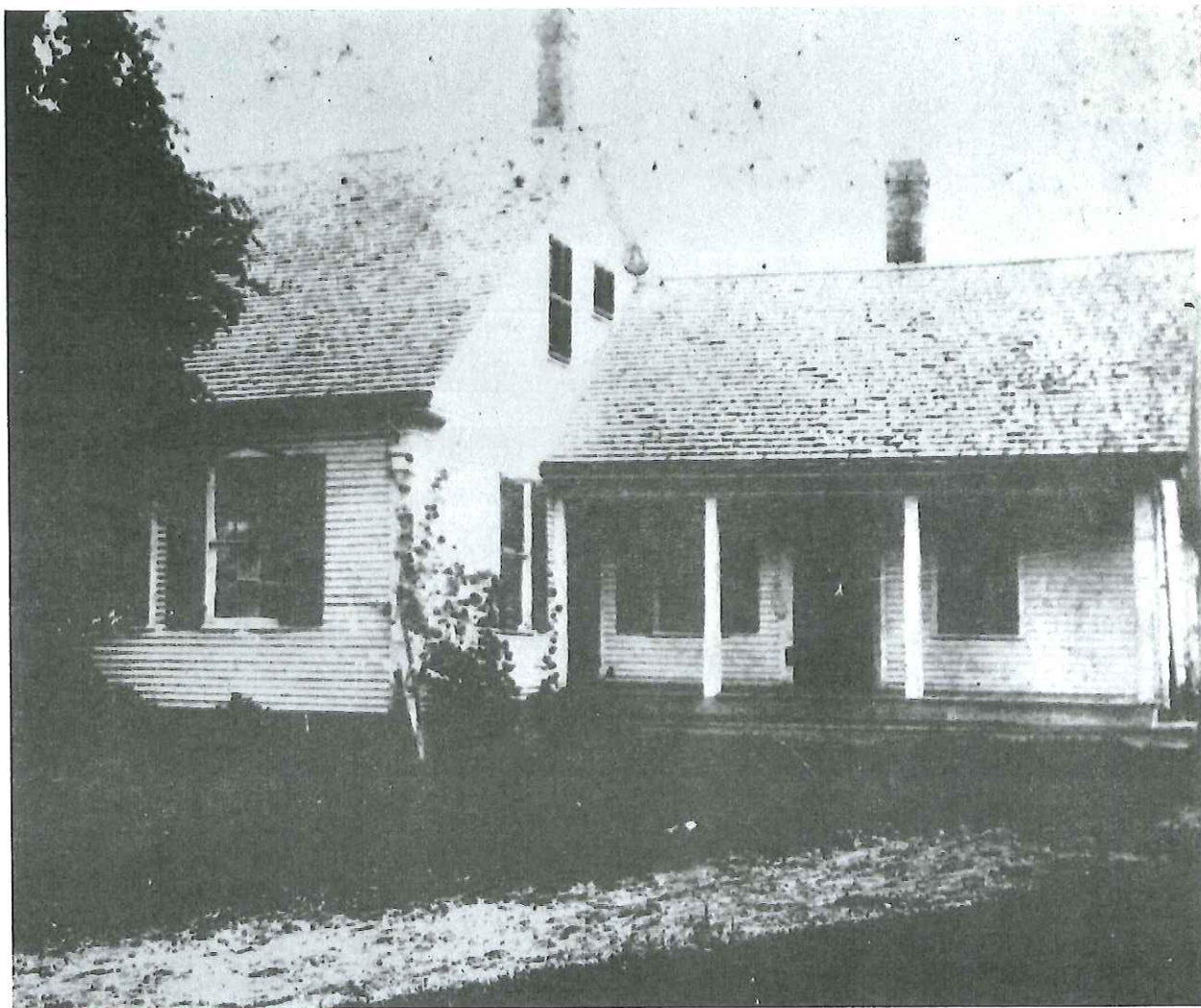


The round barn built by another of the McClaughlin brothers was pulled down with tractors to provide for one of the free-stall types that became so popular in later years. It was a sad day for the neighborhood to see this landmark disappear into history.



A barn built by a third McClaughlin brother in still a different style was located at the foot of Roxbury Mountain on the road that connects with Prickly Mountain. It was a huge barn with a slate roof. The farmhouse contained the first switchboard for telephone service before the Waitsfield-Fayston Company was formed. The line came over Roxbury Mountain.

The Eldridge House, one of the first houses built in the south section of East Warren was located on the farm at the turn to the development of Prickly Mountain. In early days the Buzzell and Beacott farms were in this area. The Eldridge House was the home of William Carleton in the early 1900's and later it was known as the Wilber Larrow farm. Now it has become a settlement of private homes for many of the citizens of Warren.





The present school at the south four-corners was built in 1888 and is now a private home yet it still looks much as it did when school was maintained there. It often was called the high school because it was located on high ground.

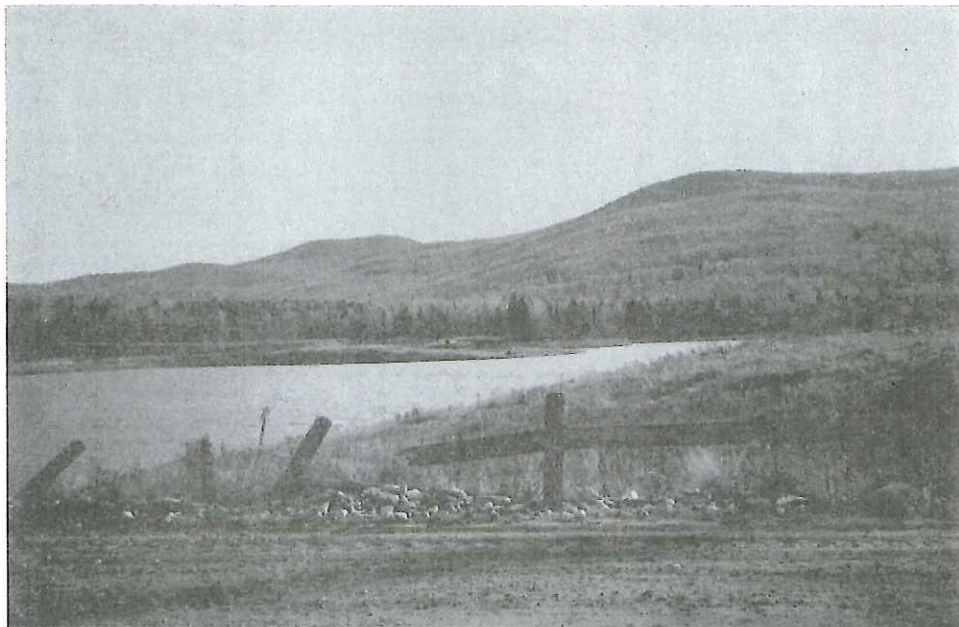
Children from four to six <sup>year</sup> years of age were considered scholars. There were two terms, a summer and a winter term, of twelve weeks each. The teacher boarded with the parents of the scholars according to the number of children in a household and received a salary of \$1.00 to \$2.75 a month. In 1822 there were 76 attending this school and 83 at the north Four-corners. In 1885 a town school system was adopted to maintain the schools but the parents still continued to furnish the supplies.



The schoolhouse as it looks today as a private vacation home.



Blueberry Lake was designed and built by a native son of Warren, Lenord Robinson. It was his dream to have a lake for local people to enjoy. Though his dream of ownership by the town hit many legal snares, his dream of a lake became a reality, by turning Gove Swamp, a place where many blueberries grew, into his lake. It is located on the Plunkton Road that connects East Warren with Route 100 South.





The Rupert Blair farm is one of the early farms in Warren that is still in the farming operation. It is located on the Fuller Hill Road and commands an expansive view of East Warren and the Roxbury Range.

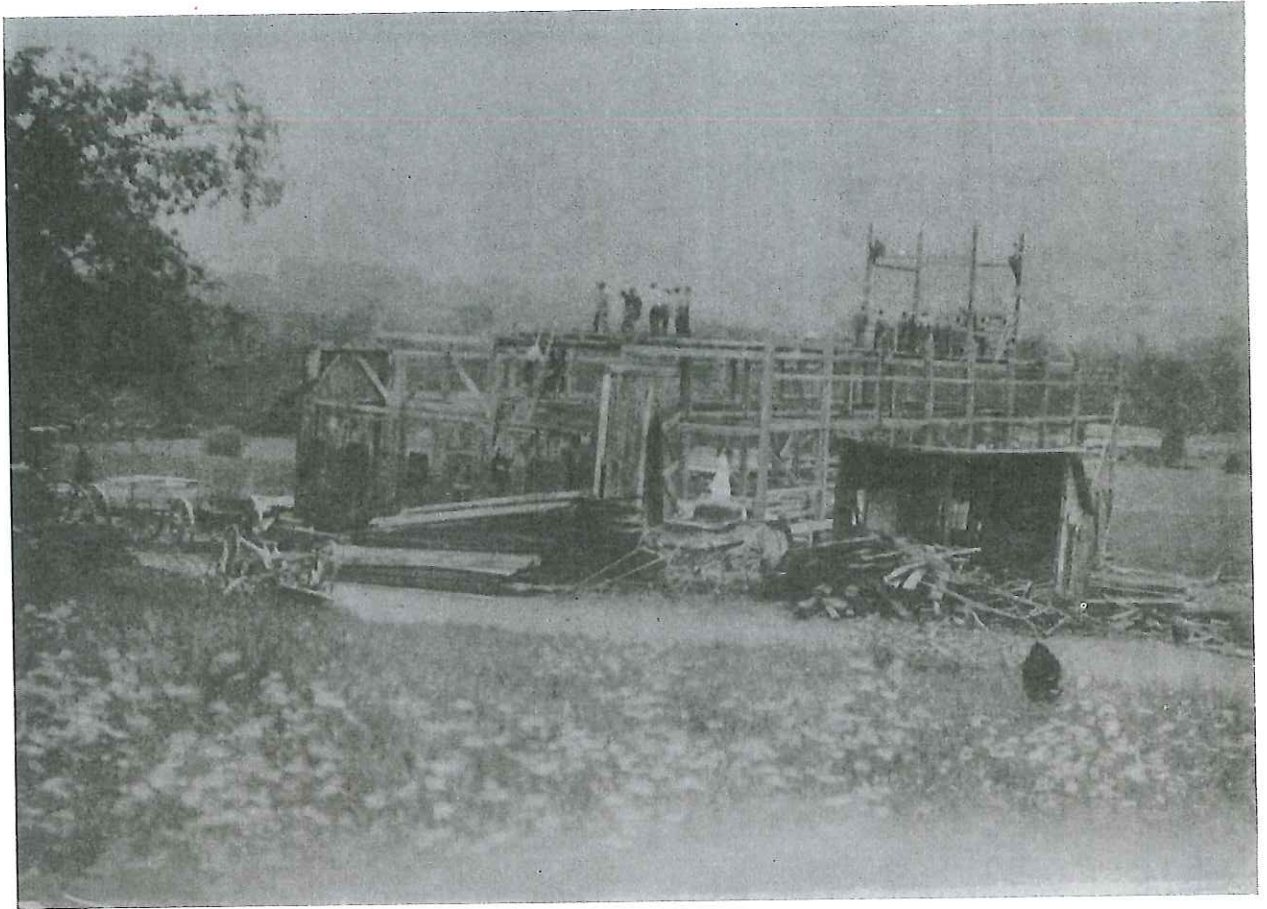
From an early farming community, Warren has become an area of second homes and recreational activities. This is due to the establishment of the Sugarbush Ski Area and the back-up facilities for this type of economy.

A program of Tax Stabilization has been instigated to help keep land in agriculture but the high cost of land and the pressures to sell for development and the price of producing their product, plus regulations and lack of help who will work the long hours required, continues to push the farmers off the land.



There were many "barn raisings" in early times. All of the friends and neighbors got together and in no time the farmer had a new barn.

This is a photo of the VanDuesan barn being raised in East Warren where Lenord Robinson now has his equipment garage. The women all banded together to feed the many helpers who appeared.



Neighbors also got together when a person was ill or hurt and needed help to get up his wood pile, milk his cows or put in crops. Vermonters still do this today. If a woman was needed to help the housewife she was there to cook, wash or mind the small children.



Settlement was moving toward the Valley where a tiny village was formed. Below is one of the earliest pictures of a Bird's-eye view of this village. It shows the Valley from the Spalding farm above the covered bridge north to near the town line with Waitsfield.





Another view of Warren village at a different angle. Note the open space in back of the cemetery and the buildings as they used to be. Many have been changed to meet the times that have required apartments, and barns have been removed.



Another view of the village showing the open meadows that at one time were being used by the farmers. It was taken at a very interesting angle to show through the trees, the cemetery and the front side of the church and school house, as well as the rear of the village houses.





The Warren Town Hall as it looked in 1914 and as it looks today on page 23. It was voted in 1872 to build a hall as the population had grown too large to hold the town or "Freemans" meetings in the larger homes. Ed Cardell gave just enough land to site the building which was completed by December at a cost of \$2777.50. It still remains the place for the annual town meetings, elections and social functions. For years the "Odd Fellows Society" held meetings up stairs. The "Grange Association" still does. There is also a kitchen and dining area in the basement.

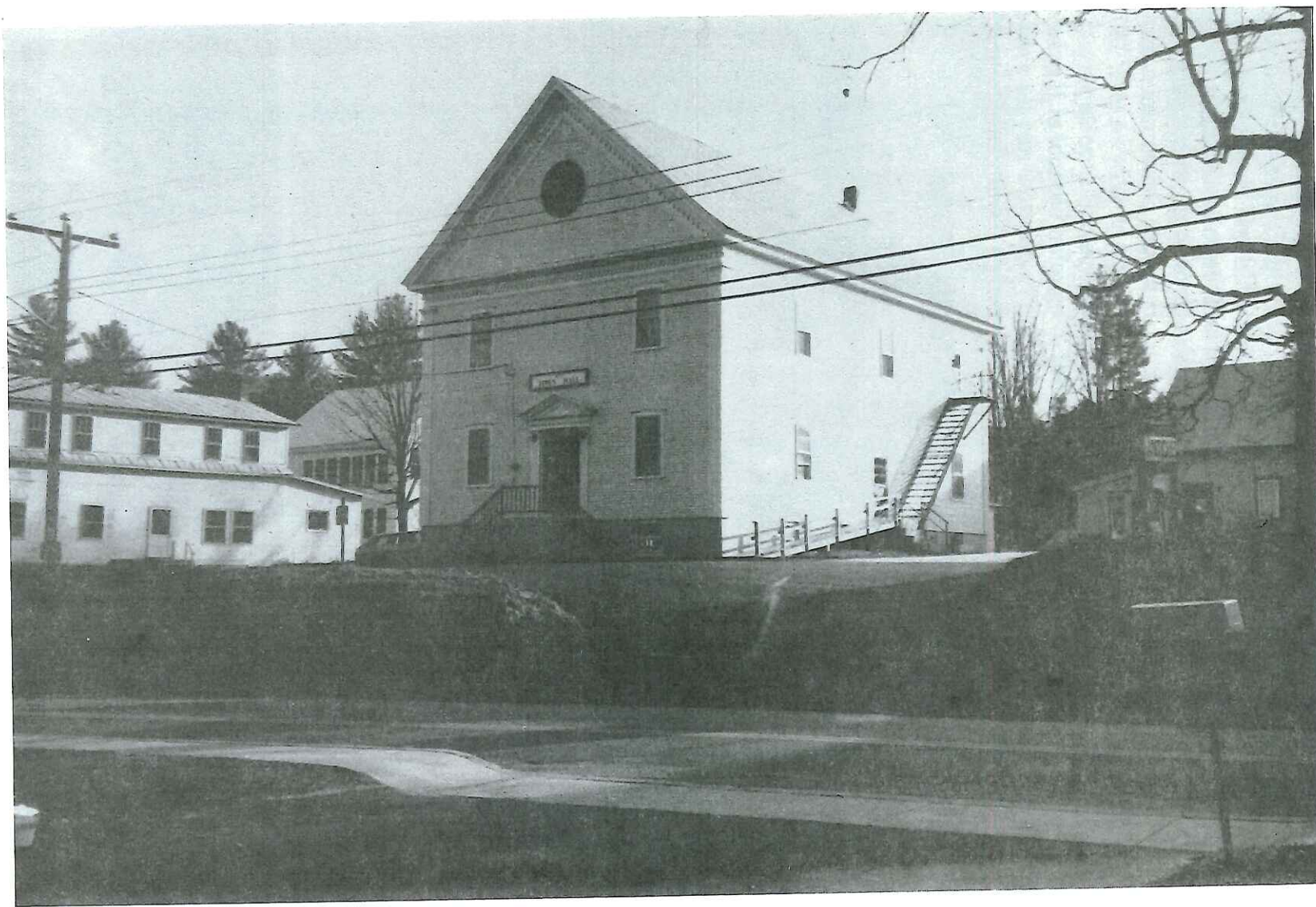




"Blair House" located between the Town Hall and the Church, taken in 1900. It was one of the first houses in the village possibly the first. It has gone through many changes since that period. David and Lucy Blair are shown in front of the building. The old horse sheds that were behind the church can also be seen.



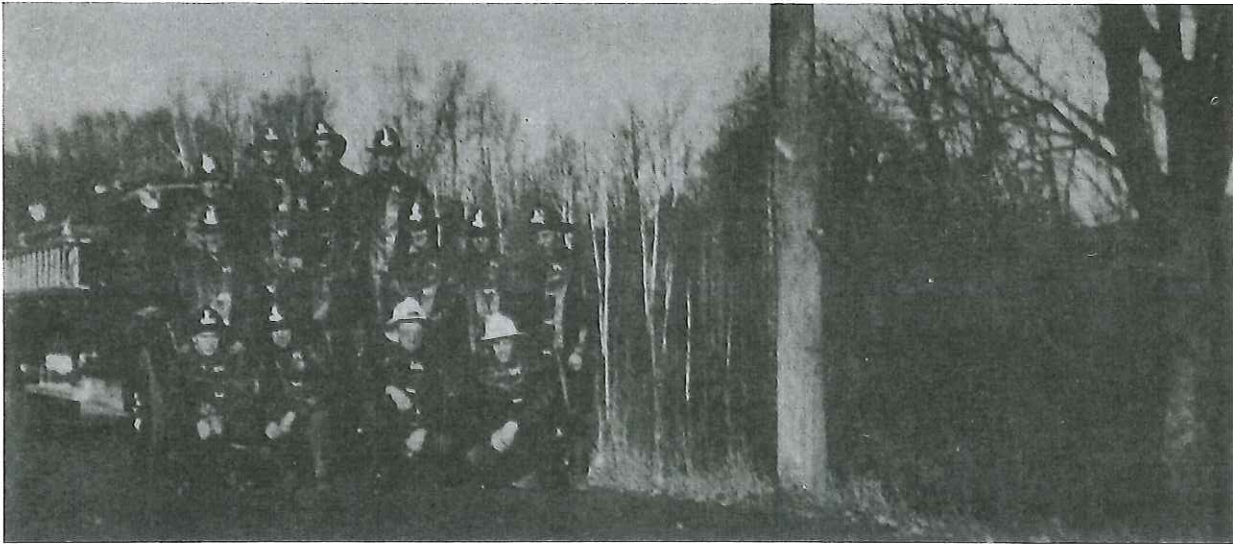




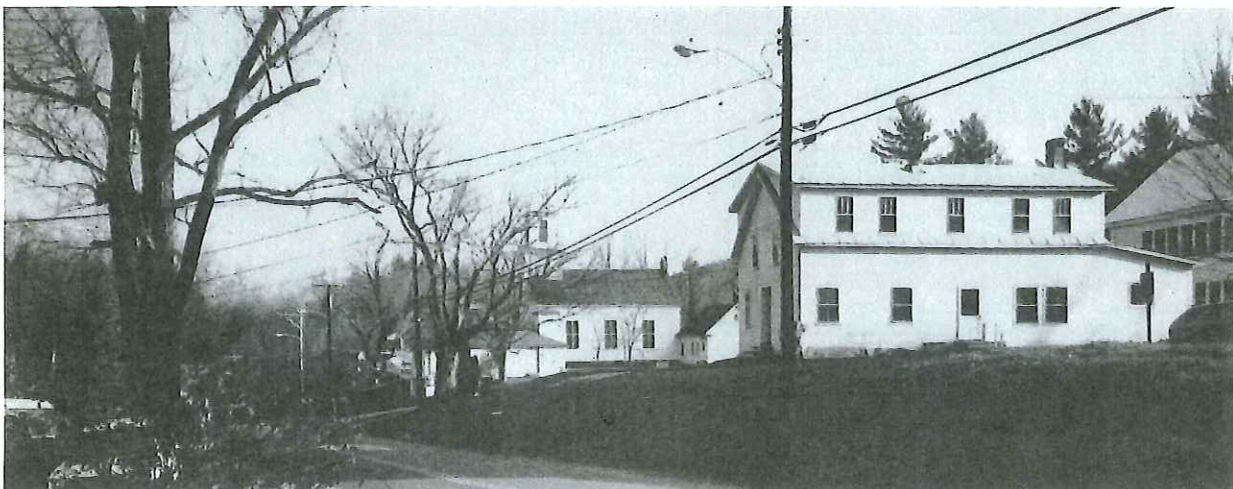
The David-Lucy Blair house and the Town Hall as it looks in 1988. The Administration building can be seen between the two.



The only one in this picture taken of the Warren Fire Department in 1951, who is still a member, is Norris Weston. The Firefighters were organized in 1947 with Clayton Neil the first chief. In 1978 an underground addition was built in memory of John Snow, a dedicated chief for a number of years. They now belong to a mutual aid program and the members take extensive training programs to become the best Volunteer Department possible. As the homes and businesses have grown in the area they have more and more responsibilities to provide the protection needed.



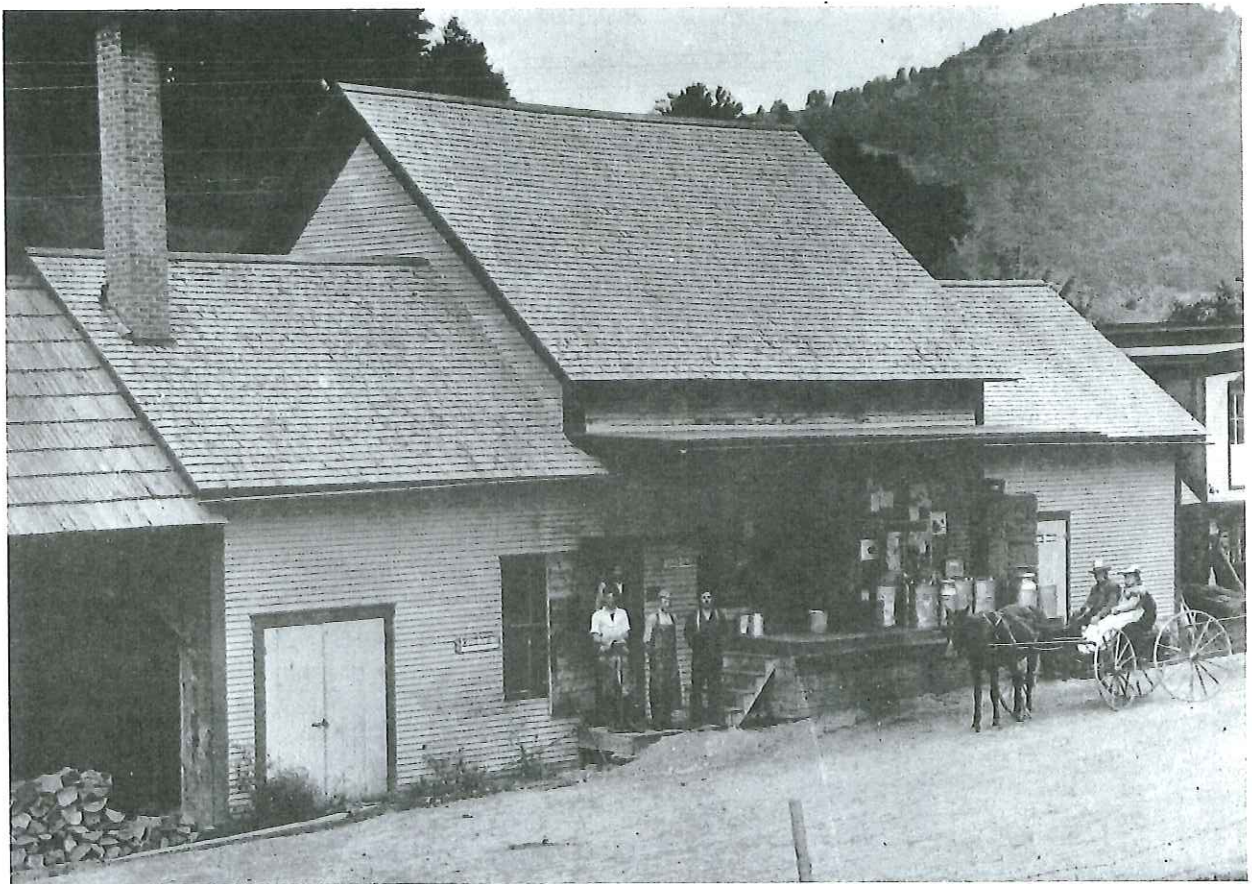
Looking north on main street shows the Fire House nestled into the bank with the Warren United Church in the background.





The first creamery was located one-fourth of a mile from the north Four-corners in East Warren. It was operated by Jed Hopkins and was located on the north side of what is now known as the Airport Road. In 1900 the farmers formed a co-op to build a creamery. The site chosen was an old mill site just north of the Covered Bridge in the Village. It was here the farmers brought their cream to be made into butter. It had been separated from the milk at the farm by means of the De Laval separator. The skimmed milk was fed to the calves and pigs. The separator was a big improvement because before that the milk sat in pans in a cool, but not refrigerated, milk room and then the cream was skimmed off the top.

The creamery was later converted into a mill after Brook's Mill across the river burned.





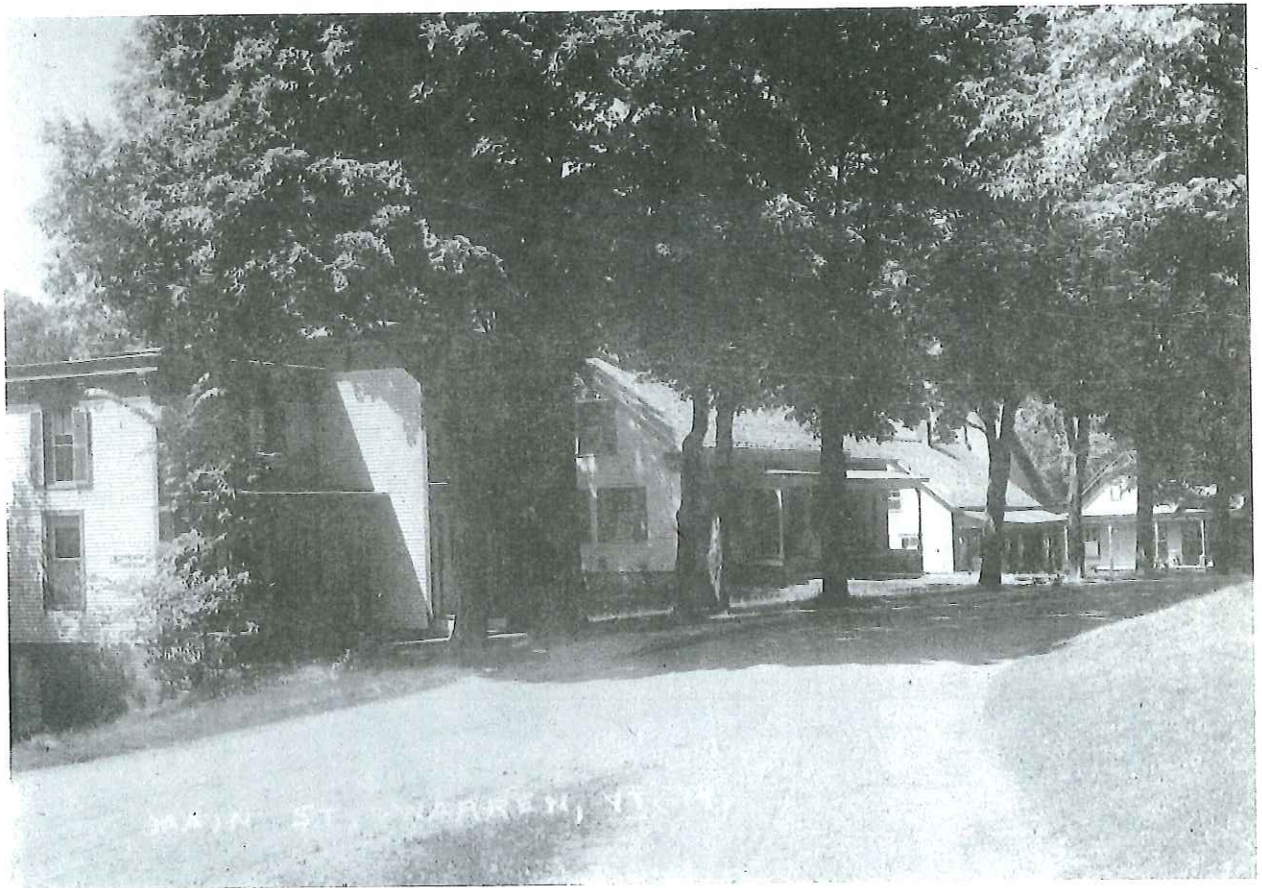
A view of the complex that housed the creamery many years ago. It was a long set of buildings with the shop at the south end run by Harlow Abels. All signs of the structure are now gone. The back of the buildings faced the river, dam and mill pond.



In 1936 the first three of these houses burned down. It was before the days of the fire department as we know it today. It was fought with pails, wash tubs and anything they could carry water with.

The first one was the "Geer House" then the residence of Mill owner, Henry Brooks. He also lost his mill across the Mad River that night. The next place was where the Howard Wakefields lived. He was part owner of the Palmer-Wakefield Mill that later became Henry Brook's. The third place was owned by the William Thayer family who had moved from Lincoln Mountain to the Village.

The first two sites have had houses built on them and the Thayer site belongs to the town as the leach field for the town hall.





The Cardell House was a large show case of a house. It burned in the early 1900's. A cedar hedge grew along the sidewalk from what is now the Post Office to the driveway just north. A large smooth stone was still evident in the 1927's showing the entrance location to the house. The carriage house is now a private residence.

