

Williamsburgh, Massachusetts

DISTRICTS, ROADS, WAYS AND BRIDGES

INFORMATION AND HISTORY

This file is created from Town Records [TR], Town Meeting Records [TMR], Special Town meeting [STM], Board of Selectmen Meeting Records [SMR], Hampshire County Commissioner's Records [HCCR] and Hampshire County Recorded Deeds [HCRD] where noted.

The Town of Williamsburg has one main highway, Rt. 9, which follows the course of the Mill River from Goshen southeasterly along Goshen Road, Williams Street and Main Street to the Northampton Town line. Along this course four industrial centers developed soon after 1800. Descending from Goshen the first was:

Searsville: where numerous dams were built to accommodate eight or more mills which came into operation between 1768 and 1950. A School was built there in 1785, at first called the Center District School then Hyde District and at last Searsville School until 1923. Nathaniel Sears was a woolen manufacturer there from 1819 until 1862, Searsville appeared on the 1854 map and is still marked on contemporary maps.

Williamsburgh Center: Further down the course of the river developed the Williamsburgh Center City along nearly a mile of the river where a dozen or more manufacturers ran water-powered mills between Chesterfield Road and Hillenbrand Road. In this district two churches were built, the Methodist-Episcopal in 1832 and the Congregational in 1836, the Town Hall in 1841 and the High School (the Grange Hall) in 1850 replaced a school which had been located on the other side of the road at 17 Main Street.

Skinnerville: From Depot Road to the Dugway there developed another district. At the lower end Joshua Thayer, uncle to the Haydens, built a gristmill c. 1780. At the upper end a mill was operated by a succession of manufacturers before taken over by William Skinner in 1854 where, through a span of two decades, he enlarged a silk industry. In this district, at the Skinnerville Bridge there was a school and the RR depot built in 1868.

Haydenville: From Hatfield Rd. and three quarters of a mile down the river Samuel Fairfield and John Miller developed waterpowered industry, principally lumbering, purchased by members of the Hayden Family (David and Daniel) in 1809, which their nephews Joel and Josiah III assumed in 1818 to build into a very large complex of half a dozen mills. The Haydenville Post Office, established in 1836, was located about in the parking lot at the lower end of the Brassworks property. The Brick Schoolhouse, built on Pondview Dr. in 1839 replaced the first school that had been built in 1811 on the tract at 1 Kingsley Ave. The Cong. Church was built in 1850 and the High School with the upstairs Community Hall in 1859.

COUNTY ROADS:

"The County Road" or "The County Highway leading from Hatfield to Chesterfield" or called something similar. In many early references this was the first highway built in the district in 1754, entering Haydenville over Reservoir Rd. on a course through the present reservoir, over Adams and O'Neil Roads, along a section of Nash Hill Road to Bullard Road, thence over the East Branch at Bullard Bridge to angle northwesterly up the hill, where there remains little trace of any road, to the site of the first Meeting House, thence over Village Hill Road, Hyde Hill Road and Hyde Hill Branch to the Goshen .

Town of Williamsburg

“The County Road” or “The County Highway leading to Northampton,” or called something similar, established in 1772, connected with the earlier “County Road” on Village Hill and led down past the old cemetery to Northampton along N. Main St. and Main St..

Town of Williamsburg

STREETS, ROADS and WAYS

County Commissioners <http://hampshirecog.org/highways/williamsburghighway.html>

Some streets were renumbered in 1988 [TMR Art. 26]

1. ADAMS ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.0 miles from Depot Rd. easterly to Mountain St. This was a part of the 1754 Highway which once continued east through the reservoir and over the hill to N. Hatfield. Aka. Mountain Road, not to be confused with "Mountain Street."
2. ASHFIELD ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 3.7 miles from the end of North St. at the intersection with Village Hill Ave. northerly to the Conway Town Line.
3. BRIAR HILL ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.2 miles from Hemenway Rd. northwesterly to the Goshen Town Line just E of the NW corner of Town. Aka. Road to Ashfield, Merritt's Hill.
4. BRIDGE ST HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from Main St. southerly to S. Main St.
5. BULLARD ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.2 miles from Nash Hill Rd westerly to end at the river. This was a modification of the 1754 Highway, crossing the East Branch at Bullard Bridge until c. 1975.
6. BUTTONSHOP RD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.1 miles from N. Main St. to Williams St. A Town way to Taylor's mills 3/12/1787 [TMR] was built through to follow the river up to Searsville in 1829. Aka. Chesterfield Road, 1832.
7. CHESTERFIELD RD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.2 miles from Goshen Rd. to the Chesterfield Town Line. Aka. Route 143, marked "Lafayette Highway" Built up Meekins Brook in 1832. (see Town Bk. 2, pages 48 & 63 for Chattel Mtg.)
8. CIDER MILL ROAD HAYDENVILLE... from North Farms Rd. westerly to a cul-de-sac.
9. CLARY ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - from Hyde Hill Rd north to a DEAD END at the bridge before the residential arts camp facilities. (TMR Bk. I, p. 93 3/22/1779)
10. COLE ROAD HAYDENVILLE - 0.33 miles from North Farms Road to the Hatfield Town Line. Part of a very early way from Hatfield over the mountain. Accepted 1967 [TMR Art. 18] Aka. Horse Mountain Rd.
11. CONWAY ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.0 miles from Ashfield Rd. northerly to the Conway Town Line. Aka. Pillinger Hill. (TMR Bk. I, p. 82 12/13/1777)
12. DANSEREAU RD HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from Kingsley Ave. northerly to Hatfield Rd. Accepted 1940 [TMR Art. 12?]
13. DEER HAVEN DRIVE HAYDENVILLE - off FORT HILL ROAD
14. DEPOT ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.2 miles from Main St. northerly up the Joe Wright Brook through the intersection at O'Neil and Adams Roads to Nash Hill Rd., c. 1850. Aka. Conway Road.
15. DEWEY CIRCLE HAYDENVILLE - 0.24 miles from Mountain St. southeasterly to North Farms Rd. A part of Mountain St. bypassed by new construction in 1966 and named Old Mountain Street. Renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR]

Town of Williamsburg

16. EAST MAIN ST WILLIAMSBURG - 0.2 miles from North St. at the Meekins Library Bridge easterly to the intersection of Nash Hill Road and Valley View Rd. 11/25/1772 [TMR]
17. EASTERN AVE WILLIAMSBURG - 0.2 miles from South St. to DEAD END. Formerly (1752 survey) continued through to Hillenbrand Rd. Accepted 1954 (approximately 500' long [TMR Art. 22], Accepted extension 1965, approximately 500' long [TMR Art. 31]
18. EDWARDS ST HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from High St. westerly to Kingsley Ave.
19. FAIRFIELD AVE HAYDENVILLE - 0.3 miles from Main Street southerly to DEAD END. Accepted extension 1947 [TMR Art. 24]
20. FORT HILL ROAD HAYDENVILLE - 0.4 m.) from S. Main St. to the Northampton Town Line. Aka. Sanatorium Road, leading to the Leeds Sanatorium.
21. GEER HILL ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - ____ miles from Chesterfield Rd. (across Meekins Brook) northerly to ____?. Formerly this was a part of the road that ran southerly from Hyde Hill Rd. over Lawton Hill Rd. in Searsville and Gere Hill to Petticoat Hill Rd., 11/25/1772 [TMR], named in memory of Edward Gere, a selectman when he died, and came to be pronounced and spelt incorrectly.
22. GOSHEN ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.66 miles (Route 9) from intersection of Williams St. and Chesterfield Rd. northwesterly to the Goshen Town Line. (State Highway #9) Historically, there have been two other ways by this name: the course laid in 1829 over Nichols Rd. thence up the river past the Searsville Resavoy to re-join the present way at 106 Goshen Rd., and, established in 1769, over Old Goshen Rd..
23. GROVE STREET HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from High St. southeasterly to Pine St. Accepted and extended 3/2/1925 [TMR Art. 13 & 14]
24. HATFIELD ROAD HAYDENVILLE - 0.3 miles from Main St. easterly to Kingsley Ave. aka Hatfield Street.
25. HEMENWAY RD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.60 miles from Old Goshen Rd. northerly to Ashfield Rd.
26. HIGH STREET HAYDENVILLE - .05 miles from main St. northerly to intersection with Kingsley Ave. and Mountain St., Aka. Cemetery Ave., Church St. and Conway Rd.
27. HILLENBRAND RD WILLIAMSBURG - from Main St. northeasterly to DEAD END. Formerly named Valley View Road renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR]
28. HYDE HILL BRANCH WILLIAMSBURG - 0.1 miles left fork off Hyde Hill Rd. southwesterly to the Goshen Town line. This was a part of the 1754 Highway as reconstructed in 1815. Renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR].
29. HYDE HILL ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.25 miles From Goshen Rd. westerly to the Goshen Town line. Part of the 1754 Highway, the only direct route from Williamsburg to Chesterfield until 1840, when Chesterfield Road (Rt 143) was built. Aka. County Road leading to Chesterfield, Old County Road to Chesterfield, Old Chesterfield Road, Partridge Hill and Clary Road. The 1754 County Highway

Town of Williamsburg

was laid straight up the steep slope from 24 Hyde Hill, following quite a different course to the Goshen Town Line on Hyde Hill Branch. Because the road was so steep and erosion such a major concern, 5/19/1794 [TMR]. In 1815 the highway was relocated “up Partridge Hill” to its present course, utilizing newer road design technology with thank-you-mam’s and granite culverts at regular intervals. The name of Partridge Hill came from the land holding of one Partridge. Rufus Hyde settled 1774 and Dwight Clary in 1896.

- 30. ICE ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.17 miles from Nash Hill Rd. to DEAD END. Formerly this continued some distance farther called Johnson Road, discontinued 1836 to be a bridle path.
- 31. JUDD LANE WILLIAMSBURG - 0.33 miles from Ashfield Road northeasterly to Cul-De-Sac at the access road to the old Williamsburg Resavoy bed.
- 32. KELLOGG ROAD HAYDENVILLE - 0.16 m.) from Main St. to DEAD END at the old 1880 Hofford/Kellogg Farm 1980. Accepted 1945 [TMR Art. 22]. Formerly named Hosford Road, renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR]
- 33. KINGSLEY AVE HAYDENVILLE – 0.6 miles from Main St. northeasterly to Mountain St.
- 34. LAUREL ROAD HAYDENVILLE - 0.3 miles from Mountain St., loops easterly to Mountain St. opposite the town transfer station.
- 35. LAWTON HILL RD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.08 miles from Hyde Hill Rd. near the intersection with Rt.9. Aka. Geer Hill Road. Formerly this was a part of the town road that ran southerly from Hyde Hill Rd. over Lawton Hill Rd. in Searsville and Gere Hill to Petticoat Hill Rd., 11/25/1772 [TMR] Named in memory of Edward Gere and came to be misspelled by fading memory.
- 36. MAIN STREET WILLIAMSBURG and HAYDENVILLE - 2.77 miles from North St at Meekins Library Bridge (south)easterly to the Northampton Town Line.
- 37. MAPLE STREET HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from High St westerly to Kingsley Ave.
- 38. MILL STREET WILLIAMSBURG - 0.1 miles from East Main St. southerly to DEAD END at the West Branch. Bridge removed date The section from the former bridge to the State Rd. was voted NOT TO DISCONTINUE 9/8/1980 [STM Art. 8]
- 39. MOUNTAIN ST HAYDENVILLE - 3.1 miles from the intersection Kingsley Ave./High St. northeasterly to Whately Town Line at reservoir.
- 40. MYRTLE AVENUE HAYDENVILLE - 0.1 miles from Main St. westerly to Fairfield Ave.
- 41. NASH HILL PLACE WILLIAMSBURG - 0.6 miles from Nash Hill Rd., easterly to DEAD END--PRIVATE WAY, Created in 1987.
- 42. NASH HILL ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 3.3 miles from the Bridge at the intersection of East Main St. and Valley View Road northwesterly to the Whately Town line. 11/25/1772 [TMR] aka. Nash Street, (Old) Whately Rd. Part of this was part of the 1754 Highway from Bullard Rd. to the intersection with O’Neil Rd.
- 43. NICHOLS ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.3 miles from Goshen Rd northerly to Village Hill Rd. Part of the road to Goshen, 1829.
- 44. NORTH FARMS RD HAYDENVILLE - 1.19 miles from Mountain St. southeasterly to the Northampton Town line.

Town of Williamsburg

45. NORTH KELLOGG RD HAYDENVILLE – Left off Kellogg Rd. northerly to DEAD END. So named 12/12/1988 [SMR]
46. NORTH MAIN ST WILLIAMSBURG - 0.2 miles from North St at the Meekins Library Bridge northwesterly to Village Hill Rd. aka. Front Street 1903 [Water Map] the County Road leading to Northampton, 3/23/1772 [TMR].
47. NORTH STREET WILLIAMSBURG - 0.3 miles from Main St northwesterly to intersection of Village Hill Ave
48. OLD GOSHEN RD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.3 miles from Goshen Rd. (State Rt. 9 in Searsville, up Sawmill Hill (petitioned for in 1832, but not built until 1852), crossing Village Hill Rd. and branching left at Hemenway Rd.) northwesterly to Goshen Town Line. From Village Hill Rd. as far as the dwellings at 94 and 96 thence north over the hill past the Rogers Cemetery was established as the County highway to Goshen in 1769 until 1785 when the bridge across the West Branch was built “on the new county road to Goshen” [TMR p. 152 9/5/1785] and the road rerouted to its present location. In 1829 the County Road (River Road) was built up the West Branch past the Searsville Reservoir, making this “Old” Goshen Rd.
49. O’NEIL ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.80 miles from Nash Hill Rd. easterly to Depot Rd. a part of the 1754 County Highway. Named for John O’Neil, selectman 1874-1901.
50. PETTICOAT HILL RD WILLIAMSBURG - 2.4 miles from intersection Williams St./Main St. southwesterly to Chesterfield Rd. (3/26/1778 [TMR Bk. I p. 84])
51. PETTICOAT LANE WILLIAMSBURG - off Petticoat Hill Rd. southerly to DEAD END-- PRIVATE WAY.
52. PINE STREET HAYDENVILLE - 0.18 miles from Main St northeasterly to High St. In the late 19th & early 20th centuries provided access to HAYDENVILLE Depot.
53. PONDVIEW DRIVE HAYDENVILLE - off Hatfield Rd. northerly to DEAD END. Accepted 1954 [TMR Art. 38] aka. Riverside Drive. Renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR]. From 1839 to 1859 and for years to follow this was called School House Hill. From about 1772 over this hill was part of the County Road to Northampton, replaced by the Dugway in 1828, it, discontinued as a County Road in 1871.
54. RESERVOIR ROAD HAYDENVILLE - from Mountain St. easterly to Hatfield Town Line. Part of the County Road from Hatfield to Chesterfield, 1754.
55. RIVER ROAD WILLIAMSBURG - 0.20 miles from Main St. just N of Great Bridge southerly to DEAD END. Accepted 1945 [TMR Art. 18]
56. ROUND HILL DR HAYDENVILLE - off of parallel to Hatfield Rd DEAD END—PRIVATE WAY. Voted 1973 to lay out a Private way (50’ by 600’) [TMR Art. 28] aka Poverty Hill, renamed 12/12/1988 [SMR].
57. SOUTH MAIN ST HAYDENVILLE - 0.6 miles from Main St. at the HAYDENVILLE Library Bridge southerly along the west side of the river to Northampton Town line.

Town of Williamsburg

58. SOUTH STREET WILLIAMSBURG - 2.1 miles from Main St. in WILLIAMSBURG Center southerly to Northampton Town Line. (12/1777 [TMR Bk. I, Pg. 82])
59. SUNSET Drive WILLIAMSBURG - 0.05 miles from South St. westerly to DEAD END.
60. THE LOPE HAYDENVILLE - 0.03 miles from Cole Road southerly to Cul-De-Sac. Accepted 1980 [TMR Art. 13]
61. UNQUOMONK RD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.0 miles from South St westerly to END—NOT A THROUGH STREET. In early times it made a right angle northerly at the hilltop and ran through to Petticoat Hill Rd.
62. VALLEY VIEW WILLIAMSBURG - 0.35 miles from intersection of Nash Hill Road southeasterly to DEAD END. Once open through to Main St. Section, closed off in the 1960's discontinued 1988 [TMR Art.25]
63. VILLAGE HILL AVE WILLIAMSBURG - 0.3 miles from Village Hill Rd northeasterly to intersection of Ashfield Rd
64. VILLAGE HILL RD WILLIAMSBURG - 1.27 miles from No Main St westerly to Goshen Rd in Searsville. Aka. County Highway leading to Chesterfield from #32 to Rt 9 (1754), County Rd. to Goshen (?), Whites Hill (Asa White lived at #21), Wiles or Wild's Hill (Jesse Wilde lived at #12) and Meetinghouse Hill (First Meeting House was at #33).
65. WALPOLE RD HAYDENVILLE - 0.31 miles from So Main St westerly to DEAD END Accepted 1944 [TMR Art. 23] Part of a way over the hill to South St., discontinued 1875.
66. WILLIAMS ST WILLIAMSBURG - 0.36 mile from Main St westerly to Goshen Rd and intersect of Chesterfield Rd (Rt 143) now part of State Rt 9, built 1840, TM voted to accept the road Nov. 13, 1843.

BRIDGES

The following is a list of bridges and their names found in old documents throughout history.

There are five bridges over the Mill River from the confluence of the East and West Branches, downstream they are:

1. Main Street Bridge over Mill River, between Hillenbrand Rd. and River Rd. aka. Colonial Shoppes, the Pharmacy or the Great Bridge (10/1776, [TMR])
2. Skinnerville Bridge over Mill River in that district, aka. Silkmill Bridge.
There was a bridge at the northwest end of the Dugway where the abutments can still be seen, built in 1791 and maintained until 1874. [TMR pg. 191]
3. Haydenville Library Bridge over Mill River. Aka. Millers Bridge
4. Bridge St. Bridge over Mill River.
5. South Main St. Bridge over Mill River near the Northampton Town line.

There is one bridge over the East Branch of the Mill River from the confluence of the East and West Branch, upstream:

Town of Williamsburg

East Main St. Bridge over East Branch at east end of E. Main St. aka. Gristmill Bridge, Sawmill Bridge (1774), Mill Bridge (1871), Starks Bridge 1814 (Nathan Starks) Hiram Hills Bridge, a lovely covered bridge in 1844.

* Bullard Bridge built in 1763 along the County Road to Chesterfield was closed (1975?) The 20 acre Adam Bullard Homestead , until 1809 [HCRD 29/143], (not on the 1790 census) had 10 children.

There are eight bridges over the West Branch of the Mill River from the confluence of the East and West Branch, upstream:

- * Mill Street Bridge closed (1975?)
- 1. Meekins Library Bridge over the West Branch, (3/9/1772 [TMR Bk I, pg. 14]) aka. Fentons Bridge, Small Bridge. (1770s) Abner Williams' Bridge (1794) the Village Bridge (1827 and 1843)
- * For many years and until c. 1950 there was a swinging, rope, footbridge over the West Branch from E. Main to Williams St.
- 2. Williams Street Bridge over the West Branch, (built by Gross Williams c. 1840)
- * Chesterfield Road Old Bridge over the West Branch, [TMR Bk 2, p. 215, Nov. 1834]
- 3. Chesterfield Road Bridge over the West Branch on Rt 143,
- 4. Goshen Road Bridge over the West Branch, northwest of Chesterfield Rd. (1829)
- * Two bridges, built in 1829, crossed over the West Branch where it formed an oxbow around #31 Goshen Road and maintained until after 1873.
- 5. Goshen Road Bridge over the West Branch on Goshen Rd. south of intersection of Old Goshen Rd., built in 1926 when Rt. 9 was moved away from Nichols Rd.
- * An early bridge built in 1829 south of intersection of Old Goshen Rd. crossed over the West Branch to Nichols Rd. beside the present one. aka. Hitchcock's Bridge. In the abutments of the old bridge are set surveyor's bench marks.
- 6. Nichols Road Bridge over the West Branch on Goshen Rd., built in 1900.
- 7. Searsville Bridge over the West Branch on Village Hill Rd. built on the County Rd. to Chesterfield in 1763.
- * There was a bridge over the West Branch on the River Road to Goshen above the Searsville Bridge where stone abutments can be seen, built in 1829, closed in 1909 and dismantled in 1930.
- 8. Old Goshen Road Bridge over the West Branch on Old Goshen Road, aka. Louis Cranson Bridge, Devils Den Bridge, 1st built in 1785 by Wm. Bodman for £4 8^s [TMR Bk. I, p. 152]

Other Bridges

Gere Hill Bridge over the Meekins Brook near Rt. 143.

Hemenway Road Bridge over Bradfords Brook.

Ashfield Road Bridge over Bradfords Brook.

Beaver Brook Bridge, Mountain Street, mentioned in Town Charter, 1771.

Depot Rd. bridge over the Joe Wright Brook, built c. 1850.

Town of Williamsburg

Place Names

The following is a list of road names no longer in existence for reasons given or place names found in old documents, fading from living memory.

County Road from Hatfield to Chesterfield

County Road to Northampton

Dugway, the section of Main Street north from Hatfield Rd. in HAYDENVILLE, excavated along the river in 1828.

Haydenville first mentioned in 1843 Town Meeting Book

Henhawk Trail discontinued 2/23/1903 [TMR]

Hosford Road, see Kellogg Road.

Old Johnson Road [Art. 2 TMR 5/1836 discontinued] mentioned on some old deeds along Nash Hill extended N from Ice Road onto Walnut Hill toward High Ridge was defeated in a move to be reopened [Art. 17, TMR 4/1/1909].

Partridge Hill so called as late as 1835, named for an early landholder, now Hyde Hill Road.

Poverty Hill see Round Hill Dr.

Riverside Drive, see Pondview Drive.

Sanatorium Road, see Fort Hill Road.

Sawmill Hill, the southerly end (Dugway) of Old Goshen Road up to the four-corners with Village Hill Rd.

Shumway-Pillinger Road - 0.10 miles runs from Conway Road to Ashfield Rd.

School House Hill, see Pondview Drive.

Village Hill Four-Corners at Searsville From 1769 to 1829 Goshen Road was over Old Goshen Road to #s 94 and 96 thence over the hill past Rodgers Cemetery. From 1829 to circa 1900 over Goshen Rd., Nichols Rd., up past Searsville Res. to Goshen Rd. This last section was discontinued [Art. 15, TMR 4/1/1909].

Williamsburg Historical Commission