

South Street

1. Historic Name: “William Baker & Son” (General Store and Post Office) 6 South Street, 1892-3, Victorian Eclectic
In 1885 William Baker bought an existing store and post office on Main Road next to the Clapp Tavern located just south of the present library. The business was at the center of the town’s affairs from 1885 to 1970. The building burned in 1891 and the present building on South Street was erected in 1892-3 with two apartments upstairs. Three generations of William Bakers operated the store and were postmasters from 1892 through 1963. The business was liquidated in 1970 and the building sold to “Junior” Baker’s nephew, Charles Allen Bisbee, who altered the building dividing the ground floor into a separate post office in the front and a funeral establishment which he managed in the rear. In 2004 the building was sold to Thomas Dawson-Green who converted the funeral parlor and a rear storage area into a third rental apartment.
Uses: post office from 1892 through the present, General Store, Funeral Home, Multiple Family Dwelling

2. Historic name: Mrs. Parnel Pierce Hatch House 8 South Street, C 1840, Greek Revival
The house has changed hands frequently; its most significant feature may be the people who lived there. In 1900-1950’s, it was occupied successively by two widows. The first was Celina A. Buck Eager, descendant of on of the first settlers who overwintered in town in West Chesterfield. The second widow was Anna Wright Baker Smith, second wife of Thomas E. Smith, who was in the woodworking business in West Chesterfield. Mrs. Smith kept a popular boarding house. After her death in 1954 florist Richard D. Keyes who was serves as selectmen, assessor, finance committee member, and curator of the Edwards Historical Museum purchased the house. His son, Robert Keyes, presently owns the house.

3. Historic name: Eliza Benjamin Bryant House 9 South Street, 1873, Victorian Eclectic
Monroe Benjamin Bryant built the house in 1873 for his mother, Eliza Benjamin Bryant. She died after living in the house for one year. About 1881 he also built the summer house, located behind the main house, as a wedding gift for his son William Allen Bryant. IThe main house was used as a summer residence by MJ. Bryant and descendants until 1931 when Clarence and Sheila Bryant Swenson lived there year round for about 10 years and later retired there. The present resident, Joan Swenson Keenan grew up in the house and is the great-great granddaughter of Eliza.

4. Historic Name: Ellen Charity Hatch House 12 South St, C 1854 Greek Revival, Italianate
Sometime before 1873 the ownership of the house passed from the Hatches to the Bakers. William Baker ant then his son owned the house and farmed the land. They supplied potatoes for Smith College for 25 years and fresh produce for the Baker store. The present garage was an icehouse, which supplied the town. In 1958 Patricia Robertson and her husband bought the house. Her sons now own it.

5. Historic name: John White Chadwick-Mary Eastman House 15 South Street, 1794, Georgian
Dyer Bancroft, the town’s first lawyer, and member of the State Legislature, lived here from 1815 to 1819. Albert W. Nichols owned the house from 1858 to 1878; he was Deputy Sheriff of Hampshire County, Tax Collector for Chesterfield, and agent of the Chesterfield Telephone Exchange for 35 years. From 1878 until 1904 it was the summer home of John White Chadwick, a Unitarian minister from Brooklyn, NY. He published collections of sermons, biographies, and poems. In 1918 during the ownership of Josephine Clark, Smith College Librarian, the college students operated a Victory garden here. From 1931 to 1953 it was the home of Mary Eastman, the first Registrar of Smith College.

6. Historic name: Dr. Daniel O. Perry House Common name: The Doctor’s House 16 South Street, 1848, Greek Revival
Later owned by William Davis and Joel Engram, Jr., The house was willed to the Town by Lucy Ann Engram, Joel’s daughter “for the use by occupation of the resident physician in said town, free of charge except necessary repairs.” Dr. Jacob Keller was the last resident doctor. In 1961 the Town sold the house and receipts were put in a trust fund.

Main Road

7. Historic Name: Dr. Albert Matson Belden House Common Name: Chesterfield Hotel – Hampshire Hills Rest Home 397 Main Road, C 1895, Second Empire: Victorian Eclectic
After serving as Dr. Belden’s residence and office, in 1904 local citizens formed a corporation to operate a hotel there. The proprietor until his death in 1928 was Charles Mailey Drake. The hotel became a well-known resort for city families. In the 1950’s it was operated as a rest home and has been converted to apartments.

8. Historic Name: Chesterfield Grange #83, now Chesterfield Community Center 400 Main Road, 1914, no style
In 2001 the Grange sold the building to the Town for a token amount but still use the building for meetings. In 2002, the Community Development Corporation renovated the Grange Hall for use as a Community Center. The rusticated metal sheathing and the stage at the back of the hall were retained.

9. Historic Name: Chesterfield Methodist Church, now Chesterfield Town Hall 403 Main Road, 1845, Greek Revival
This site was the location of “the store on the rock”, operated by Benjamin Bryant in the 1820’s and 30’s.In 1843 informal meetings of Methodists in town began. The church was formally organized in 1845 and the present building was erected. In 1858 the church was discontinued and members likely transferred to the Williamsburg Church, taking their records. The records may have been lost in the Mill River flood of 1874. The Select Board Offices and library were housed there until the library was built in 1954. The Town Offices moved into the Davenport building about 1998.
Adjacent to the Town Hall is the newly completed Veterans’ Park. The beautiful multi-use park houses a cannon, honor rolls for veterans, and a cenotaph honoring Medal of Honor recipient Samuel Eddy (Civil War).

10. Historic Name: Chesterfield First Congregational Church 404 Main Road, 1835, Greek Revival
The parish was organized in 1764. The first church building was constructed in 1768 in the then town center about a mile north of the present location. In 1791, after the northeast part of town was set off as part of Goshen, the building was taken down, the materials moved, and the structure re-erected at the present site. The interior has an entrance vestibule, open pews and a modern pulpit and choir platform. There is a gallery at the rear and sides, the pews of which retain their doors. The present church was dedicated i18 November 1835. Parish house added in 1908.

11. Historic Name: Bancroft House 409 Main Road, 1860, Italianate
The house stands on the site of the “old Bailey Tavern”. The coming of the stagecoach service in 1793 led to the founding of three major taverns in town. In 1819 Dyar Bancroft bought the Old Bailey Tavern. He was a prominent attorney of the region, postmaster of the town and member of the State Legislature. The tavern burnt down in 1859. Dyar’s son William designed and built the present house on the same foundation. William came to live with his parents when he retired in 1864. The corner of the house lot abutting South Street and Main Road was the site of the center Baptist Church, which had been built in 1845 and taken down in 1874. It is said to have resembled the Methodist Church (now the Town Hall) which was built the same year. A marker for the church is on South Street.

12. Historic Name: Hon. William Whiting House 412 Main Road, 1892, Colonial Revival
The house stands on the site of the old Clapp Tavern. Adjoining the tavern to the east was a series of buildings with a general store operated first by Oliver Edwards. In 1885 William Whiting bought and property and in 1891 when he announced plans to raze the buildings, they burned to the ground. Local gossip could even name the arsonist hired for the purpose. The first year-round residents sold the house in 1n the 1960’s and the subsequent owner made extensive exterior alterations. The current owner operates a bed-and -breakfast here.

13. Historic Name: Dr. Robert Starkweather/Oliver Edwards House 416 Main Road, 1822, Georgian
Dr. Robert Starkweather who cane to town about 1790 to practice medicine built the house. He passed the property to his grandson Oliver Edwards. The house remained in the family until it was sold by the great–great-great grandson of the original owner in 2019. About 30 feet to the east is a small 3 room building which was the medical office of Dr. Starkweather.

14. Historic Name: Chesterfield Congregational Church Parsonage 419 Main Road, 1885, Queen Anne (altered beyond recognition)
From 1885 to 1996 it was the parsonage of the only church in the town. It served as the pastor’s study and for meetings of all the committees of the Church. The original parsonage on the site was built in 1835 and burned in 1884. It is now a private residence.

15. Historic Name: Davenport Elementary School, now Chesterfield Town Offices 422 Main Road, 1948, Colonial Revival
The Davenport elementary School was built on a site given to the Town in memory of Dr. E. S. Davenport. The opening of this consolidated school closed the one-room schoolhouses still operating in town. After completion it housed eight elementary grades. It ceased to be a school in 1998 when the consolidated Goshen-Chesterfield elementary school was built on Smith Road in Chesterfield.

16. Historic Name: Chesterfield Center General Store 432 Main Road, No Style, 1925
Please visit the store which was newly remodeled in 2019. There is no sidewalk. You will have to drive.

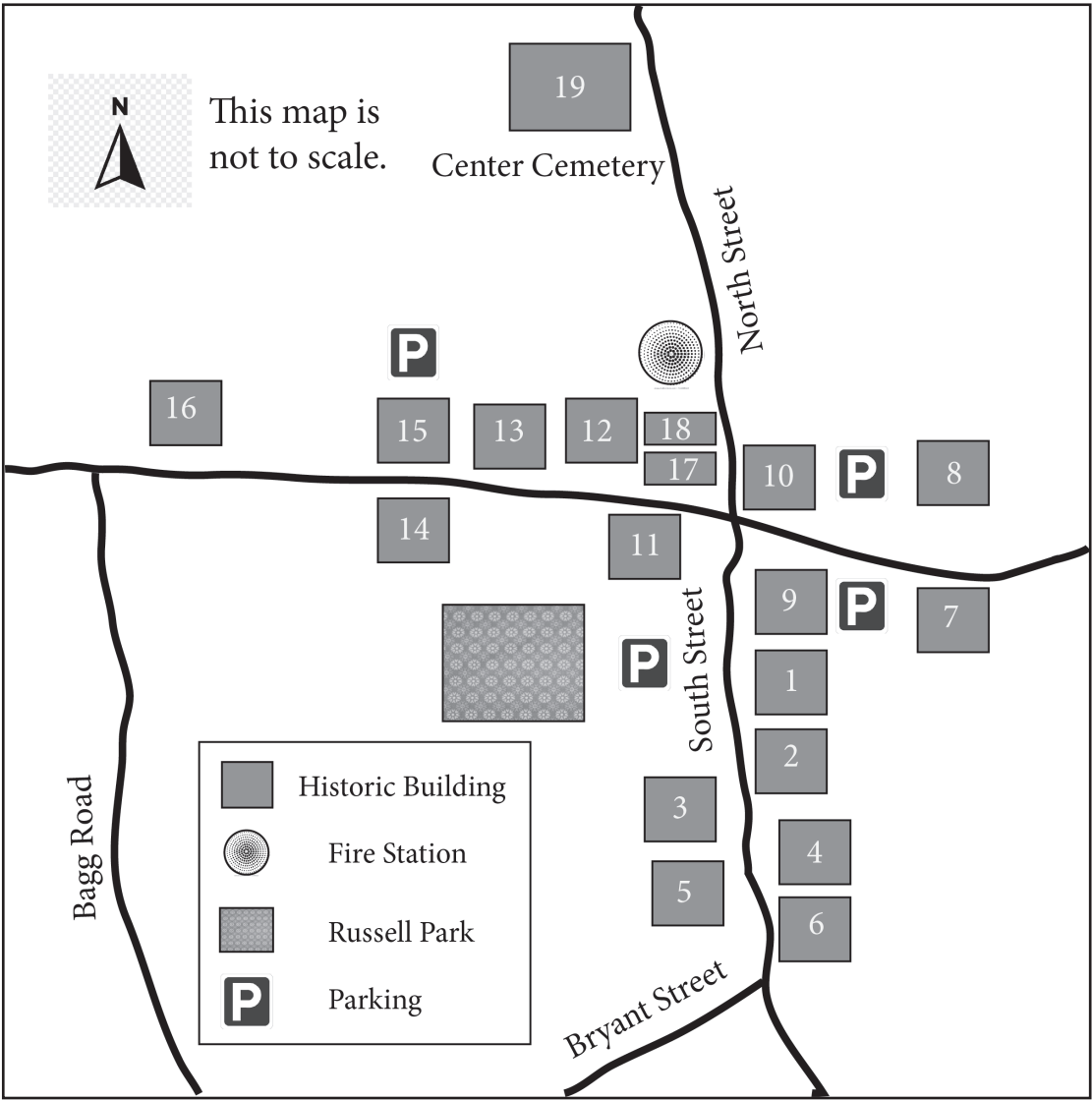


North Road

17. Historic Name: Chesterfield Public Library 3 North Road, Post War Traditional
The library was built in 1954 on the land donated by Edith Fobes Hull with money left over a period of years by several people. Before the building was completed, the library was housed in a single room in the Town Hall. The cozy one room library has beautiful built-in bookcases, a fireplace and a children’s’ area and offers a good selection of books as well as computers and internet connection.

18. Historic Name: Oliver Edwards Stables, now Edwards Memorial Museum 3 North Road, (behind library) 1821, No Style
The building served as a stable and carriage house for the residence of Oliver Edwards. The residence was located just to the west of the library building and burned in 1899. The home was a twin of the Starkweather house two doors to the west. Edith Fobes Hull donated the building and ½ acre of land to the town. The stable was converted to a museum housing the collection of the Chesterfield Historical Society.

19. Historic Name: Center Cemetery North Road, 1764
At 2.75 acres with over 600 burials, Center Cemetery is the largest of Chesterfield’s eleven cemeteries and contains the graves of many of the town’s early settlers including Starkweathers, Edwards, Bryants, Bancrofts, Bisbees, Utleys and Healys. The first burial was Silence White Bonney in 1764. Her gravesite was just identified in 2016. The receiving tomb and retaining wall along North Road were added in 1890. The addition to the North of the receiving tomb contains the only active part of the cemetery. A major gravestone conservation project in all of the town’s cemeteries was started in 2008. Parking along North Road only please.



About the Chesterfield Historical Commission

The Historical Commission is the official agent of the municipal government responsible for community preservation planning. One of the first tasks undertaken is an inventory of historic properties. The completed forms are available on the Mass Historical Commission website under the listing MACRIS. Through programming, periodic surveys of historical resources and developing recommendations for zoning and bylaw changes, the Commission seeks to ensure that Chesterfield’s current and future residents can enjoy a connection to the town’s past. Another important duty is to review and comment on any “state or federally involved” project in the community. Examples of this include highway projects, communication tower location and all other special permits. The Historical Commission will also accept donations of historical documents and photographs and, with permission, will endeavor to scan them and make them available on the Town website.

The Historical Commission was instrumental in having several properties placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The two national historic districts are Chesterfield Center Historic District and West Chesterfield Historic District. All the properties on the tour including the Center Cemetery are contributing properties in the National Historic District. Ireland Street Cemetery and Gate Cemetery are individually listed on the National Register.

Samuel E. Eddy

The Historical Commission seeks to keep the community aware of the story of Samuel Eddy (1822-1909) who received a medal for his heroic actions in the Civil War. Until 2018 he was the only recipient of this honor in Hampshire County.

Reprints of Samuel Eddy: *The Forgotten Hero* by James J. McCarthy are available for purchase at the Chesterfield Store, the Town Clerk’s Office and sometimes at the Chesterfield Public Library. Eddy’s grave can be found at Mount Cemetery on Mount Road. A cenotaph honoring him is displayed at the Veterans’ Park next to the Town Hall.

CHESTERFIELD CENTER

NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

WALKING TOUR



CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL



SAMUEL E. EDDY
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Please be respectful and do not enter the property of any private residence on this tour.
The houses are all occupied.