

East Candia

A Walking Tour

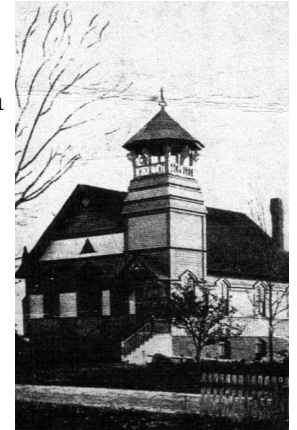
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Main Street, East Candia

Methodist Church

In 1894, the Methodist Society built a church at what is today 163 Langford Road. In 1952, the building was sold to the East Candia Grange and today is the home of Wilfred and Beatrice Leblanc.



Railroad Depot

In 1888, the East Candia Depot station house was erected by the Boston & Maine Railroad Company, with George



B&M Station, East Candia

W. Griffen as station agent. In February, 1889, the Superintendent of the old Concord Railroad gave Griffen permission to take possession of the original East Candia Depot building. Today, the site serves as a trailhead for cyclists, hikers and snowmobilers.

Watering Trough

Once located in front of the Dearborn shoe factory, the trough has been moved across to Depot Road. Its flower display is maintained by the Candia Garden Club.

POINTS OF INTEREST

East Candia Cemetery

Before 1818, people in East Candia buried their dead in the cemetery near the Congregational Church, which was located more than three miles away. Sally Clifford, an East Candia resident, died April 2, 1819, and the next night, the subject of the funeral came up at Abel Follensbee's store. The problem of reaching the cemetery in the cold, stormy weather came up and Benjamin Edgerly said he would cut a lot from his farm for a cemetery as long as other citizens would build a good stonewall. The land was staked out and Sally was the first to be buried there. To this day, the wall remains in good repair and there still exists a stepping-stone between Depot Road and the cemetery gate, which aided visitors as they stepped from their carriages. The markers in the cemetery are composed of various materials, including slate, granite and marble.

Windmill

In 1895, a unique waterworks system, featuring an 80-foot artesian well with a 50-foot tower, operated on the Anthony Clifford homestead lot (176 Langford Rd.). It served 18 families and never ran dry, despite intermittent dry conditions and intense usage. The Dearborn brothers owned a one-half interest in this well from 1895-1916. Grange and today is the home of Wilfred and Beatrice Leblanc.

EAST CANDIA

Originally known as the "Langford District," the village and the social institutions of East Candia exemplified a late 19th century industrial economy made possible by the arrival of the Concord and Portsmouth Railroad in 1852, the construction of a depot one-half mile south of Langford Rd. in 1888, and the evolution of a thriving shoe manufacturing business.

Following the arrival of the railroad, the Holt cousins commenced the manufacture of shoes by steam-driven machinery in 1883. The Dearborn brothers followed, producing ladies' slippers and pegged shoes in shops erected in 1887 and 1888. More than 50 people were employed in the industry that shipped shoes to market from the railroad depot.

Commercial and civic establishments also flourished:

Frank Brown established a store in 1885, with a post office added in 1888. Subsequent owners included Dearborn and Gage and C. W. Phillips, who operated the store from 1909 until 1967.

The "Mountain View House" provided accommodations for stage drivers and passengers.

One of the first waterworks systems in New Hampshire operated in East Candia, with a well driven in 1895 that yielded enough water to provide for 18 families.

In 1894, a Methodist Church was built. The ornately shingled building, now a private residence, became the home of the East Candia Grange in 1952.

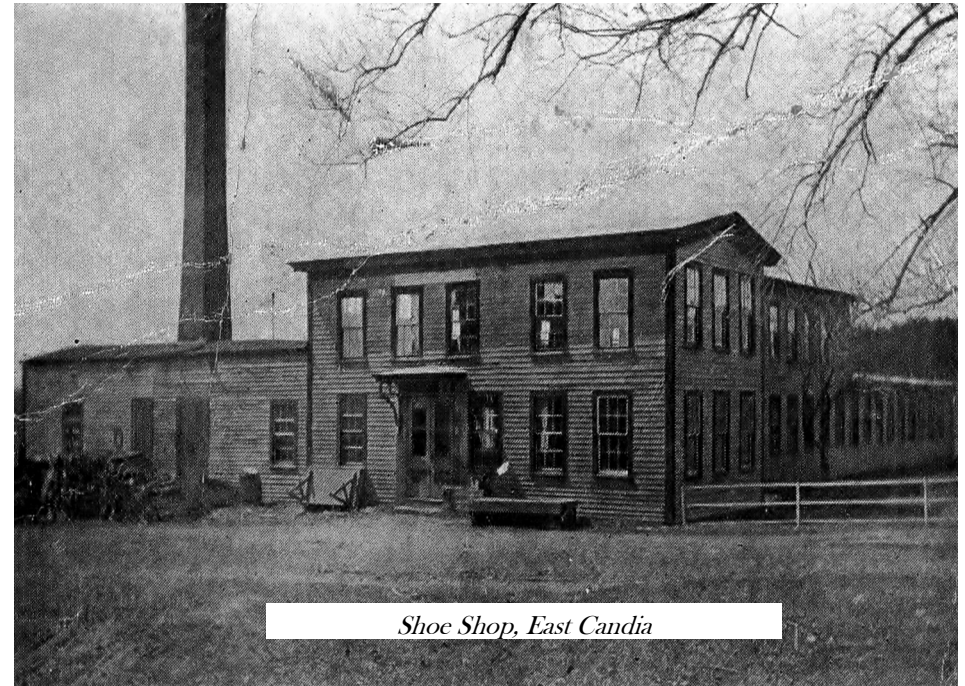
A schoolhouse was erected to serve District 11 students on the west side of Depot Rd. (1852 map). This school flourished during the late 19th century. C. W. Scribner



Schoolhouse No. 11, East Candia

added a singing school in the schoolhouse in 1879. From 1893 to 1897, teacher Anne Colcord was paid \$9 a week to teach about 30 children. A later schoolhouse was constructed on the east side of Depot Rd. (noted on the 1982 map), but burnt down in 1970.

East Candia's heyday was brief. The last of the shoe shops closed in 1930, the Concord and Portsmouth Railroad ended its route through Candia in 1950, and the C. W. Phillips store (which had several subsequent owners) was destroyed by fire in October, 1991.



Shoe Shop, East Candia

Shoe Factories -- The Holt cousins, Jacob and John Holt, owned a shoe factory located near Richard "Stubby" Gilbert's house (112 Langford Rd.). The Dearborn brothers owned a shoe factory on the west side of Depot Rd., near the intersection of Langford Road.

The Raymond Granite Company, established in 1900, was located near the railroad depot on Depot Road. The town of Candia took possession of the property for taxes in 1977.

STORES AND BUSINESSES

The Abel Follensbee Store (c. 1818) was likely a general store and may have been located near the intersection of Depot and Langford Roads.

Addison Bean's Store. Bean, born in 1829 and the son of David Bean, traded in East Candia from 1853 to 1857 in a store located near the residence of Hiram Clifford. It is now 139 Langford Rd. and the private home of John Wilkas and Candace Wright. Cotton Ward bought the goods in Addison's store in 1857 and moved them to a small building east of the Monroe Fitts home near 150 Langford Road.

Frank Brown's Store, located opposite what is now the Painted Image Farm, operated from 1881 to 1885. A succession of owners included Dearborn and Gage (1885-1909); Charles W. Phillips "Phillips Store" (1909-1967); William and Barbara Happney "Haps Store" (1967-1980). They were succeeded by Donald DeCoste, Robert Rose, Edmund Roy, and finally by Dennis Ricker.



EARLY SETTLERS

William Towle House (now Israel R. Willard)
10 Langford Road c. 1820

The Federal style entrance with elaborate features was unusual for Candia.

Jacob Holt Homestead (now Richard Gilbert)
112 Langford Rd. c. 1850

Greek Revival style house built by David Richardson. Jacob Holt and his cousin, John, operated the shoe factory located near Jacob's home, making it a convenient location.

Mountain View House (now Fernando Umpierrez and Patricia Parker)

142 Langford Rd. c. 1830

Some refer to this house as the "Stage Coach Inn."

Langford Homestead (now Mimi Alberu)

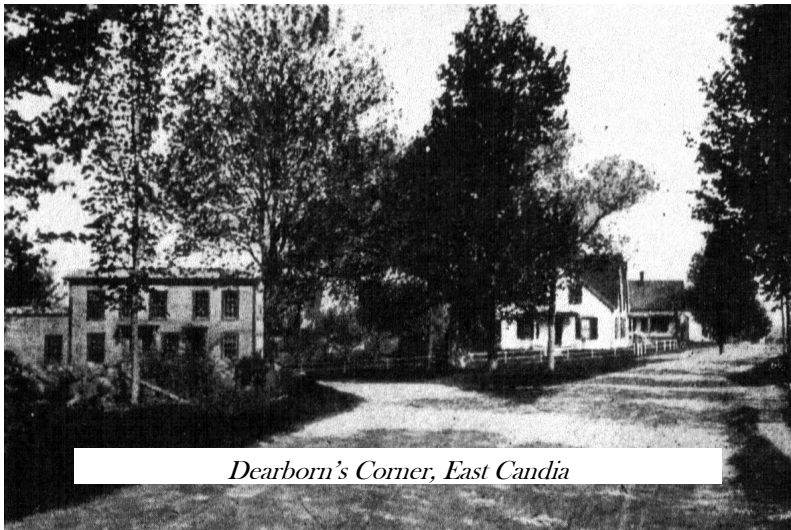
160 Langford Rd. c. 1835-1840

The approximate date of the homestead's construction places it in the Greek Revival period. It does, however, retain Federal features, such as a center entrance. The corner pilasters and door pediment may have been added after the house was built.

J. Bailey Moore's History of Candia places Anthony Langford and his son, Joseph C. Langford, in Candia by 1820. The home remained in the family until 1940.

Henry Hubbard Homestead (now Geoffrey Mackinnon)
166 Langford Rd. c. 1895

Born in 1861, Henry was the son of Henry Hubbard, Sr. and the grandson of Benjamin Hubbard. He graduated from Dartmouth College and taught school in Candia, Kingston and in Fort Payne, Alabama. A copy of his teaching certificate signed by the first Candia School Board can be seen on page 150 in Dot Purrington's book, [A Candia Collection](#).



Ira S. Dearborn Homestead (now James and Ellen Small)

167 Langford Rd. c. 1850

Ira was the grandson of John Dearborn (1782-1865), an early settler of East Candia. This lot was probably a part of a 20-acre parcel dating back to the original William Clifford homestead.

Lewis H. Dearborn Homestead (now John and Debra Collins)

175 Langford Rd. c. 1881

Lewis, a descendant of John Dearborn, was the son of Asa F. Dearborn, who may have given him the property. This was probably a part of a larger 20-acre parcel that dates back to the original William Clifford homestead. Lewis sold part of this lot to John Holt and Frank P. Brown in 1891. A year later, Brown sold his share to Holt. In 1913, Holt sold the land and building to Henry A. Moulton, and after his death, his sister, Loretta Trout, sold the property to William A. George.

Anthony Clifford Homestead (now Brian and Brittany Joas)

176 Langford Rd. c. 1770

Anthony was the son of William Clifford and the brother of Captain John Clifford, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His nephew, William, helped build the stonewall around the East Candia cemetery in 1819 and was the occupant of this home following Anthony.

William Clifford Homestead (now Robin and Nicholas Small)

187 Langford Rd. c. 1850

William Clifford (b. 1777) was the grandson of the original William Clifford (1711-1776). In 1851 records show this property belonging to David Griffin and in 1852, according to Eaton's map, Joseph Noyes owned this home.