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Tucker-Maltbie-Hobart-Porter House



249 Beach Road

Built by Isaac Tucker in 1766.

Captain Maltbie purchased the house in 1773 and occupied it during the Revolutionary period. There is no record of where his wife was at the time of the burning, it is assumed that the family was not home.



Tucker bought the land in July of 1766 and he probably started building in that year. Town land records also show that he sold the land in January, 1773, and the deed states that there was a dwelling and outhouses thereon.

During the Burning of Fairfield in July, 1779 . . .

The house was known as a “cook-house.” The British tried to set this house on fire, but a servant who was hiding in the attic kept putting out the fire! The British probably gave up and moved on.

Isaac Tucker, who had a shop just behind his former house, fired a shot at the British troops. The British thought the shot came from the Maltbies and thus attempted to burn the house down.

“Henry Rowland, a grandson of Capt. Maltbie, recalled ‘Grandfather Maltbies was reserved for a cookhouse.’ (The British used the house as a cookery for the troops).

When Capt. Maltbie returned from sea, he found all his valuables swept off the shelves and broken into pieces. In the big pot in the kitchen fireplace was a large brass kettle filled with ‘their hams.’ They were afraid to eat them, fearing they were poisoned.” (Miner)

Helpful in gathering historical data and general memorabilia are the present owners (Porter sisters), two ladies who are the fourth generation of their family to live there. The ancestor, Justin Hobart, Jr., having bought the house just before 1800.

Town Record, January 9, 1957

Tucker-Maltbie-Hobart-Porter House: 249 Beach Road

Captain Maltbie’s son sold the house to Justin Hobart, Jr., son of Justin Hobart, Sr., who lived next door. Justin Hobart, Jr., married Desire Burr in 1804 and settled in this house. He was a cabinet-maker by trade and spent a period in New York as apprentice to Burling, one of the more famous New York craftsmen.

“Justin Hobart, Jr., son, Judge Edmund Hobart, lived in the house until his death in 1891. He was postmaster for 20 years. The post office was a detached building on the lot which is now a wing on the rear of the house. It may have been Isaac Tucker’s old shop prior to its use as a post office.”

“Judge Hobart’s granddaughters, Emily, Catherine and Susan, ultimately inherited the house. Emily and Catherine Porter, always known as the Misses Porters, opened a tea house in the Old Academy where some of their ancestors had gone to school. They filled the Academy with artifacts from their house. Then, in 1925, they revamped an old stable behind their house into a charming tea room. They also had a gift shop on the upper floor. The front door of the main house was moved to the south side of the house, and a bay window was installed in its place, where it can be seen today.” (Miner)

“... this house was generally used as a cook-house and generally misused. The fine old china and East Indian products, in which all these older houses were rich, was broken and thrown around carelessly. The lovely old garden, where the women of the family loved to plant sweet-smelling herbs and pretty flowers, held, instead, the bodies of British soldiers, who died in battle. This is the scene to which Captain Maltbie came from one of his voyages.” (Harrison)

“It is said that a colored servant, devoted to the family of Justin Hobart, Jr., hid in the attic of the house, when the British marched up Beach lane and began their historic bonfire. Although Tryon had promised to spare the house, it was set on fire three times and three times the fire was put out by the servant who was in hiding.” (Harrison)

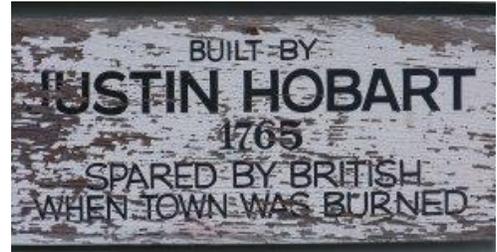
“There is still a great, burned section in the floor of one of the first-story rooms, which tradition says was the result of the alternate firing and rescuing” (Harrison)

Hobart House: 289 Beach Road



Built in 1765 by Justin Hobart, Sr.

After the burning of the First Church, the house served as a temporary courthouse and meetinghouse until 1785.



“Justin Hobart’s uncle, Rev. Noah Hobart, adopted him and brought him to Fairfield, when Rev. Noah Hobart accepted the call to the pastorate of the Prime Ancient church in 1733, a position he filled until his death in 1773. He is buried in the old burying ground of Fairfield.

[Rev. Hobart] observed such laws as those forbidding cooking, bed-making, cleaning, shaving, hair cutting, travel, walks in one’s garden or any other similar occupation on a Sabbath.”

After the Burning of Fairfield in 1779 . .

- Used during the Revolution for church meetings three Sundays of the month, the other meetings were held at the home of Elizabeth Morehouse at Jennings’ Woods
- The Court also held sessions there.

In the 20th century . . .

The house was offered as a Red Cross chapter for relief work by owner Annie B. Jennings during World War I.

“... one is quite likely to find every morning, women of the town of Fairfield, members of the Red Cross society, busily engaged on surgical dressings and similar needs for the war ... Upstairs a storeroom is filled with materials and cut garments, ready to be made up for the hospitals ... Downstairs the work takes up three rooms, including the enclosed porch. Packing boxes fill a corner, for as soon as one box 2 x 2 x 3 feet is filled and shipped, another is ready to be started ... An electric cutter, a gauze folder and a knitting machine have been installed through the generosity of its patron and the work can be turned out much more rapidly than if it depended entirely on hand work for the results.” (Harrison, 1917)

290 Beach Road – Site of Bulkley Tavern



290 Beach Road

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Bulkley were the owners of the Bulkley tavern on this site Mrs. Bulkley (Sara Hoyt) was the sister of a Mr. Hoyt (first name not certain at this point), who was probably part of a larger group of Loyalists who led the British up Beach Road. Mrs. Bulkley, is presumed to have negotiated with the British General Tryon to spare the houses on Beach Road. When the British had left, the returning Colonial troops trained a cannon on the house and threatened to blow the house and Mrs. Bulkley to pieces as a Tory, but their commanding officer prevented this act of destruction.

In the 20th century . . .

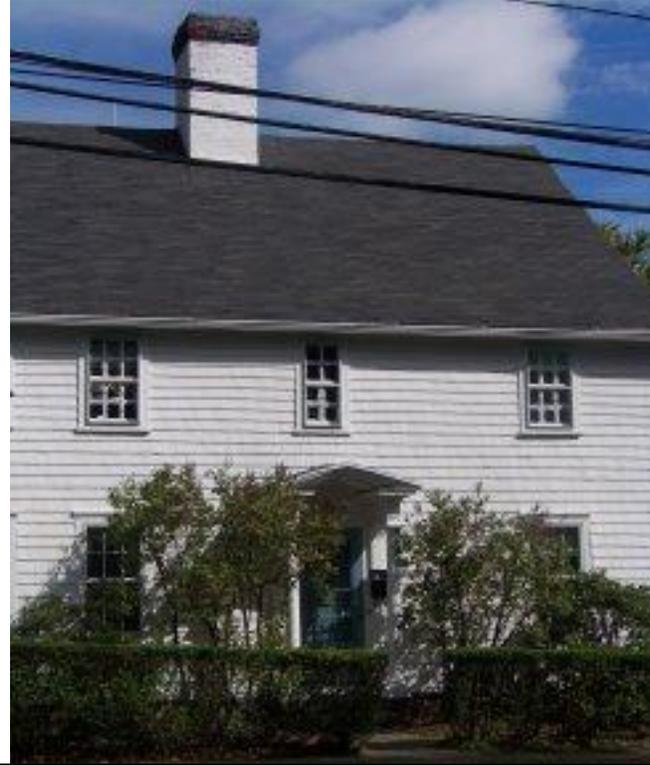
Glover House "Morelands." Built on the site of the Bulkley Tavern.

Date uncertain, probably about 1836, by the fact that Mr. and Mrs. John Glover were boarding in Greenfield Hill. The house has wood sheathing over solid brick with cement between the beams in the flooring. This was building method was not common, although it was done for insulation and sound-proofing purposes, and utilized by those more affluent people.

The house has a history as a community gathering place for relief efforts. During the Civil War, when John Glover II occupied the house, the townspeople gathered there to "pick lint" for bandages. This required the scraping of linen to obtain the soft, fluffy material used for bandages.

Henry S. Glover inherited the house and his wife volunteered for all types of war efforts. During the Spanish American war, the Glover family helped the soldiers who were convalescing at the Fresh Air Hospital on South Benson Road. During World War I, the house was used to pack boxes of supplies.

303 Beach Road



Dubbed the “Town Clerk’s House.” Built in 1750 by Nathan Bulkley, who was married to Sarah Perry. Three town clerks lived here; Bulkley, David Judson and Samuel Glover.

“as early as 1774, Bulkley helped draft the Articles which insisted upon Fairfield’s independence from Great Britain.” (Peden)

“The most noticeable aspect of 303 Beach Road is its single center chimney, which is typical of early colonial houses. This allowed rooms to be clustered around a central fireplace and enabled families to keep warm during New England winters.” (Miner)

“as the British approached, it is said that Mrs. Nathan Bulkley left hot doughnuts on the kitchen table, others frying in an iron kettle over the hearth, and crawled into the great oven to hide. The enemy soldiers entered (probably Hessians), at the doughnuts and then set the house on fire, despite Tryon’s orders. Fairfield scouts who followed the invaders helped save the house.” (Miner)

Samuel Glover purchased the house in 1938 and settled there with his new wife. Mr. Glover was the president of the Fairfield Historical Society.

Bulkley House: 349 Beach Road



Occupied by Peter Ebenezer Bulkley and his family. Peter Bulkley rushed to the fort at Black Rock when the British invaded.

Built circa 1750, the central chimney and long sloping rear roof define this house as originally a saltbox, to which a large “shed dormer” has been added.



“Hannah, his wife, hitched up an ox cart and loaded it with her five children and the most important household goods. Other valuables were buried in the backyard. It is said that they traveled five miles into the country and were taken in by a farmer.”

“When the British advanced up Beach Lane from the beach they torched Bulkley’s house despite Tryon’s orders. The Bulkleys had left tubs of water around their house. Therefore, before much damage was done, the fires to Peter’s house, his brother’s house to the north and others were extinguished by Fairfield scouts who were following the troops.”
(Miner)

The only original salt box located in the Old Post Road area.

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