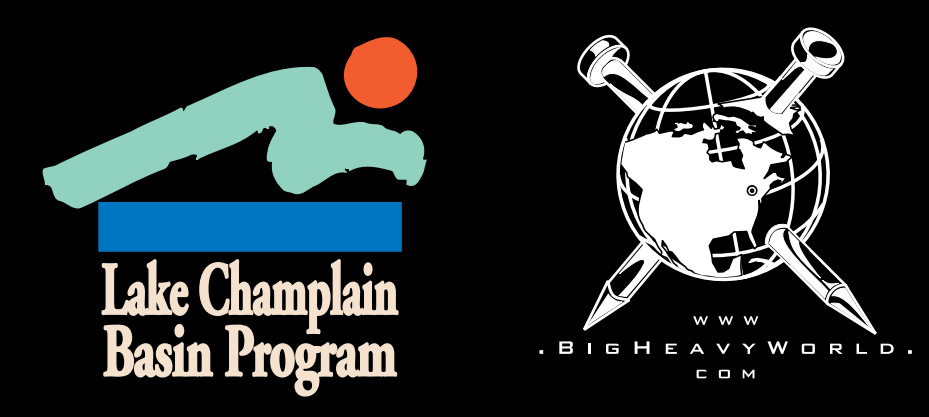


Starksboro Village Stores / Starksboro Village Stores



In the 19th and early 20th centuries, General Stores carried a variety of goods, making them available to small towns throughout the United States. The general store was the successor to the trading post, which served early settlers and pioneers. In most towns, the general stores were located in the town center and also served as a community meeting place. Several general stores were located in Starksboro's village center through its history: The Livermore and Hill Store, the Union Store and the Louis S. Gordon Store.

The Livermore and Hill Store building (circa 1850) were “dealers in dry goods, groceries, hats and caps, hardware, drugs and medicines, paints and oils, crockery, boots and shoes, etc.”

The Union store was operated for years by Cyrus W. Atwood and his son, a watchmaker and jeweler. He and shopkeepers Leslie G. Ferguson and Frank S. Ferguson kept the town books in the store from 1883 until 1911 when Town Hall was built. The town Post Office was also in the Union Store until the early 1930s. The second floor was added c. 1900, and the garage section may have been a blacksmith shop.

The L.S. Gordon Store was unique for its large plate glass windows and flat-topped parapet wall when it was built in 1907. For a period of time, the post office was located on the site as well. The parapet and large windows represent the emergence of 20th century architecture in a town filled with 19th century design.

Resources: 'Bertha's Book - A View of Starksboro's History by Bertha B. Hanson' published by the Starksboro Village Meeting House, starksboromeetinghouse.org (1998). Narrative courtesy The Lewis Creek Association, www.lewisecreek.org. Photos, except where noted differently, courtesy the Town of Starksboro with thanks to the Village Meeting House.



The Livermore and Hill Store building, built circa 1850, is a well-preserved example of a Greek-revival style store. The store may have been established by Noble Boynton, but Frank Hill began business in the building in 1869. Hill also lived in the attached house, which was built in the late 1860s.

The Livermore and Hill Store building, built circa 1850, is a well-preserved example of a Greek-revival style store. The store may have been established by Noble Boynton, but Frank Hill began business in the building in 1869. Hill also lived in the attached house, which was built in the late 1860s.



Opening for business in 1868, the Union Store was the second store on its site. The previous store, run by Samuel Bushnell, burned down in 1805.

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The Louis S. Gordon Store, built 1907, sold groceries, provisions and grains. The building remained vacant in early 2000s, and was donated in 2006 to The Big Heavy World Foundation for its Vermont Music Library. Photo courtesy the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

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Starksboro village scene at the turn of the 20th century.

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