



278 Victoria Road

This Gothic Revival house dates back to the early development of the Victoria Road/Wile's Brook industry, the area being dubbed Sebastopol. James Edward Waterman, his brother Joseph L. Waterman, and their cousin Thomas Waterman ran the Waterman Tanery, which was one of many industries to take advantage of the water power available from the brook.

James, residing in his own residence on the northwest corner of Pleasant and Empire streets, sold his brother, Joseph, the lot this house formerly stood on- as well as another 30 acre lot, in 1864, for £350. This price, high for undeveloped land at this point in time, may have indicated the house was pre-existent when Joseph Waterman purchased it. If not, Joseph constructed one shortly thereafter, and it became home to his family for over one hundred years.

The original house was the central front-gabled section, built in a subdued Gothic Revival style. There were bits of gingerbread-type bargeboard at the end of the eaves, but it was relatively low key. The two side-gabled wings were added later, though the chimney in the one on the left indicates they still date to at least the early part of the 20th century.

After Joseph L. Waterman, listed in deed books as a merchant and a farmer, the home's ownership passed to Archibald and John Waterman, both listed as farmers, who owned it from 1903 until 1964. It then passed on to Archibald's niece, Ethel Ritcey, who finally sold it to the Town of Bridgewater in 1981. It was demolished between 1985 and 1996.

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