

17. Applegate Tavern photo dated 1953. Photograph courtesy of the DeWitt Historical Society.

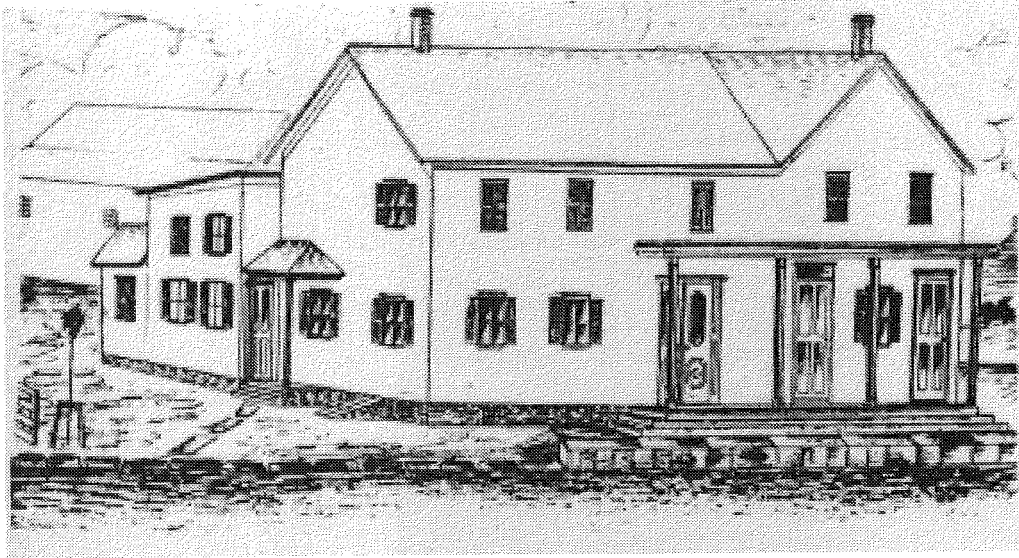
CHAPTER 6 - Buildings By Ellen Hobbie

Enfield is more a place where people come to look for scenic beauty than for interesting buildings, but once started, many structures of many different types appear. Many buildings have been lost over the course of history, to fire, flood, and neglect, but the township seems slowly to be filling up.

The building most people in the area would think of when Enfield is mentioned is the mill at the upper end of the Glen in what now Robert H. Treman State Park. It is two and a half stories designed in the Greek Revival style of architecture. There is a front door on each of three floors flanked by two windows and in the gable above this line of doors is an extension for a winch. It is of wood frame construction and the interior beams are held with oak pins rather than bolts or nails. Now, in the 1990's, the building is painted in two tones of gray with "1847" on the front. However, more thorough research than that done by Robert Treman in the 1920's has led to a construction date of 1838-39 instead. Since the mill was taken over by the Parks Service, a terrace on the north side and a porch, which extends around the front and eastern sides of the first floor have been built. As the mill is built into the side of a hill, there is open access to the basement under the porch on the downhill side. A photograph from 1924 shows a one and a half story addition on the uphill side which has been replaced by a single story stone wing with a bridge behind leading to the second story. A dormer was added to the top floor at the same time as these.

This gristmill replaced one built in 1817 by Isaac Rumsey. The original mill had an overshot water wheel, but the existing one was run by a turbine fed by a flume box, which ran down from a mill pond up Fishkill Creek. The water provided power to the grist millstones, a sheller and the elevators that moved material from floor to floor. The mill was in operation until 1917.¹ The pond and flume were washed away in the Flood of 1935.

Next to the Old Mill is a Greek Revival house called the Millers Cottage, now the park supervisor's house. This house, also built around 1839 and the mill are all that remain of the hamlet of Enfield Falls. The other buildings that are in the Enfield part of the park now are a stone and wood picnic pavilion and some storage sheds. A house that had survived the making of the park, to be used as the managers' quarters, was taken down in 1979. An older concession stand was washed away in the 1935 flood.



18. Enfield Center Hotel “Teeter Hotel” drawn by E.D. Chase in 1879

Hotels and taverns are another type of building that used to be much more important in Enfield than they are now. In addition to the Enfield Falls Hotel, there have been through time; a tavern at VanDorn’s Corners, Applegate’s Corners, and one shown on the 1853 map at the west end of Harvey Hill Road. Hotels existed at Bostwick Corners, in Enfield Center and at the corner of Buck Hill Road South and Mecklenburg Road. The Wallenbeck Inn at the west edge of town marks the end of Fish Road.

The original taverns were most likely log cabins, built shortly after the Catskill Turnpike opened in 1804. They averaged about 20' by 25'.² They would have been replaced by frame structures after local saw mills made slab wood more easily available.³ The first log tavern at Applegate’s Corners was built in 1807. Its frame replacement was probably built before 1825, as part of it was used as a store from that year on.⁴ This building lasted well into this century, falling to ruin, burning during World War II and being torn down thereafter.

VanDorn’s Tavern is also only described in its last years. It was situated on the south side of Mecklenburg Road and had a barn associated with it. The barn had hidden basement rooms where stolen horses were rumored to be kept and before them, escaping slaves. It was torn down in 1916.⁵

Nathaniel Newman opened a tavern in Enfield Center before 1812 it can be assumed it was a log building.

The “Teeter Hotel” in Enfield Center is on the 1853 map as A.W. VanMarter Tavern, but by the 1866 map is called a hotel. Moses L. Harvey ran it for many years and it was later taken over by Frank Teeter. A sketch of the building done in 1879 by Ezra D. Chase, aged 16, depicts a plain frame two-story building with two wings and two chimneys. It looks much the same today, except that the two north wing doors have been removed and an interior garage put in. Inside it had a ‘floating’ dance floor.

The Wallenbeck Inn was most likely built in 1826. It, too, is a large architecturally non-descript building. The front, facing west, has a central door with two windows on either side and five windows across the second floor. The east-west wing has a door flanked by a window on either side and three windows on the second floor. The rear of the north-south section slopes down to a single story. It has a tin roof.

The 1853 map shows a building there as a tavern run by J.S. Travis and the 1866 map only as a house owned by S. Travis. Recorded information about the hotel at the corner of Buck Hill and Mecklenburg Roads could not be found.



19. Woodside Inn photograph dated 1945.

Although Enfield no longer has hotels, it does still have gathering places. Kuma Night Club at the corner of Rothermich and Mecklenburg Roads was built before 1948 as a bar called the Woodside Inn⁶. In 1982 the name was changed to Kuma and was expanded to the west to make a dance floor. A large wooden deck was added further west in 1991.

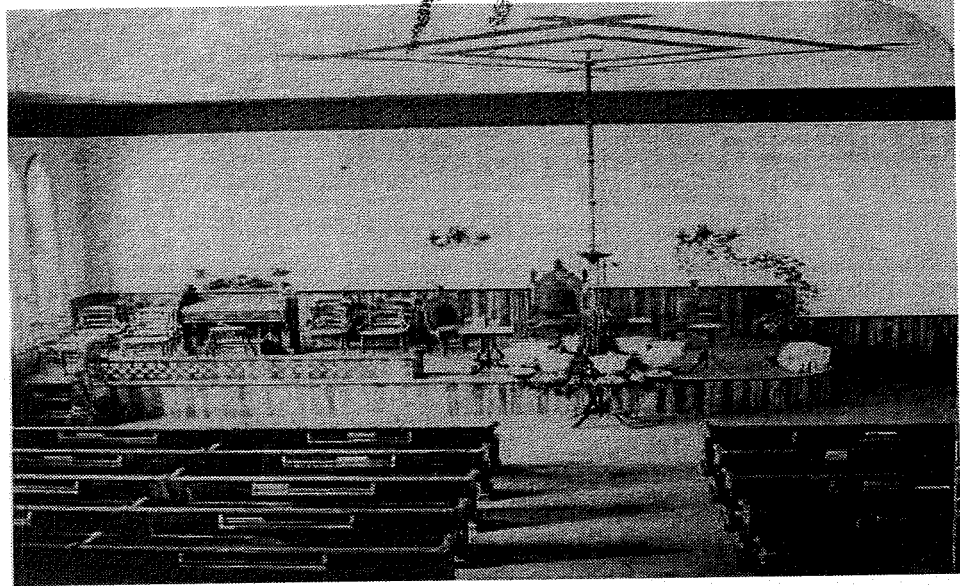
The modern incarnation of Applegate's Tavern (1805) on the south side of the road closed in 1993 and was converted into apartments. Two other places where residents can get together are Newhart's Lodge on Griffen Road and Willowood Campsite off Rockwell Road. Both have large lodges, Newhart's is 40 by 60 feet with an attached kitchen and storage shed. There is also a picnic pavilion and barbecue shed. The lodge at Willowood covers 9000 square feet, with an additional restaurant and a deck area. This replaces an old barn on the site, which had an addition, put on it in 1985, just prior to its burning in September 1986. The new wooden building was put up the following year.

As in any upstate New York town, or any in America, Enfield's churches stand out as you pass through.

The Enfield Baptist Church building is in the Greek Revival style with broken pediments in the front and back and a frieze around the eaves. The back has no windows, but the sides have four double pointed stained glass windows. The front has a center door with a window on either side and a double window over it. There is a steeple over the front with a square cross-section rising to a steep point. Upon entering, one has a choice of going ahead to the sanctuary or climbing stairs to a balcony, which hangs over part of the sanctuary. There is a raised platform at the west end for the choir and pulpit. In 1992, the church was repaired, repainted and, under the front platform, a cedar baptistery was found dating from the moving of the church.

The Methodist Church ~~was~~ building was moved to Enfield Center in 1876. Church records show that the new church was repaired in 1893; roof fixed and the interior cleaned and papered. A wall was replaced in 1960 and an addition housing a kitchen and plumbing added in 1972. Then it was damaged in the flood of 1972 and redecorated again.⁷ In the early 1990's it has been sided with vinyl siding and a concrete access ramp added to the front.

The building itself is small with the sanctuary raised about five feet off the ground to fit the bottom story. There are four windows down each side and a tall pointed one on either side of the front door. Entering at the front door, one can go either straight up stairs to the sanctuary or off to the side to go



20. Interior of Enfield Centre Baptist Church, stereo view card

down. There is a heightened facade over the main door, which rises into a flat steeple with an opening for the bell.

The Presbyterian Church was built in the years 1835-36 on the lot in front of the cemetery on Enfield Main Road. Between 1866 and 1879 it was purchased by John Wortman and moved a few lots north to the southeast corner of Enfield Main and Enfield Center Roads. Wortman added a north south wing on the south side of the building, doubling its size. The original church section was turned into a store on the first floor and an auditorium on the second. The added section became living quarters. An undertakers business was started in the basement accessible from the northeast at ground level.

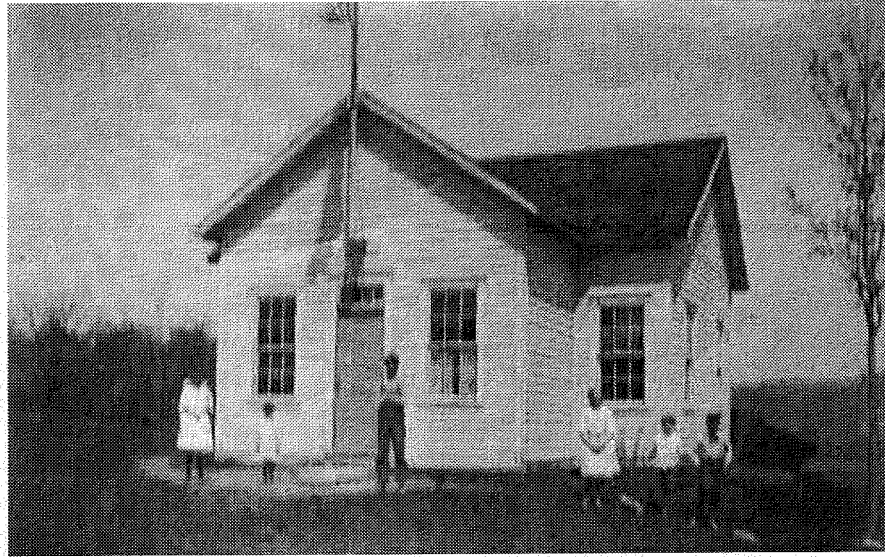
The store did a great business selling penny candy while the Enfield Center two-room schoolhouse was still in operation on Enfield Center Road. You could also purchase soda, hot soup, and sandwiches at the Soda Fountain. The store passed from John Wortman to Charles Wright, then to Fred McFall. In 1944 Carl and Fran Newhart purchased the store and the building. The store lasted until the 1980's under the ownership of the Newhart's. The Building stayed in the family until it was sold in the 1990's to another private owner.

The church part of the building has a full pediment in front with a broken pediment in back. It is a full two-story structure, which had three windows in front on the second floor and a centered door with a window on either side on the first. At one time in the late 19th century there was a porch across the front of the first story. There is also a porch along the south side of the newer section on the first floor from which access to that wing is gained. This part has the only glassed cupola in the town of Enfield.

The Agape Church on South Applegate Road was built in 1982-83. The original building was a long low structure running east west. Since then two wings going off to the south have been added.

A group of buildings well remembered by many who lived in Enfield is the schools, one-room and two-room. At one point, there were as many as thirteen school districts in Enfield, each with its own school building. There are five of these remaining, all converted to houses.

The first school in Enfield was built in 1809, just to the north of Applegate's Corners, but the school in the area that is remembered is the Stone School House. About a quarter mile south of Applegate Corners in the east side of the road, the Stone School was one room, measured 24' by 30', had a door in the west face, two windows on the sides and a chimney and window on the east side. It was built of rough flat fieldstone of no architectural style, with no quoining at the corners. It suffered a fire in 1848



21. Woodard School House

but was repaired and was still evident in ruinous form in 1912. The last of the stone was removed and put into South Applegate Road in 1918.⁹

The Christian Hill School also burned in the 1940's, shortly after being remodeled. It was on the southeast corner of Waterburg and Iradell Roads. All that remain there are three rows of maple trees.

The Harvey Hill School (District 11) is buried under additions and it is difficult to see the original building.

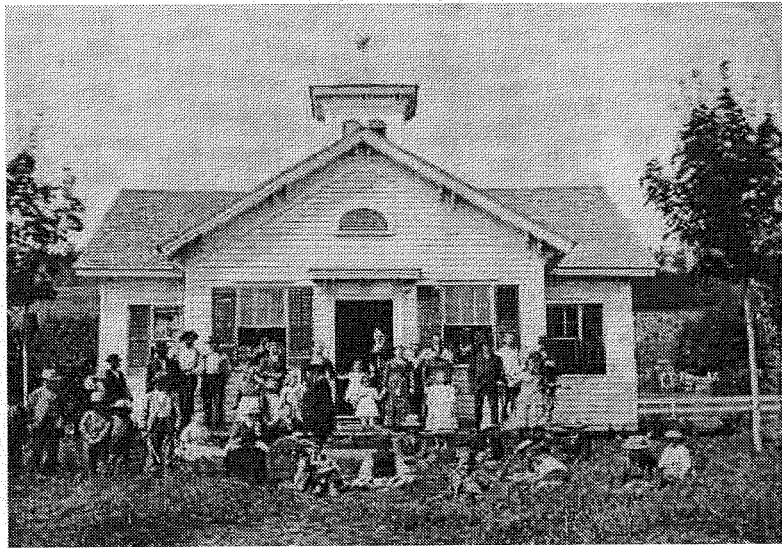
In the southwest part of the township is what was the Nobles school, called the Little Red School. In the woods on the east side of Connecticut Hill Road facing west, it has a rectangular section of one and a half stories with a slightly lower section to the south. There is a newer wing off the back to the east and new fireplace on the north face, between the windows.

The Woodard School on the northeast corner of Woodward and Hines Roads is a story and a half structure with a cross-shaped plan. It faces west and has a window on each side.

The Purdy School at the north end of Colegrove Road on Bostwick Road is a nice little Greek Revival Building. It is cross-shaped in plan with gables at the end of each section with broken pediments. The door faces south and has a light above it. Each direction has a window at the end on the main story and the half story above but these were put in during modern remodeling which also added skylights in the roof and a deck off the east side.

School No. 6, Enfield Center is also in the Greek Revival style. This school was originally a one-room, but was expanded to two in 1912, in a cross-shaped plan. There now is a garage attached to the east side and a porch on the north, but the lines can still be seen. It is a story and a half. It had a bell tower over the cross and was entered from the east through a long double line of maples, some of which remain.

A single-floor elementary (Pre-K-5) school, (construction started in 1957 and 1959, officially opened in September 1958) now services Enfield – Enfield Elementary School. The first part consisted of a gymnasium/cafeteria room with wings to the north and south. The north wing has four classrooms with a central hallway and the south wing has the kitchen and a couple of classrooms on the east side. On the west side are offices, bathrooms and the music room. In 1969 the school was expanded by adding a wing to the north, running perpendicular to the original section toward the west. This houses the library as well as an additional seven classrooms. Yet another wing was added in 1990 to the south, also running perpendicular to the original section to the west. This wing has a larger gymnasium and five more



22. Enfield Center School House

classrooms. The construction material for the first section is brick and metal, and that of the newer wings is brick.

Clustered in the center of town are a group of municipal buildings; the old fire hall, which is now a community center, the new fire hall, the town hall/town barns and the old town hall and barns.

The old fire hall built in 1948-49 and expanded to the back in 1957. Is of concrete-cinderblock with a stepped facade on either end of a rounded roof. In 1971 it was expanded again to the south. It is two stories with the eastern entrance on the first level and the western on the second. When it was a fire hall, it had three garage doors on the east side, but two have been sealed over. Upstairs is a large meeting room with a kitchen at the west end. The interior staircase runs up the north wall.

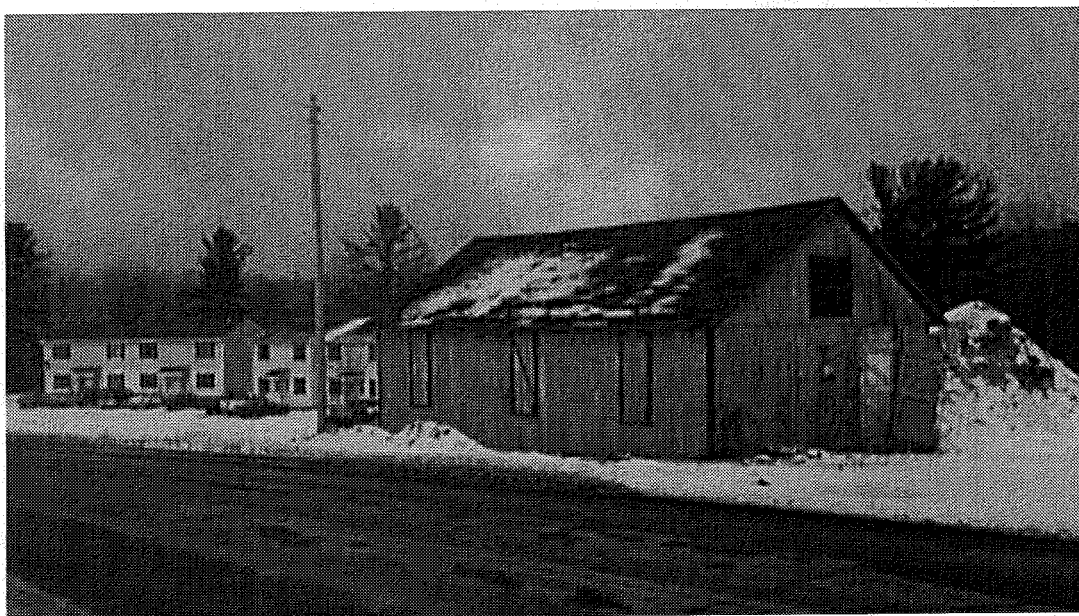
The new fire hall was constructed in 1988 on a site just to the north west of the old. It is large, with the garage for the engines to the north with five bays. The south side contains meeting rooms, dispatch room, etc. and a kitchen. The town hall barn is a concrete-cinderblock building, with the barns in the south wing with four bays and the highway department office. The town hall in the north section consists of a meeting room and a town storage room. It was built in 1966, and expanded to the south in 1976-77.

Across the road on the east side of Enfield Main Road, are two low rectangular wooden structures. The smaller was the 1st Town Hall, the larger building "Enfield Town Barn" was put up in 1930.

One other community building is the Enfield Falls Community Building, a very simple one-story frame hall on Gray Road. The uphill side slopes lower than the downhill and there are five windows on the sides. The entrance is in the east gable end.

In the midst of all the town buildings, south of the Baptist Church, is the Grange Hall. Built in 1925-26, it is a two-story, rectangular building with a 2-story rectangular entryway on the east side and a low-sloped pyramidal roof. The first floor consists of an entry-way with storage rooms off to the sides, a large meeting-room held with rows of columns running north-south in it and a kitchen to the south. The upper story, gained by a U-shaped stairway on the north part of the entryway, is an auditorium with a stage at the south end. There is a painting of Enfield Glen above the stage.

Early pictures of Millers' Corners show gas stations at the southeast and northwest corners, the present store, Valley Korner's, is located on the northwest corner. Partner's Market,¹⁰ which was located on the southeast corner, was built in 1963 as Gregg's Junction Market owned by Richard Gregg. The store and living quarters were in the west part of the building. Gregg's stayed in business 11 years until



23. First Town Hall, Enfield Center

he died March 1974. His wife and son ran the store until Jack and Helen Williams purchased the store June 11, 1974. At this time they renamed the store Partner's Market. The store closed in 1997. Donald Monroe ran a garage in the east part of the building, from November 1974 to August 1988 under the name of Enfield Auto Repair. Other garage business owners were Mike Crandall - auto pin stripping and design; Willie Kay, Body Shop; David Chandler, Auto Repair, Chandler's Auto Repair Service. The store and the east part, which is a garage are cinderblock, though the second story is wood.

Valley Korner's was built in the early 1990's. It expanded from a garage and a small convenience store by adding a south addition to the garage, which has a larger store and a food counter. It has a wooden out-side. Recently (1994) a canopy was added over its fuel pumps.

There are many more commercial buildings in Enfield. Most tend to be long low rectangular structures housing garages, machine shops and small manufactories. Some like the old Massey-Ferguson outlet on the corner of North VanDorn and Mecklenburg Roads, Sandy Creek Mobile Homes, and The Johnny's Wholesale building on South Applegate Road, stand out, but the rest are tucked in behind houses or other buildings.

A group of buildings no longer around, but which had a presence when here, was the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp in Treman Park, which existed from 1933 to 1941. It was up Fishkill Creek from the mill and old millpond. Overhead pictures show a well-ordered, tree sprinkled site with a central circle with a flagpole. Seven long low buildings must be dormitories, and other buildings would have been a mess hall, storage buildings and the director's quarters. No visible traces remain today.

In a rural locale like Enfield, a type of building that are very prevalent, but largely unnoticed, are barns and other out buildings. They come in many sizes and styles and are in various states of repair. Some have had their use change through the years, but still hang, or lean, in there.

The first barn mentioned in Enfield was a log barn put up in 1806 which unfortunately claimed the life of a young man in the course of its construction, the first European death recorded here. Built for Judah Baker, it stood until 1878 and was used for Christian Church meetings as well as other gatherings in its existence. No description of it remains.

The earliest form of barn with representatives existing today is the simple gable-end barn. The classic hip-roofed style comes somewhat later. Some barns are a happy mish-mash of styles layered one on top of another or stretched out in a line. Some barns and outbuildings actually match the style of the house



24. Stone House on Stone House Road

they served, or did once. Most of the best kept-up barns these days are on the dairy farms. Other outbuildings also seem to be most prevalent here. To list all the nice or interesting barns here would take too much room, but some stand out. A Carpenter's Gothic barn on Colegrove Road, a gable-end at the corner of Hayts and Halseyville Roads, a well-kept conglomerate of barns on Buck Hill Road North. There is a drive-through corncrib on North VanDorn Road and a wagon shed on Enfield Center Road West. Many other out buildings have lost their uses as icehouses or milk sheds and are now used as garages or for storage and are hard to spot for what they once were.

The most noticeable agricultural buildings in Enfield are the long, low well-ventilated chicken houses of ISA Babcock on Podunk and Iradell Roads and the young sire barns of Eastern Artificial Insemination (E.A.I.) on the corner of Hayts and Sheffield Roads. Construction on the E.A.I. barns were started in 1976 and added to in 1977 and 1981.

Finally we come to the largest group of buildings in Enfield, the dwellings of the people who live here. They come in many styles and types and sizes and colors, but each has a contribution to history.

The first houses in Enfield from 1804 to the 1820's would have been log cabins. There is a rumor of a house somewhere in Enfield having a log cabin incorporated into it. As with taverns, houses would have begun to be made out of lumber with the rise of saw mills. The earliest recognizable architectural style in Enfield is the Federal Style. This Style was fading in popularity when people with enough money to afford a house built in it started to be here, but it lasted until about 1830. It is characterized by a full pediment across the gable end, fan windows over the main door and/or in the gable, lights around the door and a symmetrical front with an entrance hall and rooms on both floors going off of this. Examples of this style are the Theall (Thall) House on Halseyville Road, the Orson Bostwick House, just south of Bostwick Corners, which also has a row of false columns arching across its front, and the Old Stone House on Stone House Road. The Old Stone House was built in 1822 by the Woodards and is probably the oldest remaining stone building in Enfield. Its construction material is flat fieldstone of irregular shapes. The quoining at the corners is also irregular. It has a central doorway with a fanlight over it and a brick arch over the fanlight. There is also a fan window with a brick arch in the north gable, which does not have a pediment. There are two windows on either side of the front door and five windows on the second floor spaced over those on the first. The south end is simpler with only a square window in the gable. There are three chimneys evident, two on each end, but there must have been a fourth. The rear

does not have evenly spaced openings, but this is because a kitchen wing once existed off the back, which was removed. The interior frame is fastened with mortise and tenon joints with wooden pegs. The walls taper slightly as they go up.

The next style is the most common in Enfieldtownship, the Greek Revival Style. This was popular during the 1820's to the Civil War, just when the biggest 19th century building boom was happening here. Although there are many variations, the points to look for in this style are the broken pediment at the gables, symmetry in the placement of the windows and doors, a main section with a slightly lower wing running perpendicular to it and "eyebrow" windows in the frieze section beneath the eaves. Many have inset porches in the lower wing. With modern siding, often some of these details get hidden, but the lines of the house still make it recognizable. Even with more recent additions, the original house can be traced by the foundation of rough field stone. With all the examples of Greek Revival around, it doesn't seem fair to single out some for mention, but these buildings are less adulterated with additions and such. The house at the corner of Hayts and Halseyville Roads, the house in the northeast corner of the township, a house on Iradell Road between Applegate and Halseyville Roads, and a large house on Bostwick Road which has a more modern addition, but still has beautiful lines in the main part. The house at the dairy farm on Buck Hill Road North has an unusual Doric style porch across its front.

After the Greek Revival surge came the so-called "Romantic" styles popular from the 1840's to the 1870's. The two styles represented here are the Carpenter's Gothic and the Italianate. There are three examples of Carpenter's Gothic, on East Enfield Center Road, across Enfield Main Road from the Baptist Church and a fine example on Bostwick Road built for Thomas Newman before 1853. Steeply pointed gables characterize it with carved wood decoration along the edge called "bargeboard". Some houses have pointed windows and vertical siding. Large wrap-around porches with decorated wood start in this time period.

Most of the houses in Enfield that could be called Italianate just have touches of the features that constitute the style; square two-story shape, shallowly pitched pyramidal roofs, bay windows and decorative brackets under the eaves. Cupolas are common with this style. The house that most closely fits all this is the last house in Enfield Center before the woods going south. There are a number of houses with decorative brackets, some even added on to Greek Revivals.

The last really distinctive style of the 19th century was the American Craftsman, popular from the Civil War to the turn of the century. These houses have many odd angles, patterning with shingles, especially in the gables and around windows and decorative wooden screens in the gables. The most typical example of this is the "Nobles' Homestead" on Connecticut Hill Road, built in 1895-96. The Phil White, Jr. house on South Applegate Road is from this time and shows many of these characteristics. The Newman-McGurck House on Colegrove Road was built during this period but does not really fit into any architectural style. It has towers on the front roofline, which could be typical of Queen Anne and decorative woodwork, but has no shingle designs and its main section is symmetrical.

Many houses in Enfield are what bicentennial surveyor Mary described in 1975 as "very functional, unpretentious houses, which have no decorative detail. They are usually two-story and often comprised of two rectangles set at right angles to each other with gable roofs and a porch where the two rectangles meet."¹¹ These houses could have been built any time from after the Civil War to after World War I. Some have chestnut woodwork inside.

The twentieth century has shown a variety of house types most, perhaps, not quite with the personality which nineteenth century houses have acquired, but still interesting. The middle of the century marked the rise of the Ranch House, both single story and split-level. Later, some styles like the Cape Cod come in. Many houses built in the late 1980's and 1990's have a variety of angles and roof lines for maximum sun intake and either have their clapboard varnished or stained lightly. Modern log houses are also appearing. Lately several town house units have gone up in Enfield Center and on the hill above

Applegate's Corners.

There are some examples of distinctive modern architecture in Enfield. The Batsford house on Mecklenburg Road is an octagonal log house on top of a cinderblock base. They said they went for this design as it seemed the best way to park two cars in the basement. The middle floor is living quarters with a cathedral ceiling and the upper level is a sleeping loft and work space. There is a dormer in the south side.¹² There are two polygonal dome houses, one on Bostwick Road at the end of Applegate Road and the other off Porter Hill Road.¹³ There are also two earth shelter houses, on the new Shudaben Road east of Enfield Center and on Rockwell Road near Porter Hill Road. There are at least two barn conversions, the Schaff house on Aiken Road, which was rebuilt from the Hulse Smith barns from Connecticut Hill Road, and on Hines Road there is a house from a barn, which still has the silo, attached. On Bostwick Road near the dome house there is a long low structure shaped like a Quonset hut, which is a multi-family dwelling, and in the woods just east of Sandy Creek Trailer Park there is a double A-Frame house.

Dwellings in Enfield cannot be talked about without mentioning trailers, mobile homes and modular housing which constitute the majority of recent housing. Mobile homes started being common in the area with the arrival of Sandy Creek Trailer Park. The park was started in 1965-66 and sales of mobile homes in 1967. Modular homes started appearing in the early 1970's and have become increasingly popular in the 1980's and 90's. Due to the relaxing of state regulations, two-story modular houses are now allowed, one going up on Fish Road and another on Mecklenburg Road west of Black Oak Road.¹⁴

This is not, nor is it meant to be, a complete tally of buildings in the township of Enfield. Many buildings of the past have little documentation, though many memories, associated with them.