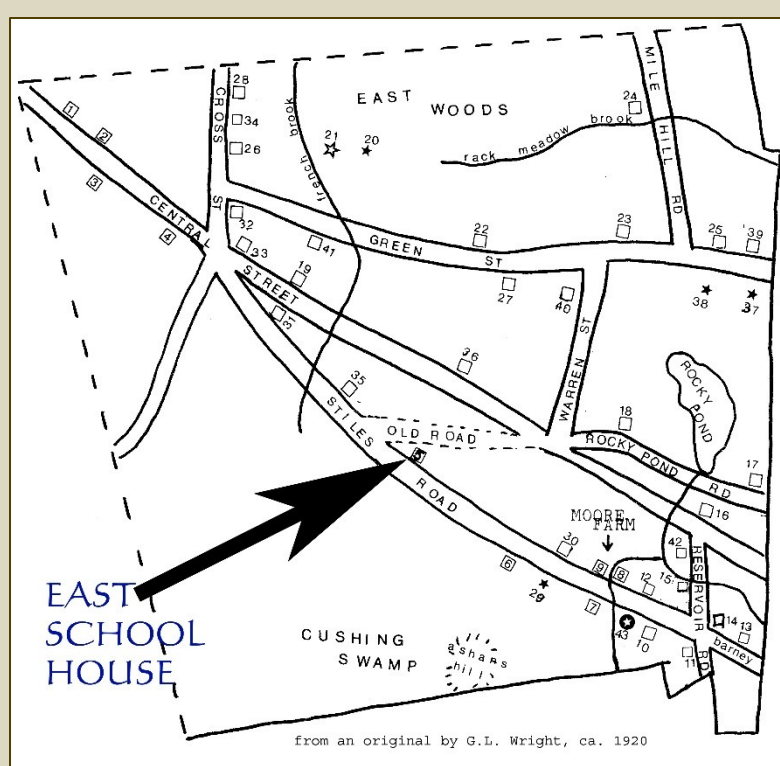




The First East School House was located easterly along Stiles Road after the house of Joshua Stiles' house, which was located at 79 Stiles on the Summit of Stiles Hill. The Schoolhouse was built in the late eighteenth century about ¼ mile from Dock Square¹ along Stiles Road, at the corner of Stiles Road and The Old Road which ran to Rocky Pond.²



East School House location on Stiles Road
#35 is currently 79 Stiles Road
Map by G. L. Wright
BHSM Collections

In 1790, the townspeople decided to divide the town into seven school squadrons. A sum of \$300 was allocated to build School Houses. The town allowed for the free use of the School Houses and the parents sending the children to the school paid a tuition for each of the two terms. In the East school textbooks were not provided so:

“...each child carried his own school books provided by his parents, and it did not matter what it was, or who the author was, or how old or out of date it was so long as it was a school book. To remedy this deficiency and fault, a committee of five men, two ministers, and three school masters was chosen in 1805 to decide upon some plan for uniformity of text books.”³

“The boys and girls who received the rudiments of their education in these country district schools ... strove to make the best of what was offered to them.... From their numbers have gone forth a host of men and women who have adorned every station of human thought and action. Prominent in the council halls of the state and nation on the forum, in the pulpit, in medicine, at the bar, and in every vocation and all business circles have these boys from our country schools ever ranked. And as leaders in society, philanthropy, serving and benevolence, these boys and girls have both even labored for the lasting good and welfare of all mankind.”⁴

This school was attended by the three sons of Andrew Bigelow: Reverend Jonathan Bigelow, Reverend Ashael Bigelow, and Reverend Andrew Bigelow, D.D. who were later prominent in the Congregational ministry. Another famous scholar and teacher in this school was Rev. Jonathan Longley, son of James Longley, Esq. Other teachers were Dr. John Andrews of Boylston, George W. Warren of West Boylston, Deacon John F. Fay, and Samuel I. Rice of Northborough.



Students from East School Proudly Showing Textbooks
BHSM Photograph Collection

The East School House on Stiles Road served the area until 1851 when it was abandoned for a new East District School House constructed of brick which was built upon the northerly side of the new road leading to Northborough.⁵



[Second] East District School House with Students and Teacher
Located on Central Street
BHSM Photograph Collection

¹ Dock Square is the intersection of Cross Street and Stiles Road

² Plan of Boylston made by G. Smith dated 1830, <https://www.boylstonhistory.org/category/Maps/c108>

³ Boylston Historical Series, Filgate, 2012, “Educational History of Boylston,” by George L. Wright

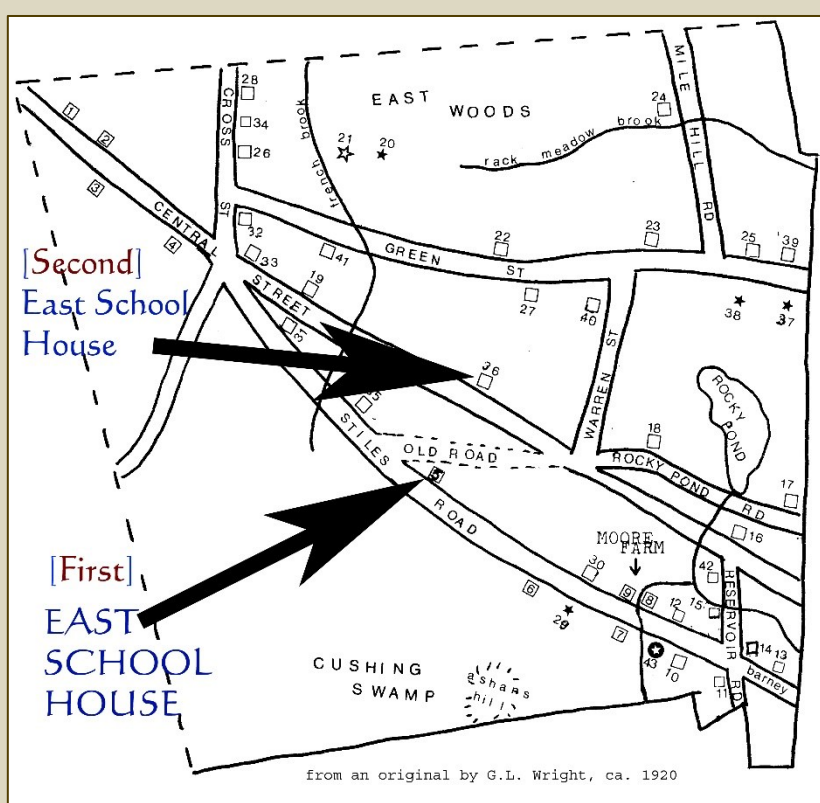
⁴ Ibid

⁵ The New Road leading to Northborough which was proposed in the 1830 maps is Central Street

It was at this time that the School District System in Massachusetts would evolve with Boylston adapting its squadron school system to a Six District School System. That portion of The Old Road between Stiles Road and The New Road to Northborough would be discontinued with the abandonment of the East School on Stiles Road.



In the years gone, each school district became a little community unto itself. Its gatherings were usually gatherings of the people of the district; neighborhood kitchen dances or social parties at the different houses, with an occasional spelling bee, exhibition or party at the school house. Only on Sundays at Church or Sabbath School, or a few annual or occasional gatherings at the Town Hall did the people of the several districts come in contact with each other, and on such occasions, there was a reserve and shyness in the commingling of the different sections of town.



Locations of East School Houses on Central Street and Stiles Road
 Map by G.L. Wright
 BHSM Collections

This new brick East District School House would serve the students of the area until the building of Consolidated School in Boylston Center which received its first students on December 21, 1904. The remains of the East School can still be seen about 600 ft south of 385 Central Street.



End of an Era of the One Room School House
Boylston Consolidated School
 Received Students- December 1904
 Boylston Center, Massachusetts
 BHSM Photograph Collection

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