



NOW!

1 Elmwood Place

This architecturally styled Greek Revival single family home was originally built circa 1800 by Lieutenant John Hastings for his wife and six children. John served as one of the Minutemen in Captain Robert Andrew's company who marched from the North Precinct of Shrewsbury (later known as Boylston, Massachusetts) in response to the Alarm in 1775 from Concord and Lexington. John Hastings was born in 1738 to Daniel Hastings and Sarah Ball who were settlers of the area. John married Elizabeth Howe in 1762 and they went on to have their six children. He was a farmer by trade and served on the First Board of Selectmen for the Town of Boylston when it was incorporated in 1786. John purchased the property from Abel Osgood the previous owner whose home on the property was a mere cellar hole by 1795. The cellar hole can still be found on the property today,

The farm was subsequently sold to Abijah Flagg and then Montraville Flagg Sr., Montraville Flagg Jr., Munson Flagg, George Fuller, Richard Flagg and in 1963 to the Shepherd Knapp School. It was then leased and later sold to Digital Equipment Corporation of Maynard, Massachusetts to be used as an executive conference site. Today the farm and ponds are owned by the Town of Boylston and listed on the register of Massachusetts Culturally Significant Resources.

This house has many a story to tell. It was from this home that in 1893 young Ellen, age 14 years starry-eyed, left with a hired hand of her father's to secretly wed only to have her plans thwarted by her father, Montraville Flagg and the Worcester police. And on January 19, 1919, the Eightieth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified and the U.S. embarked on an attempt at social reform. The country swept dry by law, had clandestine stills and "speak-easys" opening up with illegal stills in many localities, including Elmwood Place. One of the first raids in Boylston, Massachusetts was indeed at Elmwood Place. "The still was located in the cellar of the old Cider Mill barn where the officers discovered two 75-gallon stills, electric separators, 1,250 gallons of mash, and 50 gallons of 'hooch'." Among those arrested was Munson Flagg (Town Assessor) who was the owner of the property at the time. Was it mere irony that the adjacent land had been previously owned by John B. Gough, the well-known temperance orator?