



**NOW!**

**30 Cross Street**

Built between 1726-1730 by Phineas Howe, one of the earliest settlers of the area later to be known as Boylston. He had come from Marlborough, Massachusetts in 1725 at the age of 18 years with only a gun, an axe and his dog. It is said that he had found his way through the wilderness from Marlboro by blazing the trees. The land had been granted to his father Joseph Howe and given to Phineas Howe when he became of legal age. The first year he built a crude small log cabin which is located about where the barn now stands. Between 1726-1730, he built the home which remains there today. The house is considered one of the oldest homes in town.

On 22 March 1732, Phineas Howe married Abigail Bennett and they went on to have a large family. The original Lancaster and Shrewsbury line ran considerable south of the later lines, so that of the territory later constituting the town of Boylston, about three fourths came from Shrewsbury and one-fourth from Lancaster. The original Lancaster and Shrewsbury line ran through the present town of Boylston in a southeasterly direction from a point on or near the division line between the farms of Nathaniel Lamson and Captain Robert Andrews Jr., across the Nashua River to a point just northerly of this house of Phineas Howe. It is said that the line ran so near the building on this farm, that the house standing on the southerly side of the road was in Shrewsbury, while the building, known as the Cider Mill, on the opposite side of the road was in Lancaster. The chambers in the easterly half of the house were divided by a wooden partition on hinges, so that it could be turned up against the ceiling overhead, thus converting the chambers into a dancing hall.

A commercial brick yard was operated on the property near the Clinton Road. This brickyard remained in operation for many years serving to manufacture bricks for the construction of the Lancaster Mills of Clinton, the Sawyer Mills and the Hasting Tavern in Boylston Center. In 1780, Captain Phineas Howe was one of the settlers who petitioned the Town of Lancaster that their lands might be set off from Lancaster and be annexed to the Town of Shrewsbury, so that they might be part of the then Second Precinct of Shrewsbury which later became legally incorporated as Boylston, Massachusetts on 1 March 1786. The resourcefulness and pioneer spirit of our early settlers have had a significant impact on the economic development of Boylston and surrounding areas even to this day.