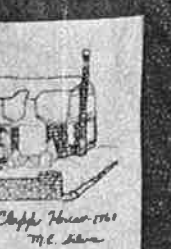


250th Anniversary Year

STOUGHTON, MASS.



1726-1976

CALENDER OF EVENTS

October 7, 1974	Maxi Rally
April 9, 1975	Get-the-Spirit Meeting
April 18, 1975	250th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Auction
May 3 - 10, 1975	Beautification Conservation Week
November 11, 1975	Liberty Tree Planting, Faxon's Park
December 11, 1975	Opening of 250th Anniversary Headquarters
January 11, 1976	Bicentennial Breakfast
January 17, 1976	Bicentennial Concert
February 13 - 15, 1976	The Little Theatre Bicentennial Play
March 6, 1976	Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant
April 3, 1976	250th Anniversary Ball
April 25, 1976	Dedication of Bay Road Marker
April 26, 1976	250th Anniversary Proclamation, Town Meeting
May, 1976	Arts Festival
May 22, 1976	Reception for General Rafalko
May 23, 1976	250th Anniversary Parade
June 11 - 13, 1976	Country Fair
July 4, 1976	Sunday in the Park Picnic
September 5, 1976	AAU Five-Mile Road Race
September, 1976	Historic Houses Map
November 21, 1976	Old Stoughton Music Society Concert
December 22, 1976	250th Anniversary Birthday Party

*250th ANNIVERSARY YEAR
STOUGHTON, MASS.
1726 - 1976*

Interest in a mammoth 250th Anniversary celebration was kindled early in 1973, as Stoughton realized that its birthday would coincide with the national celebration of the Bicentennial. Emphasis had been placed on local communities setting up their own programs, aided by state and national funds, this was ideally suited to the celebration of our town's 250th Anniversary along with the Bicentennial.

The purpose of our celebrations was to proclaim the history of the town and the country with a series of events for the entertainment of the townspeople, to demonstrate the talents of local people, to restore pride in the community, and to leave behind some lasting monuments of the Bicentennial for posterity.

On October 10, 1973, a group of volunteers met to form an anniversary committee. They met regularly, recruiting new members until the best leaders to organize a program had been chosen. The Board of Selectmen officially appointed the 250th Anniversary Committee and its sister group, the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission, on July 9, 1974. From this nucleus grew the plans for a joint Anniversary-Bicentennial venture that exceeded the committees fondest ambitions.

At the Annual Town Meeting on April 26, 1976, the following Proclamation was read:

Proclamation

TO THE CITIZENS OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, the Town of Stoughton is celebrating its 250th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, the United States of America is celebrating its Bicentennial Birthday: and

WHEREAS, the 250th Anniversary Committee and the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission have joined together to plan a program of activities and projects to commemorate these events; and

WHEREAS, these activities and projects have been planned for the enjoyment of all the townspeople of Stoughton;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the 250th Anniversary Committee and the Stoughton Bicentennial Commission invite you, the Town Meeting Representatives, and the citizens of Stoughton to join in our dual celebration in honor of our 250th Anniversary of Stoughton and in honor of our Country's Bicentennial.



Board of Selectmen
Town Clerk M. Fitzpatrick



Police Chief Gross



Town Manager Albert Gray, Jr.



Supt. of Schools Joseph Gibbons



Fire Chief Roach

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 250th ANNIVERSARY

Board Of Directors

Earl McMann	Chairman
George Giddings	Assistant Chairman
Robert Di Matteo	Finance Committee
Carol Manson	Secretary
Kathleen Murphy	Program Coordinator
Richard Batchelder	Treasurer
Beverly Engley	Social Activities
Dorothy Woodward	Cultural Activities
Chet Cohenno	Publicity and Photography

Activities Committees

Finance	Robert Di Matteo, Richard Batchelder, David Benjamin
Souvenirs	Gustaf Carlson, Edward Meserve, Elsie Bernasconi, Alan Molin, Marie Sheehan, Joseph De Vito, Chris Carabatsos.
Publicity	Chet Cohenno, Howard Hansen, Leonard Pinaud, Leon Saperstein.

Social Activities Chairman

Bicentennial Breakfast	Aina McMann
Miss Stoughton Scholarship Pageant	Beverly Engley, Mary Bradbury
Anniversary Ball	Beverly and Ralph Engley
Anniversary Parade	George Giddings
Sunday in the Park Picnic	Alice Magee

Cultural Activities Chairman

Portrait of Governor Stoughton	Phyllis Batchelder
Beautification Program	Aina McMann
Historic Houses Markers	Anne Petterson and William McDonald
Railroad Station Restoration	George Giddings
Old Bay Road Plaque	Dorothy Woodward



250th Anniversary Committee

Cultural Activities Chairman (Continued)

Stoughton Grenadiers	Anne Petterson, Dorothy Woodward, Leonard Pinaud, George Giddings.
Anniversary Quilt	Clare Nutting
Historic Calendar	Helen Hansen
Anniversary Concert	Donald Le Grow
The Little Theatre Play	Thomas Coyle
Arts Festival	Donald Le Grow
Country Fair	Charles Hainley, Frank Quertin, Edward Ivaldi.

Coordinator Activities

Calendar of Events
"Get the Spirit Meeting"
Headquarters for Souvenirs
Liaison with School Department and Town Hall
250th Anniversary Birthday Party

Bicentennial Commission

George Giddings	Chairman
Carol Manson	Secretary
Richard Batchelder	
Elsie Bernasconi	
Alice Magee	
Kathleen Murphy	
Alice Petruzzo	
Anne Petterson	
Dorothy Woodward	



Christadelphian Church



Congregational Church



Episcopal Church



Lutheran Church



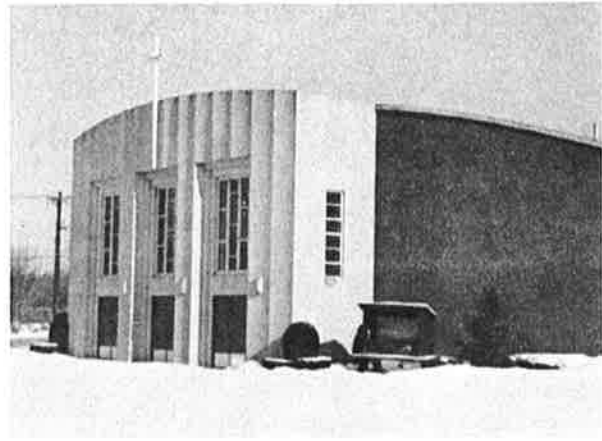
Ahavath Torah Congregation



Methodist Church



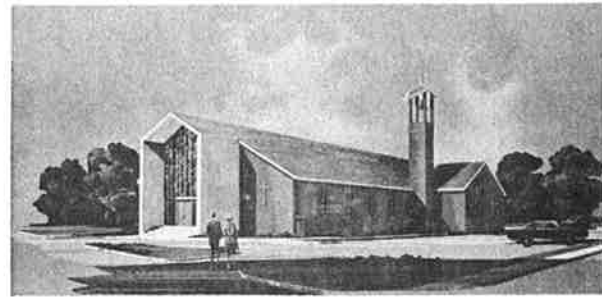
Baptist Church



Our Lady of Rosary Church



Jehovah's Witnesses Hall



Proposed Immaculate Conception Church



St. James Church



Universalist - Unitarian Church



Goddard Memorial Hospital



New Post Office



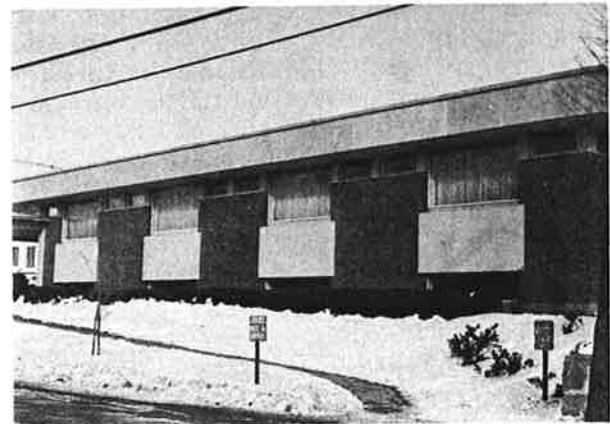
Condominiums



Senior Citizens' Housing West Stoughton



Condominium West Stoughton



New Public Library



Mt. Sinai Hospital



LaCivita Court

BRIEF HISTORY OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

In 1707, territory from the "Blew Hills" to the Plymouth line was added to Dorchester in Suffolk County by royal grant. This New Grant, called the 12 Divisions, consisted of all the land now comprising the towns of Stoughton, Canton, Sharon, Avon and Foxborough, and parts of surrounding towns. The first house built in present Stoughton was erected in 1716 by Isaac Stearns. Within 10 years, the wilderness area had been lightly populated and deemed safe for families building new lives in this southernmost district of Dorchester.

On December 22, 1726, this South Precinct of Dorchester was incorporated as the town of Stoughton, named for Lt. Gov. William Stoughton, first Chief Justice of the Colonial Courts, whose family once owned considerable land in the town. It was a rural community with the usual grist mills and saw mills on the several branch rivers until the 1800's. Homes were built along its main pathways from village to village. Of the early dwellings built between 1726 and 1826, over 56 have been identified as still standing within the limits of present-day Stoughton.

Many people of Stoughton still bear the family names of ancestors who arrived in the 1700's when the Ponkapoag Plantation, one of John Eliot's Praying Towns, still provided habitation for the local Ponkapoag Indians. The southern boundary of the Indian land is marked by a granite stone on the edge of fields owned by a descendant of their original owner in early 1700.

The first meeting of the County Congress, which drafted the famed Suffolk Resolves, was held in Doty's Tavern in Old Stoughton on August 6, 1774. It was here that the principles of freedom later reflected in the Declaration of Independence were first discussed. A second and third meeting were held in Milton and Dedham to codify and approve the Suffolk Resolves before Paul Revere delivered them to Philadelphia. The meeting in Stoughton is the basis for Stoughton's motto, The Birthplace of Liberty. It was not until 1797 that this section of Stoughton was incorporated as the Town of Canton.

During the Revolutionary War, Stoughton supplied the major portion of gunpowder from one of the chief powder mills of the colonies; cast cannon; and provided food, clothing, and money for the army. There were 43 officers and men from the West Company (present-day Stoughton) who marched to Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775 along Old Bay Road, the ancient Indian path from Massachusetts Bay to Plymouth and one of the oldest transport roads in the United States. In all, 596 men from

Stoughton took part in the War for Independence before it ended in 1782. An elite militia group, the Grenadiers, was formed in 1822. This group was reactivated in 1975 as the West Company, Stoughton Militia, with 37 members, in honor of the Bicentennial.

The early industry in the town was mainly manufacturing boots and shoes, carried on in homes and small shops. The first shoe factory was established in 1815. The rural nature of the town began to change after the advent of the railroad, which arrived in 1845. Stoughton became an important center for the railroad, which brought a prosperous shoe business to town prior to the Civil War. After the War, the character of the town changed from farming to industrial, with shoes, woolens, yarns, and cotton mills important in the economy.

Stoughton is the home of the oldest musical society in the United States. The Old Stoughton Musical Society was founded in 1786 at the home of Robert Capen, where the famous composer William Billings conducted a Singing School for several years. Music had played a large role in the simple lives of the townsmen since the days when "sings" were first held at local taverns.

Stoughton has also been the home of F. Mortimer Lamb, American landscape painter; Ellis Drake, inventor of the present form of baseball cover; George T. Brewster, American sculptor; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Church of Christ Scientist; William Curtis, who sent the first commercial telephone message in the world for Stone and Downer, Boston; and Lehan's Ford Agency, the oldest Ford Automobile Agency in the world. The Railroad Station, which is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture and the only station remaining in Massachusetts with a distinctive clock tower, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It represents the period of industrial prosperity enjoyed by one of the leading boot manufacturing towns of its day.

In the year 1976 Stoughton Celebrates its 250th Anniversary as well as the nation's Bicentennial. Many activities have been planned for this dual celebration, but the projects of lasting value in the town, such as plaques for old houses, a bronze marker for Old Bay Road, a restoration of the Railroad Station, a foot map for the old houses, and continued research into the history of a typical New England town will remain after the year has gone.