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603-455-7110 (tel:603-455-7110)

[teamDHG@distinctivehomesnh.com](mailto:teamDHG@distinctivehomesnh.com)

[\(mailto:teamDHG@distinctivehomesnh.com\)](mailto:teamDHG@distinctivehomesnh.com)



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The Original Gilmanton Corner Store

## The Original Gilmanton Corner Store



by Roy Sanborn  May 9, 2017

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## You Can't Go Around a Triangle



If you have lived in the Lakes Region for a while, you most likely know about the “Corners” in Gilmanton (<http://distinctivehomesnh.com/town-searches/gilmanton-new-hampshire-real-estate/>); that’s the intersection of Routes 107 and 140. Some people call it the “Four Corners,” but there are actually five roads converging there when you count Currier Hill Road which used to be called the Old

Belmont Road. But most don't know about the triangle. In a book by Jane Scriven Cumming called *Gilmanton Summers: Memories of a New Hampshire Village in the Early 1900's* she writes that "you can't go around a triangle." I guess that's a pretty astute observation. The triangle that she is referring to is the one formed by Route 107, the Old Belmont Road, and High Street. The Temperance Tavern sits at the bottom of the triangle if you consider High Street as the base. No, I don't know if it is a scalene, equilateral or an isosceles triangle! But, I do know there's a lot of history in this section of town.

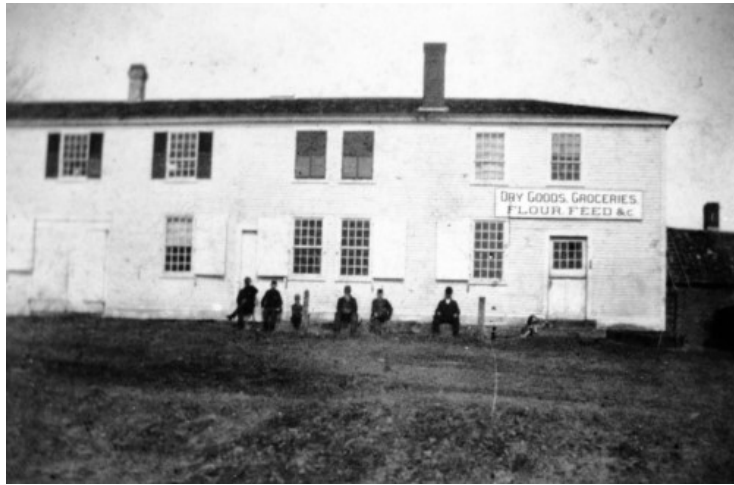


The old Corner Store sits on the east side of Route 107 just before the "Corners" and just across from the

tip of the triangle. I don't mean the Corner Store turned Corner Slice that was fighting to keep an oversized "open" flag out front. The original corner store was directly across from it in an 1800's colonial structure that used to house the dry goods store, a soda fountain that sold ice cream, and the post office. The store was owned and operated by L.W. and M.H. Schultz. They also sold gasoline from the vintage 1920's style gas pumps seen in the photo and it appears that on the north end of the structure there is a livery stable that quite possible saw a few Model T's from time to time.

## The Gossip Bench

In *Gilmanton Summer's*, the author mentions that there was a long rail in front of the store to tie horses up to as well as a long bench. She wrote that her Granddad called it "the gossip bench." I don't see a woman sitting there in the picture so I suspect the conversations revolved around the weather, farming, and politics. Unfortunately, no period pictures can be found of the interior of the building. It would be fun to see what it looked like. I can imagine the counter with an old cash register, a wood stove, a small enclosed post office area, the requisite pickle barrel, shelves full of canned goods, and bags of grain. The property was owned



later by Harmon and Roxy Stockwell who actually built the other Corner Store across the street.

## Doug to the Rescue



The property fell in to disrepair until around 2000 when it was rescued by well know old home

preservationist Douglas Towle of Gilmanton. As with all of his projects (there have been 17 of them,) Doug restored the property preserving the original features while incorporating all the modern amenities and features one would expect in today's homes.

This 3,500 square foot residence's exterior is done with feathered quarter sawn spruce clapboards. It has a cedar shake roof, an exposed granite foundation, a screened porch with brick floor, beautiful landscaping, and a three bay post and beam carriage shed.

Inside, the hand-hewn plank wainscoting, wide pine floors, exposed beams, Indian and Shaker shutters, original door hardware, and old wavy glass are juxtaposed against a

designer kitchen, high end plumbing fixtures, central air, and whole house surround system.



The main level of the home is comprised of two very large rooms one of which was the store and post office and the other which was the livery. They both are used today as extraordinary living and entertaining spaces. The stunning great room features a brick floor with in-floor radiant heat, exposed beam ceiling, hand hewn plank walls, and a brick Rumford fireplace with wood beam mantle. The living room has wide pine floors, an exposed beam ceiling, hand-hewn plank and plaster walls, wainscoting, and another Rumford fireplace. The current owners have added a first floor guest suite in the same style.

## **Not your Granny's kitchen...**

On the upper level is a modern chef's kitchen with stainless appliances including a Viking four burner gas stove with



griddle, Viking warming drawer, Sub Zero refrigerator, soapstone countertops, wide pine floor, hand hewn plank walls, and plaster ceiling. An adjacent family room and dining area features a third brick Rumford fireplace, built in TV cabinet and closets, wide pine floors, and hewn plank walls. There's also a cozy nook at the back of the house perfect for reading a book. A large master bedroom suite, a

guest room, and full bath round out the rooms on this level.

This remarkable home is on the market and is looking for a new "storekeeper." You can almost hear the old timers in the store downstairs sitting around the wood-stove telling stories...

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Roy Sanborn

As a REALTOR® since 2000, I know what it takes to ensure a smooth real estate transaction; hard work, dedication and loyalty to my clients, knowledge, and effective communication. It is this philosophy that has helped me to consistently be one of the top producing agents in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. I've also found that helps to have a little fun along the way! My partner, Ashley Davis, and I are thrilled to be part of Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty and have taken Sotheby's already amazing marketing program and philosophy one step further with the formation of our Distinctive Homes Group! I know the lakes, the Lakes Region, and the lifestyle you are probably looking for.