

# DAVID MERRILL MURAL

Edith Wheeler Memorial Library Lower Level Lobby

Dedicated April 6, 2008

Key to Mural Scenes

## Map



M1 Congregation Adath Israel, Jewish, Synagogue (1919) in southern Newtown that served some of Monroe's Jewish inhabitants  
M2 Circle Dot hot dog stand was a 1940's popular stop at 687 Main St. Upper Stepney  
M3 Monroe-Newtown Turnpike Tollhouse c. 1830. When tolls ended, this was sold for a residence, 126 Hattertown Road.  
M4 Pepper Crossing – early 1900's flag stop on Pepper Street for flagging the train to stop for the benefit of Upper Stepney residents and guests.  
M5 Stepney Schoolhouse c. 1830, located at 142 Main Street in Stepney. After its closing in 1935, it was sold at public auction and became a home.  
M6 Osborne-Corning house c.1810 at 118 Main Street.  
M7 Plumb- Hawley house c.1836 at 480 Purdy Hill Road.  
M8 Hannah Hovey's tombstone erected in memory of Monroe's Sorceress "Hannah Cranna" on Spring Hill Road.

M9 Pond at the former L. Graham Patmore estate at 837 Main Street.

M10 Edwards S. Beardsley skating pond on Main Street Upper Stepney

M11 Jockey Hollow School (1998) named for nearby road.

M12-13 Monroe Center's first firehouse (1923) donated by Dr. F. Wales. It was located on the point south of the Green.

M14 The painting on the easel represents the work of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artists, Fannie and Jennie Burr of 485 Elm Street.

M15 Monroe was named at its incorporation in 1823 for the U. S. President at the time, James Monroe.

M16 The third Monroe Town Hall with library and police headquarters (1972) at Monroe Center

M17-20 Patches that represent civil servants in town.

M21 The Bell on the Town Hall Green was dedicated July 4, 1976 on the U. S. Bicentennial by the Monroe Jaycees.

M22 Beardsley-Michel's Barn c.1850 formerly located behind the house at 250 Elm Street.

M23 WMNR radio station at FM 88.1 began "on air" in 1973 at Masuk High School and was moved to 731 Main Street. in 2003

M24 Masuk High School (1957) on land donated by the Masuk family of Barn Hill Road.

M25 Represents the Whitney Farms Golf Course (1972)

M26 Raymond Whitney's stone cattle barn c. 1940 became the Whitney Farms Stone Barn Restaurant and Pro Shop. (1972)

M27 "Rupella" (1865) A stone house at 40 Barn Hill Road built by noted stonemason Lucius Hubbell for his daughter.

M28 Pisson Rock located off Israel Hill Road has a natural spring that runs continuously year round and is a Monroe border marker with Shelton (formerly Huntington).

M29 Hawley-Standish house c. 1750 at 128 Barn Hill Road, one of the very oldest houses in town

M30 Monroe Park Ranger Patch (1983)

M31 Stevenson Fire House (1983) The Fire Company was organized in 1950.

M32 Webb Mountain Discovery Zone trails with learning stations for science and history study (2007)

M33 The wigwam and canoe represent Monroe's first inhabitants - the Paugussets made Monroe their home.

M34 Curtiss -McEwen house c. 1820 at 1330 Monroe Turnpike

M35 Zoar Suspension Bridge at Bridge Street spanned the Housatonic River between Monroe and Oxford from 1876-1919 when Stevenson Dam replaced it.

M36 Lewis-Smith House c. 1800 formerly stood at 59 Josie's Ring Road. Referred to as "the Negro house" in 1824 land records

M37 The Curtiss Italianate style house c. 1850 at 1301 Monroe Turnpike.

## Left Side of Doorway



## Above Doorway



## Right Side of Doorway



## LEFT SIDE OF DOORWAY

- L1 Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel organized in 1973 in the former Stepney Methodist Church c. 1836 at 15 Pepper Street and the Stepney Cemetery established in 1794.
- L2 Burr Hawley's General Store c.1880-1930 on Easton Road at intersection of Main Street.
- L3 Stepney Fire House built c.1925 at 88 Main Street. This was Monroe's first fire company organized in 1916.
- L4 Great Hollow Lake c. 1981 and located off Silverstone Drive
- L5 St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church built in 1950 at 6948 Main Street, Trumbull. It still serve some of Monroe's Catholics.
- L6 Burr-Pulaski house c. 1780 at 188 Bugg Hill Road
- L7 Hawley- Beard house c. 1800 at 23 Old Newtown Road.
- L8 Monroe's second Town Hall built in 1897 and demolished in 1971. It sat at the corner of Fan Hill Road and Church Street.
- L9 Monroe Congregational Church – This is the second Congregational Church built in (1847) Beardsley Hall (1887) and Rexford House (1962) at 34 Church Street, Monroe Center. This was Monroe's first religious community organized in 1767.
- L10 Beardsley/Bernhard house c. 1790 at 14 Northbrook Drive, Upper Stepney
- L11 Fawn Hollow Elementary School (1967) and Chalk Hill Middle School (1969) on Fan Hill Road and Stepney Elementary School (1962) on Old Newtown Road.
- L12 United Methodist Church (1973) at 515 Cutlers' Farm Road
- L13 Aerial view of Stepney Green in 1981
- L14 Wolfe Park (1973) at 285 Cutlers Farm Road.
- L15 Stepney Dam and Reservoir (1927) at Main Street.
- L16 Woodland brook near Hammertown Road.
- L17 James C. Johnson's Victorian mansion (1896) at 403 Elm Street.
- L18 Nehemiah de Forest Inn c.1760-1870 located on the west side of Monroe Center Green and a portrait of the famed French Commander, the Duc de Lauzun , who stayed at this inn in June, 1781.
- L19 Monroe's first public library, 1958-1970, was located on Fan Hill Road facing Monroe Center Green
- L20 Symbols of early industry: corn crib, produce, steam engine, wheel, clock, barrel, stirrup and weathervane
- L21 Stepney Railroad Depot c.1880 at 54 Maple Street and Stephen French's Store c. 1870 located at 39 Maple Street
- L22 Corning -Bond house c. 1810 formerly located at 135 Main Street, Stepney
- L23 Stepney Baptist Church c.1848 at 423 Main Street and portion of Monroe's first bank, Connecticut National Bank, built in 1959, now the Beulah Beck Building.
- L24 Dedication by David Merrill, artist
- L25 Monroe Elementary School (1935) at 375 Monroe Turnpike - first known as Monroe Consolidated School because it ended the era of Monroe's one - room schools.
- L26 Harmony Grange (1933) at 2 Shelton Road.
- L27 St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1802)175 Old Tannery Road Monroe Center
- L28 Veteran's Memorial (2006) at Town Hall Green

## ABOVE DOORWAY

- D1 Eliot Beardsley House c. 1770 at 31 Great Ring Road - Historical Society Museum
- D2 Smith's Pond on Turkey Roost Road An 'ol swimming hole' and site of an early sawmill
- D3 Edith Wheeler Memorial Library (2007) with Gracie, certified therapy dog
- D4 Kids' Creations Playground (1994) at Wolfe Park was built by townspeople
- D5 Gazebo (1981) on Monroe Town Hall Green donated by the Weller Foundation in memory of Barton Weller.



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[www.monroehistoricsociety.org](http://www.monroehistoricsociety.org)  
[www.bullshheadprinters.com](http://www.bullshheadprinters.com)



## RIGHT SIDE OF DOORWAY

- R1 Symbols of Monroe's past industry including gristmill, Cargill's Hoop shirt and Twine Factory at East Village, wagon, and team of oxen
- R2 Hawley-Swendsen barn c. 1820 formerly located at 160 Barn Hill Road.
- R3 Lake Zoar and Stevenson Dam built 1917-1919
- R4 East Village Meetinghouse (1811) 433 Barn Hill Road owned and restored by the Monroe Historical Society
- R5 Dietrich Castle (1935) at 1428 Monroe Tpke. - property of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.
- R6 Barn Hill East Village Schoolhouse c. 1790 at 311 Wheeler Road. Moved and restored as a one-room schoolhouse museum of the Monroe Historical Society
- R7 Half Way River Spillway at Roosevelt Drive across from Lake Zoar
- R8 Hawley-Swendsen Georgian house c. 1808 at 160 Barn Hill Road.
- R9 Washington Lodge #19 Masonic Temple (1904) 1 Fan Hill Road. This is the second temple at Monroe Center showing their old carriage sheds and outhouse and view of Edith Wheeler Memorial Library.
- R10 Bassett - Shelton Georgian Manse c. 1775 at 1024 Monroe Turnpike
- R11 Clark-Hurd Victorian house c. 1820 at 521 Moose Hill Road. The Hurd Airport began in 1940 and was across the road where St. John Cemetery is now located
- R12 Monroe Center Green aerial view in 1981
- R13 St. Jude School (1962) at 707 Monroe Tpke.
- R14 Bostwick-Spring house c.1790 located at 1215 Monroe Turnpike.
- R15 Webb Mountain Park (1982) overlook to Housatonic River with soaring bald eagle
- R16 Burr Mail Wagon c.1900 Actual wagon is presently displayed at the Monroe Post Office
- R17 St. Jude Roman Catholic Church (1989) at 707 Monroe Turnpike.
- R18 Monroe Senior Center (2000) at 235 Cutlers Farm Road.
- R19 Monroe Center one-room Schoolhouse c. 1830 depicted at the corner of Old Tannery and Wheeler Roads across from Hezekiah Bailey House c. 1801. Schoolhouse was attached to the rear of Beardsley Hall in 1935 on the Monroe Congregational Church grounds.
- R20 Moss-Beach Georgian House -Store and Post Office c. 1786 at Monroe Center Green
- R21 The Shelton Family barns c. 1825 behind 96 Barn Hill Road.
- R22 Lucius Hubbell's quarry in operation during the mid 1800's at Quarry Ridge off Barn Hill Road.
- R23 Wilcoxson-Blakeman saltbox house c. 1750 was razed in 1965. Formerly located at 431 Webb Circle.
- R24 Stepney Kiosk dedicated in 2007 and three houses on Pepper St.: Wheeler house c. 1810, Charles Wheeler's Boot Shop c. 1850 and Charles Osborne house c.1840. All are located on the north side of Stepney (Birdseye's Plain) Green.
- R25 Granite Marker (2006) commemorating the June 1781 encampment of Duc de Lauzun at New Stratford Center (Monroe Center). He was a commander of 600 men under General Rochambeau. From here they marched on to Yorktown, Virginia and helped defeat the British ending the American Revolution.
- R26 The Beardsley house c. 1800 located at 354 Moose Hill Road.
- R27 Horse in Monroe meadow
- R28 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (1964) at 466 Elm Street.
- R29 War Memorials for WWI and WWII veterans at the Monroe Center Green
- R30 Beardsley brick Georgian house (later Dr.Gray's Academy) c. 1825 and Clark- Nichols half house c. 1830 at Monroe Center Green
- R31 Lewis-Sinclair saltbox house c. 1750 at 90 Shelton Road.
- R32 Lake Emerson, Shelton Road on the Monroe- Shelton town line- named for the actress Faye Emerson.
- R33 Beacon Hill Evangelical Free Church and Parsonage c. 1972 at 371 Old Zoar Road.
- R34 Boyhood home (above store) of artist, David Merrill c.1920 at 509 Monroe Turnpike.
- R35 Stepney (Birdseye's Plain Green) donated in 1817 for a "place of parade" for the local militia. Houses: Hanford Hull Mansion c. 1835-1970 stood on Main Street opposite the Green, Old Methodist Parsonage c. 1790 at 9 Hattertown Road, Coley Federal House c. 1825 at 4 Easton Road and Birdseye's Plain Schoolhouse c. 1840 at 37 Hattertown Road

For more information about Monroe history: visit our website, [www.monroehistoricsociety.org](http://www.monroehistoricsociety.org). Visit the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library and ask for "*A Glimpse of Old Monroe*" by Edward N. Coffey, Monroe Town Historian or "*Images of America: Monroe, Connecticut.*" The History Room of the EWML is open by appointment for more detailed research on the history of the Town of Monroe.

## A Brief History of the David Merrill Mural

Over twenty-five years ago, Monroe artist David Merrill spent 18 months planning and painting a wonderful, historical mural in the Masuk High School library where the only wall suitable in town was available. He painted at the school from September 1981 until its dedication in the spring of 1983.

Masuk students and teachers who were there in the early 80's remember watching Mr. Merrill paint the 29-foot wide mural of historic Monroe. Often students stopped to view the work in progress and many spoke with the artist. A girl was particularly sad one day and told him about the loss of her pet horse. David asked her for a photograph and added the horse to the mural grazing in a Monroe meadow.

Using a map of the town as a centerpiece, the original mural contained views of Monroe, most of which represent a bygone era of country stores, working farms and open fields. The town's greens, churches, schools, early homes, and old barns are depicted in the four seasons and with different moods of the sky. David included aerial views of the Stepney and Monroe Center Greens, which he photographed from a Masuk student's plane in preparation for his mural.

When the mural was first painted, several civic groups in Monroe helped raise over \$10,000 to make the work a reality. Masuk's Industrial Arts teachers Joe and Doug Fedorko and their students framed the mural in 1983.

In April, 2007, the panels of the mural were carefully moved to the new Edith Wheeler Memorial Library to allow a wider audience and greater access for this town treasure. David spent a year restoring the mural and adding several additional scenes to the right side of the mural and above the doorway to the Children's Department. Many additional icons were also added to the map and the Veteran's Memorial was added to the left of the door way. The original mural increased in size to 49 feet with 28 new subjects added. Doug Fedorko framed the newly enlarged mural as well as helped David move the panels from Masuk to the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library.

The move of the mural to our new town library was made possible because of the generosity of the Monroe Women's Club. Their Community Impact Grant of \$10,000 was awarded to the Monroe Historical Society for its proposal to have David Merrill restore and add to the mural as long as the Library Board, Town Council and Board of Education were willing to see David Merrill's mural relocated to a more central location. Countless people were able to experience the artist's restoration and painting many more subjects on the mural over the many months of work. Children on their way to the Children's Department made suggestions to David and he added a heart, a butterfly, flowers and a cat. Patrons and library staff have had a rare opportunity over the last year to witness Monroe's native son so lovingly paint scenes of our town.

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An important part of the mission of the Monroe Historical Society is to preserve and maintain these historic properties: the East Village Meeting House on Barn Hill Road, the 1790 East Village-Barn Hill Schoolhouse on Wheeler Road, and our current restoration project and future museum, the Beardsley Homestead at 31 Great Ring Road. Please consider becoming a member and help preserve these historic properties. Complete and send this form to: Monroe Historical Society, P. O. Box 212, Monroe, CT 06468. Contact us at 203-261-1383 (voice mail) and visit our website at [www.monroehistoricsociety.org](http://www.monroehistoricsociety.org).

Name _____	<b>MEMBERSHIP RATES</b>	
Address _____	Individual Member	\$20.00
City,State,ZIP _____	Family (two or more)	\$25.00
Type of Membership _____	Senior Citizen (over 65)	\$10.00
Email _____	Friends (provide financial support only)	\$50.00
Areas of interest/expertise _____	Business Associate	\$150.00
	Life Membership	\$350.00

I do not wish to become a member at this time but I would like to contribute to: (any amount is welcome)

1. A new roof at the East Village Meetinghouse \_\_\_\_\_
2. Storm windows and painting at the Beardsley Homestead \_\_\_\_\_
3. Replace the oil tank at the Beardsley Homestead \_\_\_\_\_

We are a 501c-3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible and may be matched by your employer.