

THE JOSEPH HOTCHKISS HOUSE  
(Mr. Clifford H. Street)  
1794

On the west side of North High Street about a quarter of a mile north of the railroad is located the Joseph Hotchkiss house. The place is now owned by Mr. Clifford H. Street.

This quaint old story and a half cottage was built back in 1794 by Captain Joseph Hotchkiss. Capt. Hotchkiss was born on July 31, 1756 and married Temperance Andrews in 1779. It should be mentioned here that Joseph Hotchkiss was one of the three men who met with a serious accident while raising the last window cap on the backside of the Old Stone Church when the scaffold gave way and the three men with the stone in their arms fell to the ground. Mr. Hotchkiss had one leg crushed by the stone. He passed thru ten months of suffering, but finally regained his health in time to aid the Patriots of East Haven during the events of the Revolutionary War that started in the year following. He obtained his ranking title by being captain in the local militia during the Revolutionary War. According to the military records of the state, his widow in 1840 then seventy nine years old received a pension thru his services. Captain Hotchkiss died on May 2, 1825 and his grave is now decorated each year by the Sons of the American Revolution.

Lyman Hotchkiss, son of Capt. Joseph Hotchkiss, was born in 1784 and he occupied this house upon the death of his father.

The house was next occupied by Joseph I. Hotchkiss born in 1814, a son of Lyman Hotchkiss. Mr. Hotchkiss was one of the last of his generation in East Haven at the time of his death on Feb. 18, 1906. He became a captain about 1840 in East Haven's militia. Capt. Hotchkiss was selectman in 1851, 1852, 1856, 1857, 1858 and also represented East Haven at the General Assembly in 1869. He was a farmer in a small way and afterwards took up joiner work which was his occupation until his death in 1906.

At the death of Captain Joseph Hotchkiss this house fell to his daughter Miss Sarah Hotchkiss. She was born in 1835 and lived practically her entire life in this house. Upon her death in 1914 the property went to her nephew Mr. Clifford Street.

This house has remained in the hands of the descendants of the first Captain Joseph Hotchkiss all of these one hundred and forty years.