

THE LEVERETT BRADLEY HOUSE
(Mrs. A. E. Howard)
1791

At 41 Park Place stands the Leverett Bradley house known of late as the Bagley place and is occupied at present by Mrs. A. E. Howard the daughter of Mr. Leverett Bagley.

On December 2, 1791 a three acre piece of land was bought at the corner of the Green to the south of the Boston Post Road from Jared Potter. The house was built then by Leverett Bradley with the aid of his father Stephen Bradley. Leverett Bradley was a joiner.

While the house was being built the Bradleys lived part of the time in the basement and consequently they had a fireplace put in the chimney in the basement. There are as well three large fireplaces on the first floor with one fireplace on the second floor. The frame of the house is of good sound oak timbers of large dimensions as was customary of the houses erected in Connecticut before 1800. The southwest room on the first floor contains beautiful white panelling and the scene that the old fashioned fireplace with a Dutch oven is similar to the scene so often painted on Christmas cards of New England houses of the Colonial period. This same room has the old fashioned chair rail and wood panel work along the lower part of the walls. It is interesting to observe that the southwest room on the first floor has much panelwork while there is none in the northwest corner room. Mrs. Howard, the present owner explains that this was due to a change in ideas of the people prior to 1800. The trend at that time was from panel work to lath and plaster and wallpaper with striking scenes. It is understood some little time elapsed from the time the house was first started and when it was completed. A large old fashioned ball room occupied the southern half of the second floor. Some years ago this long room was made into two rooms, when the house was used as a private school for young ladies, conducted by Mr. Augustus Bagley, the grandfather of the present Mrs. Howard.

This house was occupied first by Leverett Bradley, and then by his daughter Emeline Bradley who married Augustus Bagley. The house was then in turn occupied by their son Leverett Bagley who was the father of Mrs. A. E. Howard, the present occupant. The Bradley house is one of a few in East Haven to remain continuously in the same family from the date of erection to the present day.