

## **107 Main Street**

### **An Address With A Rich History**

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107 Main Street in Orleans is more than just an address. It marks a location that stands at the junction of the Town's past and its future. Whatever happens here as the property prepares for another transition will hopefully contribute to the community's future in a way that remembers our past and respects the historic streetscape of this part of East Orleans.

Main Street, from the Rt.28 intersection to the Barley Neck Inn is one of the longest remaining historic streetscapes in town. The 1.2-mile scenic drive contains forty-six properties that are listed on the Orleans Historic Properties Survey and on file with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This includes forty-one buildings, two cemeteries, and three historical monuments. The area has been deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and its value to our heritage, our "sense of place" and to our town's identity simply cannot be calculated.

To be clear, the building that currently sits at 107 Main Street is not historic. It is not listed on the Historic Properties Survey and in its current condition, detracts rather than contributes to the streetscape. The fact that it is about to be replaced presents an opportunity to improve the overall look and feel of the area. The proposed use of the land for workforce, or affordable housing is consistent with the current and past largely residential character of the street, as well as with the town's history. Orleans through the years was a working-class town, with a workforce engaged in manufacturing, the seafaring trades, agriculture, and other endeavors. A nearby historical example of workforce housing concerns is the building that is currently the La Bella Vita restaurant (formerly Academy Grille) at Academy Place, just around the corner from Main Street. This building was originally moved from Eastham to serve as worker housing for the French Cable Station.

### **History of 107 Main Street**

The first known structure to exist on the property is known on the Historic Properties Survey as the Snow/Mayo house. It was built on the site by Jesse Snow circa 1835. It was moved circa 1872 down the road to 174 Main Street, where it still stands today.



***Jesse Snow House-Located at 107 Main St. 1835-1872***

***Stands today at 174 Main St.***

One of Jesse's sons, Calvin, was born in 1818. At age 18, Calvin opened a hardware and tinplate store across the street from 107 Main Street that he operated until 1855, and he served Orleans as a Selectman from 1858-1860. In 1860 at age 42 he moved to Chicago where he became involved in the emerging meat-packing industry. His firm, Burke, Hutchinson, and Snow may have built Chicago's first meat packing plant. In 1872, Calvin retired and returned to Orleans, where he built the Calvin Snow House at the 107 Main Street location, the site of the small house where he had been born. Calvin died in 1892 at age 74.



***Calvin Snow House, Original Southward Inn***

***107 Main Street***

In 1916, George Southward acquired the property from Edgar Snow and established the first Southward Inn in the existing building. In 1919, Southward moved the business to the corner of Rt. 28 and Cove Road, where it flourished for years. In 1923, 107 Main Street was acquired by

the Orleans Mason's Lodge. The Mason's utilized the existing structure until 1974, when they demolished it and built the structure that currently stands on the property.



***107 Main Street Today***

Orleans has a unique opportunity to address current and future community issues through the use of this property to solve the town's housing needs. Doing so considering the property's rich historic past in design, scale, and setting will go a long way towards creating the future by honoring the past.