
New Castle Motifs: Piscataqua Street from Atkinson to Walbach

Jim Cerny
Ineluctable Modality Images
December 2023
rev 2025-01-12



Looking West.

This is more popular than paintings and images looking East. Selected photographs are shown and all known paintings.

There are changes to note. There is now a telephone pole in the left-center of the scene, something a painter can omit but which a photographer can't escape. And at some point there was a two-story house owned by Arena on the right side at what is now the corner of Salamander Lane.





Image by Jim Cerny, April 2023. Cerny Collection.



Elizabeth Grier Plumer (1901-1992). Town of New Castle Collection.



Leonard Shea (1915-1990). 1971. Cerny Collection.



Reuc or Reug. 1954. Carol White Collection.



George L. Morris (1890-1983).. *Old Homestead, New Castle, N.H.* ca. 1951. Displayed at Discover Portsmouth in 2017.



Virginia Weston Besse (1923-2018). "New Castle Street" 1959. Displayed at Discover Portsmouth in 2017.



Russell Cheney. "Piscataqua Lane". 1933.

For orientation to today (2023) in this and similar westerward views, assuming colors changed:

Starting on the right, front to back:

- Becker Lane entrance at telephone pole.
- Green house now Sullivan, former Calkins.
- Tan house no longer there, formerly known as “the Beehive.” Epstein lot, former Plumer/Grier.
- Salamander Lane entrance.
- Off-white house now Bates, former Smith.
- Steamboat Lane entrance.
- White house now DeFlorio/Reed , former Colliton.

Starting on the left, front to back:

- Light gray house Murphy/Strong, former Hoefle.
- Green house now Loxham, former Fusco, Straw.

Looking East.

This is less popular than paintings and images looking West.
Selected photographs are shown and all known paintings.

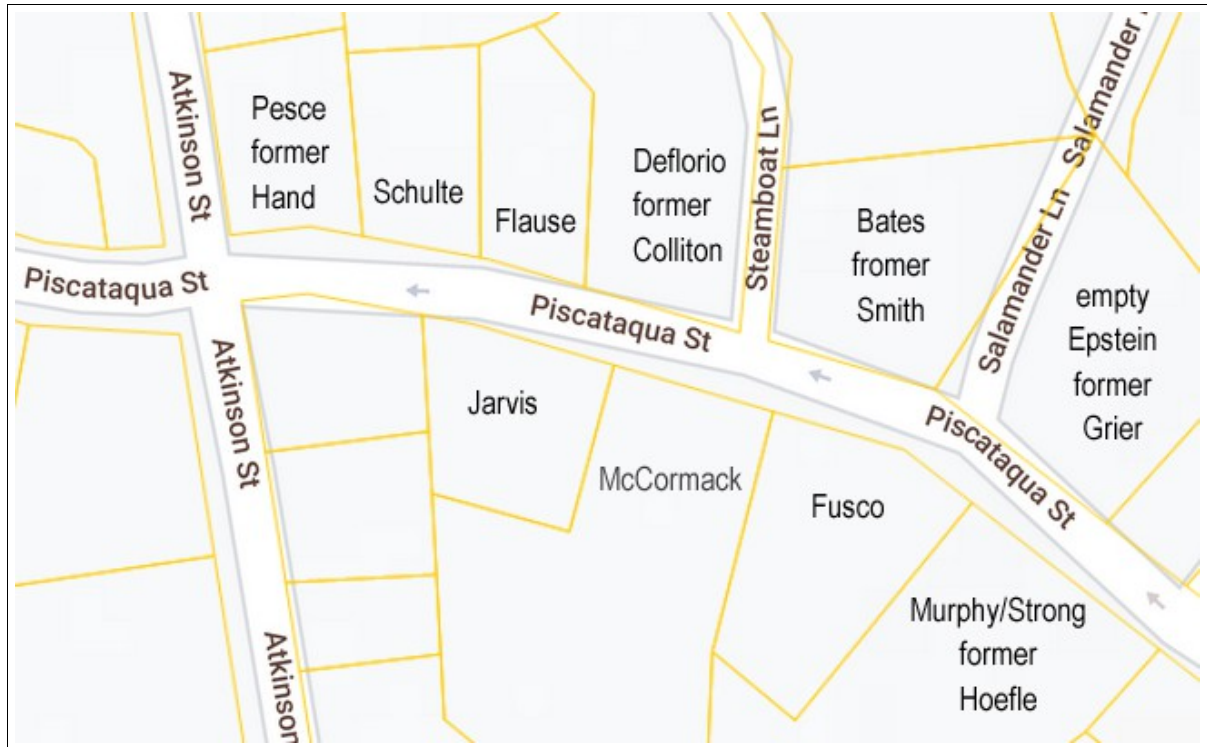




Image by Jim Cerny, January 2015. Cerny Collection.



Florence Ewing or Charles Wood. ca. 1905. Ewing Collection.



Elizabeth Grier Plumer (1901-1992). Town of New Castle Collection.



Russell Cheney (1881-1945). "New Castle Street." 1940.



Russell Cheney, detail of brush work.



Mary Greenberg (1908-1967). Town of New Castle Collection.

Cropped from the April 2015 issue of *New Castle Islander Magazine*. Her photograph was added in the June issue.



Elizabeth Grier Plumer, photographer, in the 1960s.

Elizabeth Grier Plumer captured many artistic black-and-white images of New Castle, such as snow scenes on Piscataqua Street. These were left to the Town and many can be seen by searching her name in the Historical Society's online catalog (<http://preview.tinyurl.com/nchs-catalog>). Her mother, Gertrude Flint Grier, also took a number of black and white photographs, such as the image of her daughter Elizabeth on the beach which we ran in October, 2014, p.34.

Her parents were Gertrude L. Flint and Franklin H. Grier and the Flint/Grier/Plumer house was on Salamander Point, what is now the Epstein house. Elizabeth married the Dr. Herbert Edric Plumer of Portsmouth when she was almost 51, his third marriage, her first. She lived from 1901-1992, just a week short of her 92nd birthday. Those who went trick-or-treating in Town in the 1950s, tell how the Plumers had a table set up with a real skeleton that kids had to reach to the skeleton to get a treat! We don't have a picture of her as an adult, nor any of her negatives, nor an obituary. It appears she entered many photography competitions or salons and probably printed her own images. The accompanying graphic shows the winter picture *Snowbound* that she took of what was known as the Becker house on Piscataqua Street (inset), with stickers and stamps on the back of the mounting board, showing some of the competitions in which it was entered. A small cropped inset is included of another of her images, a seagull with wings spread.—

Jim Cerny, Town Historian.

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Ineluctable modality of the visible: at least that if no more, thought through my eyes. Signatures of all things I am here to read, seaspawn and seawrack, the nearing tide, that rusty boot. Snotgreen, bluesilver, rust: coloured signs. Limits of the diaphane.

- James Joyce, *Ulysses*, at start of the Proteus chapter.

Essay No. 1.

New Castle Motifs: Piscataqua Street from Atkinson to Walbach. December 2023.

Essay No. 2.

Remembering David Borden in Photographs. June 2023.

Essay No. 3.

Analysis of a Postcard: Third New Castle Bridge ca. 1904. August 2023.

Essay No. 4.

Fall Wildflower Reflections. September 2023.