

McIntosh Tavern Site



John Lewis Krimmel, *Village Tavern* (1814)

McIntosh's Tavern, like any good pub, was the town's social gathering place. The tavern was established in 1819 by Maj. Ebenezer McIntosh, son of Needham's Revolutionary War hero, Col. William McIntosh. William himself had kept an "open house" in the years after the War. The tavern made its own beer and ale (most households did), and was also licensed to sell distilled spirits. As a public house and inn, the tavern was located at the intersection of the coach roads to accommodate travelers. It was a drop-off spot for goods, and a resting place on the journey.

Travelers were not only a source of income, but they also brought the latest news – a welcome combination. For the locals, the tavern was a meeting place to socialize and trade gossip. The large tavern hall could hold many people, and was ideal for selectmen's meetings (the Town paid the charges for candles, liquor, etc), Coroner's juries, public meetings, and social events and dances. The tavern remained in the McIntosh family until around 1840. The building burned down in 1844. The chimney and hearths survived the fire and were incorporated into the rebuilt house, still standing on this site.