136 Main Street

The Charles W. and Martha A. Seymour House, built about 1838, is a Greek Revival residence with a long history of adaptation. Its builder, Charles W. Seymour, was a master carpenter, selectman, local historian, photographer, and civic leader. He contributed to the 1893 History of the Town of Hingham and also owned neighboring 132 Main Street.

The house's high ceilings and varied interior finishes reflect successive periods of work. Chevron-pattern flooring in the dining room contrasts with the distinctive patchwork of wood tiles in the living room. A marble fireplace surround and surviving horsehair-plaster walls contribute to the historic interior. The property's original barn retains a loft and basement.

At one stage, the building was divided into two dwellings, one upstairs and one downstairs. In the 1990s, a renovation undertaken with architect Sally Weston returned it to single-family use. A large window with sidelights marks the location of a former entrance associated with the two-family arrangement. A former closet became a powder room, with its raised floor accommodating plumbing underneath.

Later alterations added Corinthian columns to the entrance hall to echo the exterior's classical character. Additional molding, a dining-room chair rail, and a rebuilt mantel continued the interior's evolution. A second opening between the dining and living rooms was closed.

The kitchen was reconfigured to create a breakfast area, while changes to another powder room provided space for a pantry, coat closet, and adjoining bookcase. A wood-burning fireplace was added to the family room. These modifications show how the house has accommodated changing uses while retaining substantial elements of its nineteenth-century architecture and its connection to one of Hingham's civic historians. Gracie wallpaper in the Dining Room and hand painted kitchen backsplash tiles in the kitchen of Hingham architectural icons give this home deeply personal stories of placemaking.