346 Main Street

The David Whiton House began in 1803 as a brick-ended Federal house built by flour and grain dealer David Whiton upon his marriage. Its entrance originally faced Main Street, and Whiton and his descendants occupied the property throughout the nineteenth century. The early structure survives within a house substantially reshaped during the twentieth century.

In 1930, Hingham architect Charles Everett directed an ambitious transformation: the original house was turned ninety degrees to face south toward Pond Street, and a large addition was constructed behind it. An octagonal foyer, crowned by a tower, connected the two sections. A curved staircase and an Otis residential elevator installed that year became distinctive features of the new entrance hall. Everett's characteristic arched breezeway further marked the redesign.

Within the original house, two rooms and a hallway were combined into a single living room. Two early fireplaces remain, one associated with the original kitchen. The dining room, although part of the 1930 addition, was designed to resemble the older portion of the house. A former flower-arranging room and a household bell system offer further evidence of earlier domestic arrangements.

During the Second World War, the unoccupied house served as a USO headquarters known as the Soldiers and Sailors Recreation Center, accommodating servicemen stationed in Hingham. The center later moved to North Street.

An early twenty-first-century addition introduced a family room, mudroom, and powder room. Columns from the front vestibule were reused in the family room, linking the newer work to the house's earlier architectural fabric. Together, these changes record more than two centuries of adaptation.