



## 72-74 Pleasant Street

E. D. Davison was the lumber baron who nurtured Bridgewater into a bustling town with his lumber mills located on the LaHave River. His original palatial residence, Oak Hill, stood at the corner of what is today Aberdeen Road and Elm Street. The Davison land was eventually divided between his sons, with Frank Davison eventually building the lovely Victorian Eclectic home on Aberdeen Road, now hidden from view by an old car dealership parking lot. However, despite being involved with the continued operation of the family mills, Frank also had other business interests which brought him into the downtown, and even served as the town's first mayor from 1899-1900. In 1910, he bought the lot between the Bridgewater Courthouse and the site of Doran's Hotel (which later burned and now exists as apartments), which extended all the way down to King Street, and he built this new residence there before his death in 1913.

The home has the immediately recognizable Four Square look, though it lacks the usual front veranda, which was removed some time after 1924 – it appears in that year's Town Insurance Map. The house also shuns the usual hipped dormers for shed dormers, though this would have been a common element of the Arts and Crafts movement which would soon make its mark with its design being incorporated into many new bungalows. The entrance way, despite being exposed by the lack of a veranda in later years, retained its transom light and side lights, which would have

provided an opposing entryway to the four-storey home, which was built into the hill. The extensiveness of the windows on the front and the side, as well as a large, three-window shed dormer on the front face and the three individual dormers on the sides of the hipped roof speak to the wealth of Frank Davison, though these were eventually replaced with modern window fittings. No picture survives showing up close detail of the residence before it was vinyl sided, so it is impossible to tell if it had more magnificent detailing,

Within a year of Davison's death, his heirs sold the home. It was owned by Dr. C. S. Marshall, mayor of Bridgewater from 1915-1919 and 1923-1924, during the last half of his first tenure (1819-1919). Sadly, the home of one of Bridgewater's wealthiest individuals was destroyed in a fire in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

From the *72.74 Pleasant Street Built Heritage File*, *Frank Davison* and *C. S. Marshall* Biography files, and the *Bridgewater Hotels Reference File*