

# Brief History of the Property

## Timeline

- 1847** A tavern on the site is destroyed in the “West Side Fire” of April, 1847.
- 1850** First Nichewaug Inn is built by Jones Foster. It is large, handsome Victorian-style building. Is also used as a private boys school for a period – The Highland Institute.
- 1897** First Nichewaug Inn is destroyed in the “West Side Fire” of December, 1897. Owned by James W. Brooks, managed by Kelton Properties.
- 1899** A new Nichewaug Inn is rebuilt by James W. Brooks with the encouragement of town residents and summer guests (this is the current shingle-style building on the site, with modifications).
- 1912** Purchased by Treadway Inn, then sold to Eliot N. Jones.
- 1930** Sold to the Nichewaug Corporation.
- 1949** The last year that the Nichewaug functions as an Inn / Resort.
- 1951** Purchased by the Sisters of Maria Assumpta for a parochial girls’ school.
- 1952** Academy school addition is built (the brick building in the back) for classes and dormitory. The highly regarded School is successful for about thirty years.
- 1973** The Academy school is closed. The property is used as a retreat for the Sisters.
- 1982** Placed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the entire Town Common Historic District.
- 1985** Purchased by Nichewaug Realty Trust for possible development.
- 1992** Purchased by Grapevine Realty Trust for possible development.
- 2002** Formation of the ‘Friends of the Nichewaug Inn.’ a citizens’ advocacy group created to seek a buyer, find uses for the property.
- 2003** Nominated by the ‘Friends’ and selected as one of the ‘2003 Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources’ by PreservationMass, a statewide preservation advocacy group.
- 2004** Placed for sale at Public Auction in November, 2004. A private owner, Lori Joly, purchases property with plans for redevelopment.
- 2007** Owner defaults on loan and property taxes. Foreclosure Auction occurs, but no bidders come forward. Property taken by the mortgage lender, DEAL LLC. Arrangements made for property to be given as gift to the Town based on Town Meeting approval. Town votes approval to accept the property as a gift at Special Town Meeting in June, 2007. Closing occurs in August 2007