



WETHERBEE PLAZA

AT 97 - 117 GREAT ROAD, ACTON

THE WETHERBEE HOUSE MOVED TO ITS CURRENT LOCATION ON ROUTE 2A

HISTORIC RESTORATION AND REUSE FOR MODERN TIME

The once-splendid home sited on 2.5 acres at 103 Great Road was built in 1873 by Daniel B. Wetherbee (1814 – 1883), a wealthy businessman who owned a tavern and three mills bordering Nashoba Brook across the roadway. Wetherbee reportedly held many town offices and served as a representative to the state legislature. His son, Daniel James Wetherbee (1844-1905) lived in the home, later assumed ownership of the family's businesses, and was the Town of Acton tax collector. The original property included the grand Wetherbee house, a windmill and a large detached barn. It is one of three historic bracketed Italianate buildings in Acton, the other two being the Acton Town Hall (1865) and the Exchange Hall (1860) in South Acton.

In 1994, the Wetherbee house in East Acton Village was placed on the "top 10" of the Most Endangered Historic Resources List compiled annually by Historic Massachusetts Inc., a non-profit Boston-based organization focused on the preservation of historic landmarks. The Acton Historical Commission averted the home's demolition on two separate occasions and nominated the private residence to be protected due to its historical value, architectural significance, and potential for reuse.

After multiple owners, the vacant and deteriorated property at 103 Great Road fell into bankruptcy and became a ghostly eyesore at the intersection of Concord Road close to what was then the Acton Cinemas. An Acton businessman and entrepreneur, Leo Bertolami purchased the property from the bank in 1992. Despite its neglect, the home's previous grandeur was evident in its three recessed chimneys, bay windows, scrollwork, gable roof lines, and circular window at the roof's peak. In 1997, Leo Bertolami came before the Board of Selectman with a plan to move the historic home to the back of the property, restore it to its original grandeur, and to develop the foreground of the property into a mixed-use retail center to include a car wash, a detail shop, retail shops and offices, and apartments. On July 25, 2000, the restoration of the Wetherbee house was recognized with ceremony by State Senator Pamela Resor and State Representative Cory Atkins.

Later in 2002, Bertolami presented the Wetherbee Extension Plan that included the preservation of the East Acton Station Master's House built by Arthur Rayner in 1910 at 107 Great Road, as well as a carriage barn and windmill to be used for storage – newly constructed to bring back some of the former charm of the Wetherbee property when Raynor resided there in the early 1900s.

Today, the historic and completely refurbished Wetherbee house at 103 Great Road is the home of the law offices of Scheier, Katin & Epstein, P.C. The restored Rayner house is now located at 115 Great Road and is home of Mireni's Design & Expert Alternations.

The Wetherbee Plaza is a mixed-use development of residences and services that is well-located to highways, commuter rail, parks, trails, highly ranked schools, restaurants, shops, and all the Boston suburbs have to offer.



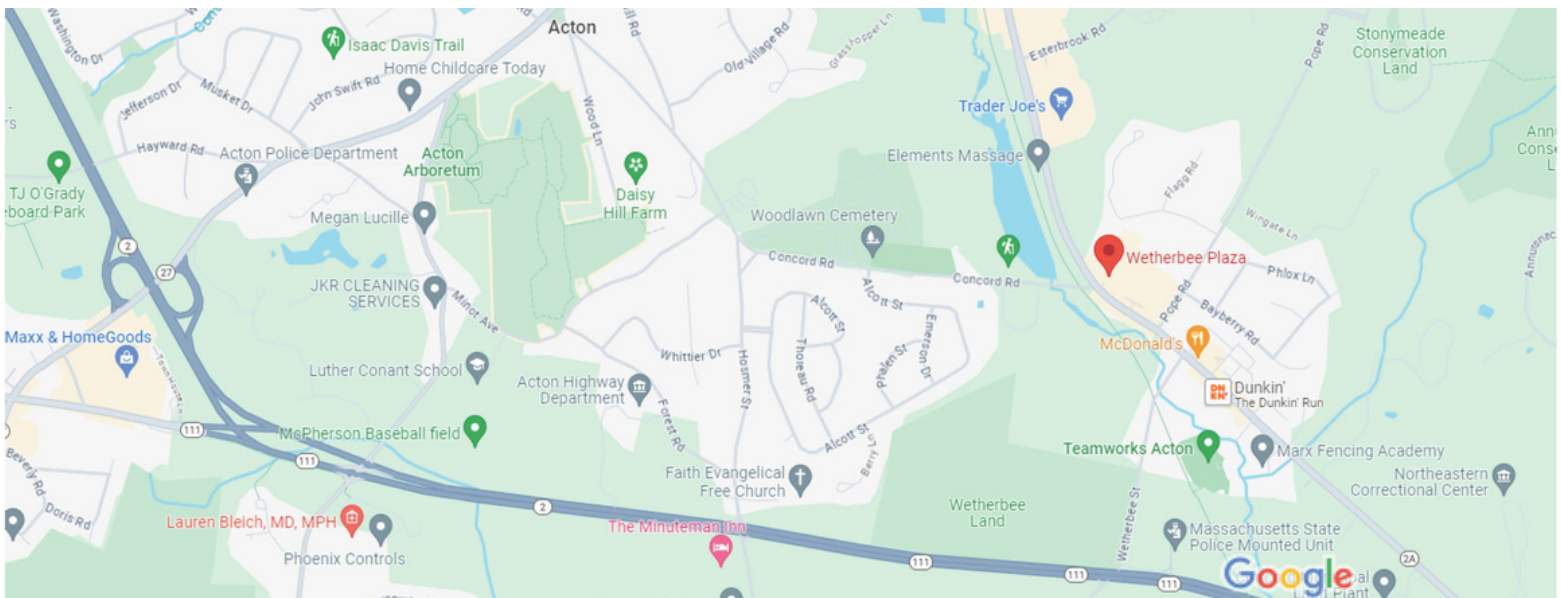
Sources: *Boston Sunday Globe*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Beacon*, *The Acton Citizen*, *Home Projects Magazine*, *National Register Criteria Statement*, January 4, 2024

LOCATION



- 1 97 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)
- 2 99 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)
- 3 101 GREAT ROAD (VILLAGE DETAIL)
- 4 103 GREAT ROAD (WETHERBEE HOUSE - SCHEIER KATIN & EPSTEIN, LLC.)
- 5 105 GREAT ROAD (ACTON CAR WASH)
- 6 107 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)
- 7 109 & 111 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)
- 8 113 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)
- 9 115 GREAT ROAD (RAYNER HOUSE* - MIRENI'S DESIGN & EXPERT ALTERATIONS)
- 10 117 GREAT ROAD (MIXED-USE BUILDING)

*FORMER STATION MASTER HOUSE





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