**Botterbusch Jewelry Store**

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| http://www.gdhspa.org/Obituaries/Lori%20Kendig/clip_image110.gif 1983  <http://www.gdhspa.org/Kids%20Page/tour.htm> | http://www.gdhspa.org/Obituaries/Lori%20Kendig/clip_image112.jpg 2007 |

Had it not been for a high school assignment, Ron Botterbush probably wouldn’t have uncovered the history of a couple of old local buildings. But, the report was required for him to graduate. So, like his classmates at Dover Area High School, he started to research.  
Two things made his project unique, however. Botterbush chose to write about the house he lived in, and he was 43 years old at the time.  
Botterbush, now 77, was set to graduate from high school in 1951, but he joined the U.S. Navy earlier that year and never got his diploma.

In 1966, Botterbush, a watchmaker, and his wife, Norma, moved to a house at 2 S. Main St. in Dover, where they also opened a jewelry store. The couple have been married for 48 years, raised two sons and a daughter and still live in the house.  
“We bought it on a sales agreement . . . for sixteen thousand dollars,” Ron Botterbush said. “Basically, it was in good shape.”  
Years later and after he left the military, Ron Botterbush went back to high school.  
He said his reason for choosing the house for his research project was simple.  
“Because I lived here,” he said.  
He still has his handwritten notes from the school report.  
According to his research, a petition was signed in 1768 by a Gerhart Graeff and several of his friends to operate a tavern presumably at two lots in the southwest angle on the present square in Dover.  
Botterbush said he’s not sure whether the tavern was located where his house is or at the house next door on the second lot at 4 S. Main Street where his daughter Glenda Lentz and her husband, Bradley, live and operate Taylor’s Treasures gift shop.  
Graeff operated the tavern until he left to lead local soldiers into the Revolutionary War. Graeff died a British prisoner in New York City, Botterbush said.  
In 1796, an ad ran in a local newspaper that listed the name of the tavern as “Sign of the Black Horse.” Around 1812, the tavern became a general store, Botterbush said.  
The property was sold a number of times over the years, and in 1843 it was bought by Jacob Fink, Botterbush said. That year, the building at 2 S. Main Street caught fire and burned to the ground, he said.  
Also that year, Peter Weist opened a department store at 2 S. Main and later moved the business to York, Botterbush said.  
Botterbush said he hopes the property’s historical value will be protected from future development.  
“I would like to see this old building preserved,” he said.

<http://www.yorkblog.com/greenmesh/2010/11/12/video-saving-history-in-dover/>