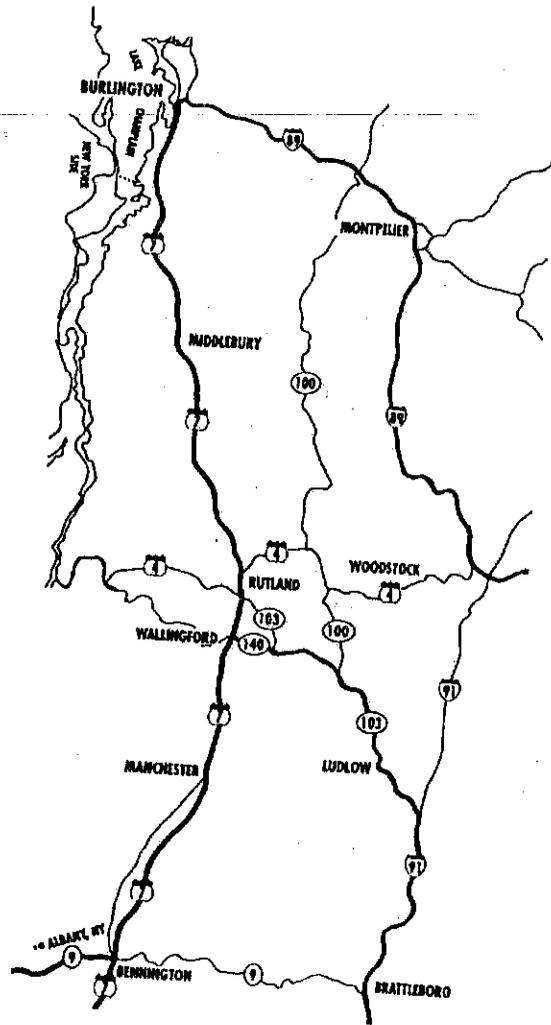


Wallingford is located on US Route 7,
approximately 30 minutes north of Manchester
and 15 minutes south of Rutland.



Courtesy
Wallingford Historical Society

2001

Historic Wallingford Village



Founded 1761

AN INTRODUCTORY HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Welcome to Wallingford. We are eager to share some of our history with you.

As you will see, a variety of well-preserved buildings tell the story of the growth of Wallingford Village. The earliest settlers came from Wallingford, Connecticut, when a charter was granted in 1761 for a parcel of land six miles square in the wilderness between the colonies of New York and New Hampshire to become the new town of Wallingford, Vermont.

The contour of the land led to the development of three villages — North (now called the Village), South and East Wallingford and several other small settlements. The fertile soil of the Otter Creek Valley contributed to the success of this frontier agricultural community's dairy, wheat and sheep farms and cheese factories. In addition, the forests and streams of the Green Mountains provided wood and water power for the lumbering and milling operations, which produced a variety of products from bowls, barrel staves and snow shovels to axes, nails, scythes and quality hand-forged forks and hoes.

By the mid - 1800s the opening of the Western Vermont Railroad gave a boost to the town's economy which is reflected in the

large number of buildings dating from this period. The early twentieth century witnessed another change in the economy as local businesses were bought out by larger corporations, such as the American Fork & Hoe Company of Cleveland, Ohio, which acquired the Batcheller Works.

Despite the widening of Main Street in 1937 to make room for increased traffic on Route 7, Wallingford Village has retained a coherent nineteenth century streetscape. Standing side by side along the village streets are both modest and elaborate versions of nineteenth century building styles from Federal, Greek and Gothic Revival to Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. There are even classic examples of an early twentieth century four-square and a bungalow. All but a very few buildings on the Main Street are part of the Main Street Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We hope this mini-tour will help you recognize Wallingford's rich architectural heritage and the value of preserving it.

Please stop by the Historical Society Museum located on the second floor of the Town Hall.

President
Wallingford Historical Society

Start here

1. "Boy with the Boot" fountain was dedicated in memory of Arnold Hill who came to Wallingford with his family in the 1850's. The statue's basin served as a watering trough for horses. It is a notable village landmark except when it is removed and stored in winter. There are only a few such fountains in existence today.

2. Wallingford House, a 3 1/2 story, wood-shingled Georgian Revival style building, has undergone several remodelings in its history. Originally an 1824 hotel designed by John Ives, it was enlarged in 1892. Then in 1926 The American Fork & Hoe Company bought the hotel and created its present symmetrical south and west facades, each marked by a massive, 2 - story porch and row of gabled dormers. In the 1940's it became a Treadway Inn. It is now a senior residence located in the heart of the village.

3. Wallingford Town Hall, opened on School Street in 1906, has been both the governmental and community center for the village. This high Victorian Gothic Neoclassic Revival brick building features a bell tower with a clock. Until 1973 all town meetings and many school and town events were held in the second floor auditorium. There was an active jail in the basement until 1960. The Town Clerk's office is on the first

floor. The Historical Society Museum and the Alumni Exhibit is on the second floor. Please stop by to view the many historic objects on display.

4. The 3-story Commercial Block, c.1824-1879, Italianate style building features cornice brackets, distinctive lintel boards and original store front. For many years was the Odd Fellows building. The top floor houses a grand ballroom with welcoming stairway.

5. The 1856 I. B. Munson House was the first Victorian townhouse in the village. Italianate style with hip roof, it is now a charming B & B. Notice the entry fanlight, bay window and Italianate porch.

6. The Old Stone Shop, built in 1848 after a fire destroyed an older frame building, was home to Batcheller & Sons which manufactured fine steel pitch forks, the first to do so in America. Although most of the manufacturing moved elsewhere in town, The Stone Shop was still operating as late as the 1920's, when it was remodeled into a tea room. The chimney at the north end is the original one used by Lyman Batcheller in his forge and traces of the old mill race can still be seen at the south end of the building.

7. The Gilbert Hart Library is considered one of the best proportioned buildings in Vermont. Built in 1894, this Neoclassical Revival style, buff-colored structure was financed by Gilbert Hart who became a wealthy Detroit businessman after growing up as a poor boy in Walling-

ford. It was dedicated especially to the children of his hometown.

8. The Victorian Inn: This outstanding French Second Empire style house with gazebo was built in 1877 by Smith & Allen of Middlebury for farm tool manufacturer Justin Batcheller. It features a mansard roof, central tower, iron cresting, distinctive dormer and Italianate porch. The carriage barn, c.1880, echoes the wooden decoration and polychromatic slate roofing of the house.

9. This 1818 schoolhouse was built by James Rustin, great-grandfather of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International. As a boy Paul went to school here and grew up in his grandparents' house a few doors away. This Federal style, one-story brick building has been owned by the Wallingford Rotary Club since 1962.

10. The initials "H. H." seen in the slate roof pattern stand for Howard Harris, grandfather of Paul Harris. Built in 1853 in the Greek Revival style with center stairway, the front was later given a Colonial Revival look by the addition of a porch and dormers. Notice the lovely entry fan and corner pilasters.

