

HIS Kingdom Quilt



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Vermont



New England's 6 state population is reported to be made up of less than 3% evangelical Christians. In Vermont, that tragic statistic, with its eternal consequences, sinks to less than 2%... To put that into perspective, mission agencies around the world deem such disturbingly, dark demographics to be made up of "Unreached People Groups." In short, as a state, Vermont is a mission field worthy of our most committed evangelistic efforts. Sadly, while the Northeast was the historic cradle of American Christianity, and the spiritual greenhouse of the famed Great Awakening, today the region, and Vermont in particular, is more akin to a religious coffin and deep spiritual slumber.

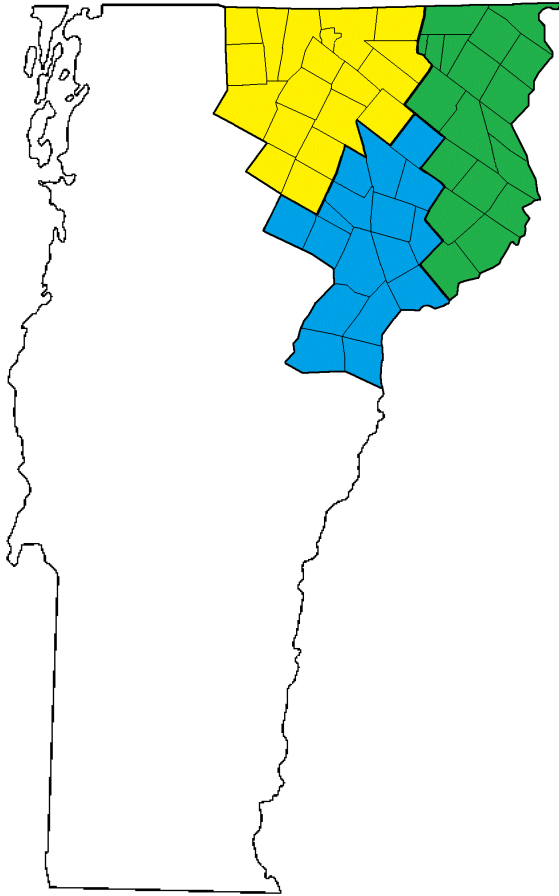
So much for the historic and recent past... the present and future are, and will be, different.

It's a new day!

The Lord is doing a budding and beautiful work in Vermont and all across New England. Our King has sounded the alarm and His people are waking up, worshipping and working once again. Praise God for His mercy and grace... He is breathing new life into Vermont. He is building His family and army afresh. Come and see how the King of kings and Lord of lords is building His Church from the most unlikely place, amongst the most unlikely people, in the most unlikely of ways. Come and see! Moreover, come and BE the Church with us in Vermont... ALL for God's glory & ALL by God's grace. No more. No less. No matter what!

The closer you get to the edge... the better the view.

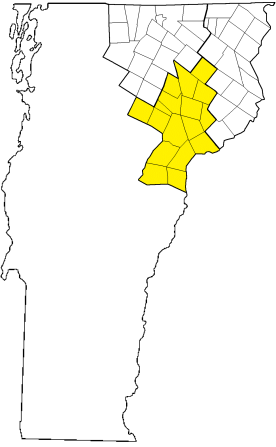
NorthEast Kingdom



Many say the three counties in the northeast part of the state are “what Vermont used to be.” Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties are well-known for their natural beauty and not just during foliage. The only sprawl you’ll find in this part of Vermont are farms, villages and small towns blanketing a hilly landscape with vast expanses of old forest, streams, lakes, ponds and trails.

Easily accessible from the north and south by I-91, and also from I-93, the Northeast Kingdom is traversed by scenic highways and dirt roads that have less traffic and better views. This region is one of Vermont’s least populated, with the biggest centers being in St. Johnsbury, Lyndonville and Newport.

Caledonia County (17 towns)



The Northeast Kingdom's most populated county at 31,277, Caledonia is also home to two of the region's largest business centers in St. Johnsbury and Lyndon. These two towns neighbor each other along the Passumpsic River. Both towns have an energetic business district, industrial park and beautiful historical buildings. Hardwick, lying on the western boundary, has become a regional center of organic agriculture.

Geographically, Caledonia County borders the Connecticut River to the southeast and I-91 and Route 5 run north-south through the center. In the southwest corner, lies Groton State Park, a 25,000-acre forest and the second largest protected area in the state. Burke Mountain, in East Burke, is home to Q Burke, a major ski resort in the region. Burke is also home to Kingdom Trails, a multiple use trail system unlike any other and recently voted as the "Best Mountain Bike Trail Network" in North America by Bike Magazine. The county is bounded on the north by Orleans County and the east by Essex County. The western part of the county is mountainous, while the eastern

valleys and intervals historically provided excellent farming opportunities. The higher elevations of the county offer picturesque views of New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Known to New England settlers for more than two centuries, it is not known when the region was discovered by Europeans. Prior to settlement, Native Americans inhabited the countryside, fished the rivers and streams and hunted in the vast wilderness.

Barnet, the home to 7,000-acre Harvey's Lake, was the first town to be settled and was named after Scotland-born Colonel Alexander Harvey. The name Caledonia is derived from the ancient Roman name for Scotland. The town of Danville originally held the county seat, but in 1855 the public buildings were moved to St. Johnsbury. Its location on Route 2, one of the state's well-traveled east-west corridors, made Danville a popular destination.

Much of St. Johnsbury's heritage comes from the invention of the platform scale by Thaddeus Fairbanks, who established a business in 1830 that made the name "Fairbanks" synonymous with scales; and from George C. Cary, who founded the Cary Maple Sugar Co. in 1904. With the success and growth of the scale, maple sugar, and wood products industries, so grew St. Johnsbury. Due to its rapid growth, it became the Caledonia County seat in 1856. It also became a rail and highway junction, as well as industrial, commercial, and cultural crossroads of the region - a position in which it is firmly secure today. In recent years, St. Johnsbury has made a name for itself with its arts and cultural centers, including the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and Art Gallery and Catamount Arts.

Known as the "Covered Bridge Capital of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom," Lyndon is divided into meadow and upland which has been used effectively for agriculture. Its riverside location made it ideal for mills, factories and machinery. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad run through the center of town and once afforded transportation of people and goods.

St. Johnsbury and Lyndon also both offer two renowned private high schools in St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute. Many relocate to these towns, as well as other neighboring sending towns, for the purpose of sending their children to these schools.

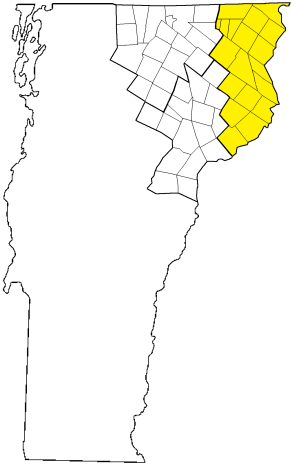
County Seat: St. Johnsbury

Population: 31,227 (2010)

Area: 651 sq. mi.

Persons per square mile: 48.1

Essex County (16 towns...3 unincorporated)



Essex County has about 6,300 inhabitants, making it the least populous county in Vermont, as well as in all of New England. It extends about 45 miles from north to south and more than 20 miles from east to west. The county has been a prime source of timber production in the Northeast Kingdom and is distinguished as the location of Vermont's largest land conservation project. In 1999 a coalition of organizations purchased a total of 132,000 acres in more than a dozen towns and unincorporated gores from the Champion International Paper Company to preserve the property for recreation, wildlife habitat and continued logging through sustainable forestry.

Essex County's eastern boundary is the beautiful upper Connecticut River, which separates northern Vermont and New Hampshire's White Mountain region. Before the county was colonized, the area was used as a productive hunting ground by various Native American tribes. After colonization, the Connecticut River became the main route for floating logs to sawmills every spring. The log drives ended around 1915 because of the danger to recreational boaters. The final drive was reported to have involved 500 workers managing 65 million feet of logs.

One challenging section of the river was known as the 15-mile falls, a vertical drop of nearly 400 feet where water cascaded over boulders and ledges from southern Essex County into Caledonia County. The 15-mile falls was submerged by the construction of three large hydroelectric generating projects – the Comerford and the McIndoes Falls dams in Barnet, both completed in 1931, and the Moore Dam, which was finished in 1951 and is in Waterford upriver from the Comerford Dam. The Comerford Dam was New England's largest single hydroelectric plant at the time it started generating power. Reservoirs were created behind each of the dams, the biggest being the Moore Reservoir, which extends nearly 10 miles and covers some 3,000 acres. The reservoirs are available for recreational use, but boaters are warned to be alert for sudden changes in water depth.

The majority of Essex County's residents live along the Connecticut River, which is New England's longest river, flowing 410 miles from a series of protected lakes by the Canadian border in New Hampshire to its outlet in Connecticut on Long Island Sound. The river's valley is known for its fertile farmland throughout its length.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1860s, offered an extensive description of Essex County's upper Connecticut River valley. It reads, in part: "To the lovers of natural scenery, the valley of the Connecticut, from the head of the fifteen-mile falls to Canaan, cannot be surpassed in loveliness. The meandering folds of the river, the abrupt headlands, the towering summits of the White Mountains, the variety of timberland, all conspire to render it a changing scene and one of peculiar interest and beauty. Almost every town in the county boasts of some hill or mountain from the summit of which scenes of peculiar beauty lay spread before you... The White Mountains are in full view from the river towns, and may be seen perhaps from every town in the county. The best view of the White Mountain range attainable is however from Lunenburg. Seen from that locality they stand out in all their boldness."

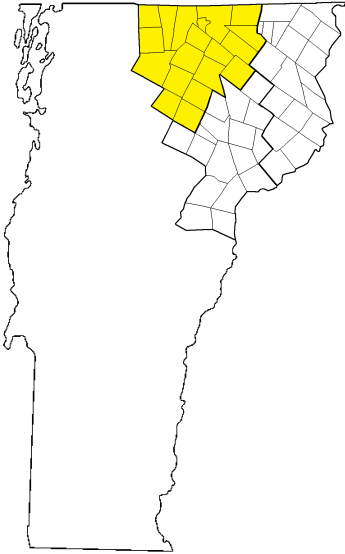
County Seat: Guildhall

Population: 6,306 (2010)

Area: 665 sq. mi.

Persons per square mile: 9.5

Orleans County (19 towns)



Two of the three counties that encompass the Northeast Kingdom – Orleans County and to its east, Essex County – form about half of Vermont’s northern border with Canada.

Two notable geographic features in Orleans County are beautiful Lake Memphremagog, which reaches north into Canada, and rugged 3,862-foot Jay Peak, the home of a ski resort that receives the highest average annual snowfall of any mountain in the eastern United States.

Lake Memphremagog was a renowned Indian tribal fishing and hunting area. It is still prized for those purposes today, as well as recreation. The lake is 30 miles long and one to four miles wide with about two-thirds of it in Canada.

Jay Peak is one of the major summits of the Green Mountains traversed by the Long Trail, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States. The Long

Trail extends 272 miles from the Massachusetts state line to the Canadian border.

Another historical man-made feature that stands out in Orleans County is the Bayley-Hazen Military Road, built during the American Revolutionary War to provide an invasion route to Canada. It was never completed or used for that purpose, but it was instrumental in the settlement of the county. The 54-mile road began south of the Northeast Kingdom in the town of Newbury on the Connecticut River and ran north through Greensboro, Craftsbury, and Albany to Hazen's Notch near the Canadian border in Westfield. Some local roads follow portions of the original Bayley-Hazen route. Greensboro and Craftsbury, located next to each other at the southern tip of Orleans County, were the first towns settled in the county.

Due to its proximity to Canada, Orleans County’s history is peppered with dangerous and colorful tales of smuggling to and from Canadian markets, beginning with the Revolutionary War and extending through the War of 1812 and the liquor prohibition era of the 1920s and early 1930s.

Orleans County was the site of several memorable early 19th century events: the 1810 Runaway Pond incident in Glover that sent a torrent of water roaring from that town through Barton, Brownington, Coventry and Newport to Lake Memphremagog; a hurricane in 1815 that caused extensive property damage and crop losses; and damaging cold weather in 1816, which became known as the year with no summer. Northern Vermont and southern Quebec were particularly hard hit in 1816.

Today, Orleans County is bisected by Interstate 91, the major north-south road in eastern Vermont. The county’s most populated towns, Newport and Derby, straddle the southern end of Lake Memphremagog at the international border with Canada.

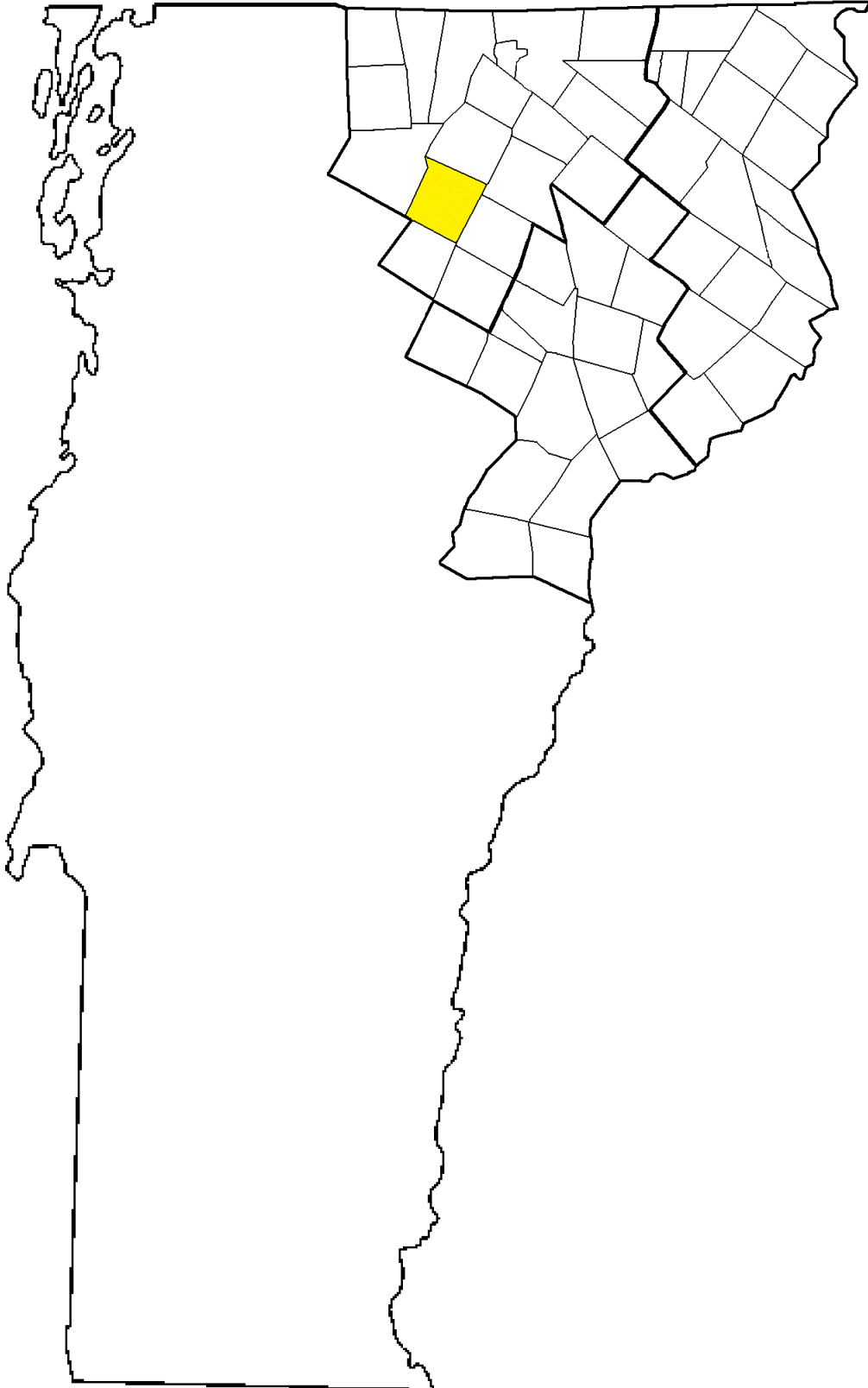
County Seat: Newport

Population: 27,231 (2010).

Area: 721 sq. mi.

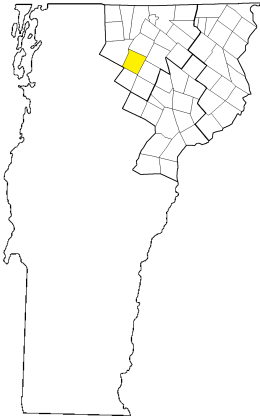
Persons per square mile: 39.3

Albany



Albany (Orleans County)

[Albany Video https://youtu.be/GnQEDyp6q0A](https://youtu.be/GnQEDyp6q0A)



Albany, located in the heart of Orleans County, is south of Newport and west of I-91 with one main road, Route 14. The Black River flows north through town parallel to Route 14 and empties into Lake Memphremagog in Newport. Albany is bounded by the towns of Irasburg to the north, Glover to the east, Craftsbury to the south and Lowell to the west. A column of 21 wind generators, each 450 feet tall, are visible from most areas of Albany, towering above the neighboring ridgeline of the Lowell Mountain Range.

A township charter was granted and Albany's boundaries were set in the 1780s. The town government was organized March 27, 1806. Albany's first gristmill, first sawmill and first woolen mill were established in the 1820s, leading to a population spurt in the 1830s.

The *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, published in 1877, provided a glowing description of Albany: "A fine agricultural town, hard to be beat, in the neatness and arrangement of its farm dwellings and out buildings, especially along the Black River valley road. The prospect this valley affords those who are passing over the well-known 'Old Centre Road' of a pleasant summer's day, can seldom be equaled in the state. Other parts of the town exhibit equal evidences of thrift and wealth. Their forests of cedar, and apple and sugar orchards, their rich and fertile soils, their inexhaustible beds of the richest muck and shell-marl, open up to those parts of the town the means of present profit and future fertility and wealth. Industry and economy are the marked characteristics of the inhabitants, spiced strongly with the usual amount of generosity and hospitality of rural life; and interwoven with these may readily be detected the refinements of genuinely refined society. The rough edges of pioneer life and settlements have been rounding off, and more congenial and conciliating temperaments succeed the old-fashioned, 'rough and ready' style of neighborly intercourse."

Today Albany's residents have to travel out of town to shop, as well as work, unless they make their living from the land or are otherwise self-employed. Albany is one of a number of Northeast Kingdom towns that provide a window to the past – a living reminder of what Vermont used to be.

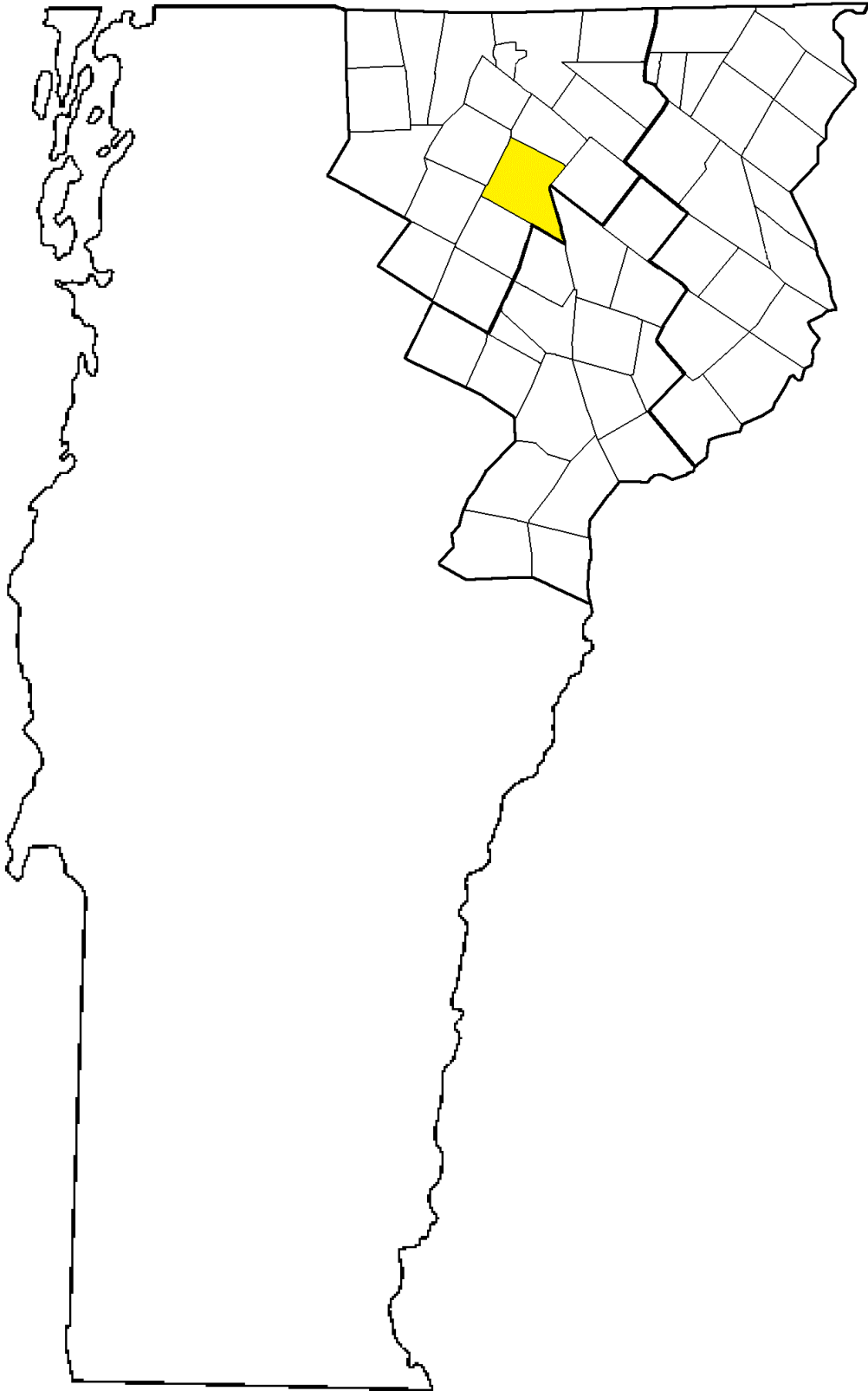
Population: 941

Area: 38.98 sq. mi.

Elevation: 956

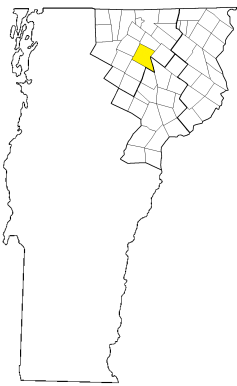
Town Offices: 827 Main St., Albany, Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 9-4, Wednesday 9-7

Barton



Barton (Orleans County)

[Barton Video https://youtu.be/WXDiqcVsiVo](https://youtu.be/WXDiqcVsiVo)



Barton is near the southern end of Orleans County on Interstate 91, bounded on the southwest by Glover, on the northwest by Irasburg, on the northeast by Brownington, on the southeast by Westmore and on the south by the Caledonia County towns of Sutton and Sheffield.

Barton contains two incorporated villages that have their own trustees – Barton Village, located at the outlet of Crystal Lake, and Orleans Village, which is in the northern corner of town on the Barton River. Barton Village was originally called Barton Mills, and Orleans Village was originally called Barton Landing because it provided access to the river.

Crystal Lake, the town's main geographic feature, is three miles long, one mile wide and more than 100 feet deep in places with native lake trout. The lake features a state park and almost a mile of sandy shoreline with a designated swimming area.

The town was granted Oct. 20, 1781 to William Barton and his associates, and settlement commenced in the spring of 1795. The town's first sawmill was built by William Barton in the summer of 1796. The earliest settlers had to go south to Lyndon and St. Johnsbury for their supplies, a distance of 20 to 30 miles.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer contains a number of tales from the early 1800s of smugglers confronted and caught in Barton with cattle and various types of goods, including clothing, wire and steel.

In one instance, the Gazetteer said a U. S. custom officer received information in March 1814 that a company of smugglers had crossed the line, intending to pass through town: "Some of the inhabitants of this town and Irasburgh went out to meet them, which they did near the north line of the town... There they had quite a hard battle. Several were severely wounded, on both sides. But the smugglers proved too strong a force for the custom officers and their party, and they drove through."

Barton Landing (now Orleans Village) grew slowly until the railroad reached the area in 1858. Meanwhile, Barton Mills, which became Barton Village, developed into an industrial center. The Gazetteer declared in the 1870s: "This town is not surpassed in New England for water power for mills and factories. There are five dams within 100 rods below Crystal Lake," where Willoughby Brook sends the lake's outflow to the Barton River.

Considerable growth occurred between 1890 and 1920, but that came to a stop with the 1927 flood, regarded as one of Vermont's most devastating natural disasters. It was caused by three days of torrential rain from Nov. 2-4 on already saturated soil. Barton Village was severely damaged, while statewide the flooding took out 1,285 bridges, miles of roads and railroads and countless homes and buildings. It was blamed for 84 deaths, including that of Lt. Gov. S. Hollister Jackson.

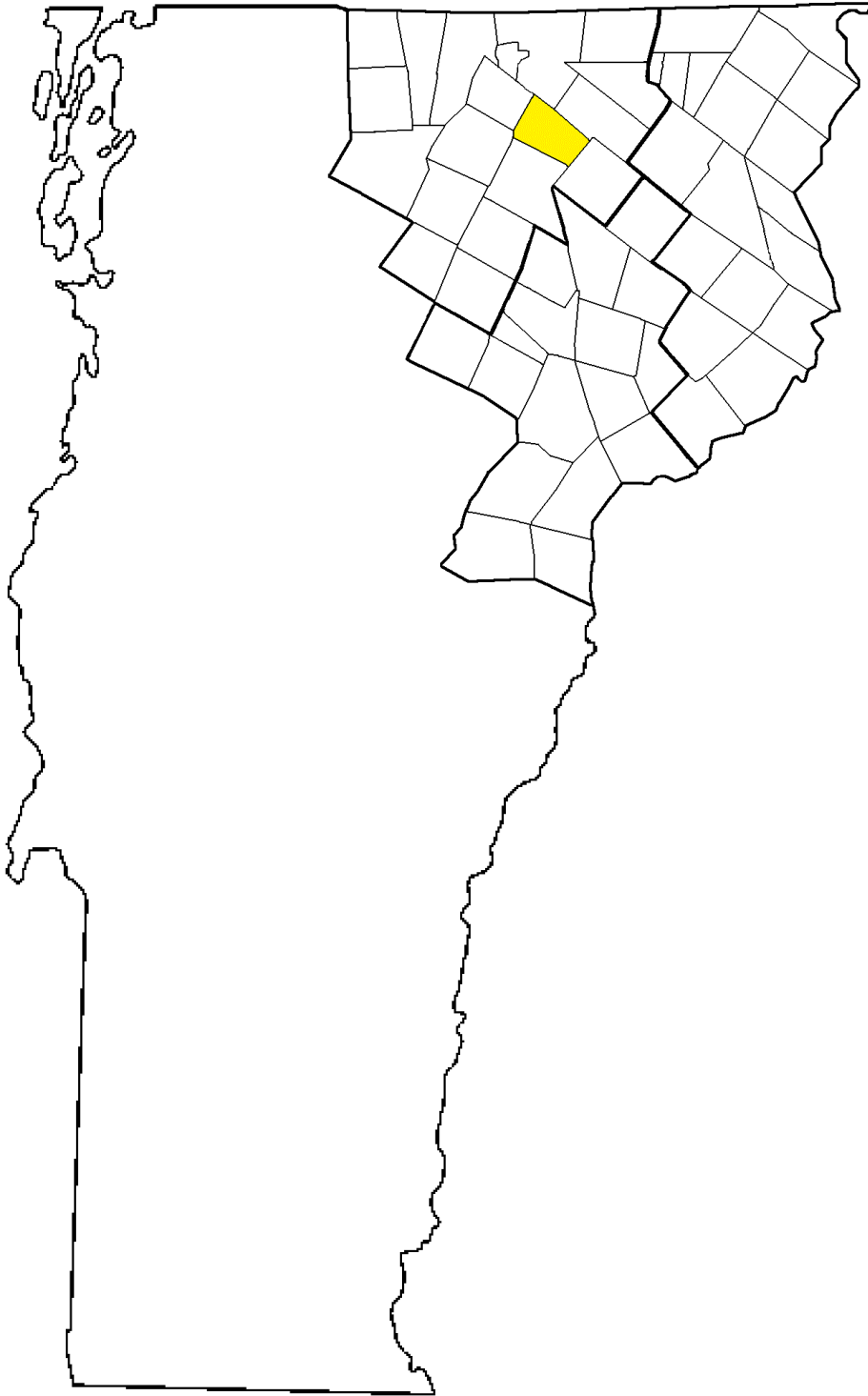
Population: 2,810

Area: 32.98 sq. mi.

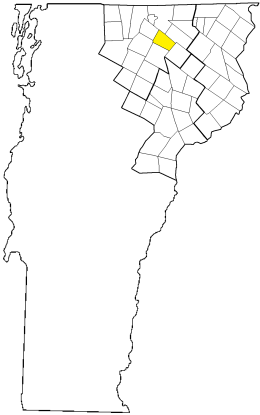
Elevation: 874

Town Offices: 34 Main Street, 525-6222, Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7:30-4, Fri. 7:30-12.

Brownington



Brownington (Orleans County)



Brownington has one of Orleans County's most distinctive buildings known as the Old Stone House, a four-story granite structure created as a student dormitory in the 1830s. It is now a museum and the focal point of a historic district that is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Old Stone House was designed and built by the Rev. Alexander Twilight, a schoolmaster who is believed to be America's first African American college graduate and first African American legislator.

Brownington was granted to Daniel and Timothy Brown in 1790. The town is bounded on the south by Barton, on the west by Irasburg and Coventry, on the north by Derby, and on the east by Charleston and Westmore. One of the first roads in Orleans County went through Brownington, connecting Greensboro to Derby. Brownington Village, which is close to Interstate 91, was once a stopping point for stagecoaches traveling between Boston and Canada.

The Brownington Historic District, where the Old Stone House Museum is located, is in the northern part of the village. The museum is operated by the Orleans County Historical Society and includes six buildings on 55 acres. The stone house itself has 21 rooms of exhibits focusing on 19th century life in northern Vermont.

Alexander Twilight, a man of mixed African-American ancestry, first saw Brownington in 1829, when he arrived to become minister of the Congregational Church and principal of the Orleans County Grammar School, also called Brownington Academy. The academy had been created just six years earlier, and was the only secondary, or high school, in the county.

Twilight felt strongly that if the academy was to compete successfully with other institutions, it should have a well-equipped dormitory for its students. He was unable to convince the school's trustees of that need and decided he would build it as a private venture. How he accomplished that is a mystery. Some people believe he did it all himself with the assistance of an ox.

The completed building was named Athenian Hall out of admiration for the ancient Greeks. But many simply called it the Stone Boarding House.

The building was acquired in 1916 by the Orleans County Historical Society for \$500 to preserve it for eventual use as a museum. Another potential buyer wanted to tear it down to use the granite blocks as railroad bridge abutments.



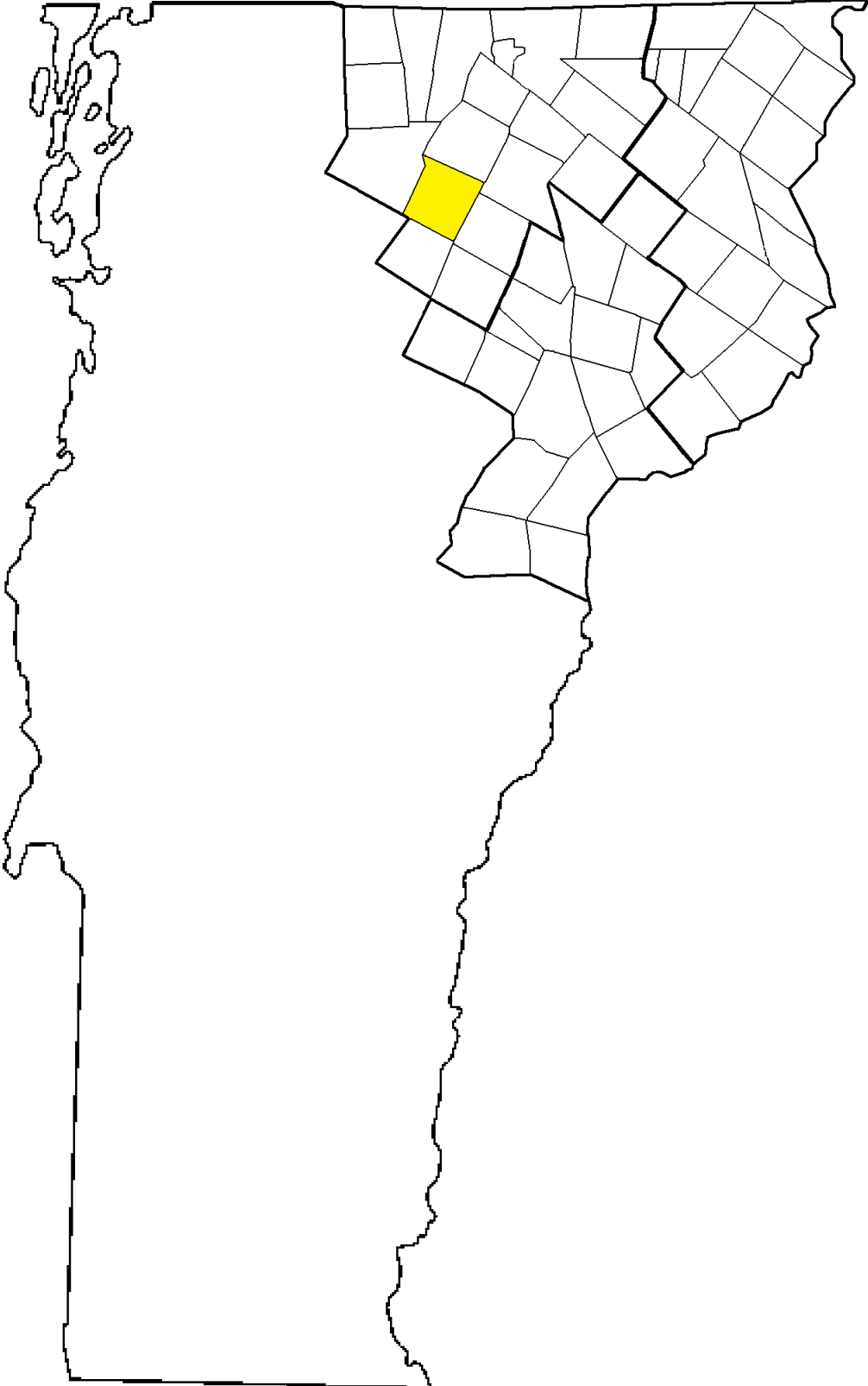
Vermont author Howard Frank Moshier wrote movingly about the Old Stone House in 1996 for Vermont Life Magazine: "I like the way the Stone House still looms up on that hilltop, where the wind blows all the time. There it sits, unshaken and monolithic, as I write this sentence and as you read it, every bit as astonishing today as the day it was completed. What a tribute to the faith of its creator, the Reverend Alexander Twilight: scholar, husband, teacher, preacher, legislator father-away-from-home to nearly 3,000 boys and girls, an African American and a Vermonter of great vision, whose remains today lie buried in the church-yard just up the maple-lined dirt road from his granite school, in what surely was, and still is, one of the last best places anywhere."

Population: 988

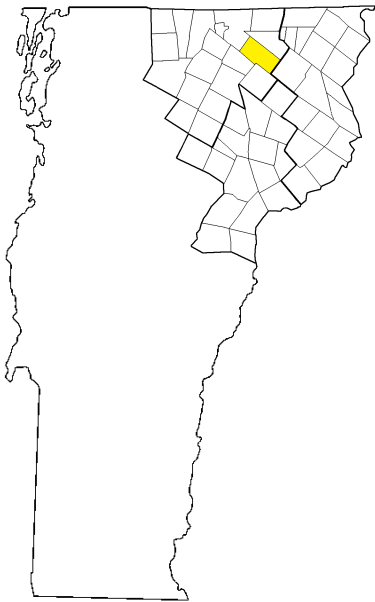
Area: 28.36 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,025 ft.

Town Offices: PO Box 66, Orleans, Mon.-Thurs. 9-4; and by appt.

Charleston



Charleston (Orleans County)



Charleston, situated in the eastern part of Orleans County, is bounded to the southwest by Westmore and Brownington, to the northwest by Derby, to the northeast by Morgan and to the southeast by the Essex County town of Brighton.

Charleston was granted and later chartered on Nov. 8, 1780 to Commodore Abraham Whipple, his shipmates and others. Whipple was a distinguished naval officer who sank the first British ship in the Revolutionary War. His original name for his Vermont town was Navy, which was changed to Charleston after his death.

Most of the original grantees lived in Cranston, Providence and Johnson, Rhode Island and never moved here. The town's main attraction was the abundance of fish in Echo Lake in the eastern part of town.

The main waterway is the Clyde river, which rises in Brighton and flows with a slow current through the center of Charleston until it reaches the Great Falls

in the western part of Charleston, where it descends more than 100 feet on its way to Derby and Lake Memphremagog

The township was an unbroken wilderness until 1802, when Abner Allyn of Barton cut the first trees and planted potatoes after carrying them from Barton, a distance of 12 miles. The soil was rich loam and produced a good yield. The following year, Allyn moved his family to a log house he built. By 1820, the population reached 100. In 1823, Allyn was instrumental in getting a road built from West Charleston to East Charleston. On Nov. 16, 1825, the name of the town was changed from Navy to Charleston. The reason is not known, but is likely connected to Commodore Whipple. It occurred six years after his death of at age 85.

Whipple's last service in the Revolutionary War, as commander of a squadron of three Continental Navy ships, took place at Charleston, S.C., which was under threat from British forces. In December 1779, he ordered his ships' guns and crews moved on shore to reinforce land batteries and repulse the expected British assault. The siege that followed forced 5,000 Continental troops in Charleston to surrender on May 12, 1780. Whipple was among those taken prisoner and later paroled. His distinguished Revolutionary War service was over, but it was recognized in the 20th century by the U.S. Navy, which named three ships after him in 1903, 1920 and 1970.

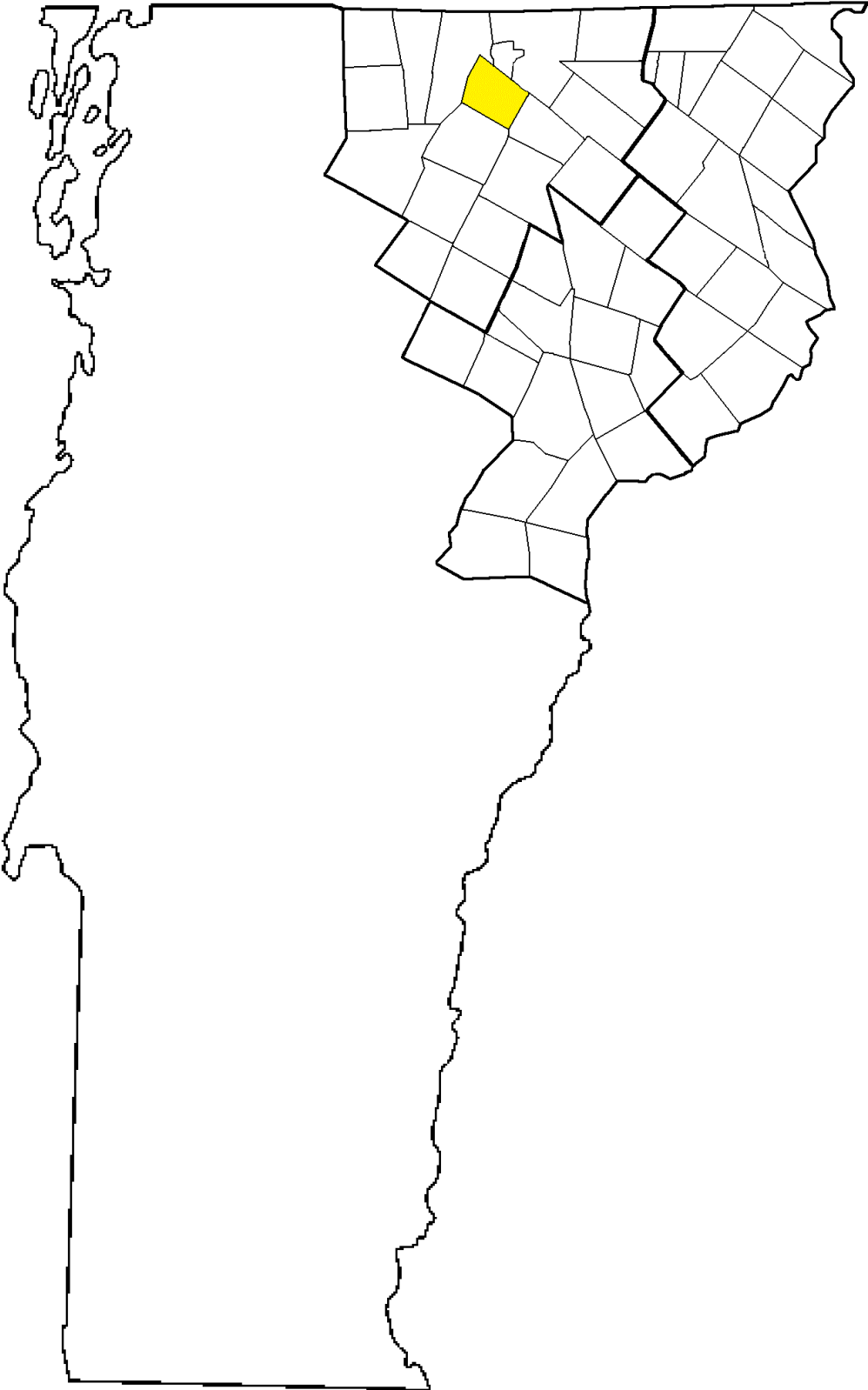
Today, Charleston is home to the NorthWoods Stewardship Center, a non-profit organization nestled on 1,500 acres dedicated to promoting practical ways of protecting and preserving the northern forest environment as a resource for future generations. The center is respected throughout New England and is a destination for cultural and educational events.

Website: www.charlestonvt.org

Population: 1,023 **Area:** 38.53 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,196

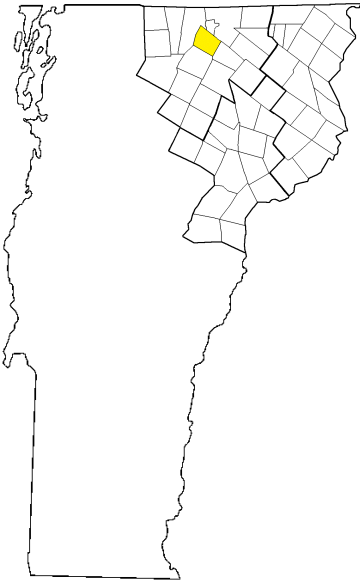
Town Offices: 5063 Route 105, West Charleston. Hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 8-3.

Coventry



Coventry (Orleans County)

[Coventry Video https://youtu.be/Xxo8b1Q7WNo](https://youtu.be/Xxo8b1Q7WNo)



Coventry is near the Canadian border, bounded on the northwest by Newport, on north by Newport City and Derby, on the southeast by Brownington and on the southwest by Irasburg. Lake Memphremagog's South Bay dips into the northeastern border of Coventry between Newport and Derby, and two major roads – Interstate 91 and Route 5 – run through the town.

The Newport State Airport is located in Coventry and is planned for expansion to accommodate private jet aircraft. The plan, which is contingent on federal funding, is part of comprehensive regional economic development efforts.

The charter for Coventry was granted Nov. 4, 1780 to Maj. Elias Buel and 59 others, but for a different area of the state. Due to a surveying mistake, that area in what is now Chittenden County had already been chartered. As a result, the legislature gave Buel what was known as a “flying grant,” allowing him to apply it to other areas he could find that had not been incorporated. He identified three pieces of land, and three new charters were issued in 1788,

backdated to 1780. The largest of the three was Coventry, named for the town in Connecticut where Buel was born and raised. A second piece near Coventry was named Coventry Leg, and was annexed to Newport in 1816.

Coventry's first pioneer settlers were Samuel Cobb and his son Tisdale of Westmoreland, N. H., who built a crude, one-room log house in 1799 and returned the next year with their families. The cabins of the early settlers had just one room and were built of spruce logs hewn only on the inside, pointed with mud and moss and roofed with bark. The closest sawmill where boards could be purchased was in Barton.

Today Coventry is known by many as the site of a two-day August 2004 concert billed as the final performance of the rock band Phish. An estimated crowd of 65,000 attended, the single largest gathering in the town's history. That briefly made Coventry the most populous town in the state, far outranking Vermont's largest city, Burlington, which had a population of 39,000 at the time.

The concert was held on land near the airport, which rain turned into a muddy mess. Cars were turned away, while some people parked their vehicles on the Interstate 91 median and walked to the concert. When the music was over, tractors were used to free cars and trucks stuck in the mud.

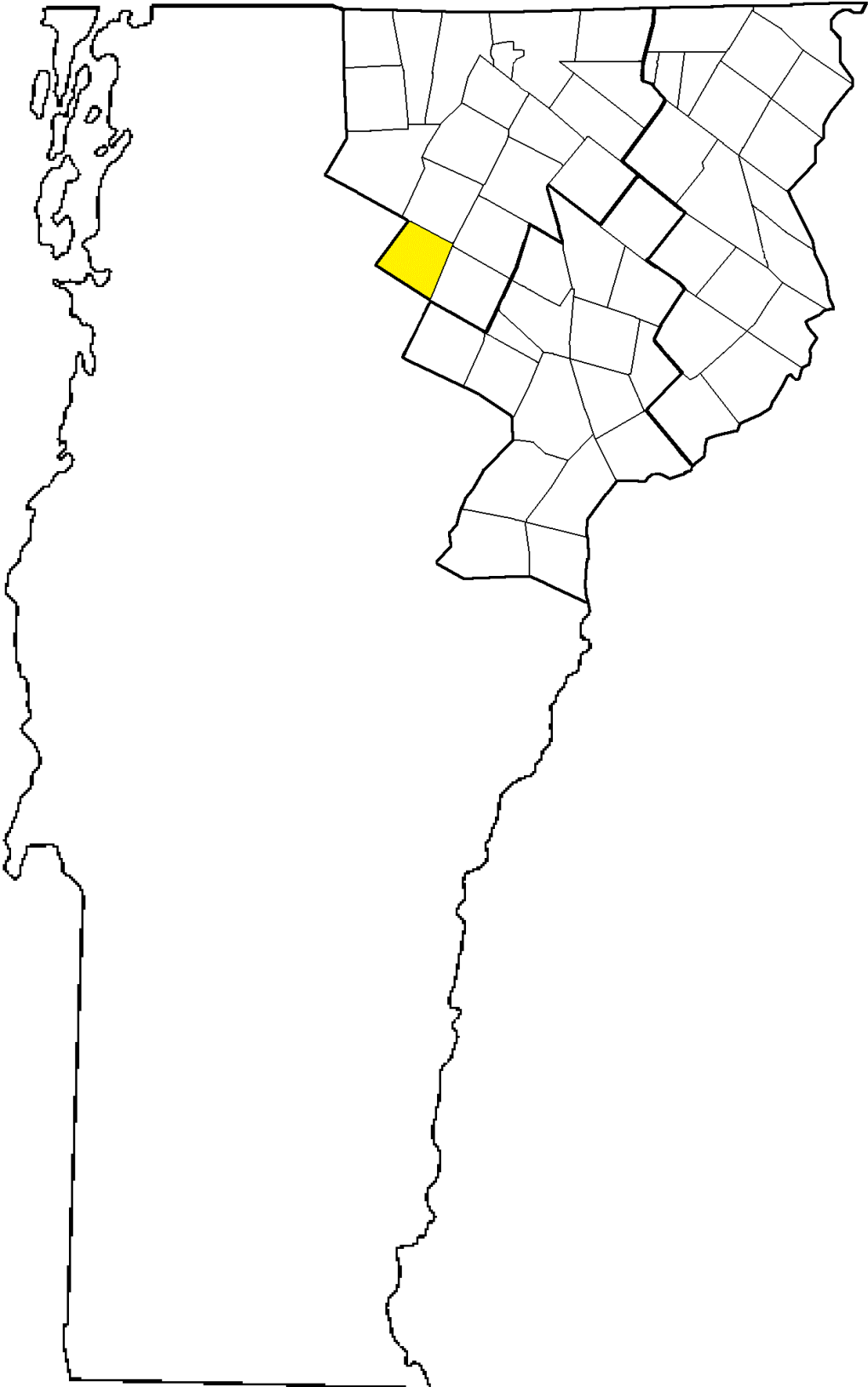
Population: 1,086

Area: 27.94 sq. miles

Elevation: 718

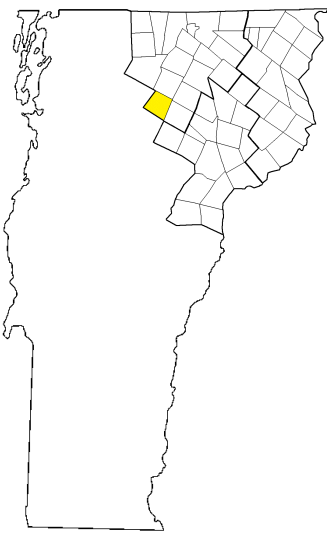
Town Offices: 168 Main St., Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8-noon, Wed. 4-7, every 3rd Sat. 9-2.

Craftsbury



Craftsbury (Orleans County)

[Craftsbury Video https://youtu.be/gja6CDO-RyE](https://youtu.be/gja6CDO-RyE)



Craftsbury, about 25 miles south of the Canadian border in the southwestern corner of Orleans County, is bounded on the north by Albany, on the east by Greensboro and on the south and west by the Lamoille County towns of Wolcott and Eden. It is about 30 miles north of Montpelier, and is roughly equidistant from the Connecticut River to the east and Lake Champlain to the west.

Through its history, Craftsbury has been known as a good farming town with five natural ponds: Elligo, lying partly in Greensboro; Great Hosmer, partly in Albany; Little Hosmer; and two smaller ponds. The Black River is formed by streams spilling out of the three largest ponds and runs north through the center of town, then through Albany, Irasburg, Coventry and Newport City before it empties into Lake Memphremagog.

The village of Craftsbury Common is home to Sterling College, which grows 20 percent of its food on campus. Sterling describes itself as the leading voice in higher education for environmental stewardship. The college was among the first in the United States to focus on sustainability through majors in ecology, environmental humanities, sustainable agriculture and food systems and outdoor education.

The town is also known for the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, a non-profit resort specializing in cross country skiing, rowing, and running as lifelong sports. It has been used as a training center for aspiring Olympians. The center's campus on the shore of Big Hosmer Pond is surrounded by fields and forest with 85 kilometers of trails groomed for classic and skate skiing. Craftsbury has hosted the East's largest ski marathon since 1981.

The town was granted to Timothy Newell, Col. Ebenezer Crafts, and their associates on Nov. 6, 1780 and chartered with the name Minden on Aug. 23, 1781. In November 1790 the town's name was changed to Craftsbury in honor of Crafts, the first settler in Orleans County. He began in the summer of 1778 by opening a road from Cabot, a distance of 18 miles, clearing 10 or 12 acres of land, building a saw-mill and making preparations for a grist-mill. In 1791 Col. Crafts and some of his associates moved their families up from Sturbridge, Mass., and were joined in succeeding years by other families from that area. During the 1800s, Craftsbury was a thriving regional center of trade.

Website: www.townofcraftsbury.com

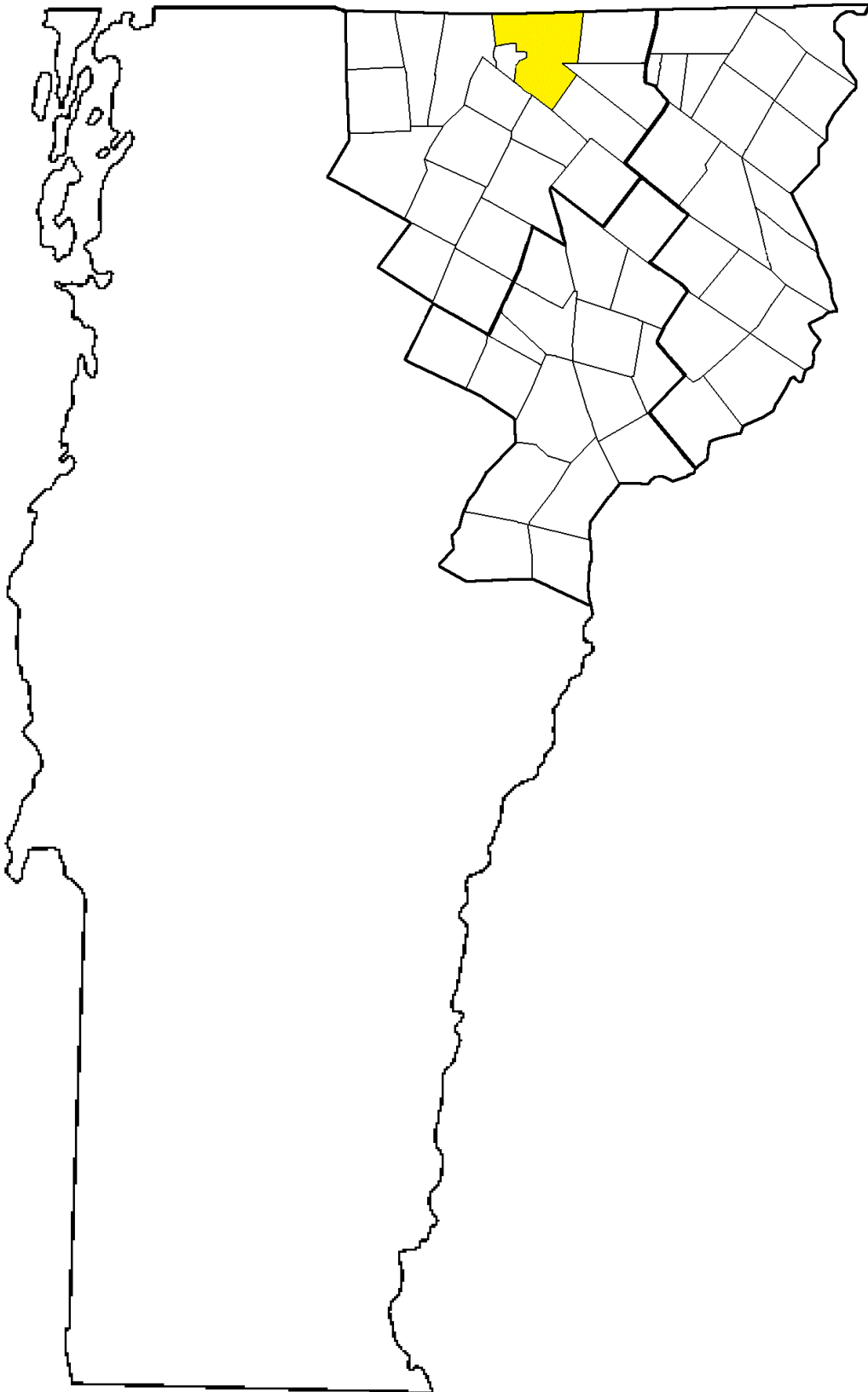
Population: 1,206

Area: 39.56 sq. mi.

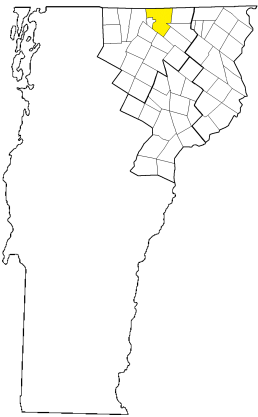
Elevation: 904

Town Offices: 85 South Craftsbury Rd., PO Box 55., Craftsbury. Hours: Tues-Fri 8:30-4.

Derby



Derby (Orleans County)



Derby's most distinctive structure is the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, which straddles the Canadian border in the village of Derby Line. Most of the seating in the opera house is in the United States while the stage is in Canada.

The international border has been a source of amusement and criminal activity. It has also been a point of frustration since security was tightened following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, particularly for citizens who live close to it and cross it frequently.

Throughout its history, the border region has attracted smugglers of people, animals and all kinds of goods, most notoriously liquor during the prohibition era of the 1920s and early 1930s. The U.S. Border Patrol opened its first headquarters in this area in 1924.

The location was Newport City, but five years later that command post was moved to Derby Line. Since then, the headquarters has been moved several more times, and it is now located in Swanton.

Derby has an odd shape, encompasses more land than any other town in Orleans County and is the county's most populous town. Its shape is a consequence of overlapping land grants being given to different people. Derby was granted to Timothy Andrews (also spelled Andrus) and associates and chartered Oct. 29, 1779. An area just south of it was granted to another group that called their land Salem. But the Salem grant contained nearly 6,000 acres of the same land given to Andrews, as well as land that was under Lake Memphremagog. A dispute over the grants was settled with a refund to Salem's proprietors, but their town never developed into a viable entity. Part of Salem was annexed to Newport in 1816, and the remainder went to Derby in 1880.



Derby was known for its agricultural production and was hit hard by two early 19th century weather events – the Hurricane of 1815 and frigid summer temperatures in 1816, known as the “Year without a summer.”

The town of Derby has two incorporated villages, Derby Line and Derby Center, and four unincorporated villages, Beebe Plain, Clyde Pond, Lake Salem and North Derby. Aside from its northern border with Canada, Derby is bounded on the east by Holland and Morgan, on the south by Charleston and Brownington and on the west by Newport City and Lake Memphremagog.

Derby's shoreline on the lake is striking, with views across the water of mountains on the western shore. The lake is mostly in Quebec, while the watershed that feeds it is largely in Vermont. The name Memphremagog is derived from the Algonkian language, meaning where there is a big expanse of water. Derby has other bodies of water, including Derby Pond, Salem Lake, Big and Little Salem, Clyde Pond and Brownington Pond. The Clyde River, which runs from Island Pond to Lake Memphremagog, is Derby's only river.

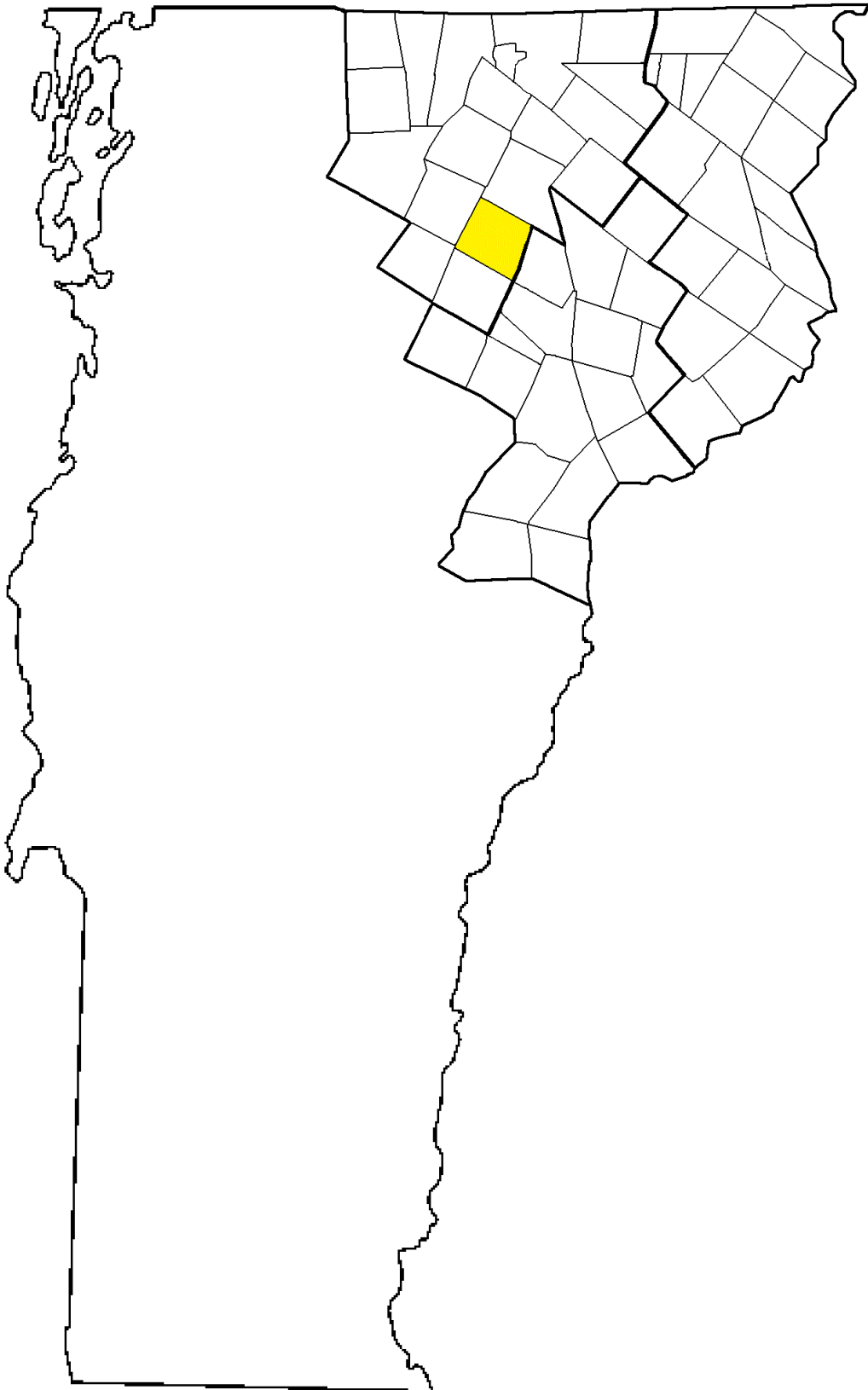
Derby is accessed off I-91, to Route 5 and 105, which are significant business corridors.

Website: www.derbyvt.org

Population: 4,621 **Area:** 57.12 sq. miles **Elevation:** 1,011

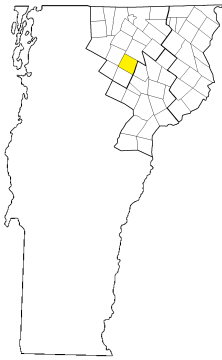
Town Offices: PO Box 25, Derby. 124 Main St., Derby. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7-5.

Glover



Glover (Orleans County)

[Glover Video https://youtu.be/Dn2F6-QsU5s](https://youtu.be/Dn2F6-QsU5s)



Glover is situated on the west side of Interstate 91, bounded to the northeast by Barton, to the southeast by the Caledonia County town of Sheffield, to the southwest by Greensboro and to the northwest by Albany. It has two villages, Glover and West Glover, and was named for Brigadier General John Glover, a fisherman, merchant and military leader from Marblehead, Mass.

Glover received his military rank in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Early in the war, his private schooner Hannah was chartered by Gen. George Washington to raid British supply vessels. For that reason, the Hannah later became known as the first ship of the U.S. Navy. The Marblehead Militia, also known as Glover's Regiment and composed almost entirely of fishermen, became the 14th Continental Regiment during the war. Its last action was its most famous – ferrying Washington's army across the Delaware River in 1776 for a surprise attack on Trenton, N.J. Seven years later, on Nov. 20, 1783, Glover was awarded the charter for the town of Glover in recognition of his military service.

The town has a number of sizeable bodies of water: Lake Parker in the north; Clarks Pond in the south; Sweeney Pond to the west; and Shadow Lake and Daniels Pond near the middle.

But another pond was involved in Glover's most notable historical event, known as the Runaway Pond incident. On June 6, 1810, workers dug a channel from Long Pond in the southeastern part of town to a nearby smaller pond named Mud Pond to provide additional waterpower during dry months for mills. Long Pond, about five miles south of Glover Village, was a mile and a half long and a half-mile wide. But as the new channel was completed, the shore of Long Pond caved in due to a layer of underground quicksand. A deluge of nearly two billion gallons of water surged through Mud Pond north toward the Barton River valley through the meadowlands of Barton and eventually into Lake Memphremagog.

This is how the Runaway Pond incident was described in the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1870s: "To the surprise of the workmen, the water did not follow the channel they had dug, but descended into the sand beneath. The workmen had to hurry away to save their lives, as they were in danger of being swallowed up in the raging torrent. In a few moments the whole pond had disappeared from its bed... It tore up the forest trees and bore them onward, while huge stones were removed from their places and carried a considerable distance, even after a course of 17 miles, a large rock, estimated at a hundred tons weight, was moved several rods from its bed. It was a grand and majestic sight on its way, sometimes 60 feet high and 20 rods wide, boiling and raging as it moved along. Some people who could hear the noise made by the torrent, but could not see the cause, imagined that the day of judgment was close at hand." Remarkably, nobody was hurt, although at least one mill was destroyed, all the bridges were swept away and one house was lifted off its foundation and moved.

Five years later, the hurricane of 1815 hit New England with devastating force, causing widespread damage to bridges, buildings, crops and livestock. The following year, 1816, became known by various names, including "the year without a summer" and "the year of two winters" and "eighteen hundred and froze to death." In Glover on June 7-9, crops were covered with snow and birds perished by the hundreds, according to the Gazetteer, which reported that harvests were so limited that the price of corn rose from \$1 to \$2 per bushel and wheat went from \$1 to \$3 per bushel. Other reports said as much as a foot of snow fell in June, and July and August experienced extreme frost and snow as well, leading to crop failures and deaths of livestock, as well as birds.

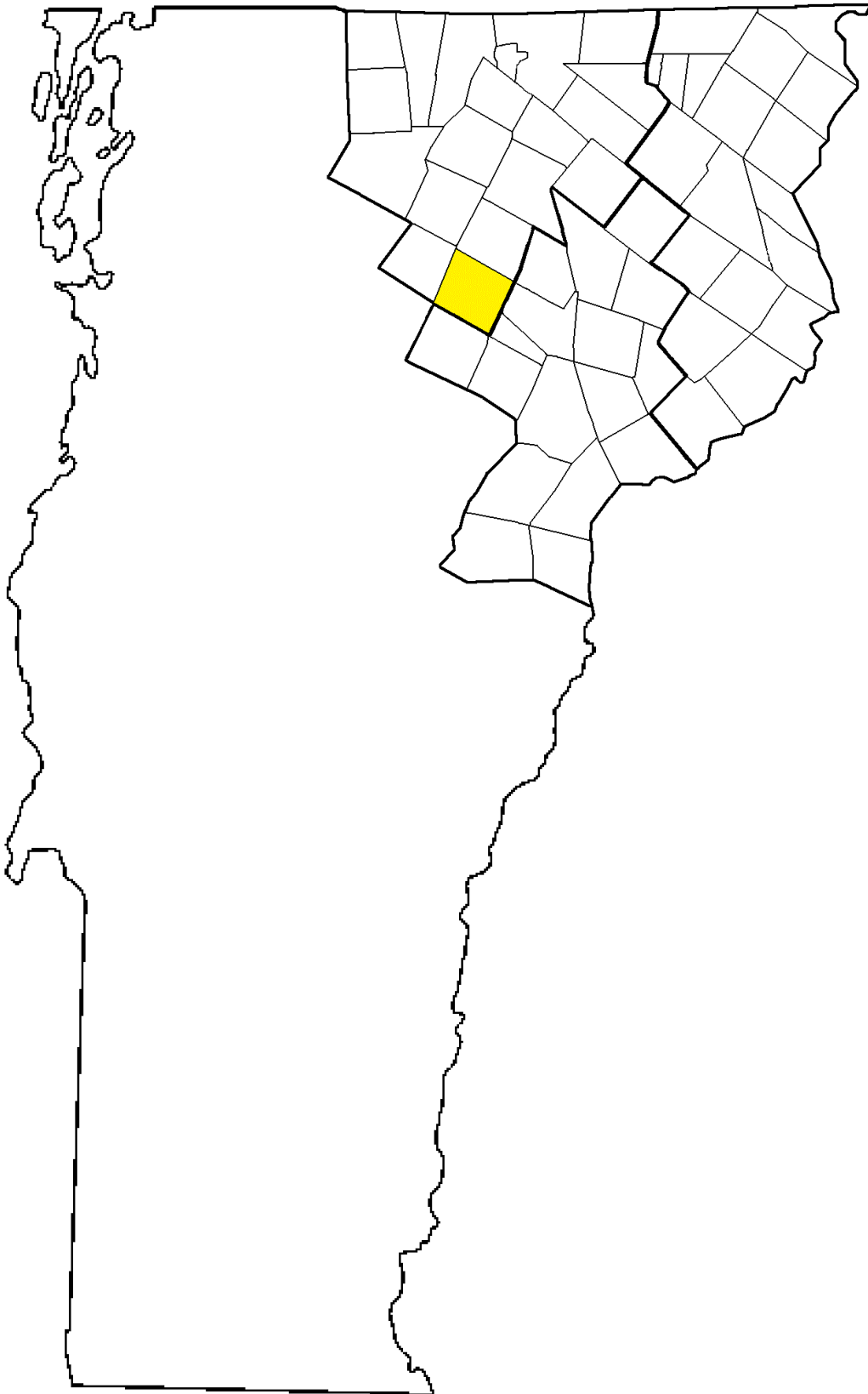
In recent decades, Glover became known as the location of the Bread and Puppet Theater, a politically active performing group which was founded the early 1960s in New York City, where its enormous puppets were frequently seen in anti-war demonstrations. In 1970 the group moved to Vermont, first to Goddard College in Plainfield and then in 1974 to a farm in Glover, where it hosted an annual festival called the Domestic Resurrection Circus that drew tens of thousands of people, many camping on nearby land. Because the week-long event became unmanageably large, Bread & Puppet founder Peter Schumann cancelled it in 1998 and concentrated on more limited performances and tours around the U.S. and abroad. Bread & Puppet established a Museum on its property in a 150-year-old barn containing a massive collection of puppets, masks, paintings and graphics produced by the group. The collection features some of the biggest puppets and masks in the world.

Website: www.townofglover.com

Population: 1,122 **Area:** 38.53 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 945

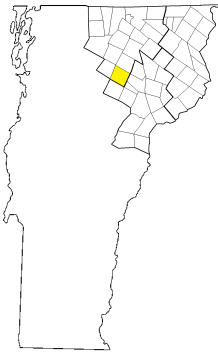
Town Offices: 51 Bean Hill Road, 525-6227, Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8-4.

Greensboro



Greensboro (Orleans County)

[Greensboro Video https://youtu.be/wIEfM4fZddw](https://youtu.be/wIEfM4fZddw)



Greensboro, which lies at the southern tip of Orleans County, is bounded on the northwest by Craftsbury, on the northeast by Glover, on the southeast and southwest by the Caledonia County towns of Wheelock, Stannard and Hardwick.

The construction of the Bayley-Hazen military road ordered by George Washington in 1776 led to the settlement of Greensboro. The road was built for an anticipated invasion of Canada that never happened. The road reached Greensboro by 1779 and continued northwest before the project was abandoned. Wooden blockhouses, including one at Greensboro, were erected at intervals for protection. Responding to Indian raids on Peacham in 1781, four scouts, all young boys, were stationed at the Greensboro blockhouse near the southwest corner of Caspian Lake. The four were surprised by Indians who killed two of the scouts and took the other two to Quebec. They were later traded for Indian prisoners in Vermont.

The township was granted to Harris Colt and 66 associates in 1781. The town's original name of Coltkiln was later changed to Greensboro in honor of Timothy Green, another proprietor. There is no record that either man ever lived in Greensboro, according to the town's website.

Greensboro's first sawmill and blacksmith shop were built in 1790, and a second major road was built by Timothy Hinman between 1791 and 1793. That road, known as the Hinman Settler Road, branched off from the Bayley-Hazen Road and ran northeast to Derby. Those two roads were of major importance to the settlement of northern Vermont.

By 1795, there were 23 families and a total of 108 residents in Greensboro. The railroad reached the town in 1872, spurring a period of prosperity with a large sawmill, a box factory and numerous stores. In the 1870s, the Vermont Historical Gazetteer said the village of Greensboro at the eastern extremity of beautiful Caspian Lake had "some 25 neat dwellings, a hotel, three or four stores, excellent mills for sawing and grinding," and several shops.

In the early 1900s, the character of the town began to change, evolving into more of a summer community. The number of dairy farms declined, as did the year-round population. Greensboro, according to the town's website, now reflects a mix of groups who historically arrived at different times: the English of the 1790s; the Scots of the 1830s; the Irish of the 1870s; the Portuguese and French Canadians of the early 1900s. The summer community includes authors, academics and professionals, many of them drawn to Greensboro by beautiful Caspian Lake. One of the most notable summer residents was former Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who died in 2005.

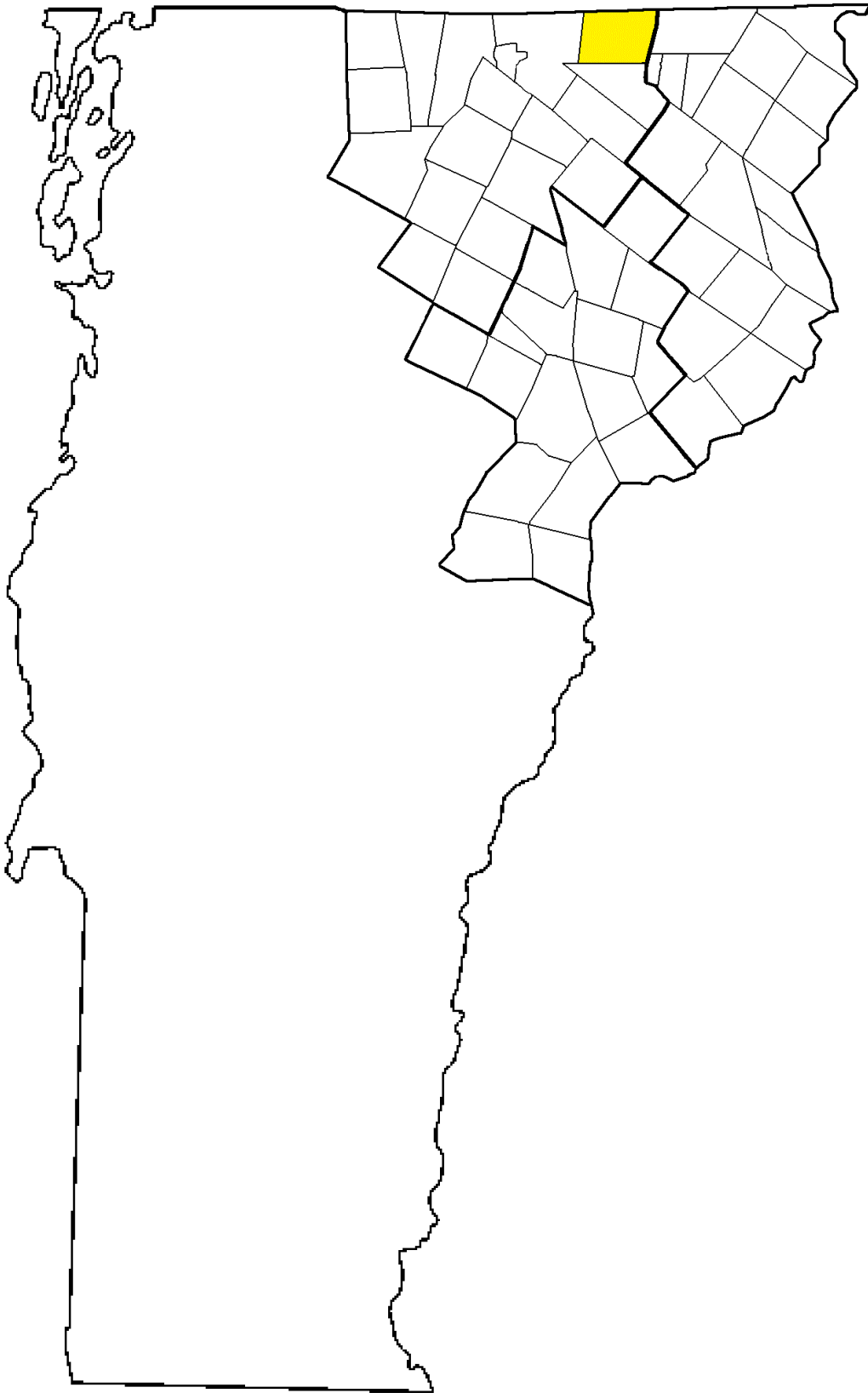
In the last few years, many Greensboro visitors have been drawn by the Hill Farmstead Brewery, which was ranked number one in the world by Ratebeer.com in 2013. Its fame led to long waiting lines, but relief is expected this year due to an expansion that is projected to double the brewing capacity. Owner and brewmaster Shaun Hill's family has been in Greensboro more than 200 years, and his brewery's logo is adapted from a sign that once hung in his great great great grandfather Aaron Hill's tavern in the early 1800s.

Website: www.greensborovt.org

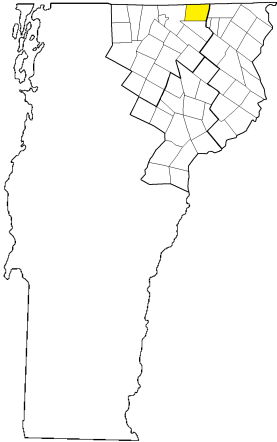
Population: 762 **Area:** 39.4 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 904 feet

Town Offices: PO Box 119, 81 Laundon Ave., Greensboro. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9-4, 533-2911

Holland



Holland (Orleans County)



Holland, historically an agricultural town in the northeast corner of Orleans County, is bounded on the north by the Quebec towns of Stanstead and Barnston, on the east by the Essex County town of Norton, on the south by Morgan and on the west by Derby.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer reported in the 1870s that the average yield of hay, wheat and oats per acre, was greater in Holland than any other town in the county.

The Barlow River runs west from Holland Pond in the northeastern corner of town and once supplied power for numerous mill sites.

The town was one of several granted in northern Vermont to Timothy Andrews and his associates. It was chartered, Oct. 26, 1789, and the origin of the name Holland is not known. The town's first residents – Edmund Elliott from New Hampshire and Joseph

Cowell from Connecticut – did not arrive until 1800.

It was not long before the War of 1812 made living near the Canadian border risky and slowed the settlement of Holland, as was the case in a number of Orleans County towns. Just three decades after the Revolutionary War ended, America had again declared war on Britain for a variety of reasons, among them British interference with American trade, British support of Indian tribes opposing American expansion and concern that Americans would try to annex British territory in Canada.

Although Vermont did not have any major battles during the War of 1812, it was not attractive for settlement due to its geographically precarious position and fear of Indian raids. Vermonters were recruited by the federal government to help defend the northern border, but served primarily in the northwestern Vermont and northern New York areas.

The war lasted less than three years, and in Holland over time, three unincorporated villages formed – Holland Center, Holland Pond and Tice Hollow.

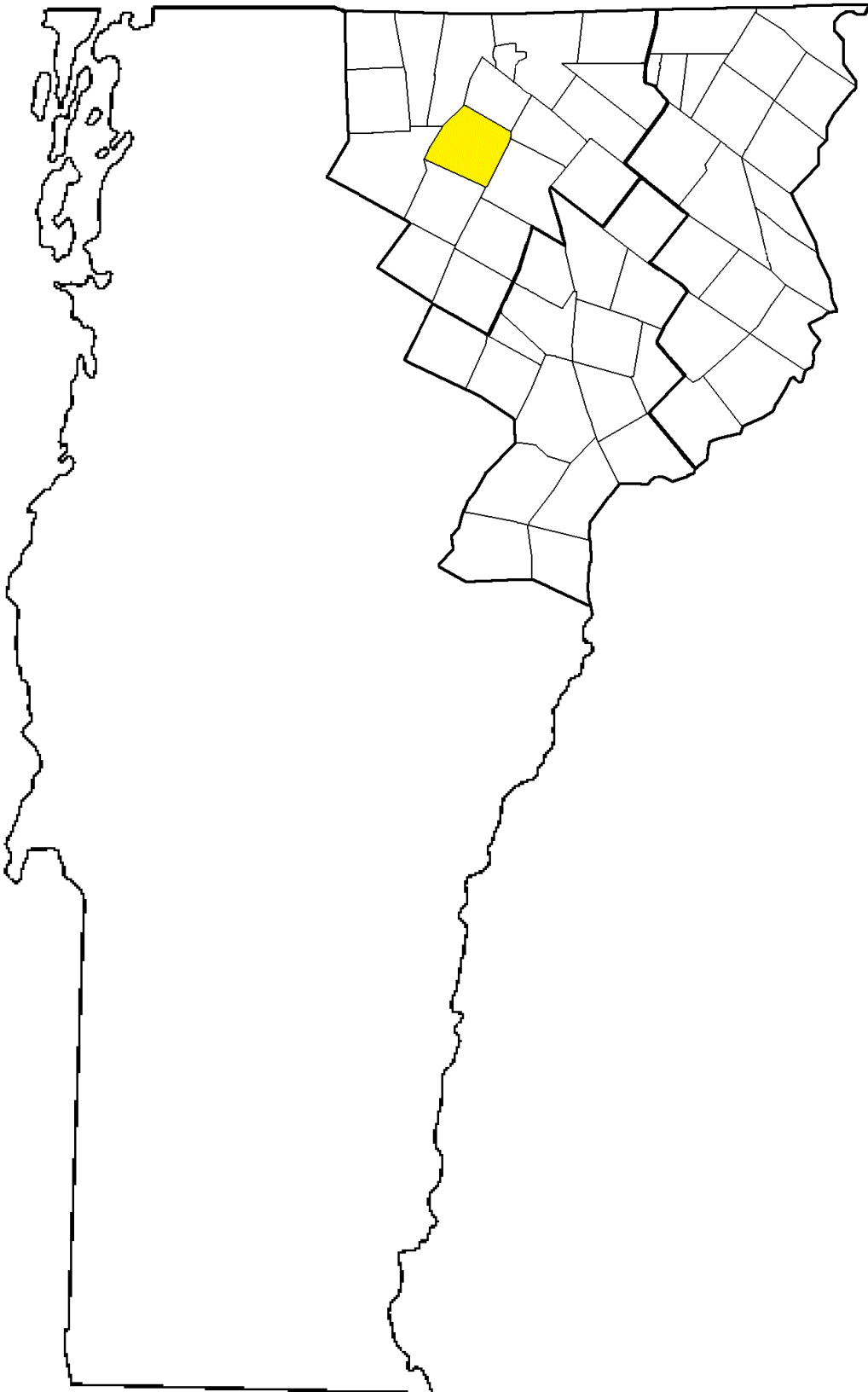
In modern decades the town achieved some notoriety as the site in September 1973 of a three-day rock festival known as Mac's Party that drew an estimated 30,000 people and ended in mayhem. Holland's population at the time was less than 400.



Population: 629 **Area:** 38.7 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,405

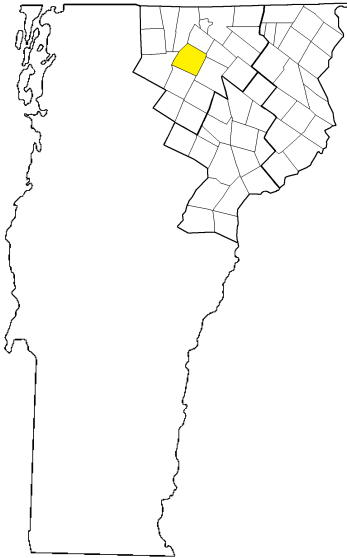
Town Office: 120 School Rd., Derby Line. Hours: Mon., Tue., Thurs., 8-4:30, or by appointment. 895-4440.

Irasburg



Irasburg (Orleans County)

[Irasburg Video https://youtu.be/2STGtGAuXB8](https://youtu.be/2STGtGAuXB8)



Irasburg, located just west of Interstate 91, is bounded on the southeast by Barton, on the southwest by Albany, on the west by Lowell and on the north by Newport and Coventry. Irasburg has two rivers, the Black River, which flows south-to-north, and the Barton River, which cuts through the town's eastern tip. Both rivers continue north through Coventry and empty into Lake Memphremagog.

The land that became Irasburg was granted on February 23, 1781, to Ira Allen and others. Ira Allen and his brother Ethan were leaders of the Green Mountain Boys militia unit and founders of Vermont, which became the 14th state in 1791. But in 1781, the future of the territory that became Vermont was in dispute, claimed by both New Hampshire and New York. The Continental Congress had ordered that land not be distributed until the conflict was resolved. But the Vermont General Assembly ignored the order. Ira Allen was granted the most land during that time of uncertainty. He initially leased the Irasburg land his

group had received to settlers, but in September 1789 he married Jerusha Enos and deeded the town to her as a wedding gift. No further Irasburg land was conveyed by deed until their son, Ira H. Allen, became a town resident in 1814 and served as town clerk.

In 1812 the Vermont legislature voted to make Irasburg the shire town of Orleans County, meaning it would be the administrative center of county government, which consisted of a court and sheriff. The first courthouse and jail were built in 1815, and the town prospered with new industrial sites, including a woolen mill, a tannery and a foundry producing stoves and plows. Irasburg remained Orleans County's shire town until 1886, when the legislature moved the county offices to the Village of Newport, which became Newport City, where the offices remain today.

In the years leading up to the War of 1812 and during the war, which lasted less than three years, smuggling to and from Canada appeared to be out of control. "The principal business of the inhabitants, during the war, seems to have been, one party taking cattle and contraband goods from the other party," reported the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, which was published in the 1870s. "The government party became strongest, and many of those who engaged in smuggling became bankrupt and left the town. Some families went away during the war and never returned."

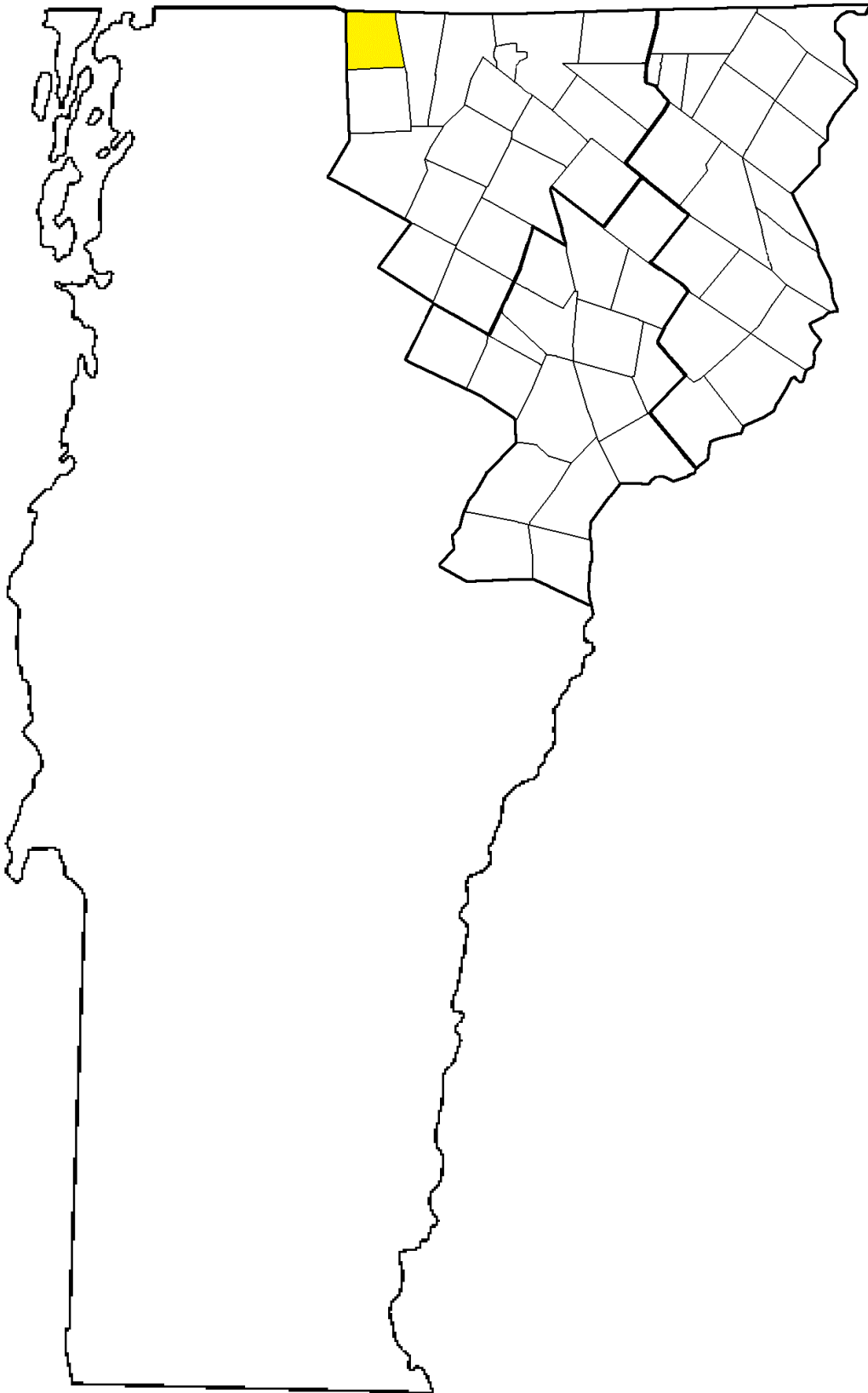
Between 1845 and 1860 three newspapers were published in Irasburg. The longest lasting was The Independent Standard, which was launched in 1856 and was published for 10 years before its owner moved it to Barton, where it continued to publish.

Website: www.irasburgvt.com

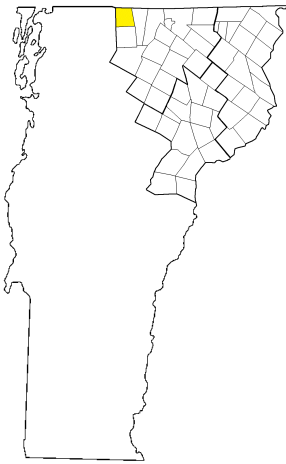
Population: 1,163 **Area:** 40.77 sq. miles **Elevation:** 814

Town Offices: 161 Route 58 East, PO Box 51, Irasburg. Hours: Mon.-Wed. 9-3, Thurs. 9-6.

Jay



Jay (Orleans County)



The town forms the northwestern corner of Orleans County and contains a distinctive mountain, Jay Peak, one of the main summits of the Green Mountain Range. It is home to a ski resort known for receiving more snow than any others in the eastern United States.

The town of Jay is on the Canadian border and was named in honor of John Jay, one of the key founding fathers of the United States and the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was an eminent New York lawyer and statesman who was instrumental in settling an 18th century land dispute with New York in favor of Vermont, clearing the way for it to become the 14th state in 1791.

The land constituting the town of Jay was originally granted as a township named Carthage on March 13, 1780. But the grant reverted to the state because of non-compliance. As a result, the Vermont legislature in 1792 directed the governor to grant the land as a township named Jay to John Jay and another man.

The town was uninhabited until 1809, when the first settler arrived. A few more followed, but they abandoned their houses during the War of 1812 because of the danger from Canadian Indian tribes. After the war, the town grew slowly. Its population reached 52 in 1820 and 196 by 1830. The town government was organized on March 29, 1828.

In addition to its border with Canada to the north, the town of Jay is bounded to the east by Troy, to the south by Westfield and to the west by the Franklin County town of Richford.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1870s, contained an extensive description of the stunning views from Jay Peak. Part of it reads: “There is nothing but the distant mountains to intercept the view in any direction.



The base is surrounded with a broad tract of forest, covering the valleys, glens and mountains. A little beyond the forest are rivers, ponds, groves, farms, roads and villages. Further off, looking in all directions near and remote, the observer may see Mount Mansfield, Camel’s Hump and other dignitaries of the Green Mountain range; the White Mountains; Mount Hor, Mount Pisgah, Westmore Mountain, Mount John; the mountains about the head waters of the Connecticut... This field of observance is broad enough for frequent study, not only by the travelers from foreign lands, but by the inhabitants of the country; and the young men and women of Vermont should not consider their education complete till they have stood upon some of the lofty eminences of the Green Mountains and beheld and studied their scenic beauty and sublimity.”

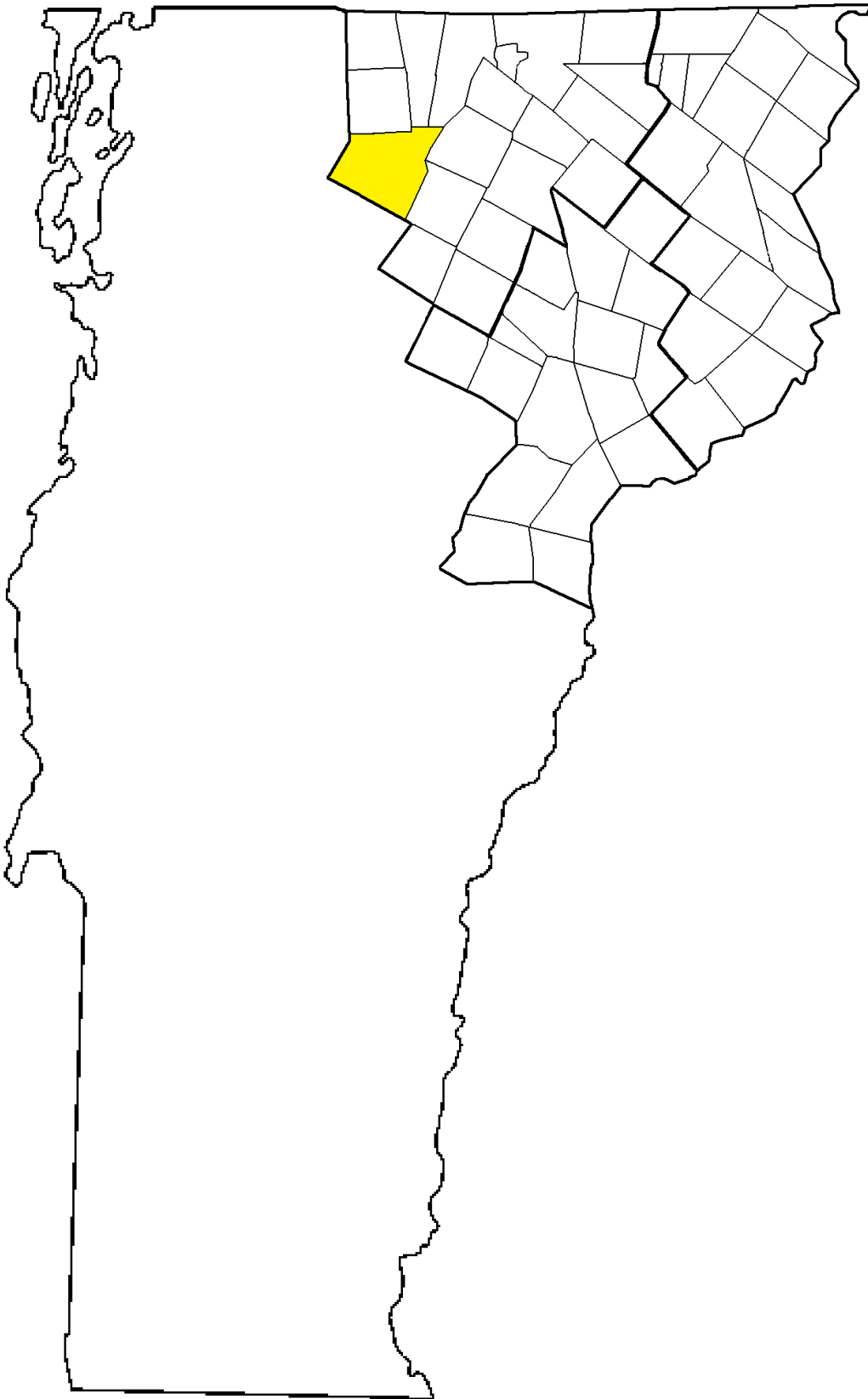
In recent years, Jay Peak’s ski area has been expanded to a four-season resort with a year-round indoor water park, an ice arena, a championship golf course and a range of accommodations, restaurants and pubs.

Website: www.jayvt.com

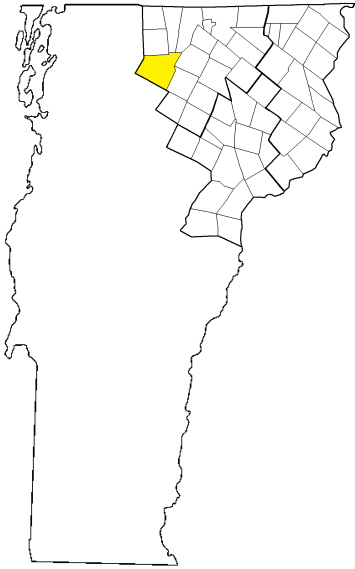
Population: 521 **Area:** 34 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 922

Town Offices: 1036 VT Route 242, Jay. Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 7-4 a.m. Wed. 7-noon.

Lowell



Lowell (Orleans County)



Lowell is the westernmost town in Orleans County, bounded to the north by Westfield and Newport, to the east by Irasburg and Albany, to the south by the Lamoille County town of Eden and to the west by the Franklin County town of Montgomery.

It was first chartered to New York lawyer John Kelly on March 5, 1787 as the township of Kellyvale, but that name proved unpopular and in 1831, it was changed to Lowell.

The town's early settlers did not have it easy, as the Vermont Historical Gazetteer noted in the 1870s: "The nearest store was located at Craftsbury, a distance of 12 miles. Having no mills they were obliged to carry their grain to an adjoining town... Throwing their bags of grain across their backs, or their horse's, they would commence their journey, it taking them nearly a day to go and return."

The Gazetteer noted that Lowell's few inhabitants shared with those in other northern towns the panic caused by the war of 1812: "A fort was erected near where the Congregational church now stands, for a sort of refuge in times of danger... Ebenezer Woods and Abel Curtis were appointed delegates to a meeting [in Quebec] to ascertain,

if might be, the state of feeling which existed among the people in Canada. They found the inhabitants as much disposed to have peace as themselves."

The Gazetteer also recalled the cold misery of 1816, which came to be called the year with no summer: "Great scarcity of provision prevailed, one family by the name of Butterfield being reduced to such a state that they were obliged to subsist on clover heads for several days."

The Gazetteer noted Lowell possessed a great variety of minerals, including serpentine and asbestos in considerable quantities. In the early 1900s, an asbestos mine was developed on Belvidere Mountain in the western part of town, extending into Eden. At its peak in the 1940s, the mining operation on some 1,500 acres employed as many as 300 people and produced an estimated 90 percent of asbestos used in the United States. The mine was closed in 1992 because of health risks. A 2009 report by the state Department of Health concluded that people living near the inactive mine had no more increased risk of asbestos-related illness than people living elsewhere in Vermont.

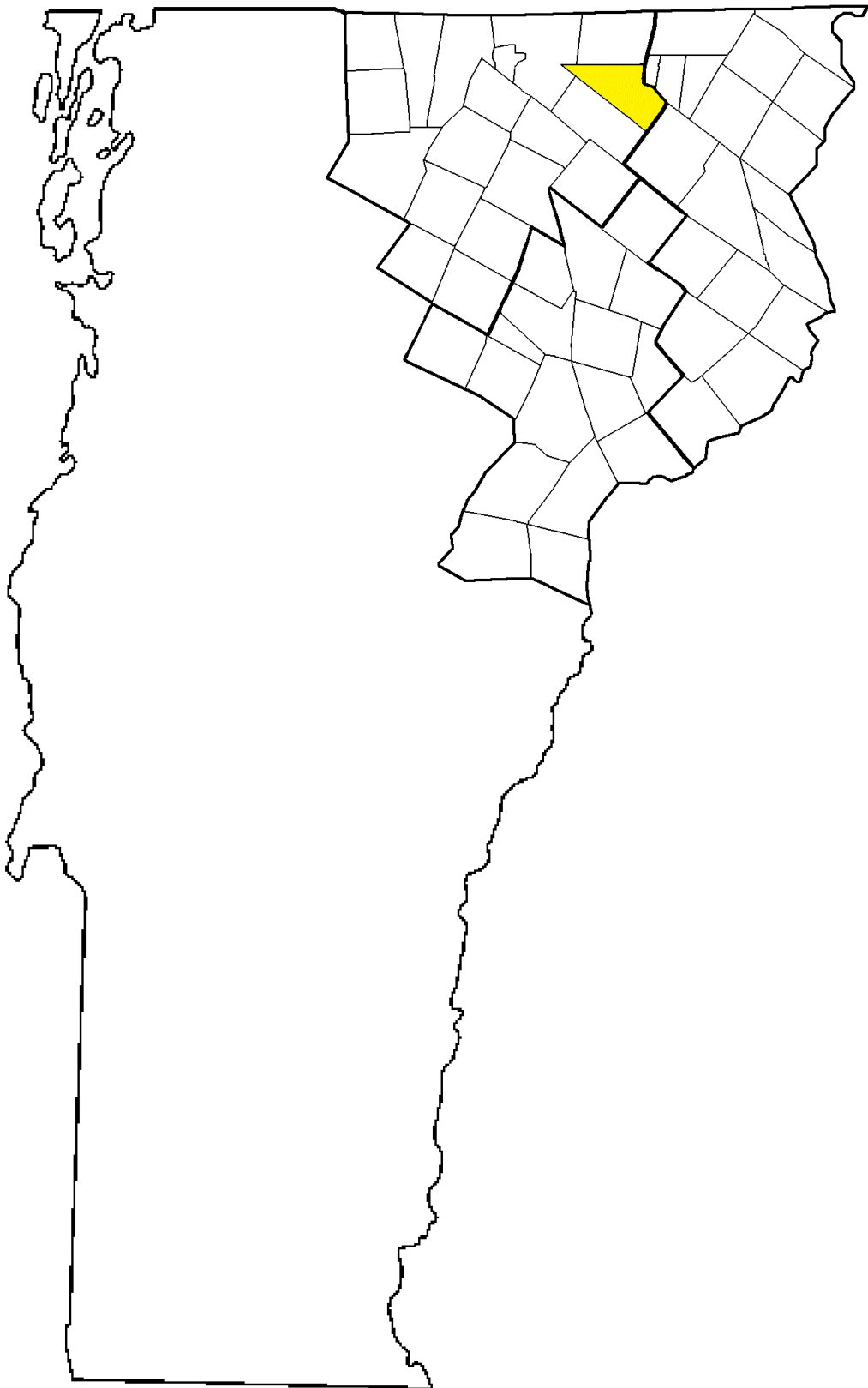


Today Lowell is better known for having the largest industrial wind farm in Vermont. The Kingdom Community Wind Project, which is owned by Green Mountain Power and the Vermont Electric Co-op, operates 21 wind turbines, each rising 450 feet above the ridgeline of the Lowell Mountain Range. It is one of two industrial-scale wind projects in the Northeast Kingdom.

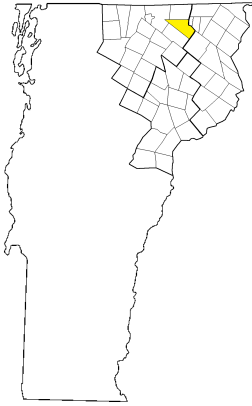
Population: 879 **Area:** 56.38 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 996 ft.

Town Offices: 2170 Route 100, Lowell, Mon.& Thurs. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Morgan



Morgan (Orleans County)



Morgan is the easternmost town in Orleans County, bounded to the northwest by Derby, to the north by Holland, to the east by the Essex County gores of Warner's and Warren's, to the southeast by the Essex County town of Brighton and to the west by Charleston.

The town's website notes Morgan was chartered by the Republic of Vermont on Nov. 6, 1780 under the name of Caldersburgh to 64 grantees. On Oct. 19, 1801, the town name was changed to Morgan in honor of one of the original grantees, John Morgan of Hartford, Conn., from whom the first settlers purchased their land. The town was described as a region of unsurpassed beauty, with fertile soil and a healthful and invigorating climate.

The town's dominant geographic feature is 1,700-acre Lake Seymour, regarded as a sporting paradise with a maximum depth of about 160 feet. It was named for Israel Seymour, another of the original grantees, and is the Northeast Kingdom's largest natural lake, barely ahead of Lake Willoughby in Westmore in surface area.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1870s, called lake Seymour "one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the state, and the scenery around it is grand and picturesque." The Gazetteer went on to note: "Being fed by numerous living springs, its water is remarkably cold and pure. As another peculiarity – it takes much cold weather to freeze it over. For weeks after lake Memphremagog and all the other bodies of water in this vicinity have been bound in icy fetters, Lake Seymour may be seen steaming and lashing its shore as if in defiance of the frigid blasts."



A town history on Morgan's website written in 2005 by Richard Lafoe, a selectman, relates: "The early settlers were ashers by trade. Due to the world economy, hard wood ashes were in demand for the English wool trade and for the depleted soils of Europe. The new United States Congress imposed a tariff on exported ashes... However, England purchased ashes at the Port of Montreal... During the early 50 years, the forests were burned and ash salts exported to Canada. This activity gave the early settlers... cash money to build houses and barns, turning the forest countryside into an agricultural environment."

During the War of 1812, Lafoe said many town residents returned to lower New England for fear of an invasion by England. From the end of the war to 1860 Morgan grew at a moderate pace, he said, creating farm, business and cultural activities typical of New England. During the Civil War, he said, 47 Morgan men left town to fight, and 13 of them never returned.

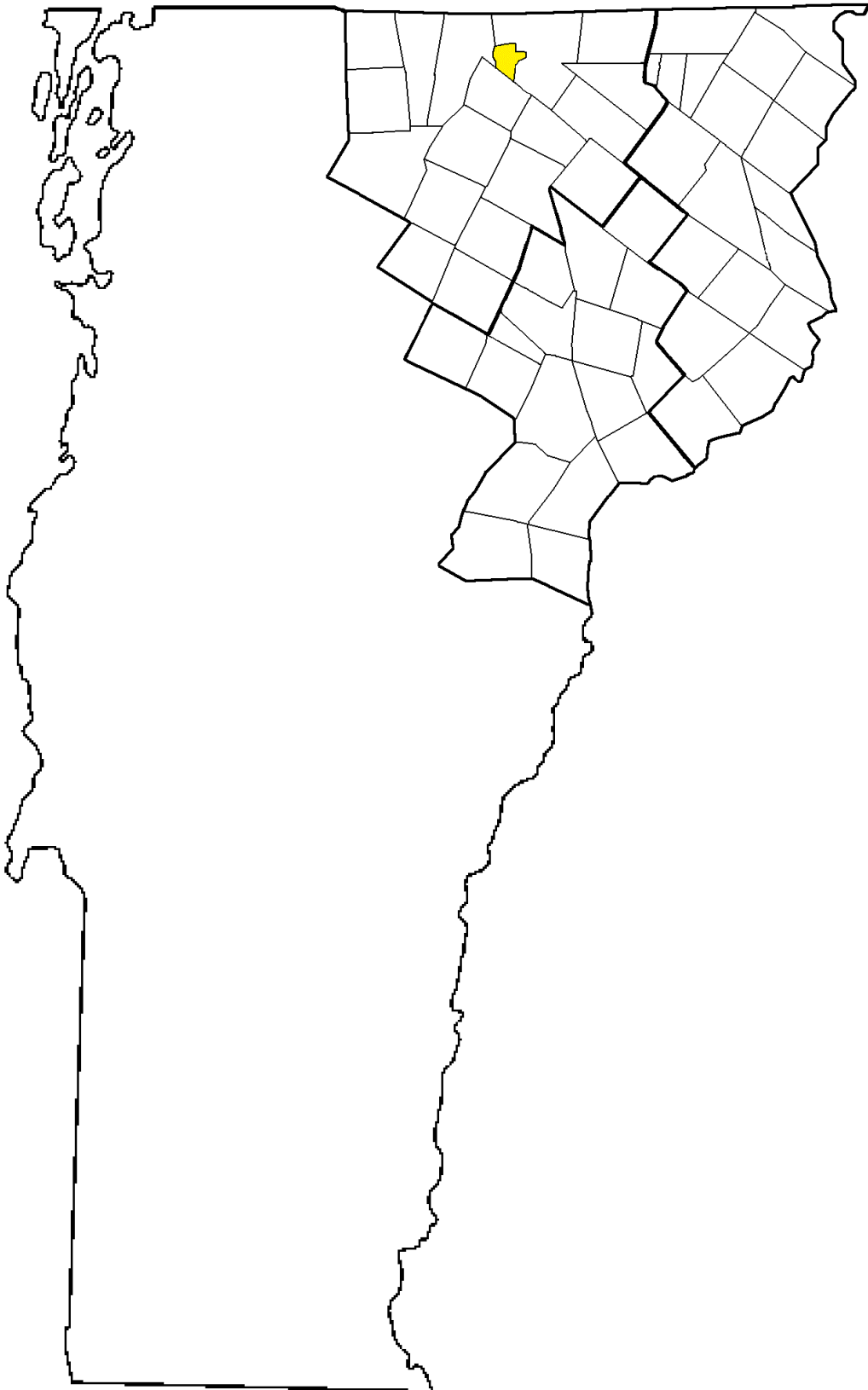
Farming was the primary source of income for Morgan residents during the first half of the 20th century. The sheep and wool industry was the biggest cash crop, according to Lafoe, and maple sugar was second. During the 1890s, he wrote, the federal government had banned sugar imported from Cuba. As a result, he said, Vermont produced enough maple sugar for its needs and exported the excess for profit.

Website: www.town-morgan-vt.org

Population: 749 **Area:** 34.12 sq. miles **Elevation:** 1,384

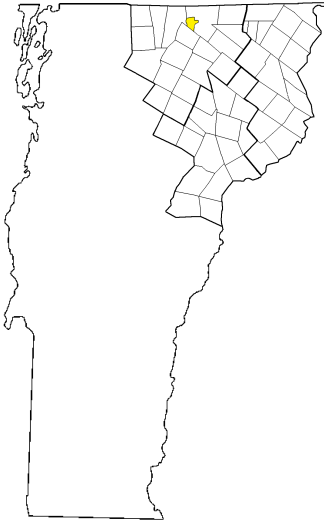
Town Offices: 41 Meade Hill Road, PO Box 45, Hours: Mon., Thurs. 8-4; Tues. & Wed. 8-3.

Newport City



Newport City (Orleans County)

[Newport City Video https://youtu.be/e3XX7dOzxjM](https://youtu.be/e3XX7dOzxjM)



Newport City and Newport, the town, are distinct, separate incorporated entities next to each other at the southern end of Lake Memphremagog on the Canadian border.

Newport City straddles the bay that forms the lake's inlet. It contains the largest population of any municipality in Orleans County, yet encompasses the smallest area. It borders the towns of Coventry to the south, Newport to the west and Derby to the north and east.

The early settlers obtained much of their food from the lake and forest, particularly trout and venison. The first homes in what later became Newport City were built in 1793. It was initially called Pickerel Point and later renamed Lake Bridge for its location at the head of Lake Memphremagog.

The railroad reached Lake Bridge in 1863, and in 1868, the settlement's name was changed to the Village of Newport, which was incorporated with its own government. At the time, it had a livery stable behind a hotel several blocks from the railway station that handled as many as 100 horses.

In 1886, the state legislature made the Village of Newport the shire town of Orleans County, and a courthouse was built. Soon, the Boston & Maine and Central Vermont railroads were routed through the village, and a population boom followed. The Goodrich Memorial Library was built in 1899 and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the largest library in the county and one of only two that are open full-time.

In 1917, the city of Newport was formed as its own entity, encompassing the former Village of Newport and the former village of West Derby. It was organized on March 5, 1918. The city achieved some fame between 1936 and 1953 for having the largest dance floor in New England at an entertainment venue called the International Club. The city's population reached its peak in 1950 at 5,217.

The city has a mayor-council form of government... A beautiful boardwalk along Lake Memphremagog leads to the GatewayCenter and city marina.

Three of the four major rivers in the county empty into the lake at Newport City, the Clyde, the Barton and the Black.

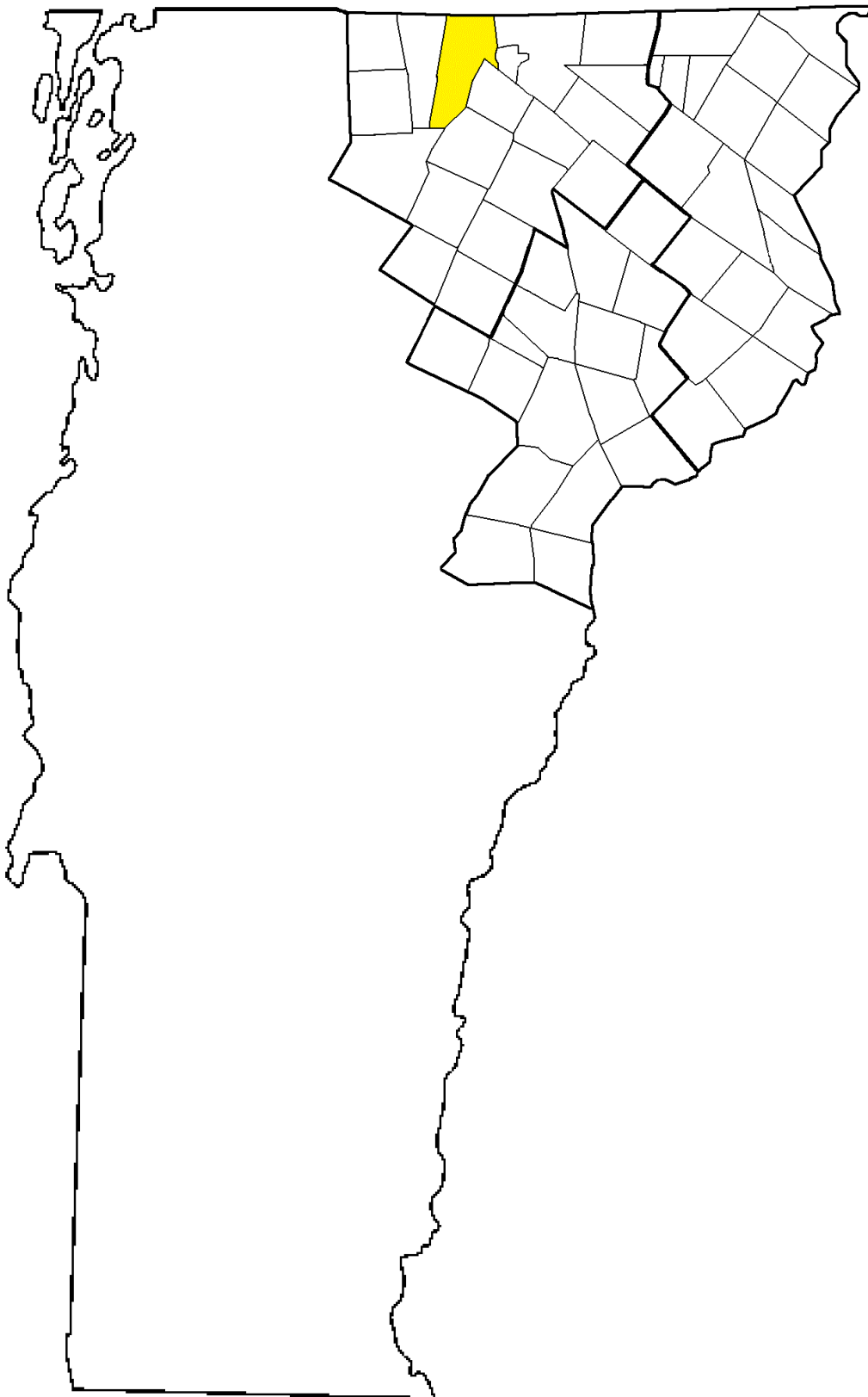
Population: 4,589

Area: 7.78 sq. mi.

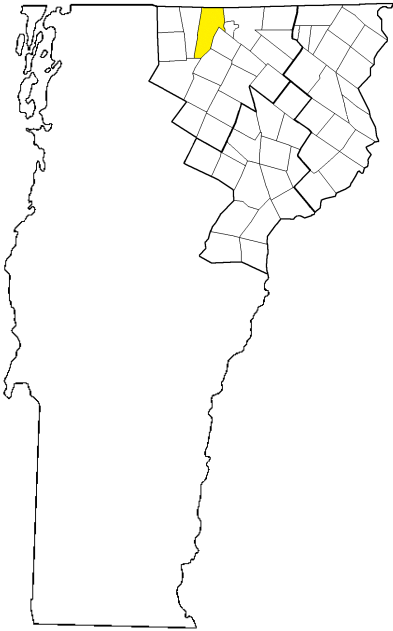
Elevation: 723

Town Offices: 222 Main Street, Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30, 334-2112.

Newport Town



Newport Town (Orleans County)



Newport, the town, and Newport City are two distinct, separate incorporated entities next to each other at the southern end of Lake Memphremagog.

The town of Newport lies just west of Newport City. In addition to the city, the town is bordered on the east by the lake and by Irasburg, on the south by Lowell, on the west by Troy and on the north by the Canadian border.

Newport was chartered under the name Duncansboro to George Duncan, Nathan Fisk, and sixty-three others on Oct. 30, 1802. The town's name was changed to Newport on Oct. 30, 1816.

The first clearing began where Newport Center is now. Two other settlements were also established, South Newport and Pickeral Point, which was later renamed Lake Bridge for its location at the head of Lake Memphremagog. Lake Bridge eventually became Newport City.

The first settlement of Newport Center was incorporated in 1908, but in 1931 it was consolidated with the Town of Newport and ceased to exist as its own entity. The U.S. Postal Service, however, refers to the town as Newport Center.



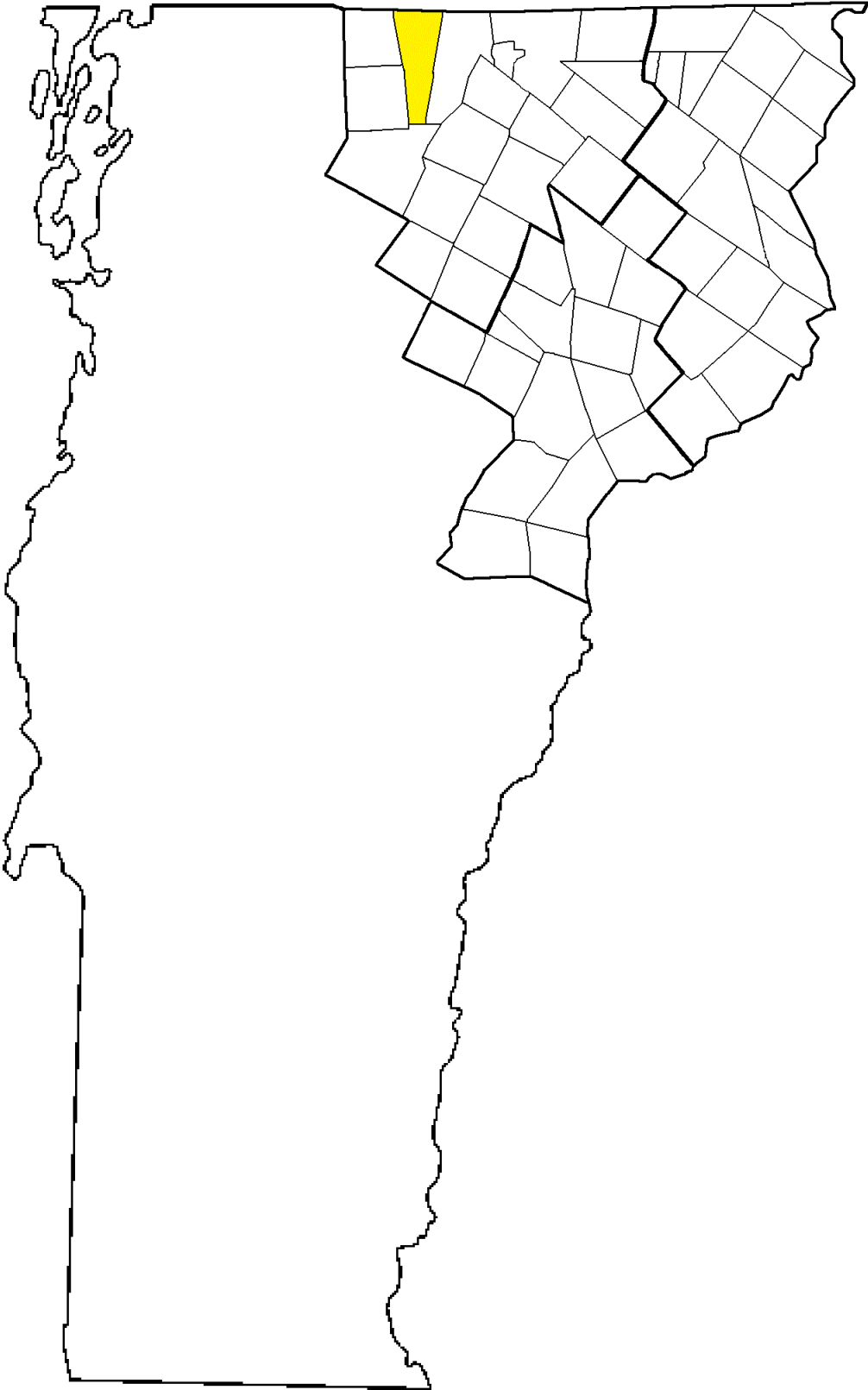
Population: 1,594

Area: 43.5 sq. mi.

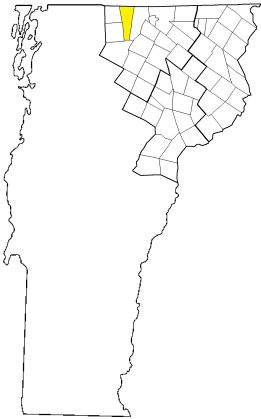
Elevation: 792

Town Offices: 102 Vance Hill Rd., Newport Ctr., Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7-4:30 p.m.

Troy



Troy (Orleans County)



Troy was chartered Oct. 28, 1801 as a town called Missisquoi, named after the river that runs through it from south to north in a valley between mountain ridges and then west across southern Quebec and northern Vermont to Lake Champlain.

The town, which borders Canada to the north, is bounded by Newport to the east, Lowell to the south and Westfield and Jay to the west .

Troy's land area had originally been granted in October 1792 as two separate parcels – each containing just over 11,000 acres. The town's name was changed to Troy on Oct. 26, 1803 because no significant settlement had occurred. The following year the town's first grist mill was built.

The town contains two villages, the unincorporated village of Troy and the incorporated village of North Troy. The first post office was established in 1823 in the village of South Troy, which came to be known as Troy. A second post office opened in 1828 at North Troy. Between 1820 and 1830 the town's population more than doubled, from 227 to 608.

At that time, the roads into the Missisquoi Valley were in rough shape and “ill wrought and in the worst locations and over almost impassible mountains,” according to the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1870s. The most traveled route, the Gazetteer said, was the old Bayley Hazen Military Road, which “has of later years been pretty much deserted by man and surrendered to the beasts of the forest.”



The mountains to the east of the Missisquoi Valley contained significant veins of magnetic iron ore, and the site of a large stone blast furnace, a remnant of Troy's 19th century iron industry, can still be found along the Missisquoi River. The town once produced over 400 tons of cast iron annually, but the business passed through several owners and was abandoned because it was not profitable. The production of iron lasted just over a decade, from 1834 to 1846. Some of the iron markers set along the Canadian border were cast in Troy.

The extension of the Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad in 1864 to Newport at the head of Lake Memphremagog provided Troy's farmers with access to new markets. Lumber and farm products, such as butter, could be carried to Newport, a distance of about 10 miles, and put on trains for next-day transport to places as far away as Massachusetts.

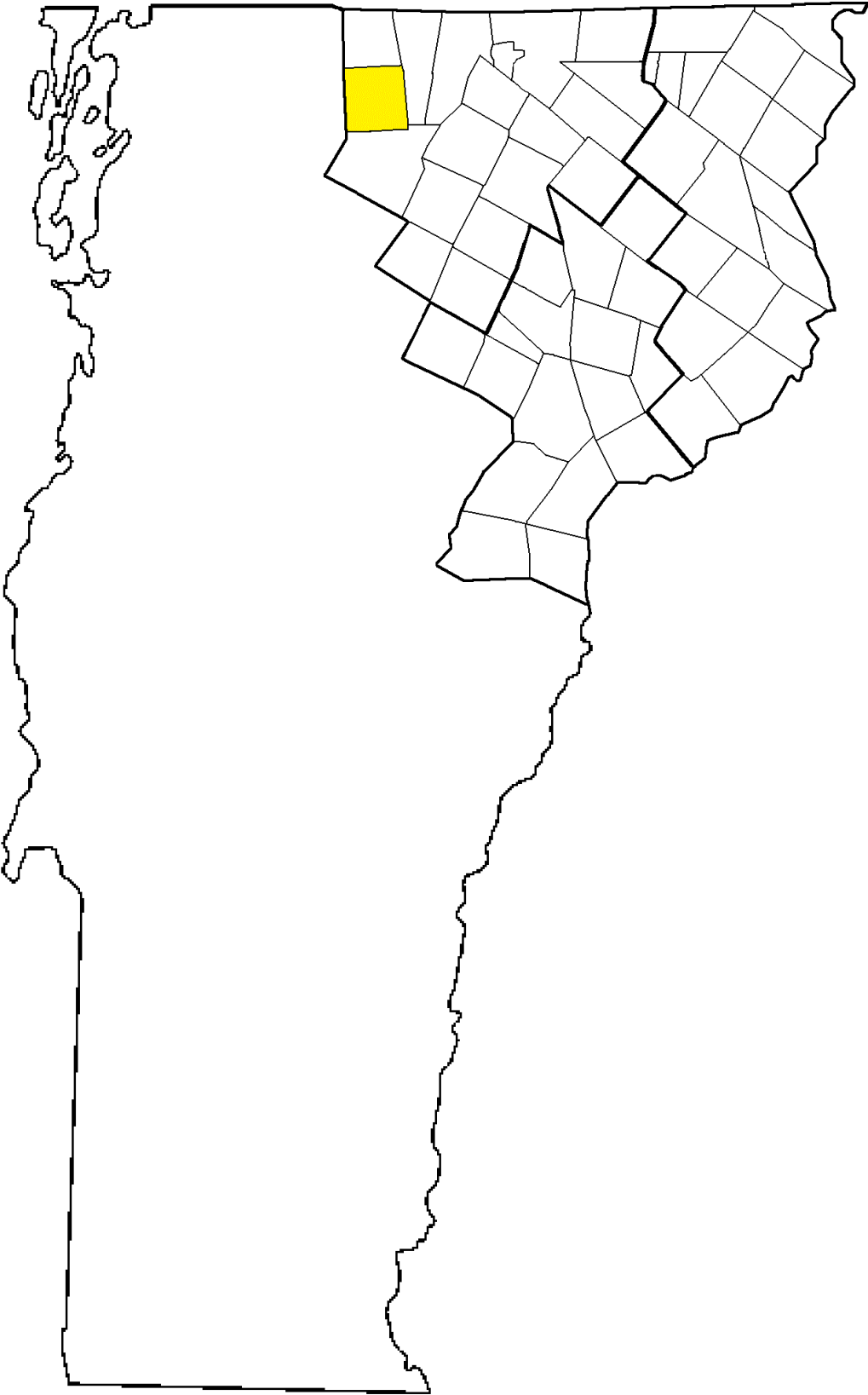
Throughout its length, the Missisquoi River is a recreation destination, and Big Falls in Troy is a dramatic attraction and a favorite picnic spot. The falls has a drop of 40 feet as it cascades into a deep gorge with the highest cliff rising some 80 feet above the river. Big Falls is managed as a state natural area by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. It is south of North Troy Village off River Road.

Website: www.troyvt.org

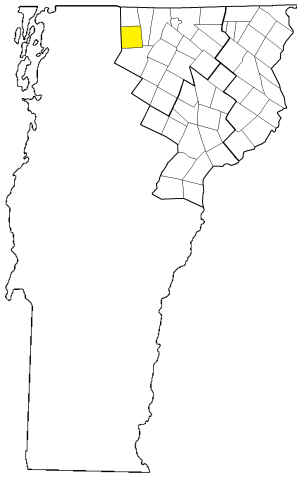
Population: 1,662 **Area:** 36.47 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 764 ft.

Town Offices: 142 Main Street, North Troy. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9-5 p.m.

Westfield



Westfield (Orleans County)



Westfield, on the western edge of Orleans County, is one of the county's least populated towns. It is bounded to the north by Jay, to the east by Troy, to the south by Lowell and to the west by the Franklin County town of Montgomery.

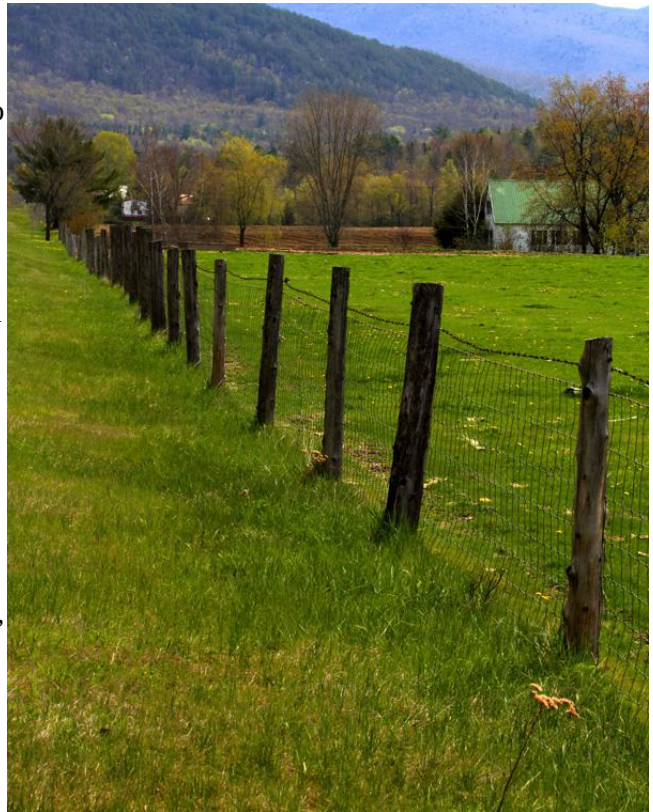
Westfield was granted May 15, 1780 to Daniel Owen and his associates, most of whom lived in Rhode Island. It appeared no attempt was made to settle the town for nearly 20 years after the charter was granted.

The first white man who lived in Westfield was named Jesse Olds, who moved from Massachusetts in 1798. His nearest neighbors were in North Troy, 12 miles away, and Craftsbury, about 20 miles away, the site of the closest gristmill.

In the spring of 1804, the township got a boost when another man moved up from Massachusetts with his three sons. They started a farm and built a sawmill and a gristmill. By 1810 the town reached 149 inhabitants.

The prosperity of Westfield was curtailed, as was the case with other adjoining towns, by the war of 1812. "Living so near the frontier of Canada, the people did not escape the general feeling of alarm and insecurity," reported the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, which was published in the 1870s. "Settlers no longer came at the rate they formerly did. Property depreciated in value and a general stagnation seemed to settle down... Many persons engaged in the unlawful and demoralizing business of smuggling across the line from Canada. Notwithstanding the stringent laws against this practice, the immense profits more than counterbalanced the fear of detection."

Westfield is home to Hazen's Notch, a mountain pass that marks the end of the 54-mile Bayley Hazen Military Road, which was built during the Revolutionary War for an invasion of Canada, but never completed. The notch lies between the cliffs of Sugarloaf Mountain to the north and Haystack Mountain to the south and nearly 300 acres has been preserved by the state of Vermont as the Hazen's Notch Natural Area. The Long Trail passes through the notch, which is about a half mile from the border between Orleans and Franklin counties.

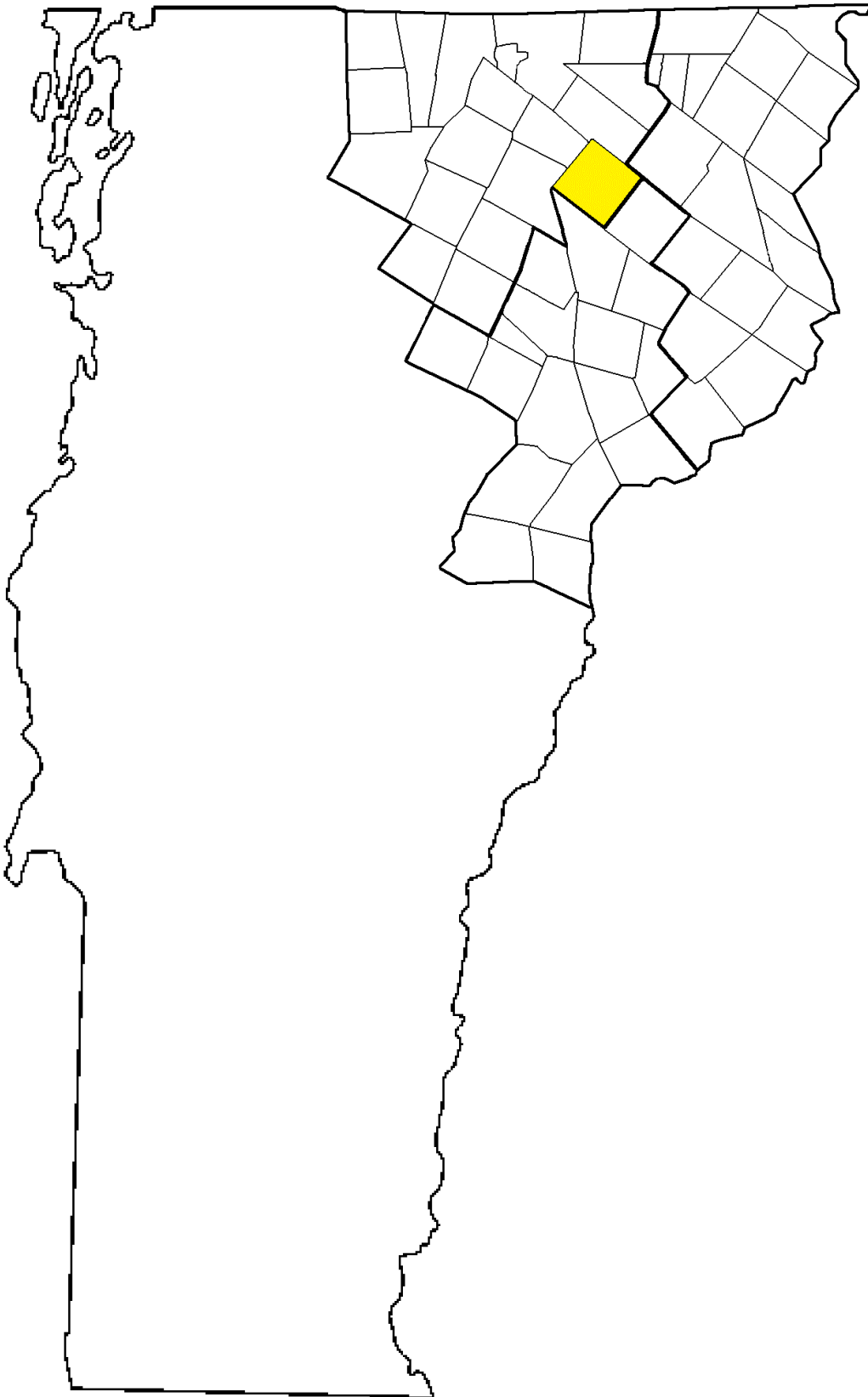


Population: 536 **Area:** 40 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 825

Website: www.westfieldvt.gov

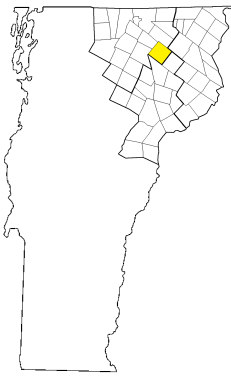
Town Offices: 38 School St., Westfield. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8-4 p.m.

Westmore



Westmore (Orleans County)

[Westmore Video https://youtu.be/7n2jmHr5HgM](https://youtu.be/7n2jmHr5HgM)



Westmore is situated in the southeastern part of Orleans County on the eastern range of the Green Mountains and has some fairly high peaks. It is bordered to the northeast by Charleston, to the east by the Essex County town of Brighton, to the south by the Caledonia County towns of Newark and Sutton, to the west by Barton and to the northwest by Brownington.

Westmore's main geographic feature and recreational attraction is stunning Lake Willoughby, which is about six miles long and a mile wide, extending north and south, framed by mountains. It splits the town into two unequal parts and is the Northeast Kingdom's second largest lake, slightly behind Lake Seymour in Morgan. But Lake

Willoughby – with a maximum depth of more than 300 feet – is almost twice as deep as Seymour. The southern half of Lake Willoughby is surrounded by a state forest. The lake's outlet, the Willoughby River, flows into the Barton River and on to Lake Memphremagog.

Westmore was granted in 1780 to Capt. Uriah Seymour, Abraham Sedgwick and their associates. Very few, if any, of the original grantees ever settled in town. But they offered a man named David Porter 200 acres if he would build the first sawmill and 200 more acres if he would build the first gristmill in town. Porter accepted the offer, and by 1804 the mills were operating. The town was initially named Westford, but was later changed to Westmore because there was another Vermont town called Westford.

Because Westmore has some very good soil, the first settlers cleared large farms and built impressive barns. They prospered briefly, but the War of 1812 convinced them to abandon their property for the safer, more populated towns south of Orleans County. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer of the 1870s provided this account: "They were surrounded by a howling wilderness a long distance from any other settlement, their numbers few and scattering, the frosts destroyed their crops, and the fear of the British and hostile Indians on the north still filled their hearts at length with dismay; their courage failed... They concluded that their means were insufficient to protect them against an expected and much feared attack of the Indians."

Soon, according to the Gazetteer, Westmore was left without any human inhabitants: "The mills and most of the buildings that had been erected went to ruin... The lands that had been cleared lay common for a long time, and the inhabitants of Brownington and Derby annually drove large lots of cattle, horses and mules here to pasture."

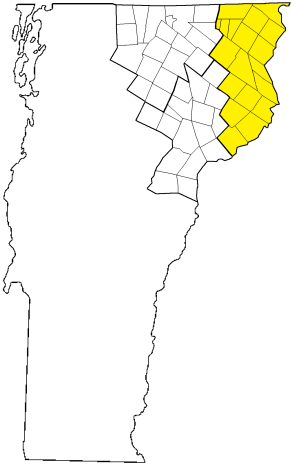
It was not until 1830 that settlers showed up again. Westmore was reorganized in 1833, and the population grew slowly. The demand for a public road through town was so great and the anticipated road was so expensive that other towns to the north and south agreed to help pay for it. The only route was along the eastern shore of Lake Willoughby, which was steep and rocky. The road was completed in 1852, opening new incentives for settlement.

As soon as the road was finished, an elegant Lake House was opened at the south end of the lake, offering splendid views of the water and surrounding mountains. Another hotel followed on the east side of the lake. And Westmore was back on the road to prosperity.

Population: 350 **Area:** 37.58 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,170

Town Offices: 54 Hinton Hill Road, Orleans. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-4.

Essex County (16 towns...3 unincorporated)



Essex County has about 6,300 inhabitants, making it the least populous county in Vermont, as well as in all of New England. It extends about 45 miles from north to south and more than 20 miles from east to west. The county has been a prime source of timber production in the Northeast Kingdom and is distinguished as the location of Vermont's largest land conservation project. In 1999 a coalition of organizations purchased a total of 132,000 acres in more than a dozen towns and unincorporated gores from the Champion International Paper Company to preserve the property for recreation, wildlife habitat and continued logging through sustainable forestry.

Essex County's eastern boundary is the beautiful upper Connecticut River, which separates northern Vermont and New Hampshire's White Mountain region. Before the county was colonized, the area was used as a productive hunting ground by various Native American tribes. After colonization, the Connecticut River became the main route for floating logs to sawmills every spring. The log drives ended around 1915 because of the danger to recreational boaters. The final drive was reported to have involved 500 workers managing 65 million feet of logs.

One challenging section of the river was known as the 15-mile falls, a vertical drop of nearly 400 feet where water cascaded over boulders and ledges from southern Essex County into Caledonia County. The 15-mile falls was submerged by the construction of three large hydroelectric generating projects – the Comerford and the McIndoes Falls dams in Barnet, both completed in 1931, and the Moore Dam, which was finished in 1951 and is in Waterford upriver from the Comerford Dam. The Comerford Dam was New England's largest single hydroelectric plant at the time it started generating power. Reservoirs were created behind each of the dams, the biggest being the Moore Reservoir, which extends nearly 10 miles and covers some 3,000 acres. The reservoirs are available for recreational use, but boaters are warned to be alert for sudden changes in water depth.

The majority of Essex County's residents live along the Connecticut River, which is New England's longest river, flowing 410 miles from a series of protected lakes by the Canadian border in New Hampshire to its outlet in Connecticut on Long Island Sound. The river's valley is known for its fertile farmland throughout its length.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1860s, offered an extensive description of Essex County's upper Connecticut River valley. It reads, in part: "To the lovers of natural scenery, the valley of the Connecticut, from the head of the fifteen-mile falls to Canaan, cannot be surpassed in loveliness. The meandering folds of the river, the abrupt headlands, the towering summits of the White Mountains, the variety of timberland, all conspire to render it a changing scene and one of peculiar interest and beauty. Almost every town in the county boasts of some hill or mountain from the summit of which scenes of peculiar beauty lay spread before you... The White Mountains are in full view from the river towns, and may be seen perhaps from every town in the county. The best view of the White Mountain range attainable is however from Lunenburg. Seen from that locality they stand out in all their boldness."

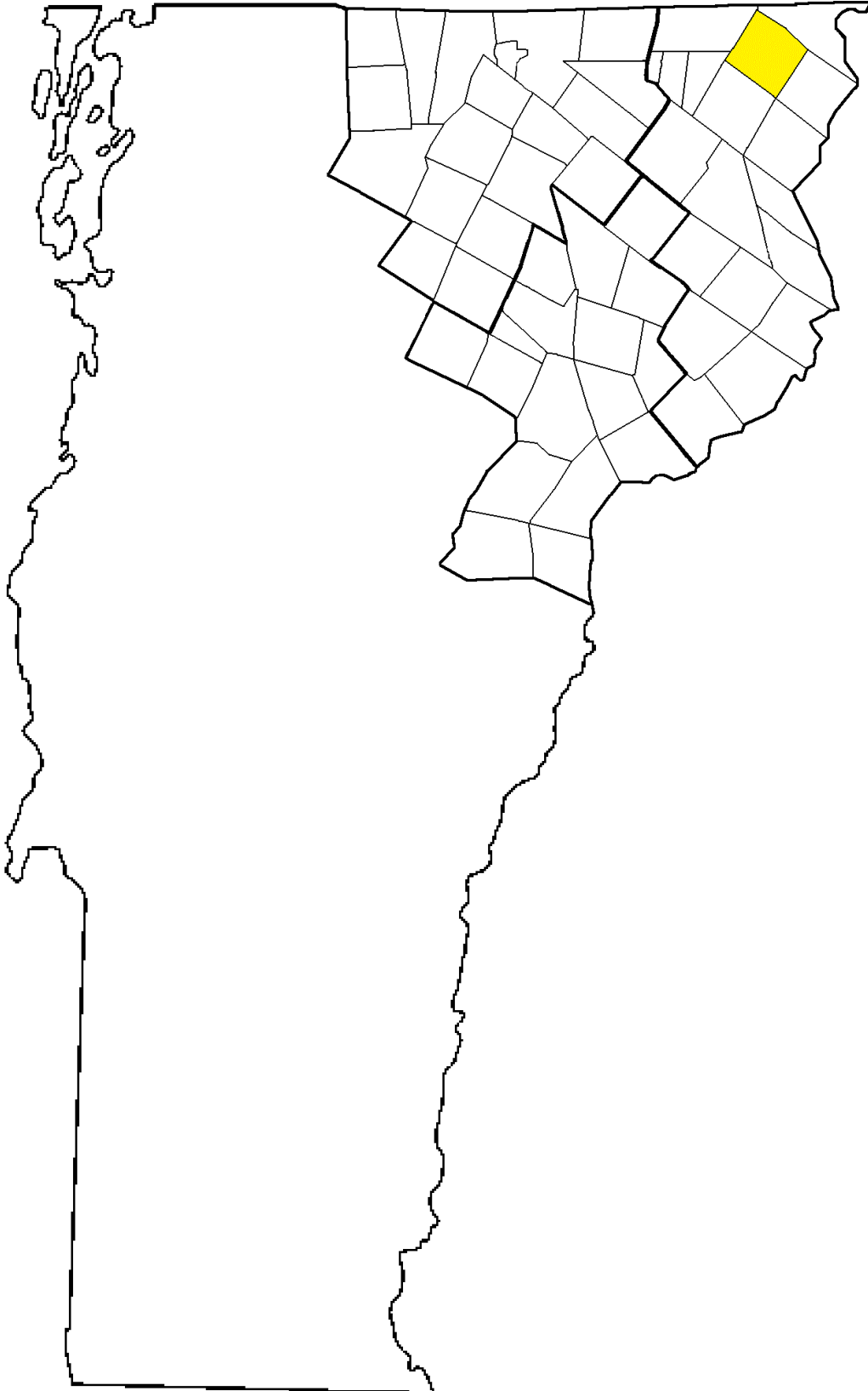
County Seat: Guildhall

Population: 6,306 (2010)

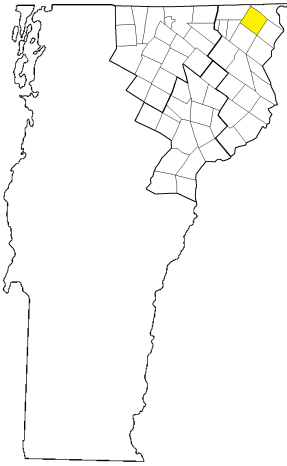
Area: 665 sq. mi.

Persons per square mile: 9.5

Averill



Averill (Essex County)



Samuel Averill and his various associates received from Benning Wentworth a total of twenty-one grants in what is now Vermont, plus several others in New Hampshire. Eight of the Vermont grants were in the present Essex County, accounting for more than half of the area as it stands.

Averill was a prosperous businessman and land speculator living in Kent, Connecticut at the time of the Vermont grants. Like like many recipients of Wentworth grants, he never had any intention of settling on his Vermont lands.

The only settlement this town has ever had is in the northernmost tip. The population reached its peak at 48 in 1880. It is one of the few towns in Vermont that has never had a post office in the conventional sense: the office named Averill is actually over the town line in Norton.

Other than lumbering and hunting, the only activity is a family-operated summer resort on Forest Lake, sometimes called Quimbys Lake after the family which operates the resort.

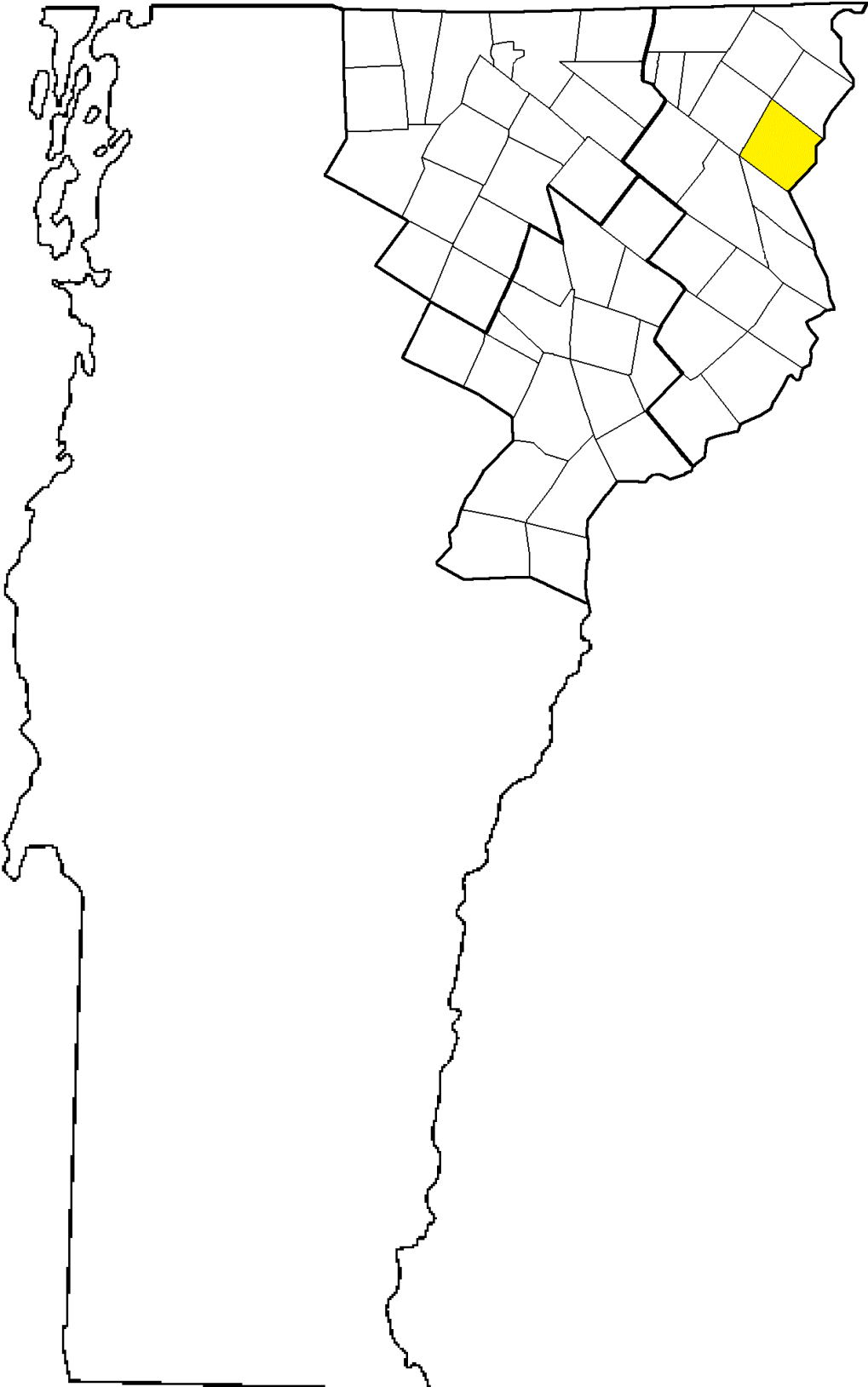
One of several towns in Vermont which have been discontinued for lack of interest, so to speak. Population levels have dropped to such a point (or never existed in the first place) that the towns have been disenfranchised (unincorporated). Rather than having its own government (Select Board, Town Clerk, etc.) the town's affairs are administered by a state-appointed supervisor.

Population: 24

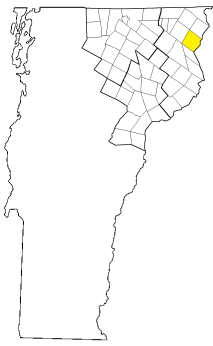
Area: 38.1 sq. mi.

Elevation: 1697

Bloomfield



Bloomfield (Essex County)



Located on the Connecticut River in eastern Essex County, Bloomfield is bounded by the town of Brunswick and the unorganized towns of Lewis, and Lemington.

Granted as Minehead in 1762 on the same day and to the same group of Connecticut residents as neighboring Averill, Lemington and Lewis, the original name is taken from the town of the same name in England, where many of the families of the grantees originated. The name was changed by the Vermont legislature to Bloomfield in 1830. The origin of the name has two possibilities: chosen for its descriptive connotations, or to honor Joseph Bloomfield, a major in the Revolutionary War and a brigadier general in the War of 1812, during which he commanded a battalion at the Battle of Plattsburgh.

The population and economy of Bloomfield has risen and fallen over the years. At its height, several hundred men were employed in lumbering and milling operations of the Nulhegan Lumber Company, which owned most of the land around a village then known as South Bloomfield; its location is now marked only by a cemetery. The town lies at the intersection of the Connecticut and Nulhegan Rivers, and like many other towns in the county, lumber was the primary industry. This portion of the Northeast Kingdom is sparsely populated, but it offers tremendous natural scenery and acres of undisturbed wilderness.



The Nulhegan Basin Division, part of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was established to protect the diversity and abundance of native species within the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. An extensive road system gives visitors the ability to experience the rugged quality of the Division and access to scenic vistas, perfect for wildlife dependent recreation. For the more actively inclined visitor, wooded pathways and stream courses can be used to hike off the roads for a deeper backwoods experience. The Lewis pond overlook provides a scenic vista of the Nulhegan Basin and the surrounding mountains. The Mollie Beattie Bog interpretive boardwalk provides visitors with information on bog habitat and wildlife.

Accessed by Route 102 from the north and south, or Route 105 from the west, Bloomfield shares a close relationship with North Strafford, N.H. on the other side of the Connecticut River.

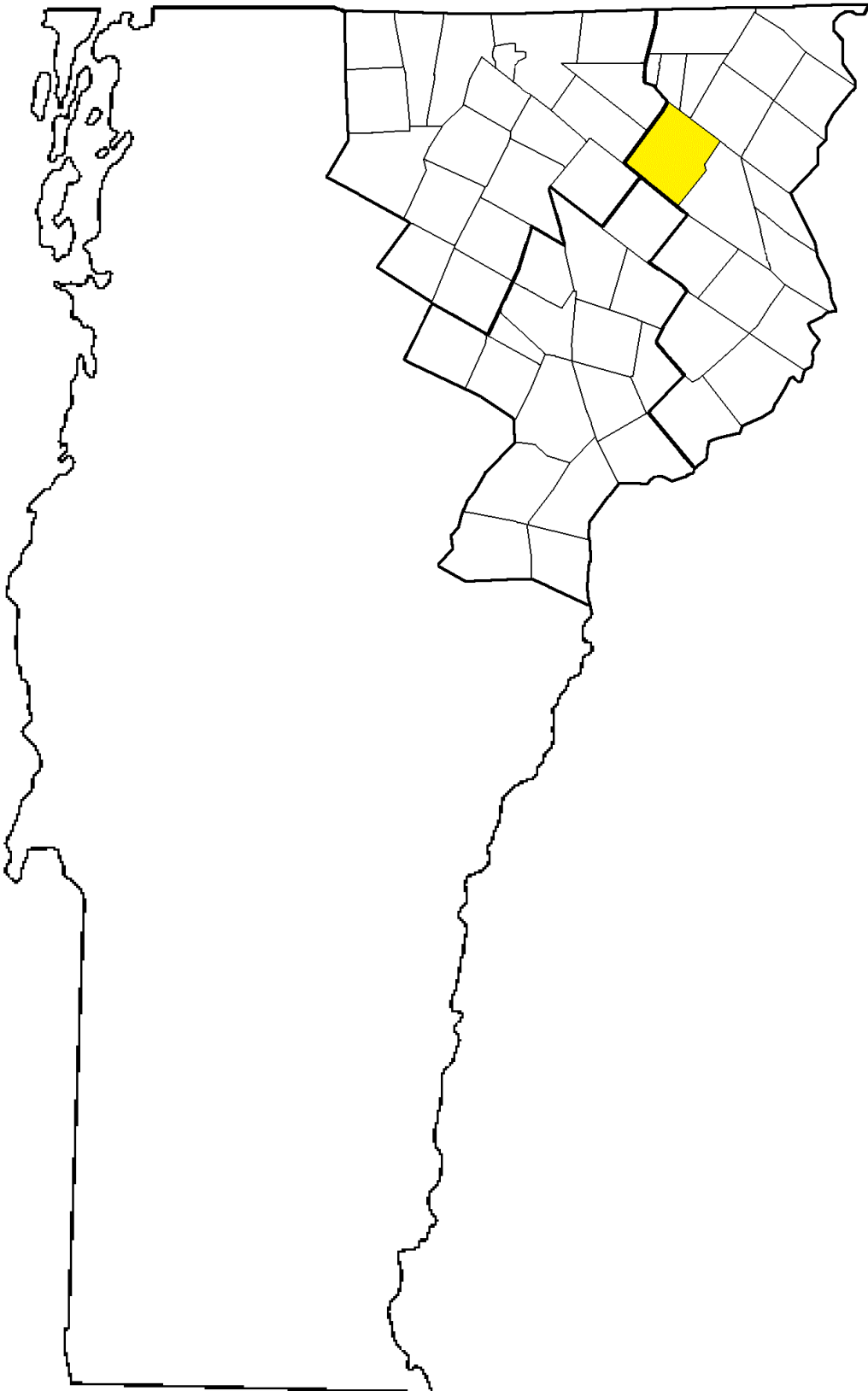
Population: 221

Area: 40.27 sq. mi.

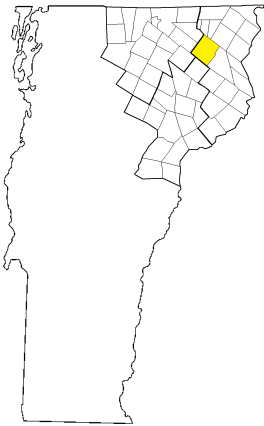
Elevation: 912

Town Offices: 27 Schoolhouse Rd. Bloomfield, P.O. Box 336, North Stratford, NH 03590; Tues. & Thurs. 9-3.

Brighton



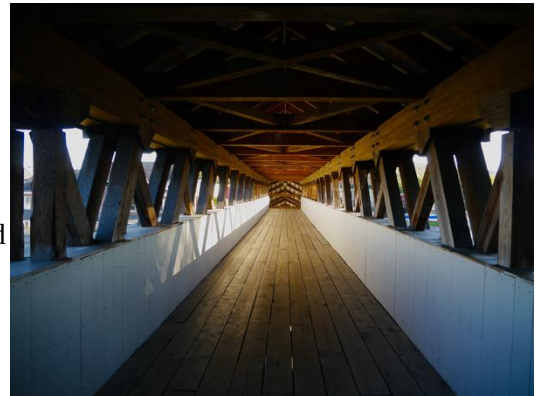
Brighton (Essex County)



Situated in western Essex County, Brighton is bounded by Avery's Gore, Ferdinand, Newark, Westmore, Morgan and Charleston. Brighton's village of Island Pond, once a booming railroad town 16 miles south of Quebec, now rests peacefully on the western shores of a 600-acre lake called Island Pond, so named because of the lake's 22-acre island.

The Clyde River, Pherrin's River and Nulhegan River all run through town. The Clyde is the outlet of Island Pond, and it was named by one of the early surveyors for a river of the same name in Scotland. Native Americans often used the Clyde on jounries from Canada to Southern New England. Brighton was chartered under a different name, "Random," in 1731 by Joseph Brown because it was a random purchase from an agent in Providence, R.I. In 1832, the town became Brighton, a name that was chosen by the inhabitants. The first white man to visit the town, identified as a Mr. Lindsley, was hunting with a company of St. Francis Indians and had some thrilling adventures and hair-raising escapes. The first settler was believed to have been Enos Bishop in 1820.

The first settlers traveled 16 miles from the Connecticut River through a dense wilderness, which is how they brought in supplies with the help of snowshoes and hand-sleds (it was said the snow was too deep for teams). The first post office was established in 1849. The first public road was known as the Old Magog Road, and it connected Brunswick on the Connecticut River with Derby and Lake Memphremagog. The road was the scene of much conflict during the war of 1812 when smugglers tried to move cattle into Canada from New Hampshire. The township is quite mountainous and heavily timbered, and logging played a major role in its development.



In 1853, the Grand Trunk railroad purchased land that would become known as the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway. It ran through Island Pond, the first international railroad junction in the United States, connecting Montreal with Portland, Maine. Logging operations, mills and the railroad spurred the growth of the town. Thousands of board feet of timber were brought to mills, much of it white pine. At one time, more than 500 loggers were working in the Brighton area.

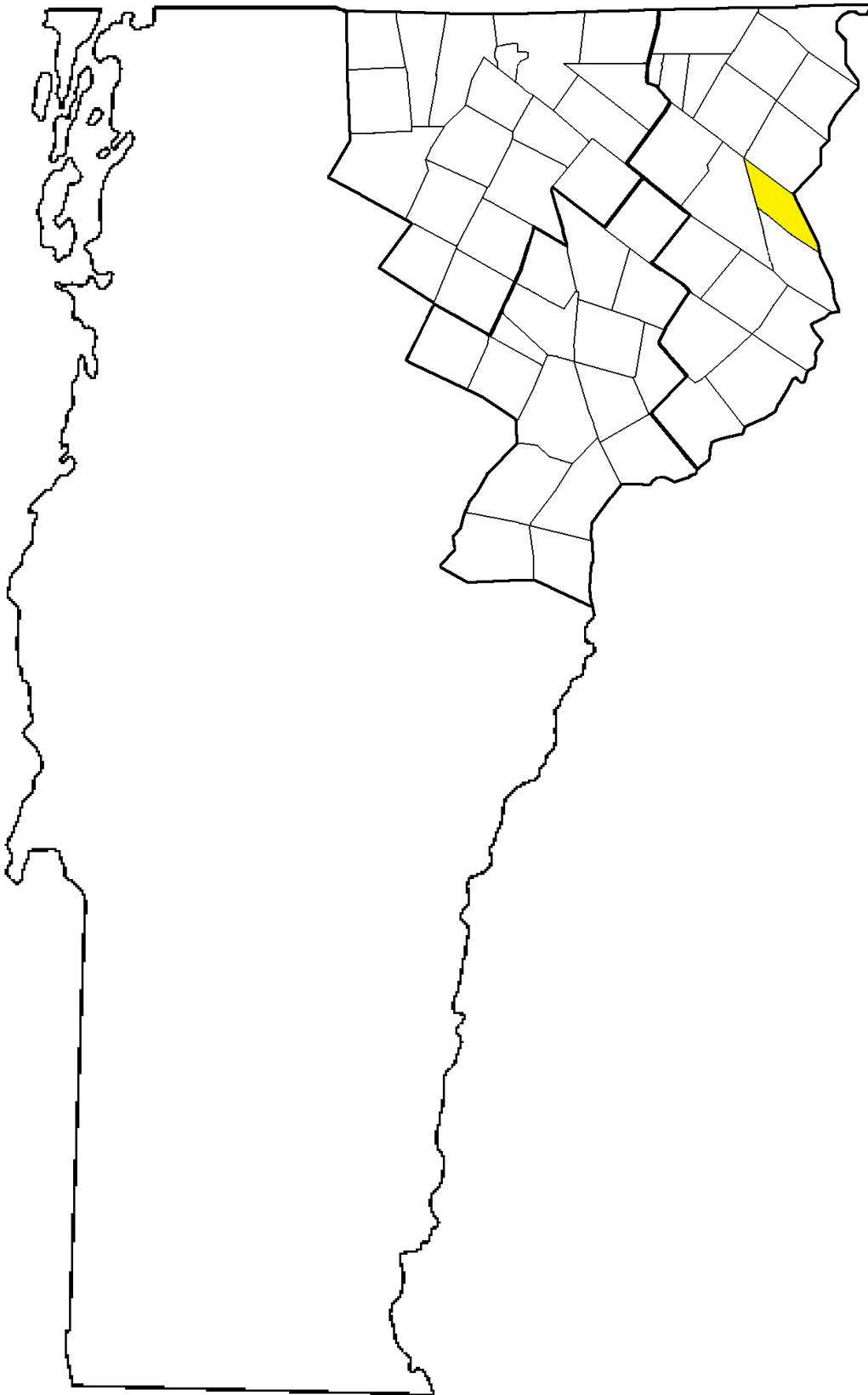
The village of Island Pond has been the community center and population nucleus of the town since the 1850s. Brighton's population peaked at 2,500. However, with the decline of the railroads and the advent of the Great Depression, the population dwindled steadily. The streets may no longer be lively with railroad men and rugged loggers and the 13 railroad tracks that once passed through town are down to two, but Brighton has become a tourist destination for snowmobilers and outdoor enthusiasts, and in a bold plan announced in early 2015, the town may become the site of the largest maple operation in the United States. A company called Sweetree intends to tap as many as a half-million maple trees to produce syrup, sugar and other products.

Website: www.brightonvt.org

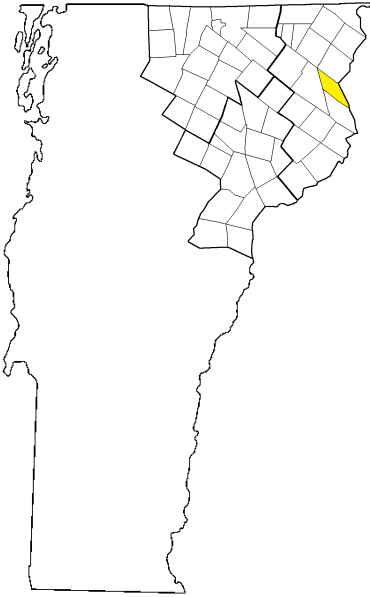
Population: 1,222 **Area:** 54.34 sq. miles **Elevation:** 1,280 ft.

Town Office: 49 Mill St. Ext., P.O. Box 377, Island Pond. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-3:30.

Brunswick



Brunswick (Essex County)



Located in Essex County, Brunswick is located on the Connecticut River and bounded by Maidstone and Ferdinand. Chartered by Benning Wentworth in 1761 to 64 settlers, the town encompasses a little over 15,000 acres.

According the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, no town in Essex County originally contained more white pine timber than Brunswick. The town was organized in 1796. As with Ferdinand and Lunenburg, Brunswick's name comes from Benning Wentworth's lifelong but ultimately unsuccessful efforts to curry enough favor with his king to gain a title. All of the names come from the origins of Britain's royal house of Hanover. The first road in town was surveyed in 1790 and it was laid up the Connecticut River from the north line of Maidstone to the south line of Bloomfield and followed the same track as Route 102.

The Nulhegan River runs across the northeast corner of the town. This river was a great thoroughfare of the Native Americans in their migrations from the St. Lawrence waters to the Atlantic Ocean. Paul Stream is a beautiful stream of pure water taking its rise in the town of Granby and Ferdinand and historically, it accommodated several lumber mills. Sparsely populated and densely forested, Brunswick has several small, remote ponds like Wheeler and Dennis.

The Nulhegan Basin Division, part of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was established to protect the diversity and abundance of native species within the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. An extensive road system gives visitors the ability to experience the rugged quality of the Division and access to scenic vistas, perfect for wildlife dependent recreation.

Brunswick is accessed from the north and south by Route 102, and from the west by Route 105. The town of Brighton is 21 miles to the west, Guildhall is 19 miles south and Canaan is 24 miles north.

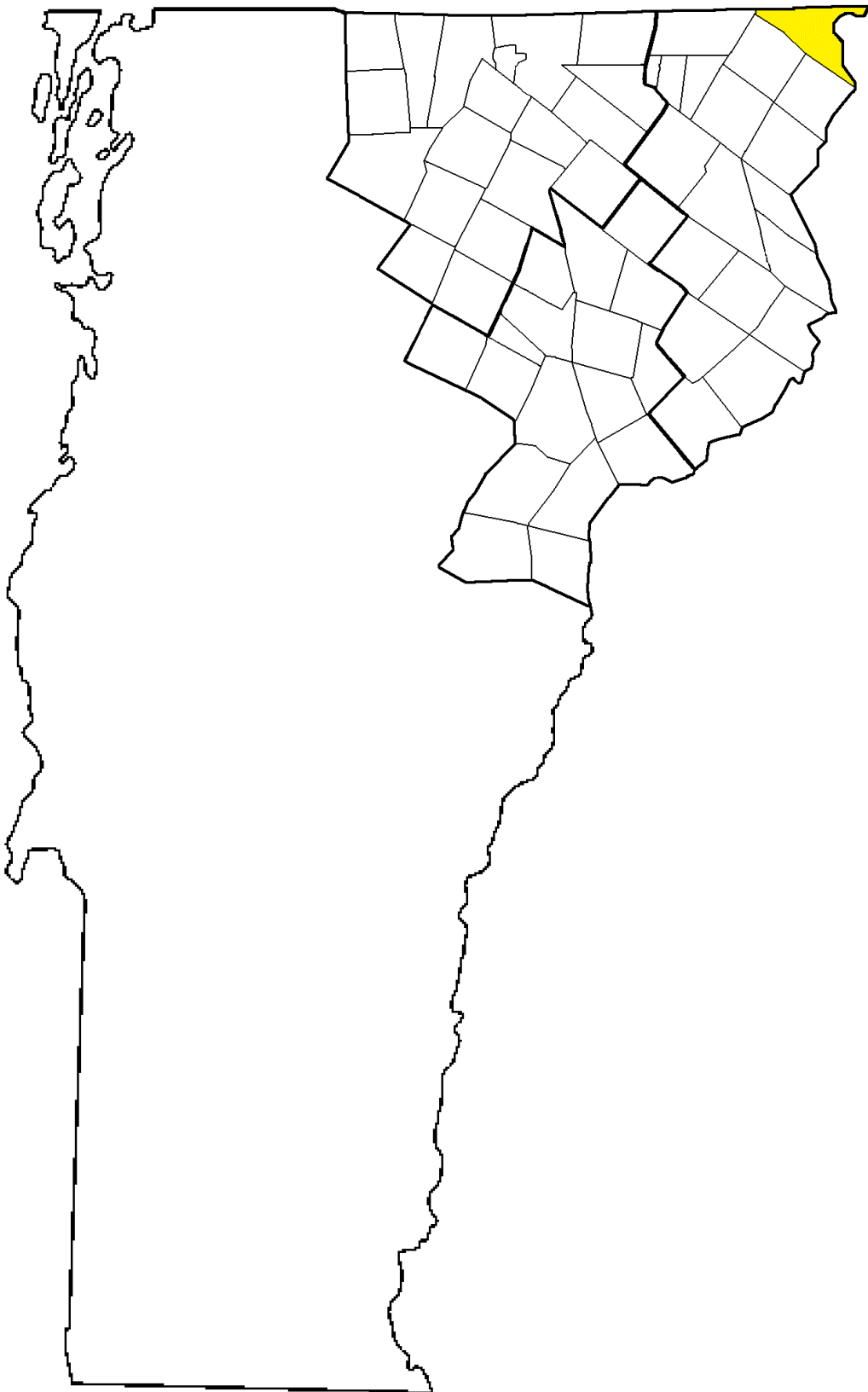
Population: 112

Area: 25.16 sq. mi.

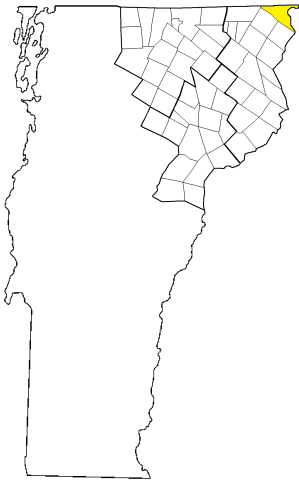
Elevation: 1,000

Town Offices: 944 Route 102, Brunswick, Thurs. 4-6 p.m.

Canaan



Canaan (Essex County)



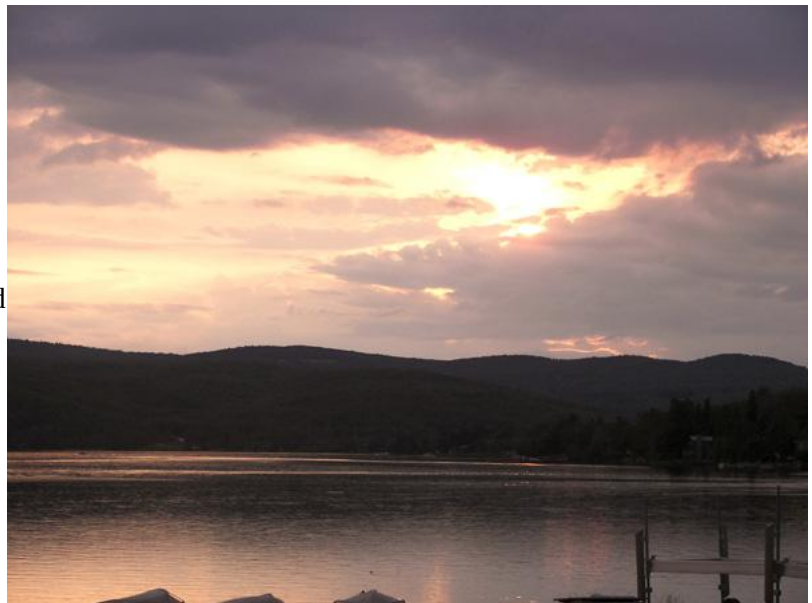
Canaan was chartered to a group of men from Connecticut and named for a town in their home state. During the peak of the 18th century's religious fervor known as The Great Awakening, a score of Connecticut towns had been given biblical names, many of which were carried north to new towns in New Hampshire (Bethlehem, Hebron, Lebanon) and Vermont (Bethel, Goshen, Sharon). Biblically, Canaan is the land the Lord promised to the Israelites: "I am coming down...to bring them...unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites."

The town was chartered Feb. 25, 1782, but Canaan did not attract a rush of settlers. The first U.S. census (1791) recorded only 19 residents. Ten years later, a new charter was issued that included part of the former town of Norfolk, which was in the extreme northeastern corner of Vermont and had not attracted any permanent settlers.

Part of Norfolk was also in New Hampshire.

Norfolk had been chartered by Bezaleel Woodward from Hanover, N.H. in 1782. He was married to a daughter of Dartmouth College founder Eleazar Wheelock. The Caledonia County town of Wheelock was named after him. Part of Norfolk became the village of Beecher Falls, the most northeasterly community in Vermont, named after the Beecher Manufacturing Company. In 1889, a post office was established in Beecher Falls, and it is still in operation.

The village of Beecher Falls is the only place where Vermont and New Hampshire share a land border. The Connecticut River turns east while the border runs north.



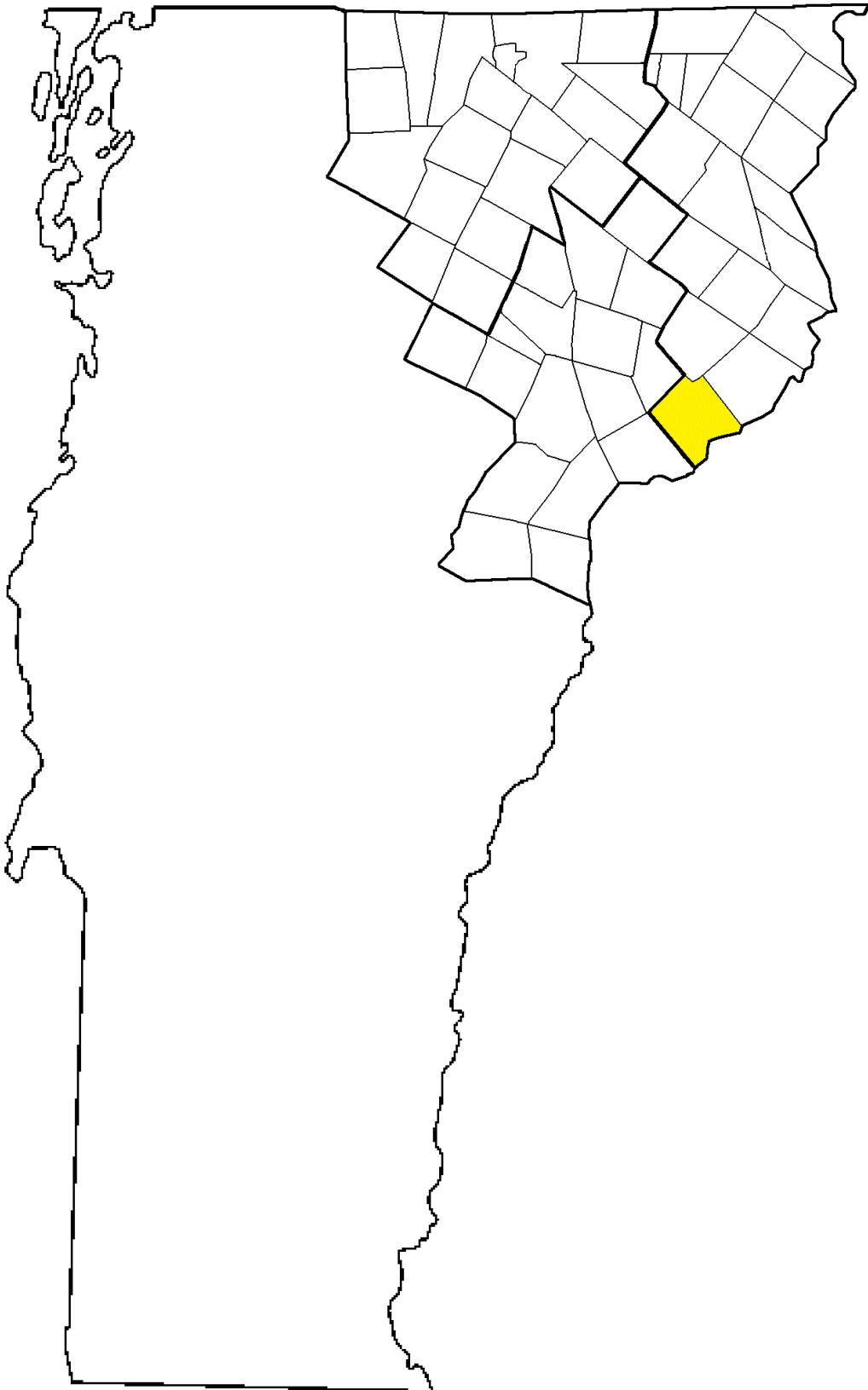
The Alice M. Ward library (reputed to be the oldest building in Canaan) was home of Dr. Artemus Ward from 1885 into the 1930s when it was given to the town to be used as a library. It is rumored that the building was part of the Underground Railroad and served as a refuge for slaves during the Civil War.

Website: www.canaan-vt.org

Population: 972 **Area:** 33.08 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,042

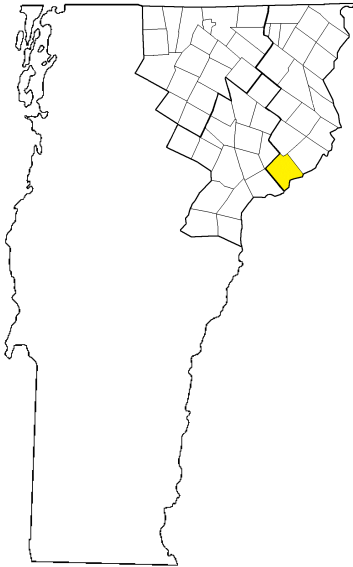
Town Offices: 318 Christian Hill Rd., PO Box 159, Canaan, Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9-3. Hours may change, call first.

Concord



Concord (Essex County)

[Concord Video https://youtu.be/AvUDphsBXHM](https://youtu.be/AvUDphsBXHM)



Concord lies in the southern part of Essex County, bordered by Kirby, Lunenburg, and Waterford. It was chartered in 1781, originally as Pearsalls Gore.

The first recorded settler, Joseph Ball, arrived in 1788 and fathered the first child born in Concord in 1789. The first town meeting was held in 1794, with Ball as town clerk. During the boom years of agriculture and lumbering, Concord grew to 1600 people in 1880 and has since lost population. Around 1796, a new settlement grew on the hill above the meadows which became the business center with stores, blacksmith, tavern, school, lawyer, physician, hotel and church. This village is now known as Concord Corners.

In 1838, John D. Chase established the Village of West Concord (now known as Concord). Chase was the inventor of the first steel and iron circular saw and the Chase water wheel. In the early 1840s there was a dam and sawmill at the east end of the Village of West Concord and a large gristmill on the opposite bank of the Moose River. This area became the dominant business district of Concord. Due to the railroad and the efforts of Charles Hall, who cleared 75 acres for a new Village, North Concord became the center of the growing lumber interests in Essex County.

The Columbian School, America's first normal school for training teachers, was opened in 1823 by the Rev. Samuel Read Hall. The library at nearby Lyndon State College, itself founded as a normal school, is named after Hall.

Concord is home to Miles Pond and Shadow Lake, two bodies of water frequented by summer visitors and camp owners. Concord is accessed by Route 2, a major east-west corridor in the Northeast Kingdom.

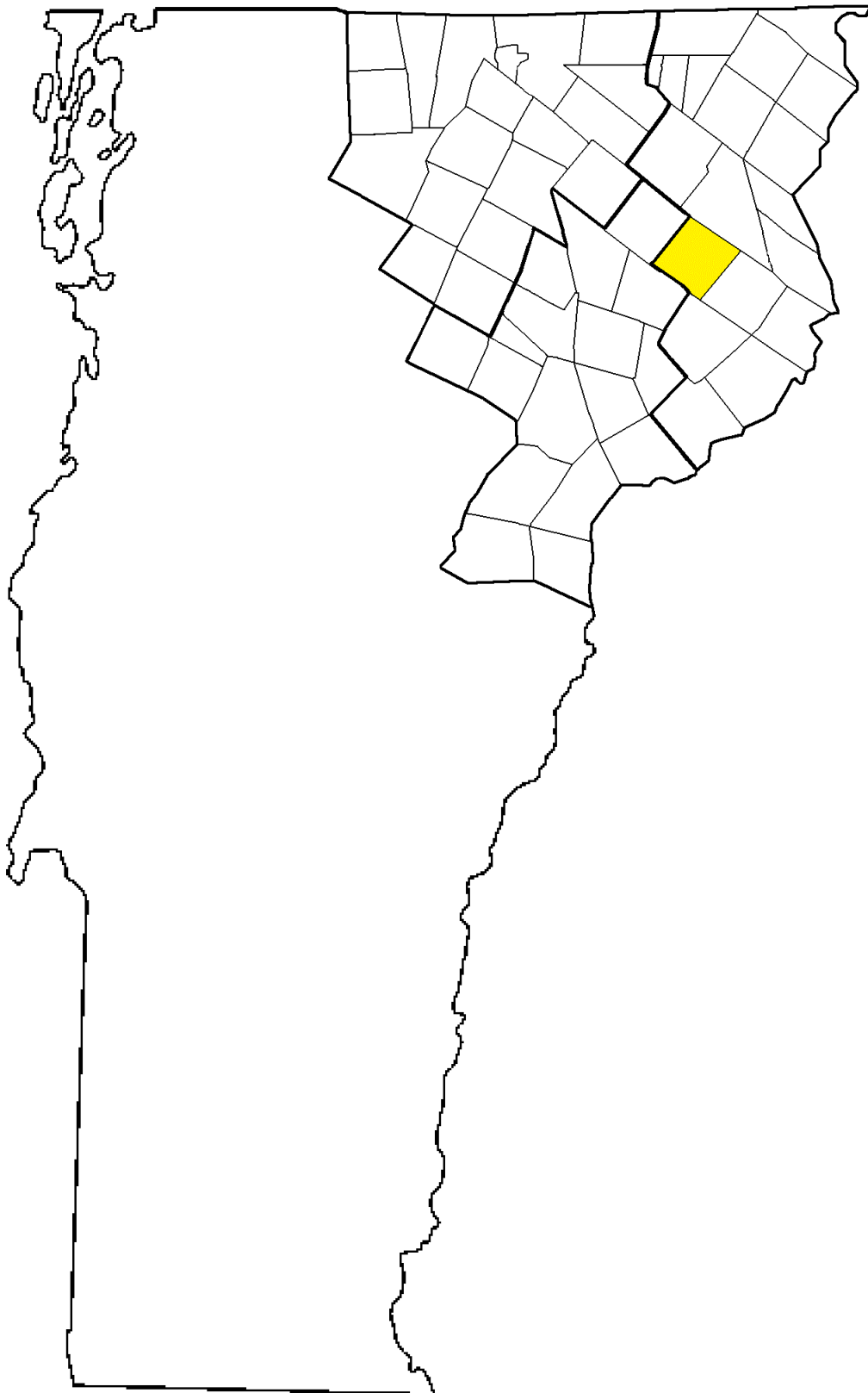
Website: www.concordvt.us

Population: 1,235

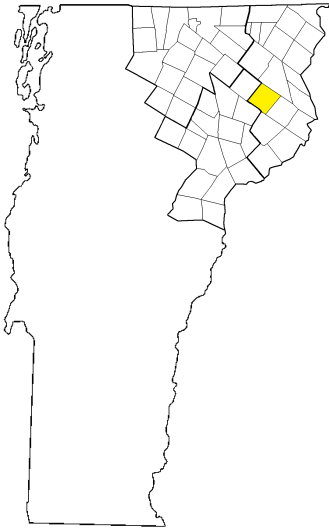
Area: 52.5 sq. mi.

Town Offices: 374 Main St., P.O. Box 317, Concord. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9-3. 385 Main St., P.O. Box 317, Concord. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30-2:30. All offices closed on Wednesdays.

East Haven



East Haven (Essex County)



East Haven lies in the western part of Essex County, bounded on the northeast by Ferdinand, on the southeast by Granby, on the southwest by Victory and on the west and northwest by the Caledonia County towns of Burke and Newark.

East Haven was chartered on Oct. 22, 1790 by the Vermont Legislature. It was one of several parcels granted to a group headed by Timothy Andrews. He named the town after his hometown of East Haven Connecticut, where he operated an inn. Records show that his Vermont land grants were speculative and he had no intention of settling in the state. Ironically, he died in Vermont, while on a trip to inspect his holdings.

East Haven's first settler was John Walter, Jr., who was born in the hills of northwestern Connecticut and moved here May 1, 1804. In addition to building the first house in the township, he planted the first orchard. The next settler was John Walter's brother Norris. They had to go to Lyndon and St. Johnsbury to buy grain and get it ground. East Haven's first schoolhouse was built in 1832. The first tavern was built in 1848, and the town was finally organized July 28, 1845. In 1850, a post office was established.

The Passumpsic River runs through the western part of East Haven, and a ridge of land rises through the center of the town, extending from the north to the south boundary. The Moose River on the east side of the ridge runs south through the eastern part of the town. Both rivers have been known for trout fishing, as well as for wild game hunting.

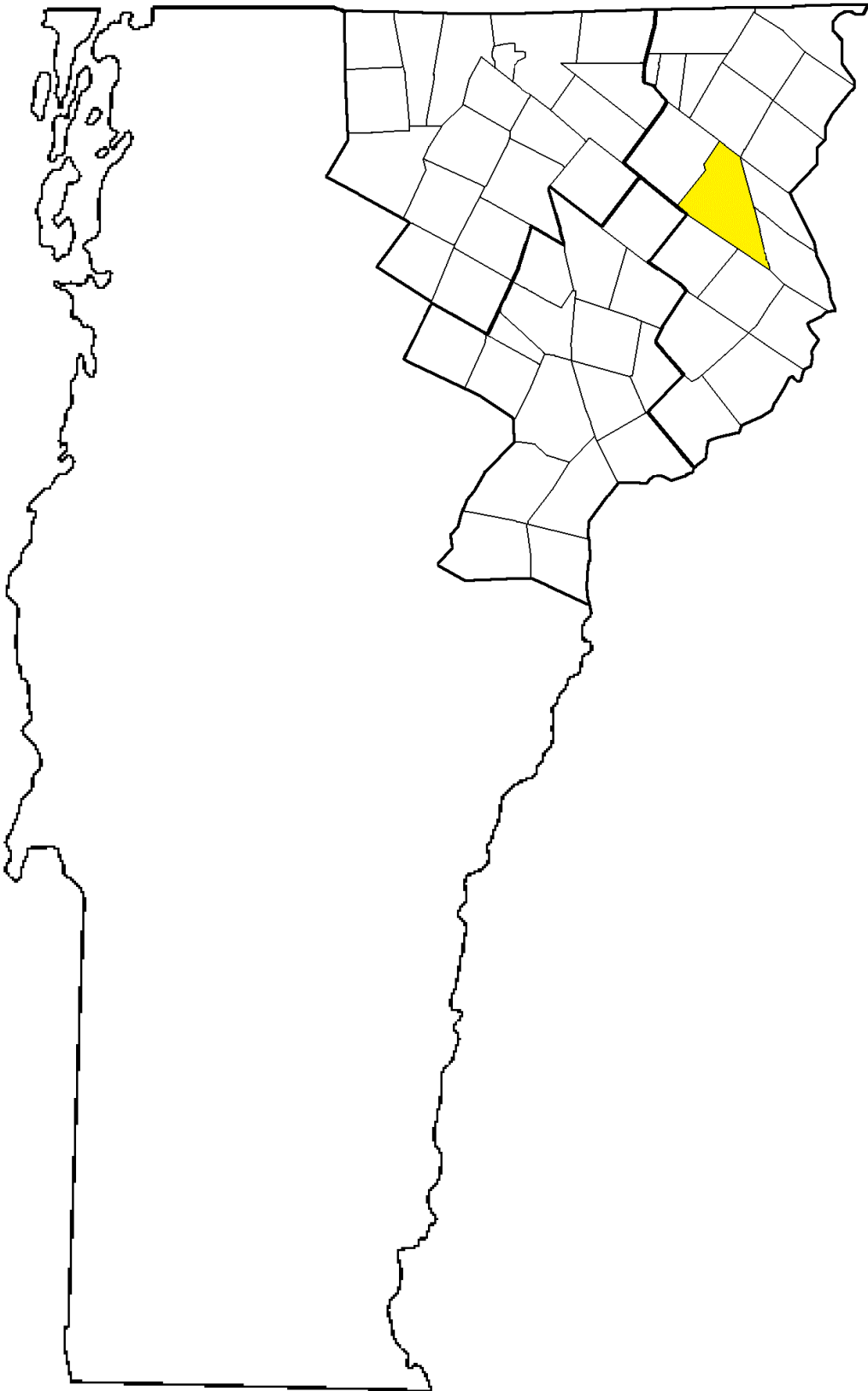
Another location that drew notoriety to East Haven through the years is 3,400-foot East Mountain, which is the second highest peak in the Northeast Kingdom and is surrounded by some of Vermont's most remote wilderness areas. The U.S. Air Force built a radar base at the summit of the mountain during the Cold War to provide early warning of a feared attack by the Soviet Union. The base, which operated from 1956 to 1963, was staffed by more than 150 people, about half as many people who lived in East Haven at the time. Two years before the base was closed, a strange object was spotted in the sky over East Mountain. Speculation that it was a UFO was heightened when a New Hampshire couple, Barney and Betty Hill, reported that they were abducted by aliens near Franconia Notch, N.H., just hours before the East Mountain sighting.

During the decades since the isolated Air Force radar station was abandoned, it suffered extensive damage from trespassers. An attempt to erect an industrial wind farm on the site was withdrawn in 2012 because of strong local opposition and a finding from a state hearing officer that the project was incompatible with the remote, undeveloped surrounding land. Some of the property in question was part of Vermont's largest land conservation agreement ever, resulting from the purchase of 132,000 acres from the Champion International Paper Company in 1999. Under the agreement, the former Champion lands are to be preserved for recreation, wildlife habitat and timber production through sustainable forestry.

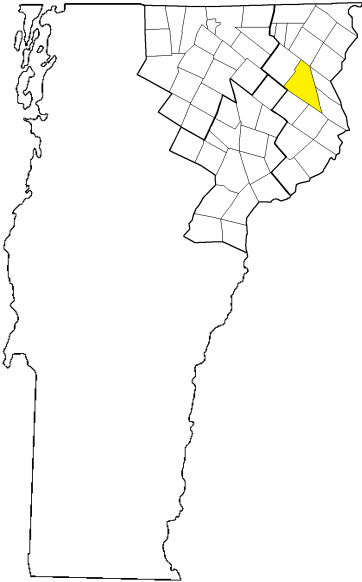
Population: 290 **Area:** 37.41 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,020

Town Offices: 64 Community Building Road, P.O. Box 10, Hours: Tues. 1-6, Thurs., 8-1, and by appointment.

Ferdinand



Ferdinand (Essex County)



In yet another obvious attempt to win favor with the Crown, Benning Wentworth named the town for a relative of King George III, Prince Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand of Brunswick-Lüneberg (see also Brunswick and Lunenburg).

Ferdinand is literally a place to pass through on your way to somewhere else: approximately five miles of Route 105 are the only road in town, connecting Brighton with Brunswick. A

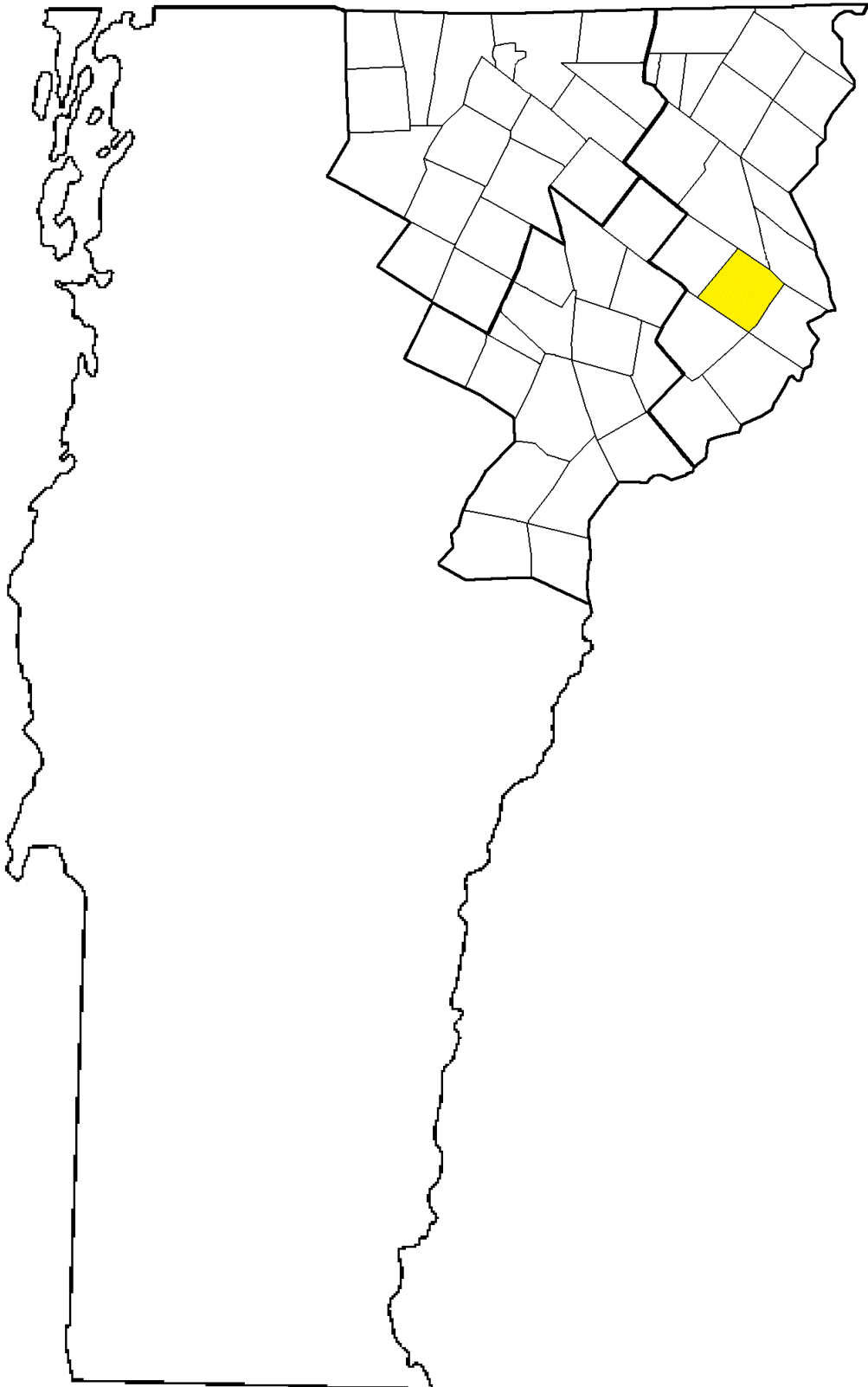
railroad crossing known as Wenlock is as close as we come to anything resembling a village. It was once Ferdinand's lone post office, the majority of its business being the now defunct Beattie Lumber Mill. Wenlock was the name of a town that was divided between Ferdinand and Brunswick in 1853; the post office closed in 1923.



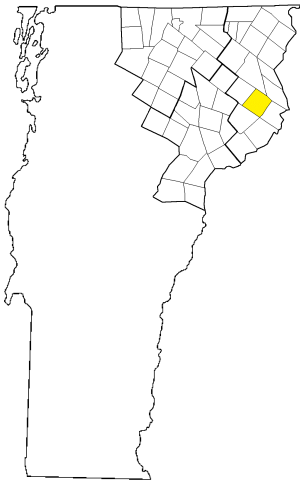
Population: 32

Area: 52.8 sq. mi.

Granby



Granby (Essex County)



Located in eastern Essex County, Granby is bounded by East Haven, Ferdinand, Maidstone, Guildhall and Victory. According to tradition, Granby was named in honor of Lord or Earl Granby John Manners (1721-1770), who came from a long line of distinguished British noblemen, and had himself served as a privy councilor and lord justice. He was bearer of the Queen's scepter at the coronations of both George II and George III, but his greatest service was as a military commander in the Seven Years War.

Granby got off to a slow start, and after 1816, the year without a summer, the population shrank so much that the town gave up its incorporation. Reorganized and re-incorporated in 1822, it grew to just under 400 residents in 1890, down to 52 in

1970. Once famous for its abundance of white pine, Granby was once the site of several large logging operations. Though it was never more than a few buildings grouped around some sawmills, the hamlet of Stevens Mills was a railroad stopping point, and appeared on most maps throughout the first part of the 20th century. At one time the mills employed over 100 men, with an even larger group out cutting timber to feed the mills. As the timber went, so did the population.



The hill, heavily forested landscape is prime hunting ground for deer, moose and other game. There are stories in the Vermont Historical Gazetteer of men from Barnet traveling up the Passumpsic River, before the settlement of St. Johnsbury, to Granby for hunting and fishing. Granby is accessed by Granby Road, which runs east-west from Route 102 in Guildhall to Victory Road in Victory. Guildhall is 9 miles away, while Burke is 13 miles.

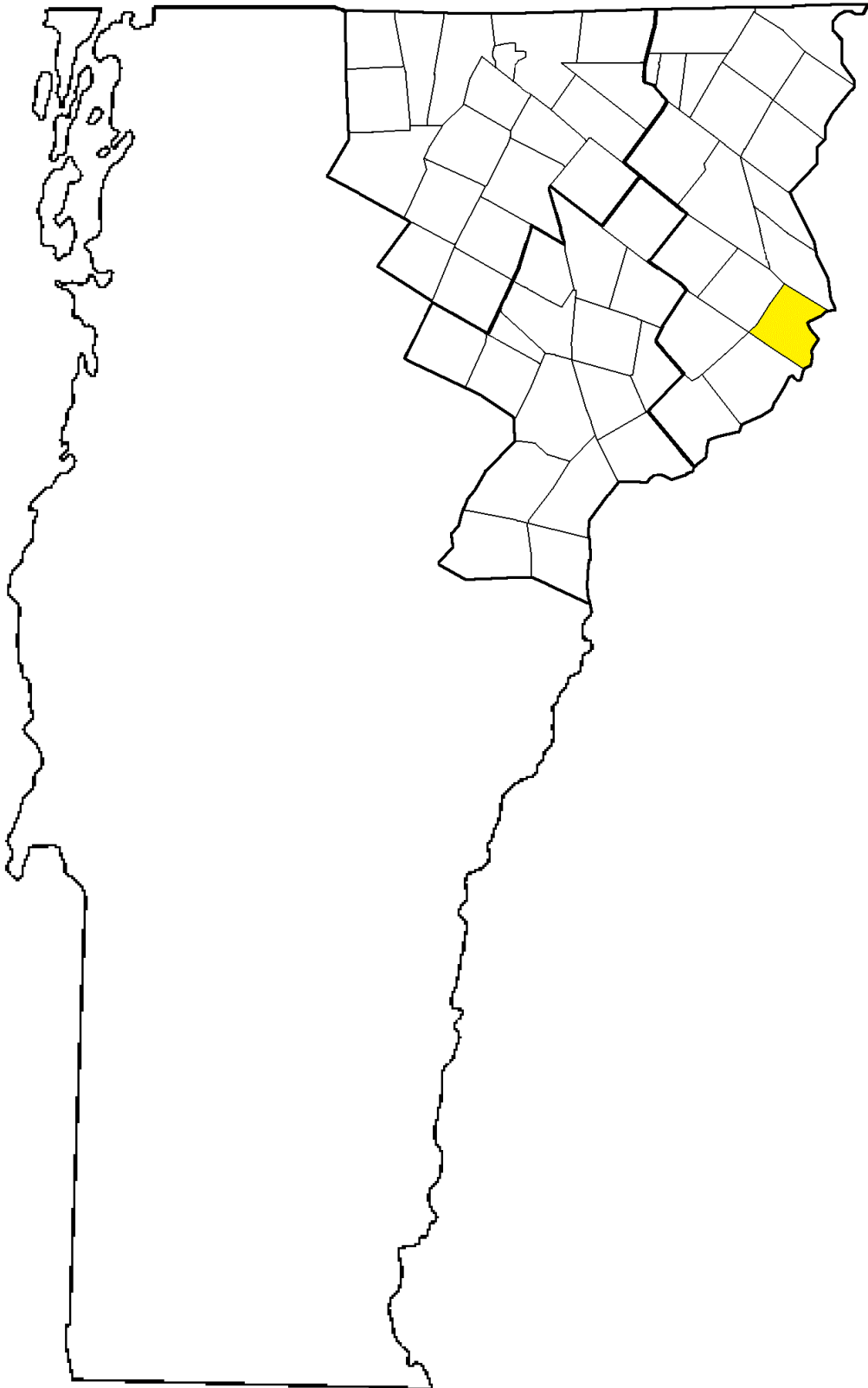
Population: 88

Area: 38.82 sq. mi.

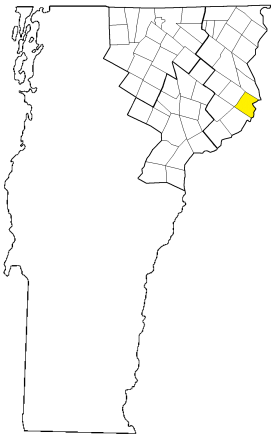
Elevation: 1,500 ft.

Town Offices: 9005 Granby Rd., by appt. only

Guildhall



Guildhall (Essex County)



The county seat of Essex County, Guildhall is bounded by the Connecticut River and the towns of Maidstone, Lunenburg and Granby. A village in the northeastern corner houses the county buildings, a town clerk's office, a library and a church. Directly across the Connecticut River are Lancaster and Northumberland, N.H.

The town was chartered in 1761 by New Hampshire Gov. Benning Wentworth. The original settlers were from Lancaster and Lunenburgh in Massachusetts, and they used the same names for other towns on opposite sides of the Connecticut River in Vermont and New Hampshire. They intended for Lunenburgh to include all of what was afterwards found to be the south part of Guildhall.

The Vermont Historical Gazetteer tells us that a small group of settlers built temporary cabins and camps, and Native Americans were very common in this area. They often invited Native Americans to the houses of the settlers to stay all night and have a "drunk," as they called it. The first record of a town meeting was in 1783. Though the origin of the name Guildhall is unknown, it is the only town in the world so named. The landscape is well-watered by several brooks including Washburn, Jones, Emery, Catbow, Sheridan and Hudson.

Like many other Essex County towns, Guildhall is heavily wooded and once played a significant part in the lumber trade. For those who seek natural scenery, the valley of the Connecticut River in Guildhall had beautiful meadows, timber land and off in the distance, the White Mountains. Today, Guildhall is accessed by Route 102, which winds its way north-south along the banks of the Connecticut River.



Website: www.guildhallvt.org

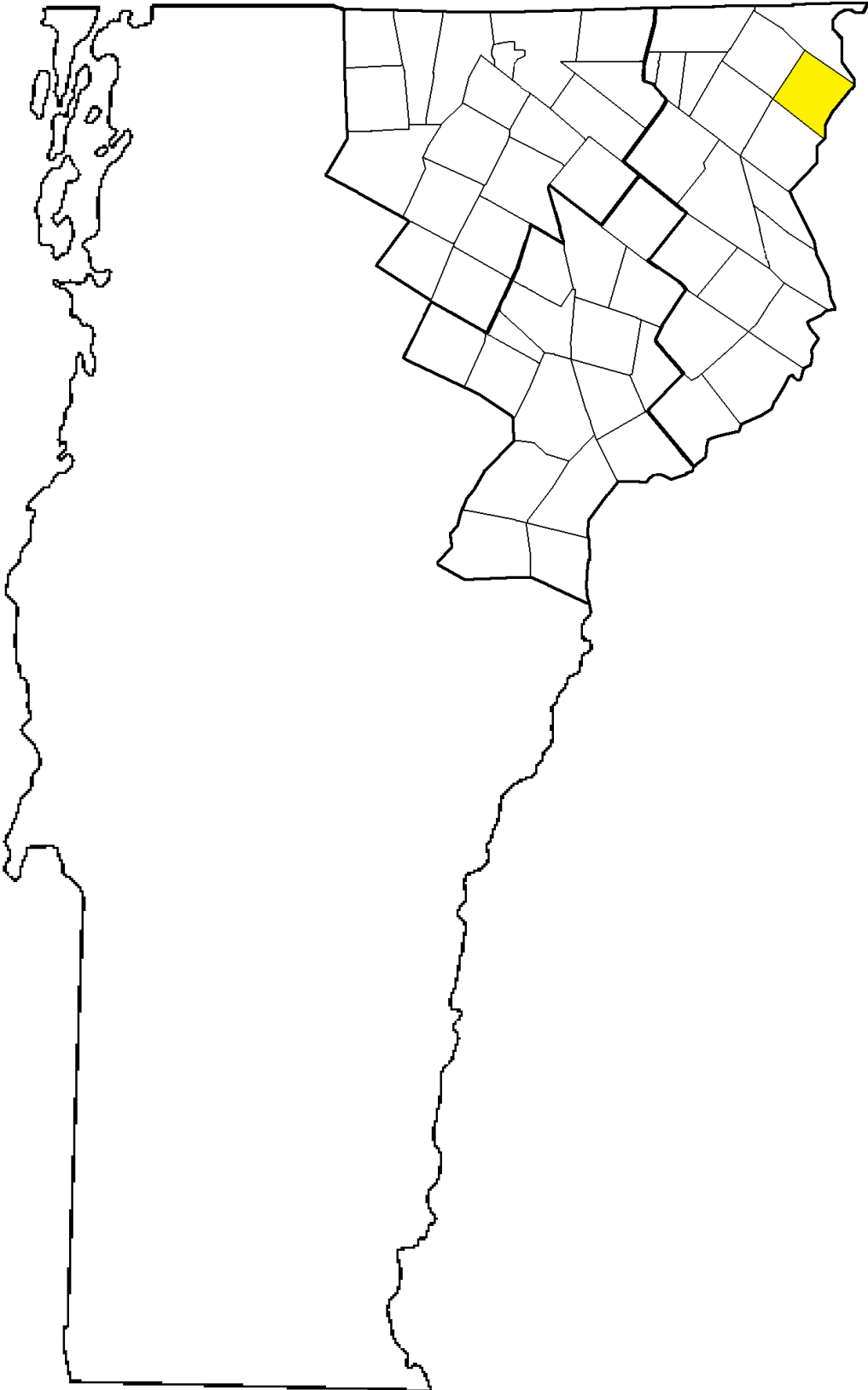
Population: 261

Area: 32.98 sq. mi.

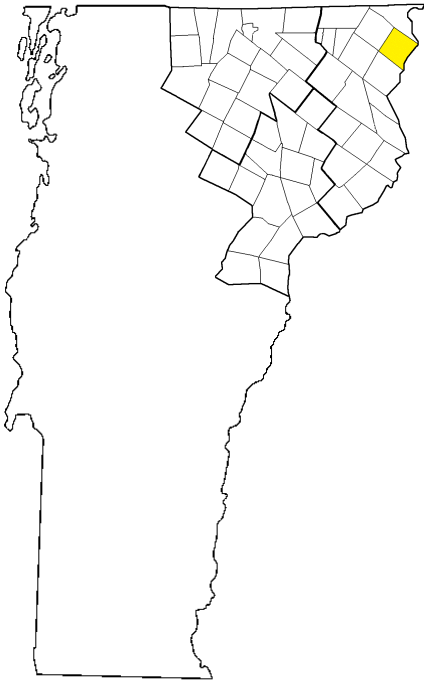
Elevation: 874

Town Offices: PO Box 10, 13 Courthouse Dr.; Hours: Tues. 9-3; Thurs. 12-6

Lemington



Lemington (Essex County)



One of the many towns granted to Samuel Averill of Connecticut (see also Averill); spelled Limington in its charter, and the present spelling was adopted early on. The origin of the name is uncertain: there is no other place in the world with exactly that same original spelling. In the absence of other evidence (and given that colonial spelling conventions were virtually nonexistent), it is reasonable to say that either Leamington Spa, Warwick or Lemington, Newcastle could have provided the original name.

Except for the fertile intervale lands along the Connecticut River, there has never been much settlement, the population never greatly exceeding 200.

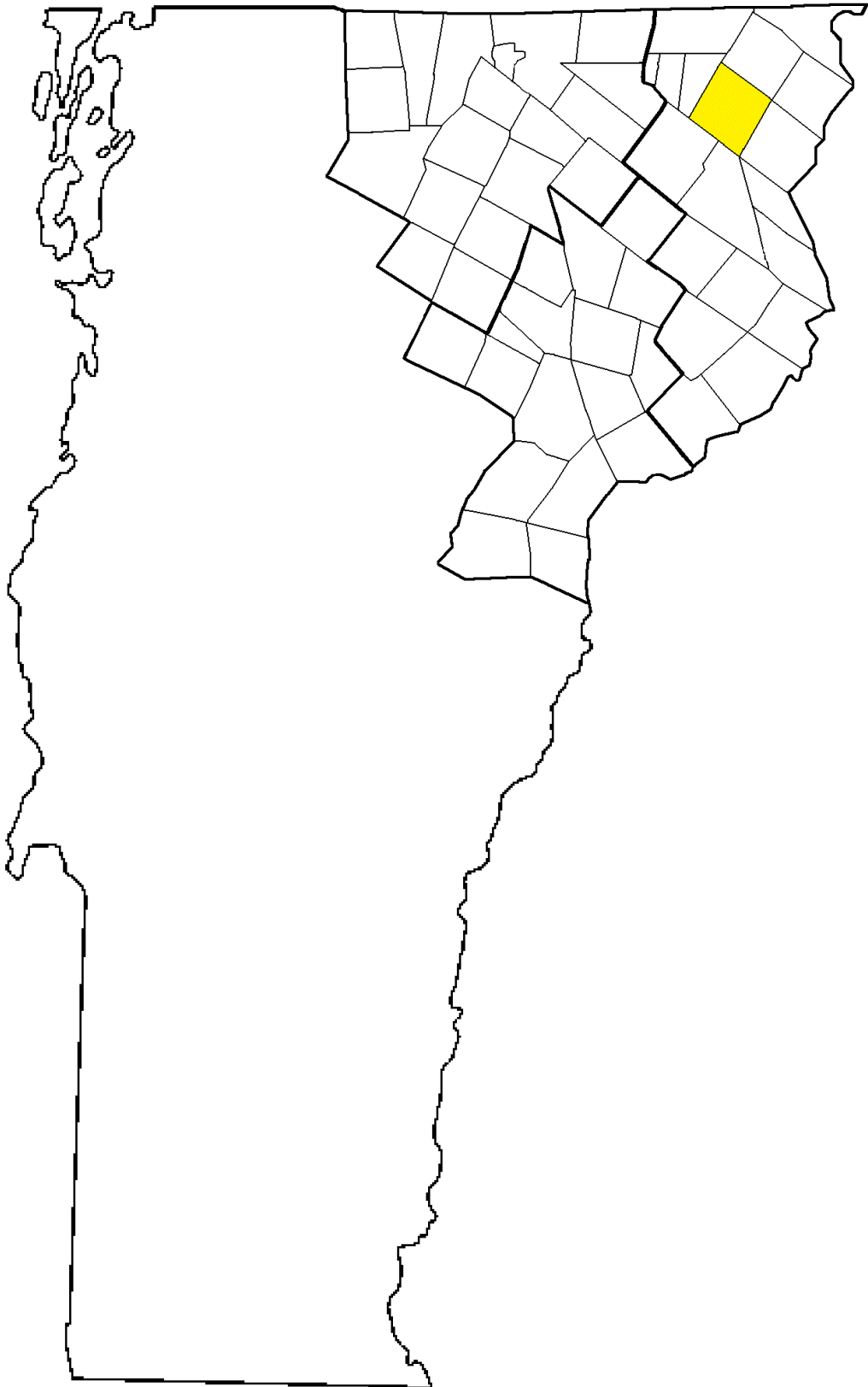
Population: 104

Area: 35.5 sq. mi.

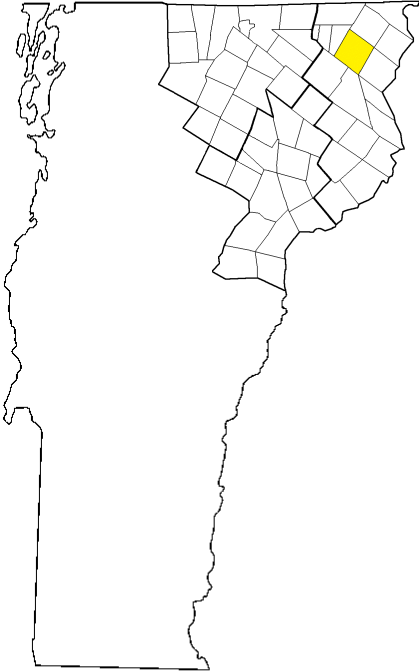
Elevation: 2070



Lewis



Lewis (Essex County)



One of several towns granted to Samuel Averill and others on a purely speculative basis. Undoubtedly named for Nathan, Sevignior and Timothy Lewis, who were listed in the grants for neighboring Wenlock (now part of Ferdinand) and Maidstone.

Not an especially good buy for the Averill group. Heavily timbered, rough and mountainous, never attracting even one settler, hence, no villages, post offices or roads other than logging roads.

The entire northern half is taken up with mountains in the 2,000 foot range, all but one of which are unnamed; the southern half is mostly semi-swamp known as Yellow Bogs.

One of five towns (see also Averill, Ferdinand, Glastenbury and Somerset) in Vermont which have been discontinued for lack of interest, so to speak. Population levels have dropped to such a point (or never existed in the first place) that the towns have been disenfranchised (unincorporated). Rather than having its own government (Select Board, Town Clerk, etc.) the town's affairs are administered by a state-appointed supervisor.

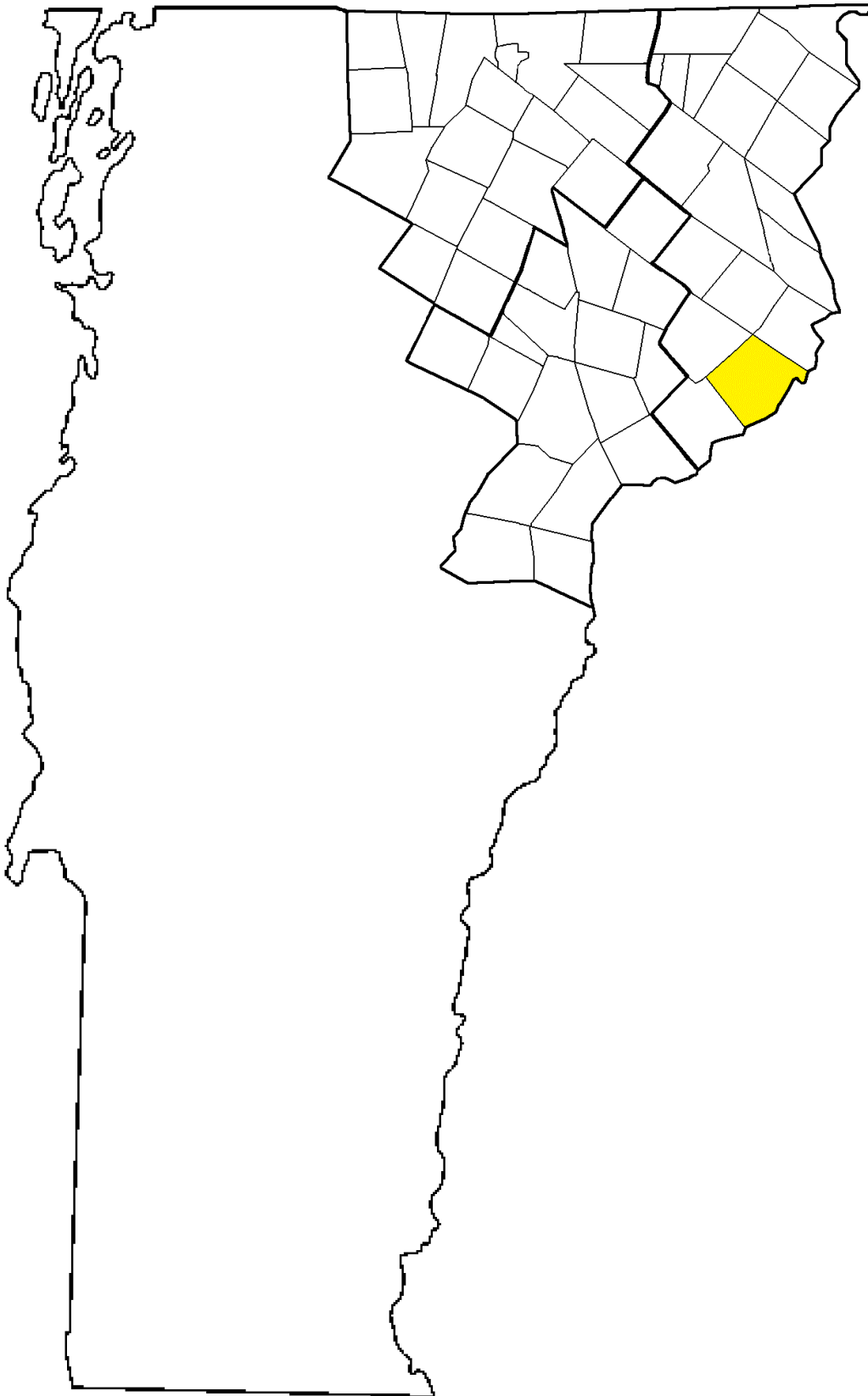
Population: 0

Area: 39.7 sq. mi.

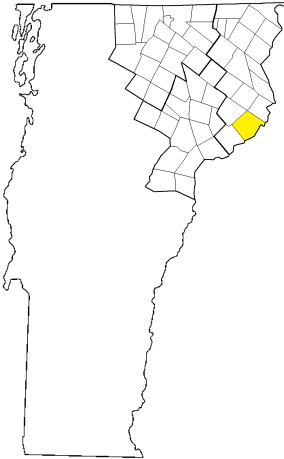
Elevation: 1711



Lunenburg



Lunenburg (Essex County)



Situated in southeastern Essex County, Lunenburg is bounded on the northeast by Guildhall, on the northwest by Victory, on the southwest by Concord and on the southeast by the Connecticut River, which separates Vermont and New Hampshire.

The township was chartered July 5, 1763 by Benning Wentworth, who was the governor of the New Hampshire colony before it became a state in 1788 and before Vermont's boundaries were established. The first settlers reached the township the following year. They brought their grain and provisions in canoes from Northfield, Mass., a distance of more than 150 miles. More settlers arrived around 1768, building log huts near the banks of the Connecticut River, where fish and game were easily obtained. Salmon as large as 40 pounds were caught easily at night using torches and spears at the head of the 15-mile falls, according to the Vermont Historical Gazetteer.

During the Revolutionary War, the settlers were constantly under threat of attack from Indians and British Loyalists.

One of Lunenburg's most distinguished early citizens, according to the Gazetteer, was Samuel Gates, who was born in Marlborough, Mass. and was 15 years old at the start of the Revolutionary War in 1775. He volunteered to fight and reenlisted two more times before the war ended in 1783. The Gazetteer described his military service in some detail, noting that: "During the winter of 1777 and '78, he with his regiment were quartered at Valley Forge, where he endured, in common with his fellow patriots, those terrible sufferings from hunger and cold which no pen can ever describe... It is quite remarkable that in all the hard fought battles in which he was engaged he never received a wound."

Gates married a woman from his hometown in Massachusetts in 1781 and in 1783, he moved his family to Lunenburg. He built the town's first frame house in 1792, a house where the area's first court session was held and where Sunday church meetings were conducted for many years. "Many of the noted men of those olden times spent days and nights within the walls [of that house] and partook of the good cheer

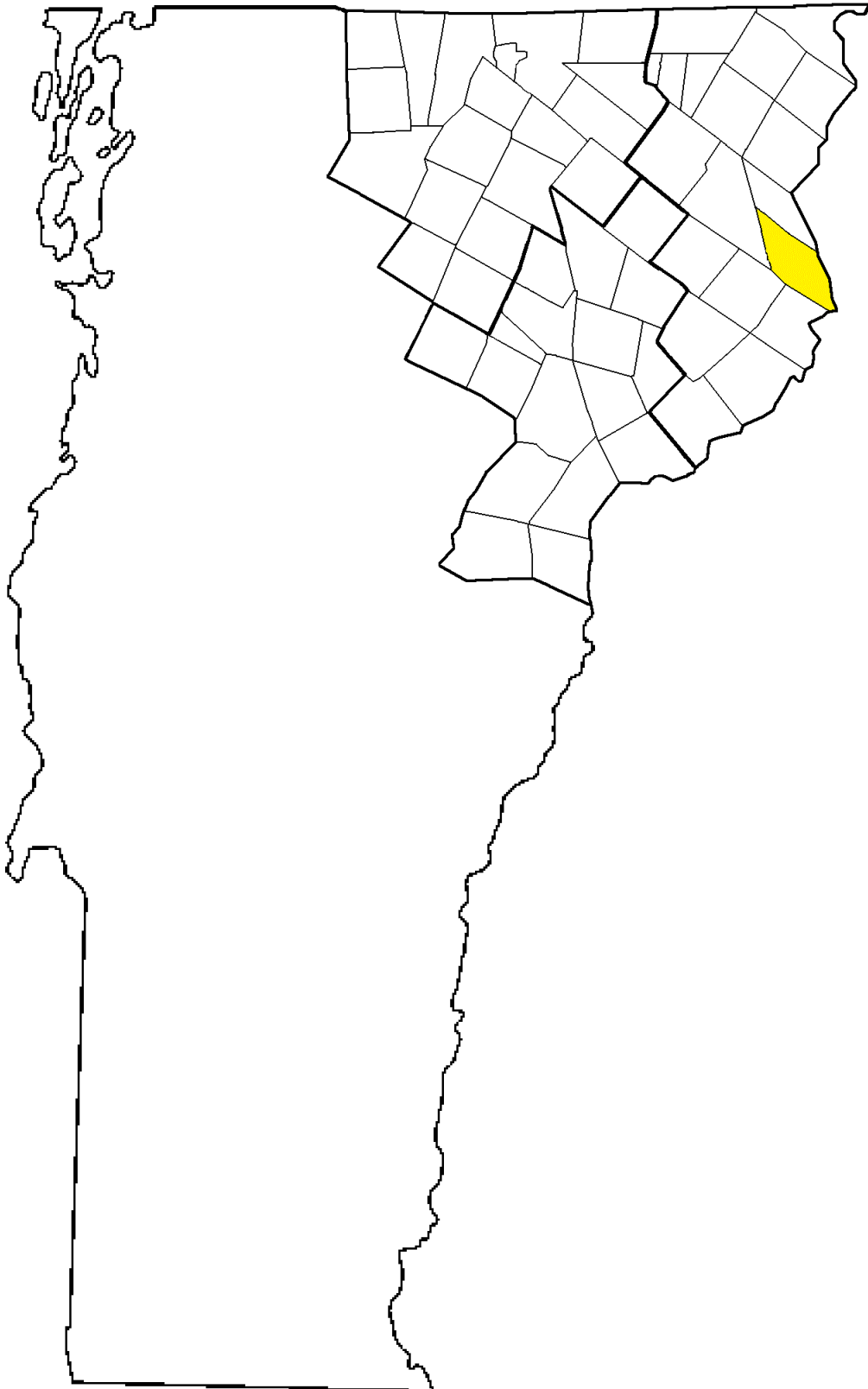


always so freely tendered," according to the Gazetteer. Gates was the town's first representative in the state legislature and served several years as the county's judge. His wife died in 1853 at age 91, and he died the following year at age 94. For his service to his town, his state and his country, "as well as for his patient endurance of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life," the Gazetteer said, "he deserves the grateful remembrance of those who are now reaping the benefits of his self-denying labors."

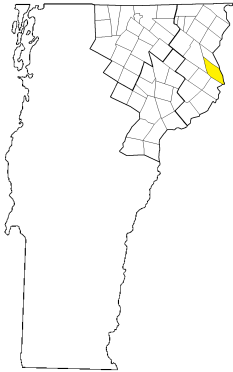
Population: 1,302 **Area:** 45.51 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,172

Town Offices: 9 West Main St., PO Box 54, 892-5959. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-noon and 1-3. Closed at noon during the summer and on Fridays.

Maidstone



Maidstone (Essex County)



Maidstone's eastern border is irregular, formed by a series of oxbows of the beautiful Connecticut River, which separates Vermont from New Hampshire. The town is bounded to the south by Guildhall, to the west by Granby and Ferdinand and to the north by Brunswick.

The township was chartered Oct. 12, 1761 by Benning Wentworth, who was the governor of the New Hampshire colony before it became a state in 1788 and before Vermont's boundaries were established.

The grantees of Maidstone were Connecticut men who never lived in the town. That proved to be an obstacle to settlement because anyone who wanted to purchase land had to go to them for that purpose. Another hindrance was the distance that provisions and other necessities of life had to be transported through the wilderness. At the time of Maidstone's first settlements, the nearest place where provisions could be procured, grain ground or a horse shod was at Haverhill, N. H., 50 miles down the river. The first gristmill in the area was completed around 1780 by Abner Osgood, but it was subsequently determined that it was in the town of Guildhall. In 1786, another gristmill and a sawmill were built by Ward Bailey at nearby Guildhall Falls, which later became Guildhall Village. Two years later, Maidstone was organized at its first town meeting.

The town became known for its productive agricultural land along the Connecticut River and for its lumber production. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer reported in the 1860s that a single large sawmill on Paul Stream, which runs west to east through the northern part of town, had produced two million feet of lumber each year for transport by rail to Portland, Maine.



South of Paul Stream along the town's western boundary is pristine Maidstone Lake, a glacially-formed clear, deep, cold lake, measuring about three miles long by one mile wide. The lake and areas around it were designated a state forest and park in 1938. It is Vermont's most remote state park, offering good fishing for lake trout and salmon, good hunting and secluded hiking trails. Maidstone is rated as one of the top three cleanest lakes in Vermont.

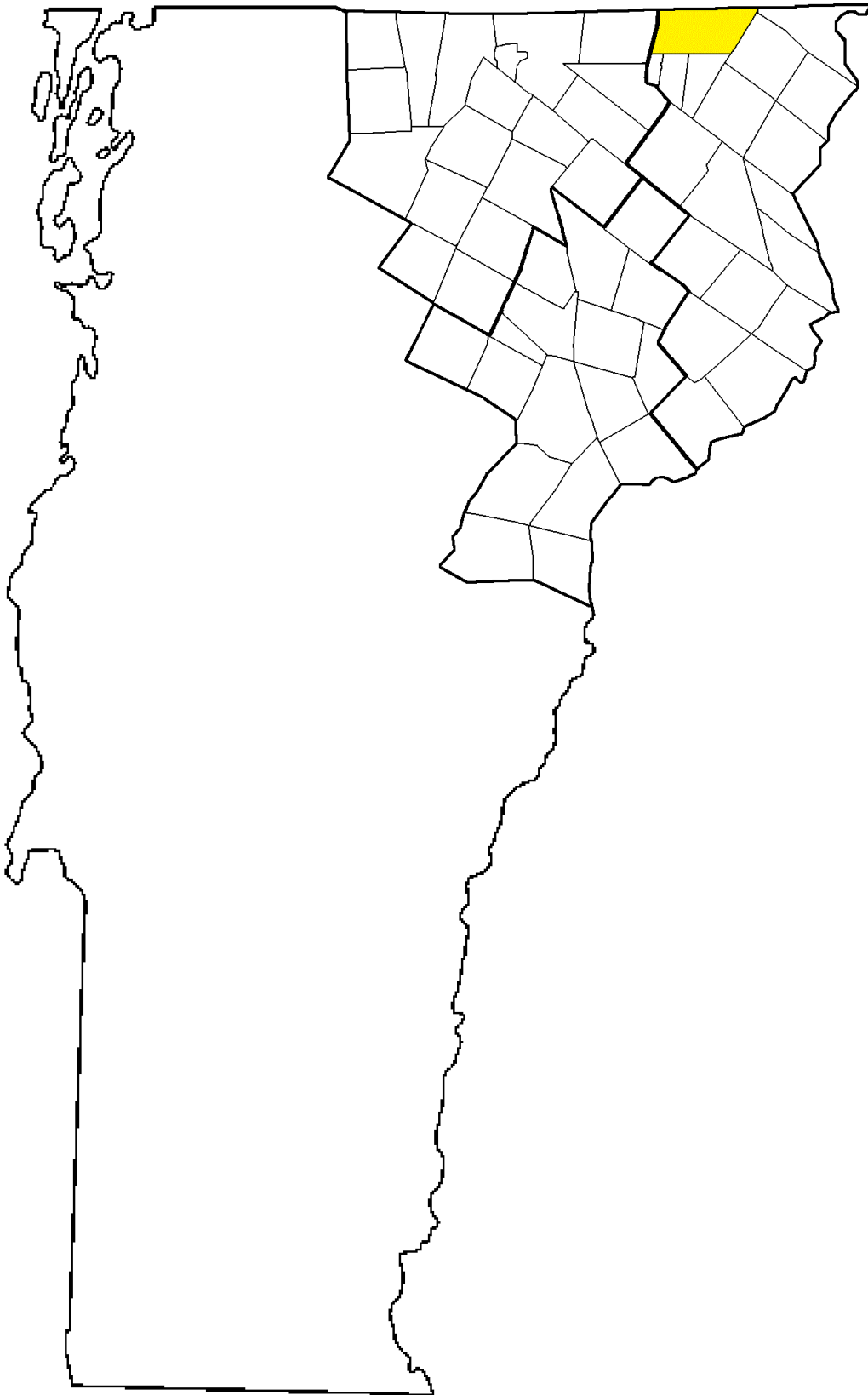
Population: 208

Area: 32.13 sq. mi.

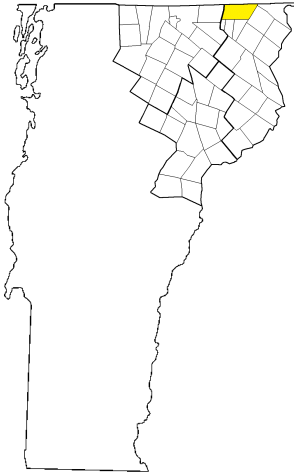
Elevation: 893 ft.

Town Offices: PO Box 118, Guildhall, 508 Rte. 102, Maidstone, Mon. & Thurs. 9-3 or by appt.

Norton



Norton (Essex County)



Norton is situated at the northwest corner of Essex County, bounded to the north by the international Canadian border, to the east by the unincorporated town of Averill, to the south by the unincorporated gores of Avery's and Warren's and to the west by the Orleans County town of Holland.

The town has frontage on two sizeable lakes. Great Averill Pond, which is about three miles long and over a mile wide, is on Norton's eastern border, and the slightly smaller Norton Pond is on its southern border.

The early history of Norton is a mystery. Its charter was reported to have been destroyed in a fire. So the date the township was chartered and to whom it was chartered are unknown. The first settlers are believed to have arrived around 1860, and by 1880, according to the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, the population reached

239. The town was not organized until March 6, 1885.

Norton's first permanent settler was Samuel Cleveland, who came from Canada and built a sawmill. That mill changed ownership a few times as other mills were built and logging became the town's primary industry. One Norton sawmill, according to the Gazetteer, employed 70 men and cut about 10 million feet of lumber annually in the late 1800s.

Norton attracted public notice in the 1970s as a result of the Hippy counterculture and back-to-the-land movements that grew out of civil rights and anti-war activism of the 1960s. From 1970 to 1994, Norton was the site of the 592-acre Earth People's Park, which was open to "all the peoples of the earth." Anyone who wanted to visit, camp or homestead was welcomed without having to pay rent and without having to adhere to any set of rules. It was inspired by the People's Park in Berkeley, Calif., which was created in the late 1960s as a public park that became a sanctuary for the city's homeless people. Some of the money used to purchase land in Norton for the Earth People's Park was raised at the infamous August 1969 Woodstock Music & Art Festival in Bethel, N.Y.



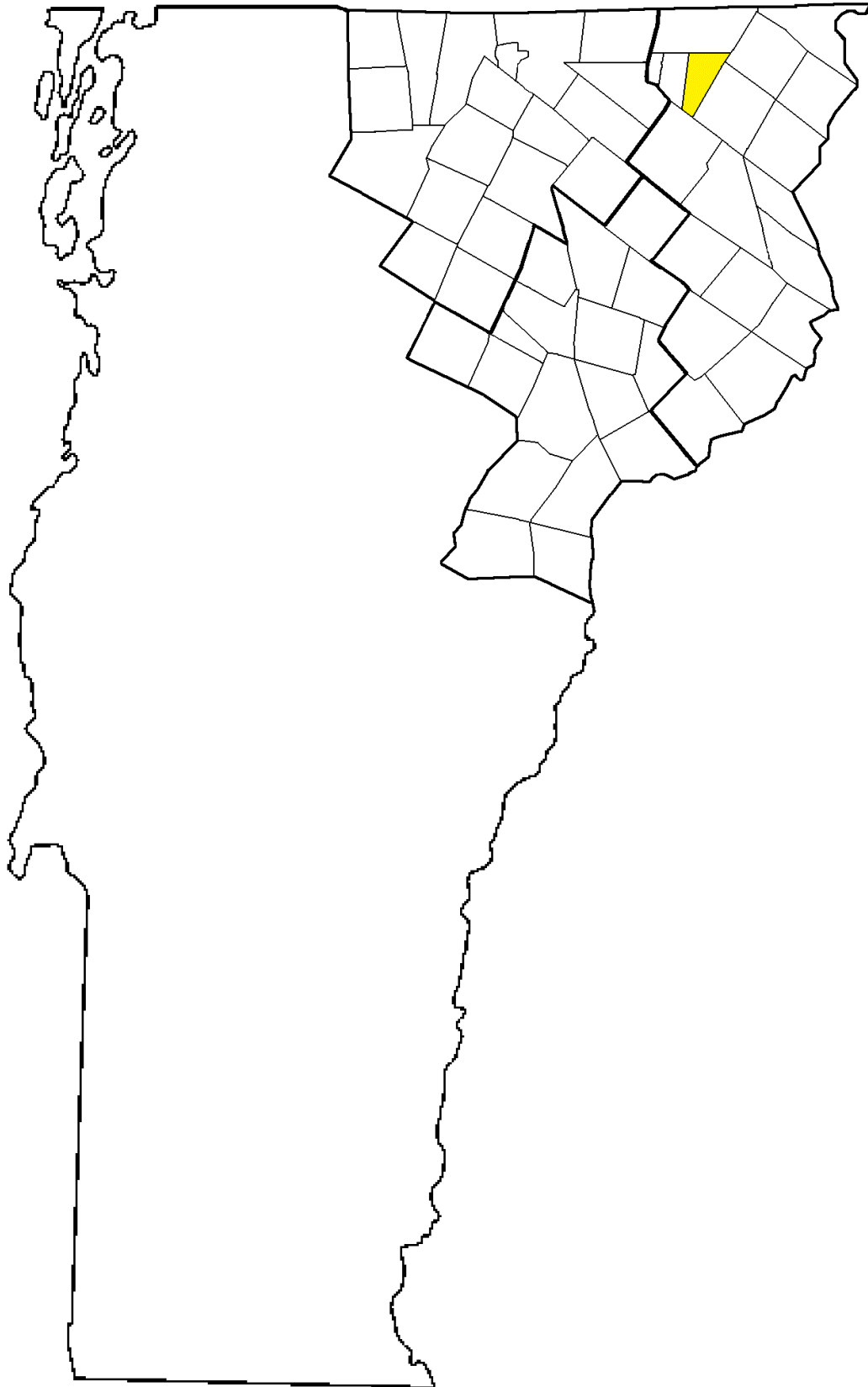
The Norton Earth People's Park was along the international Canadian border and became known locally as "the last left turn in America." Living conditions were primitive, and the property did not have access to power or telephone lines. Water was drawn from Black Turn Brook or from the Coaticook River. Despite the lack of conveniences, from 1973 to 1975 about two dozen people were living on the land year-round. The park had more visitors during the summer months when gatherings and benefit concerts were held to raise money for such necessities as property taxes. In 1990 the Earth People's Park was seized by the federal government after marijuana-related arrests, and its inhabitants were evicted. The property was subsequently conveyed to the state of Vermont for use as publicly-owned forest land, and it is now called the Black Turn Brook State Forest. It is open to recreational visitors for hunting, camping and hike-in activities pursuant to "primitive-use" rules.

Population: 169

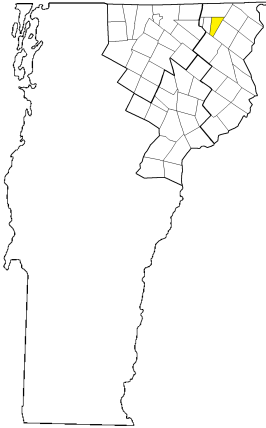
Area: 39.4 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,252

Town Offices: 12 VT Route 114E, Tues. 10-4, Thurs. 10-noon, Fri. 1-5, last Sat. of the month 10-noon.

Averys Gore



Averys Gore (Essex County) (unincorporated, grouped with Norton)



In Vermont, gores and grants are unincorporated portions of a county which are not part of any town and have limited self-government (if any, as some are uninhabited). The population was 0 at the 2010 census. However, the gore does have a few hundred feet of dirt road and one building or structure, on the North Branch of the Nulhegan River by the Lewis town line. More prominently, Gore Mountain, one of the 50 highest in the state, is in the eastern portion of Averys Gore.

Averys Gore is named for Samuel Avery, a Westminster deputy sheriff and jailkeeper. Avery received roughly 52,000 acres (21,000 ha) in eight separate gores and grants in the 1790s as compensation for land he had owned in a part of the state previously claimed by New York.

Samuel Avery was born in 1731 at Groton, Connecticut. He served in a Connecticut militia company in the last French and Indian war, was educated as a lawyer, and moved to Vermont before the Revolutionary War, in which he served in a Vermont company. By 1782 he was listed as a deputy sheriff and keeper of the jail at Westminster.

Sometime earlier Avery had bought a large part of the so-called John Henry Lydius Mohawk Tract. This was originally a Massachusetts grant and later a patent from New York for a vast area of land in western Vermont. When Vermont disallowed all other claims to land within its territory, Avery began petitioning the legislature for new land to recompense him for what he had bought and paid for under the earlier Massachusetts and New York claims. Avery was a much-respected citizen of the state as well as being prominent in his town of Westminster; furthermore, his claims were valid. But nowhere was there a single tract of ungranted land the size of what he had lost, so between 1791 and 1796 the legislature gave him eight separate parcels of land. In no instance were these particularly good lands, nor were any of them really suitable to become separate towns, so most of them were incorporated into adjoining towns very early.

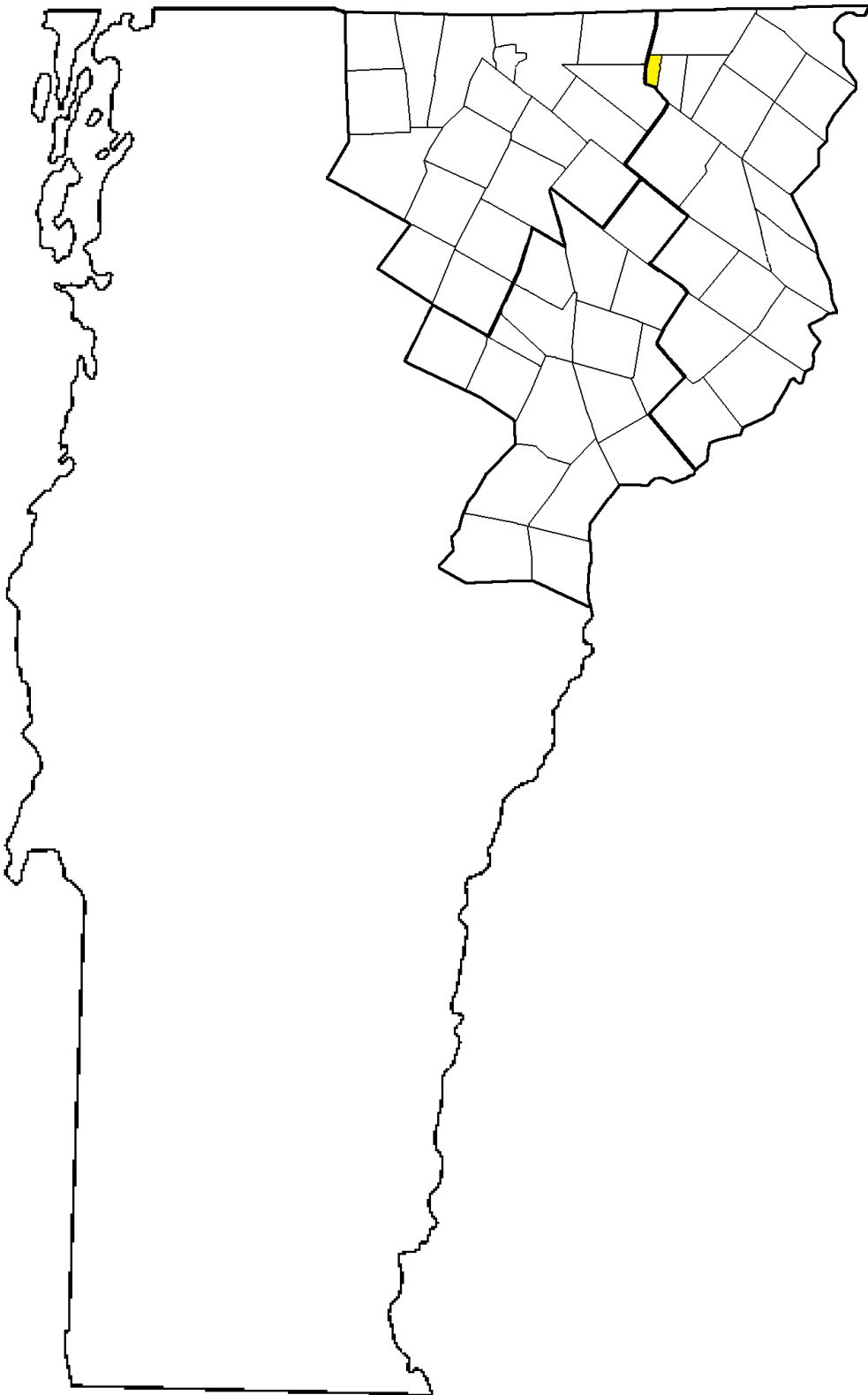
Avery's Vermont lands were acquired solely as a business proposition; he did not intend to settle on any of them, nor did he. At the same time he was acquiring land in Vermont, he also bought a vast area in the Susquehanna Valley of Ohio, where he moved at the end of the 18th Century. About 1802 he moved again, this time to Oswego, New York, where he had acquired another large tract of land. There he built a mansion and developed an impressive estate. At the time of his death in 1806 Avery was considered one of the wealthiest men in the state.

Because Averys Gore has never had any settlement, it has never had any post office or villages.

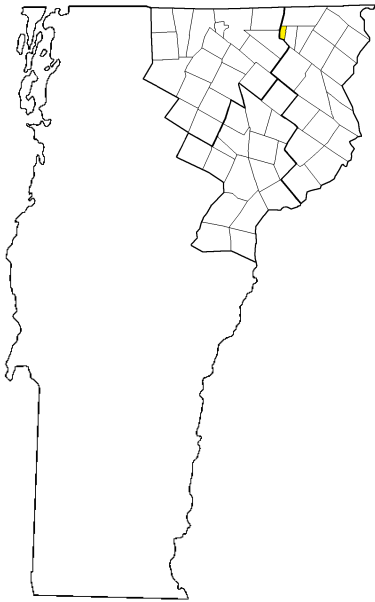
Population: 0

Area: 17.6 sq. mi.

Warner's Grant



Warner's Grant (Essex County) (unincorporated, grouped with Norton)



Warners Grant records one of the sad stories of war. Seth Warner, one of the Green Mountain Boys, probably did more than any other man to help keep Vermont free, from Yorkers and British alike. Yet he died in poverty and broken health, leaving a widow and three children who became destitute and were forced to apply to the Vermont legislature for relief.

In 1787, three years after Warner's death, his widow petitioned the Vermont legislature for a grant of land to help support her and the children, saying in part:

"The petition of the subscriber sheweth that her late husband, Colonel Seth Warner deceased, took an early and very active part in opposing the unjust claims of the New York claimers... And that he also did do and perform many singular services, not only to the inhabitants of the state of Vermont, but also to the United States of America through their whole late contest with Great Britain. In doing and performing on his part the business in both cases, he

employed the principal part of the prime of his life and rendered it impossible for him to pay such attention to agriculture as he would have undoubtedly otherwise paid in order to acquire an interest for himself through life, and for the support of such of his surviving family who he has left behind him, under the care of your petitioner."

"By doing this business, its impairing his health, rendering some of the last years of his life, not only unhappy to his personal feelings but very expensive... he has placed dependence on the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants to make him ample satisfaction for such services... "

"Your petitioner therefore prays most earnestly in behalf of herself and orphans that the honorable General Assembly will take her request into consideration and by grant of land or other wise at least assist your petitioner in making provision for the support of herself and orphan children."

(Signed) "Hester Warner, the unhappy relict of the deceased."

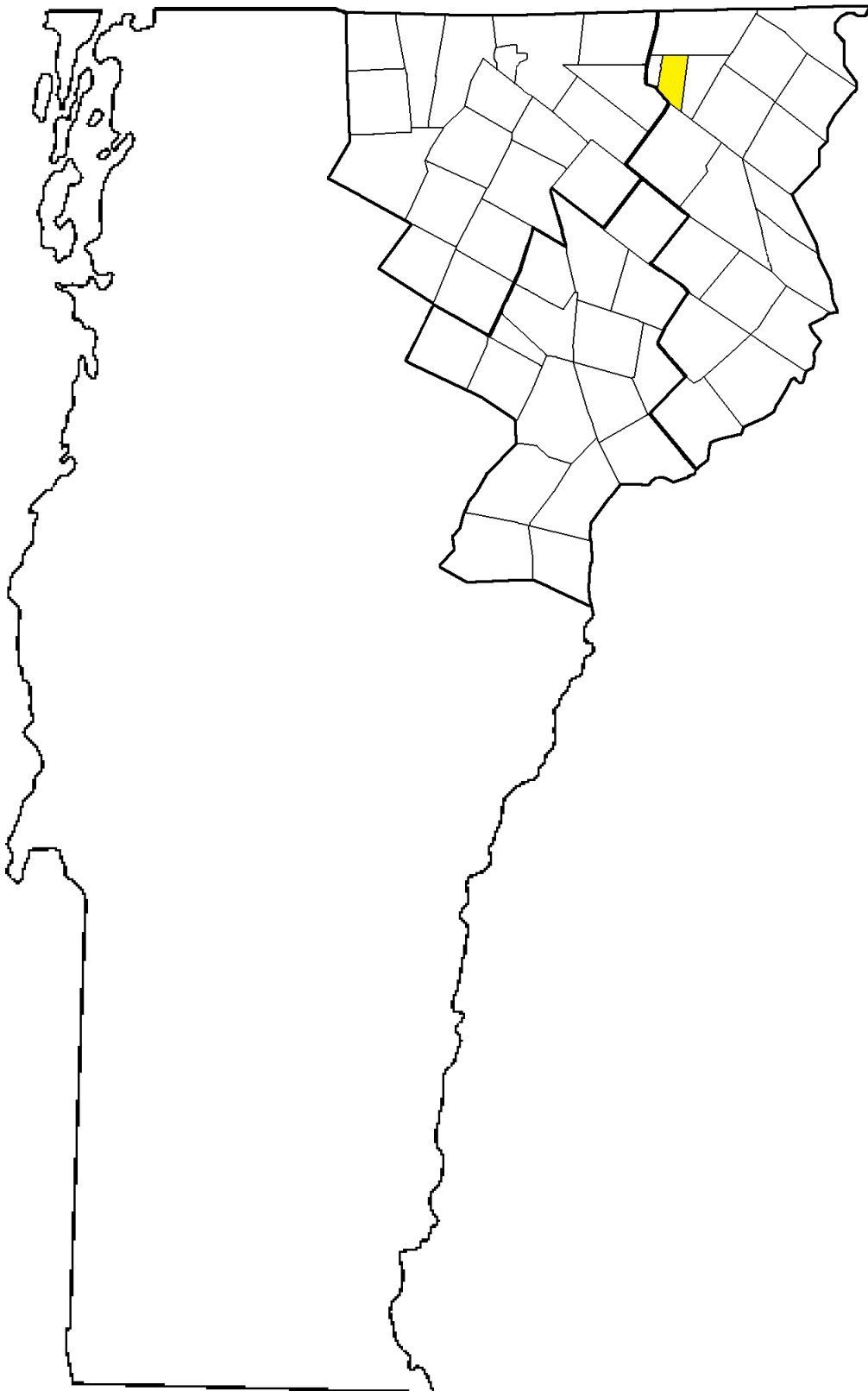
The petition was filed with the legislature on October 17, read the same day in assembly and referred to committee. On the 20th the committee reported back that "the petition was true" and recommended that 2,000 acres of land be granted to the Widow Warner without any fees or charges. Then the legislature had to find 2,000 acres that were not already committed.

It took a year for the state's Surveyor General to find the acreage, and then three more years for the charter to be issued. The records do not explain the delay, but it probably was because not all of the northern part of the state had been surveyed and many people were asking for land there. At any rate, Hester Warner finally got her land.

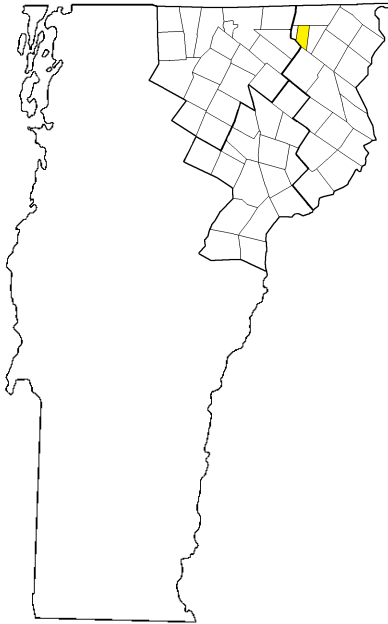
One can hope, however, that in the meantime she had found some other way to support herself and her children, for her grant was then, and still is, wild land which nobody has ever wanted to live on. Today, many generations after Hester got the charter for Warners Grant (sometimes Warners Gore), there are no residents, no roads and no topographic features shown on most maps except the single long height of land known as Beechnut Ridge.

Population: 0 **Area:** 3.2 sq. mi.

Warren Gore



Warren Gore (Essex County) (unincorporated, grouped with Norton)



Warren Gore was chartered along with the town of Warren to make up the right number of acres for a town. Warren was granted by Vermont in 1780, and it is thought that the nine years elapsed between grant and charter can be explained by the fact that the grantees had trouble getting together enough money to pay the granting fees, which they had to do before the state would issue a charter. It is also possible that the grantees discovered there was not enough acreage in the original grant and asked for a "flying grant," which would have enabled them to go out and find enough more land to bring the grant nearer to the usual town size of 23,000

acres. However it happened, the town of Warren was in two pieces, and those pieces were in two different counties separated by half the length of the state - never satisfactory for either the town or the Gore. The Gore never had any permanent residents until 1970, when the census recorded a single person.

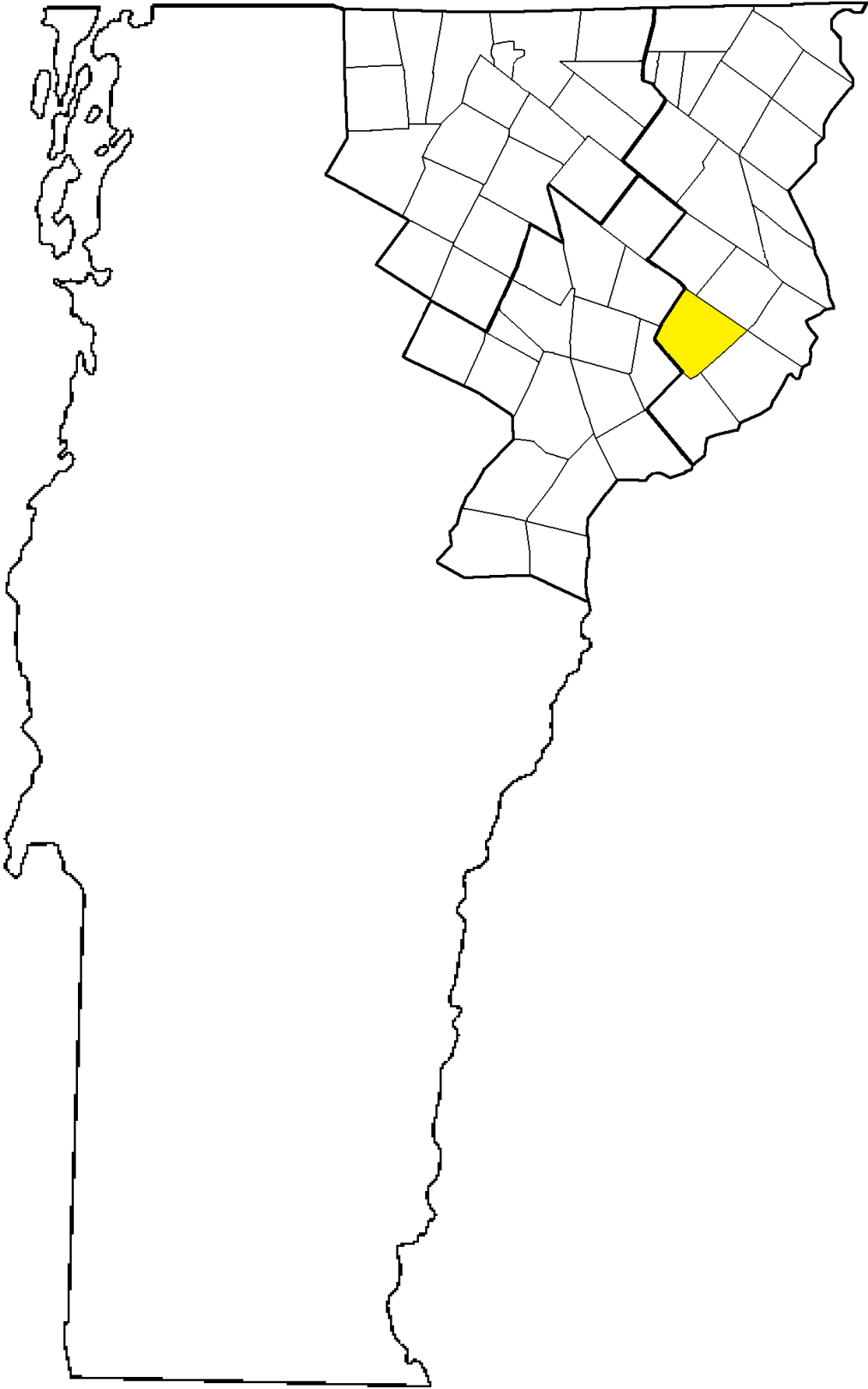
Vermont Route 114 (the famed Roller Coaster Road) and the railroad both run through the center of the gore. With the exception of Norton Pond, the closest approximation to a place-name is Summit, a point on the rail line so-named for the elevation.



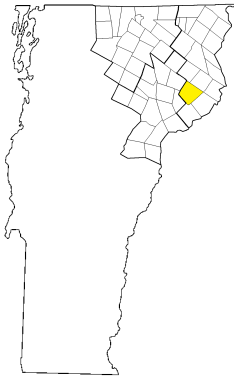
Population: 4

Area: 11.4 sq. mi.

Victory



Victory (Essex County)



Victory, one of Vermont's least populated towns, is in the southwestern portion of Essex County, and more than half its land is either state forest or preserved for recreation and wildlife habitat. Victory is bounded on the northeast by Granby and East Haven, on the southeast by Lunenburg and Concord, on the southwest by Concord and Kirby and on the northwest by Kirby and Burke. The Darling State Forest and 3,270-foot Burke Mountain are located on the town line between Victory and Burke.

Victory was granted Nov. 6, 1780 and chartered Sept. 6, 1781 to Capt. Ebenezer Fisk and 64 associates. The township was designed originally to contain 23,040 acres, but a tract of land between Victory and Concord – known as Bradley's Vale – was divided by the Vermont legislature in 1856 and a portion of about 2,500 acres was annexed to Victory.

A large portion of the town's land area encompasses the valley of the Moose River, which rises in East Haven and runs in a southerly direction through Victory. The river got its name because moose were so abundant in the area, which was a favored hunting ground for Native Americans and later colonists. A couple of miles from the southern border with Concord where Bog Brook joins the Moose River is a 3,000-acre marsh known as Victory Bog.



The first permanent inhabitant was John Shorer of Sanbornton, N. H., who moved to Granby in 1815 and to Victory in 1822. The first sawmill was built by Joseph Woods around 1830 on the Moose River, and the town was an important logging area until the 1940s. As timber production declined, attempts to convert the land to agricultural use failed, and it reverted to forest. While Victory did not prove suitable for some types of agriculture, in the 1800s, the town was famous for its blueberry fields that grew where timber had been cleared and then burned. The Vermont Historical Gazetteer, published in the 1860s, reported that "Blueberry bushes have come in spontaneously and in such abundance that during the autumn months thousands resort to them for the purpose of gathering the fruit with which they are often so heavily loaded."

The Gazetteer described the lure of Victory's blueberries during the fall harvests of 1859 and 1860: "From the time they commenced to ripen until they were gone, there was a 'regular rush' to the blueberry fields. The road side, barns and barnyards along the nearest available points were lined and filled with horses and carriages while the fields were inhabited by scores at a time from adjoining towns, and sometimes from a distance of 30 or 40 and even 50 miles, and the most of them would come out with their baskets filled."

Victory never drew many permanent inhabitants, but it was celebrated in national news stories in 1963, when it and neighboring Granby became the last two towns in Vermont to get electricity.

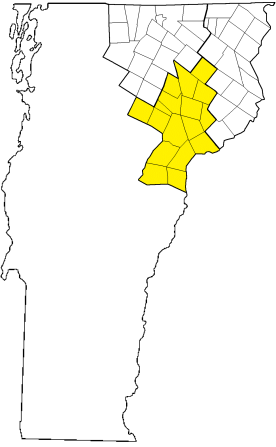
After the timber industry faded in the mid-20th century, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a plan to generate power by building a dam on the Moose River, which would have flooded Victory bog and much of its valley. The proposal drew strong opposition from state and private conservation officials, and in 1969 a large tract of land was purchased from the New England Power Company, ending the dam plan. The land that was acquired became a 4,900-acre wetland and forest complex known as the Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area.

Today the Victory Basin Wildlife Management Area is part of the 15,826-acre Victory State Forest, which also includes the Darling State Park. In the Victory State Forest, the state proclaims, "picturesque mountains surround the low-lying swampland, which is home to moose, black bear, red fox and river otter." Recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, picnicking, mountain biking and snowmobiling.

Population: 62 **Area:** 42.97 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,100

Town Offices: 102 Radar Road, Gallup Mills, PO Box 609, N. Concord. Tues & Thurs. 10-3. By appt. (695-3355)

Caledonia County (17 towns)



The Northeast Kingdom's most populated county at 31,277, Caledonia is also home to two of the region's largest business centers in St. Johnsbury and Lyndon. These two towns neighbor each other along the Passumpsic River. Both towns have an energetic business district, industrial park and beautiful historical buildings. Hardwick, lying on the western boundary, has become a regional center of organic agriculture.

Geographically, Caledonia County borders the Connecticut River to the southeast and I-91 and Route 5 run north-south through the center. In the southwest corner, lies Groton State Park, a 25,000-acre forest and the second largest protected area in the state. Burke Mountain, in East Burke, is home to Q Burke, a major ski resort in the region. Burke is also home to Kingdom Trails, a multiple use trail system unlike any other and recently voted as the "Best Mountain Bike Trail Network" in North America by Bike Magazine. The county is bounded on the north by Orleans County and the east by Essex County. The western part of the county is mountainous, while the eastern

valleys and intervals historically provided excellent farming opportunities. The higher elevations of the county offer picturesque views of New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Known to New England settlers for more than two centuries, it is not known when the region was discovered by Europeans. Prior to settlement, Native Americans inhabited the countryside, fished the rivers and streams and hunted in the vast wilderness.

Barnet, the home to 7,000-acre Harvey's Lake, was the first town to be settled and was named after Scotland-born Colonel Alexander Harvey. The name Caledonia is derived from the ancient Roman name for Scotland. The town of Danville originally held the county seat, but in 1855 the public buildings were moved to St. Johnsbury. Its location on Route 2, one of the state's well-traveled east-west corridors, made Danville a popular destination.

Much of St. Johnsbury's heritage comes from the invention of the platform scale by Thaddeus Fairbanks, who established a business in 1830 that made the name "Fairbanks" synonymous with scales; and from George C. Cary, who founded the Cary Maple Sugar Co. in 1904. With the success and growth of the scale, maple sugar, and wood products industries, so grew St. Johnsbury. Due to its rapid growth, it became the Caledonia County seat in 1856. It also became a rail and highway junction, as well as industrial, commercial, and cultural crossroads of the region - a position in which it is firmly secure today. In recent years, St. Johnsbury has made a name for itself with its arts and cultural centers, including the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and Art Gallery and Catamount Arts.

Known as the "Covered Bridge Capital of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom," Lyndon is divided into meadow and upland which has been used effectively for agriculture. Its riverside location made it ideal for mills, factories and machinery. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad run through the center of town and once afforded transportation of people and goods.

St. Johnsbury and Lyndon also both offer two renowned private high schools in St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute. Many relocate to these towns, as well as other neighboring sending towns, for the purpose of sending their children to these schools.

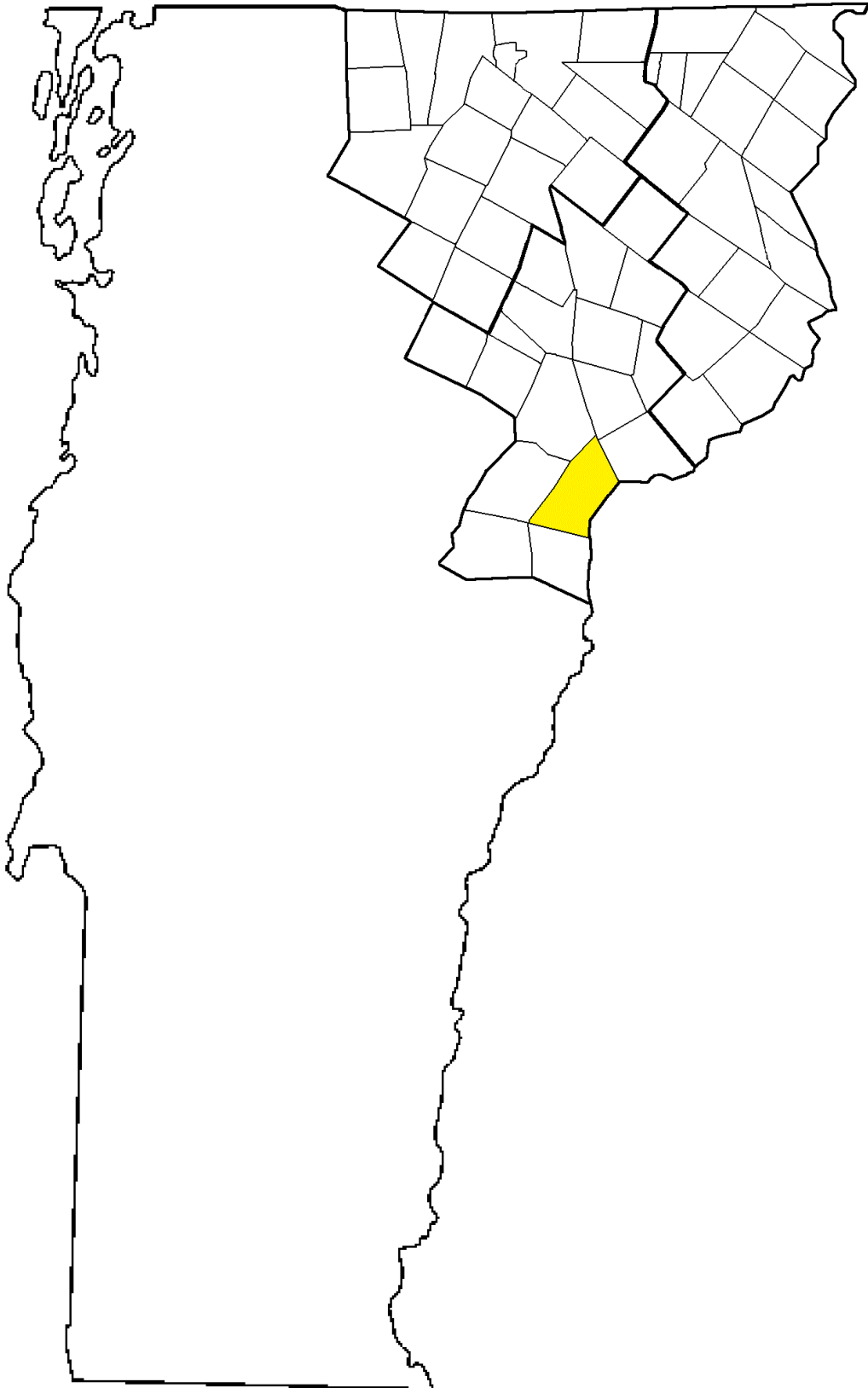
County Seat: St. Johnsbury

Population: 31,227 (2010)

Area: 651 sq. mi.

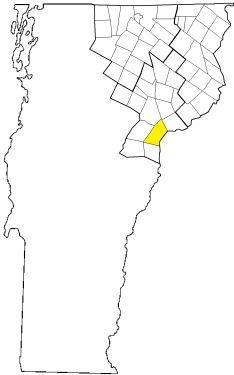
Persons per square mile: 48.1

Barnet



Barnet (Caledonia)

[Barnet Video https://youtu.be/IS2XH0CRiIo](https://youtu.be/IS2XH0CRiIo)



Boardering the Connecticut River in southeastern Caledonia County, Barnet is bounded by Waterford, St. Johnsbury, Ryegate, Peacham and Danville.

Barnet is the home to 7,000-acre Harvey's Lake in the southwest part of town, which got its name from Scotland-born Colonel Alexander Harvey. The area around the lake has many camps and year-round houses, making it a popular destination for locals and summer residents. The town is well watered with several streams running into the Connecticut River. The Stevens River issues from the north end of the lake and runs southeasterly before emptying into the Connecticut.

Home to several farms, Barnet was originally settled by the Scots. It was the first town chartered in the region in 1763. The date Barnet was organized is unknown, though town meeting documents date back to 1783. Town residents took a very active role in Vermont's declaration of independence and the formation of the state constitution and government. Alexander Harvey represented the town in three conventions in 1777, which declared the state independent and formed the constitution. Barnet was named for the town of Barnet, England, where the great-grandfather of Enos Stevens once lived. Stevens, who was born 1739, was an early resident of Barnet who had 10 children born here. Barnet has five quaint villages – Barnet Village, East Barnet, West Barnet, McIndoe Falls and Passumpsic. All have at least one church, the foundation of these communities.



McIndoe Falls is the location of a hydroelectric dam on the Connecticut River, which separates Barnet from Monroe, N.H. It is one of three power-generating dams on the river in the Northeast Kingdom. There are no big box stores in Barnet, just specialty shops of Vermont products and necessities. Barnet is home to Karme Choling, a Shambhala Meditation Center, and the Milerapa Tibetan Buddhist Center. Two of Vermont's governors, Erastus Fairbanks and Horace Fairbanks, were from Barnet. Horace Fairbanks is known for making the first platform scale.

Barnet students are educated at the town's PK-8 elementary school and then have the option of attending any approved secondary school in the area. Barnet is easily accessed of I-91 Exit 18, or by Route 5.

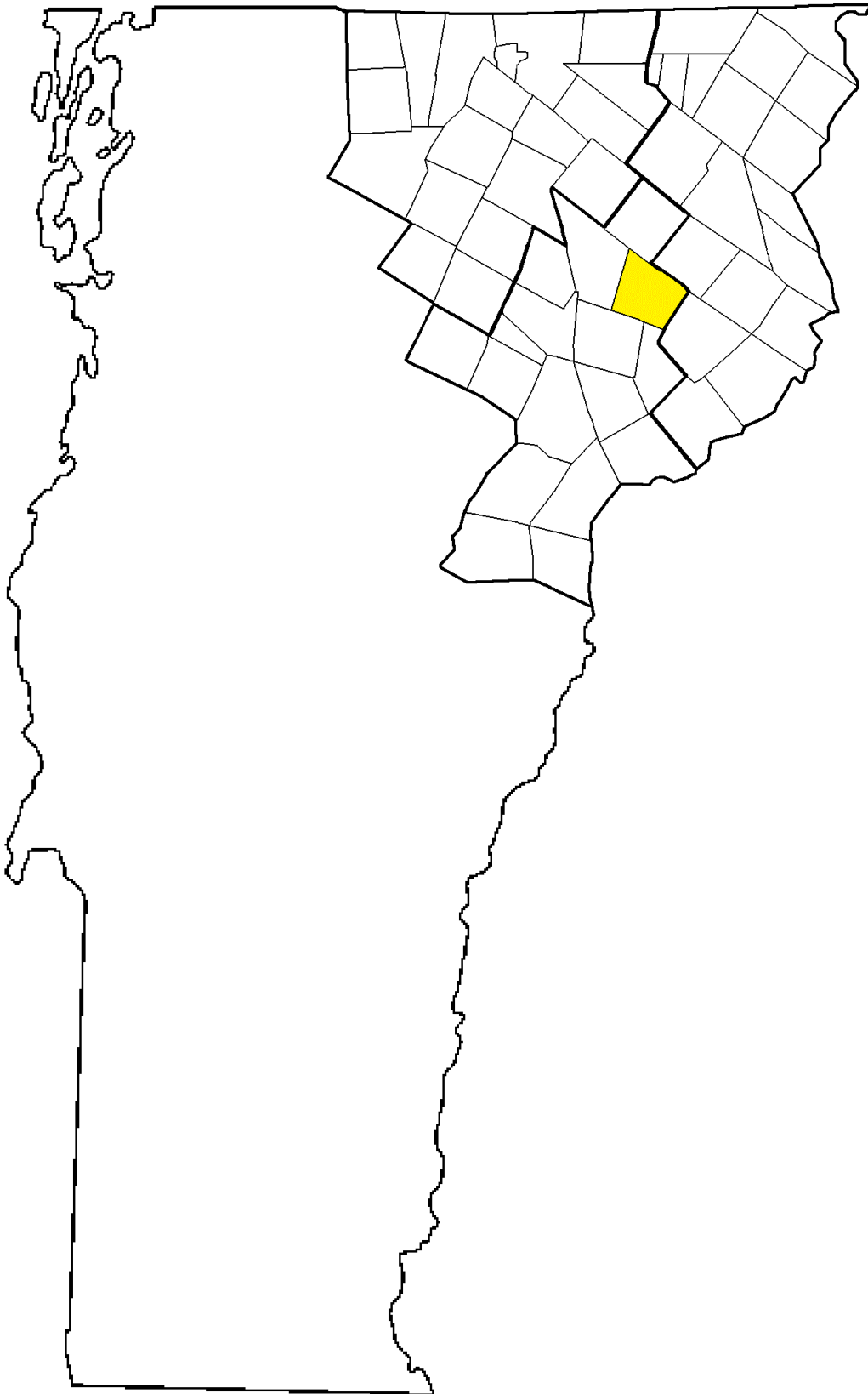
Website: www.barnetvt.org

Population: 1,708 **Area:** 43.6 sq. mi.

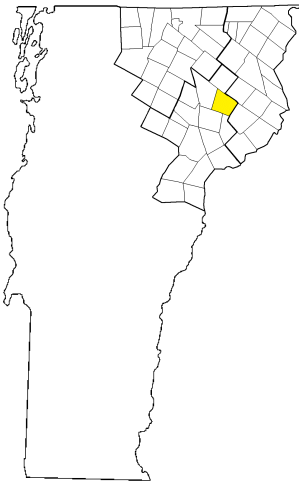
Town Offices: 1743 US Route 5, Barnet Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-noon; 1-4:30.

Library: Barnet Public Library. Hours are Mon. 6:30-8:30, Tuesdays 10-4, Wed.-Thur. 1-5:30, Sat. 10-2.

Burke



Burke (Caledonia)



Burke lies in northeastern Caledonia County, bounded by Newark, East Haven, Victory, Kirby, Lyndon and Sutton. Historically, Burke has been known for timber and agriculture. The Passumpsic River runs through town and separates into two branches, which reunite in Lyndon.

At the eastern extremity of the township, and lying partly in Victory, is Burke Mountain, a monadnock mountain because of its resistance to erosion and because it stands alone. The mountain is approximately 3,200 feet above sea-level. The original grantees of Burke were a company of 65, originally from Litchfield, Conn. In 1782, Vermont Gov. Thomas Chittenden chartered the town and in 1796 the home of Lemuel Walter held the first town meeting. Roman Fyler, also from Connecticut, emigrated to Burke in 1800 and built a saw and grist mill on a small stream near the center of town where Burke Hollow is now located. Burke was named after Sir

Edmund Burke, a member of the British Parliament who tried to promote conciliation of the American colonies and avert a war for independence. The proprietors of the Northeast Vermont grant took his name for their yet unsettled town because he had so well expressed their hopes for freedom and independence.

Several logging operations and mills were formed throughout the years in the three villages of Burke Hollow, East Burke and West Burke. On the eastern slope of Burke Mountain, the Dishmill Brook rises, named after a small shop once located there that turned wooden plates, dishes and bowls of different sizes. Burke Mountain has a ski resort and other year-round activities, while Kingdom Trails, a multiple-use trail system based in East Burke was recently voted as the “Best Mountain Bike Trail Network” in North America by Bike Magazine. Kingdom Trails offers miles of non-motorized trails with opportunities for all levels of ability. East Burke was recently named one of the 101 Best Outdoor Towns in the U.S.



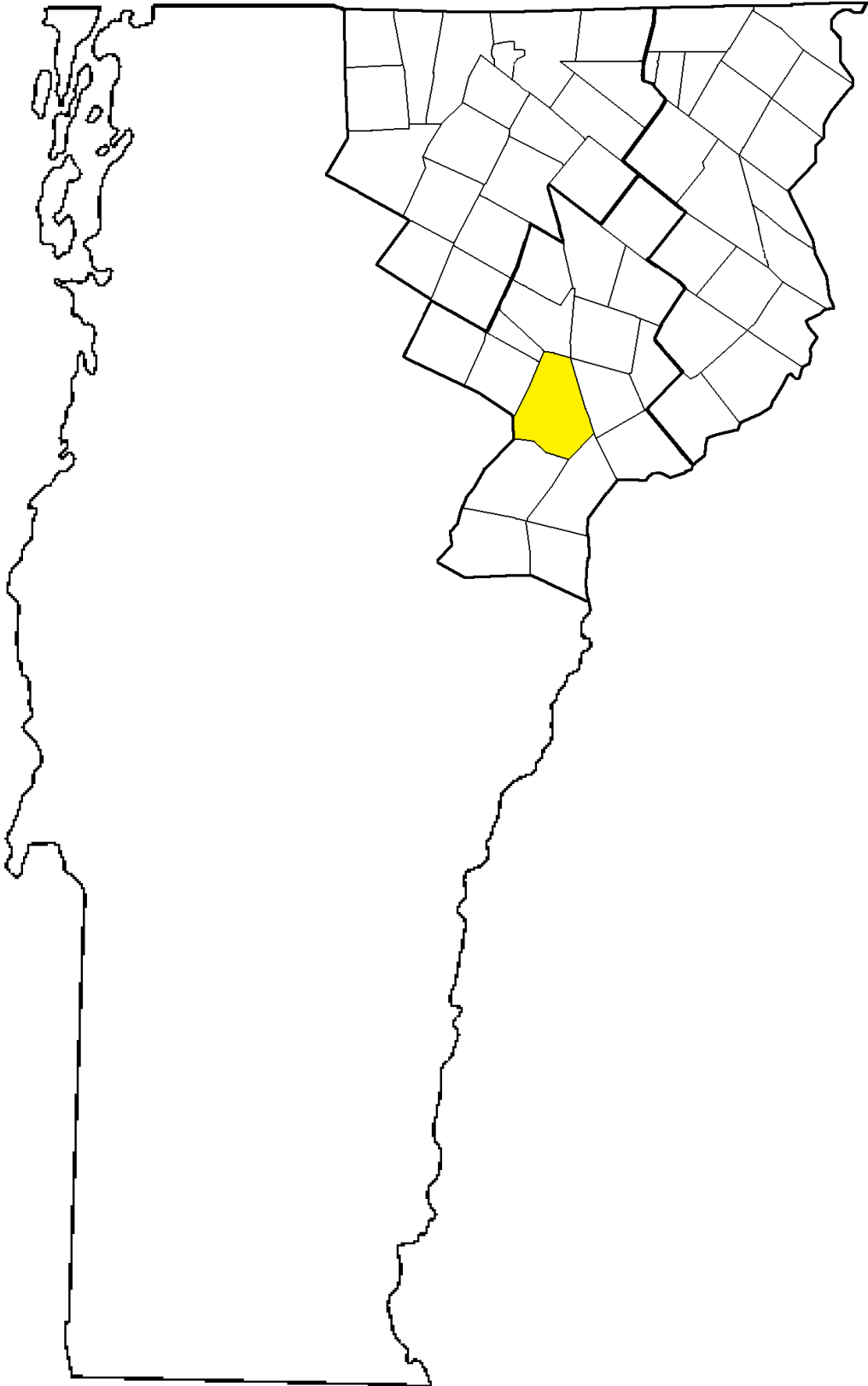
Chartered in 1782, Burke was settled a decade later. Originally, southern Burke was the main import and export area, receiving trade from the Lyndon area. Southern Burke had a stagecoach stop and a post office. However, with the railroad built in 1857, it transferred the hustle and bustle to other areas. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a look-out tower at the top of Burke Mountain, which led to the development of the local ski industry, which includes Burke Mountain Academy, a school that has graduated many world-class ski racers.

Website: www.burkevermont.com

Population: 1,753 Area: 34 sq. mi.

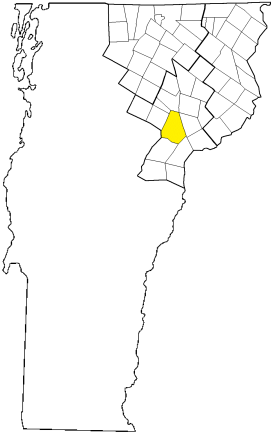
Town Offices: 212 School St., West Burke, Mon-Fri 8-4.

Danville



Danville (Caledonia)

[Danville Video https://youtu.be/HjKUOSnQgXA](https://youtu.be/HjKUOSnQgXA)



Originally called Hillsboro, Danville was originally granted by New York and chartered in 1786. The original name was apt due to the land's prominent hilly features. It lies alongside the base of a still more elevated and broken range to the west known as Cow Hill and Walden Mountain.

The name Danville originates from the distinguished 18th century French Admiral Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville. In the spring of 1783, pioneer Charles Hackett opened a spot for a cabin on what is now called the "Isaac Morrill Pitch." He eventually made a second opening, now called the "Charles Sias Pitch." In 1784, Capt. Charles Sias and his family, from Peacham, were the first to settle here and brave the long and dreary winter of this dense and unbroken wilderness. Arriving by handsled, the family immediately went to work tapping the thick grove of maple trees, which supplied them with an abundance of sugar. In 1785, around 50 emigrants from New Hampshire and Massachusetts settled as squatters.

The first child born in town was named Danville Howard in the summer of 1787, but the child didn't live past the age of three. The influx of settlers was rapid and in 1789 it was estimated that more than 200 families had arrived. Around 1790, John Webber opened the first store in the center of town. When Caledonia County was established from a portion of Orange County, a strife developed between Danville and Peacham as to which would be the shire town. Danville would eventually win and Peacham would become the site of the grammar school.

The town's iconic "Green" was deeded over in 1796 by Aaron Hartshorn and Thomas Dow, to have and to hold as long as the public buildings should remain in Danville. In 1805, the Vermont General Assembly met in the halls of the old Court House, which at the time stood on the west side of the Green, with a bank and a jailhouse on the opposite side. According to the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, "during the early history of Danville the town has marked influence in the councils of the state. And for many years, stood among the foremost in the state for its wealth and productions." In 1855, the unpopular decision was made to move the public buildings to St. Johnsbury, the new shire town.

There are five villages, situated on elevated land in the center of town with excellent views of the White Mountains and Franconia Notch in New Hampshire. North Danville Village, five miles north, lies on the banks of the Sleepers River, a tributary of the Passumpsic, and boasts some of the finest lands in town. West Danville Village, Harvey's Hollow and Greenbanks Villages are on Joe's Brook.

Joe's Pond covers roughly 1,000 acres and was once famed for its abundant trout. The pond is now home to camps and summer residents. One of the town's most famous citizens was U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, born on April 4, 1792 in Danville. Several tributaries flowing into the Passumpsic River lie within the town. Danville sits in the heart of Caledonia County, bordered to the north by Wheelock. St. Johnsbury to the east, Barnet and Peacham to the south and Cabot, Stannard and Walden to the west.

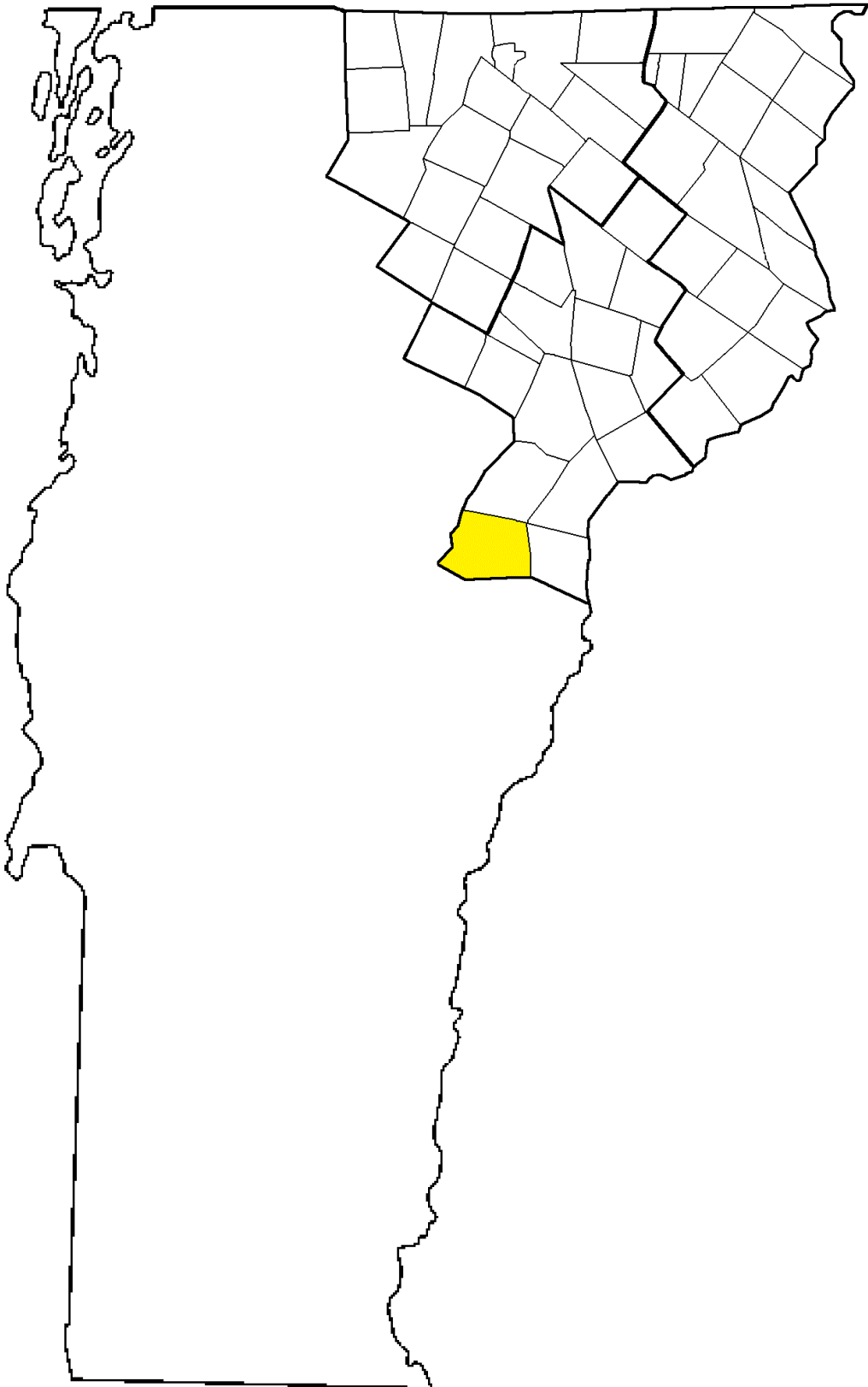
In recent years, Danville has become a popular community due to its access to Route 2, one of the state's well-traveled east-west corridors. Like many towns in the state, cell phone service is widely available but reception depends greatly on location. The villages are sparsely populated by small businesses, including stores, health clinics, restaurants, professional offices and inns. From 1807 to 1889, the town had its own weekly newspaper called the North Star but the offices were burned in the Great Fire of 1889 which leveled several buildings in the village. In 1988, a group of citizens re-established the publication as a community magazine called the North Star Monthly, which is still locally owned and serving Caledonia County. There are several operating dairy farms still in town.

Website: www.danvillevt.org

Population: 2,196 **Area:** 60.9 sq. mi., **Elevation:** 1,341

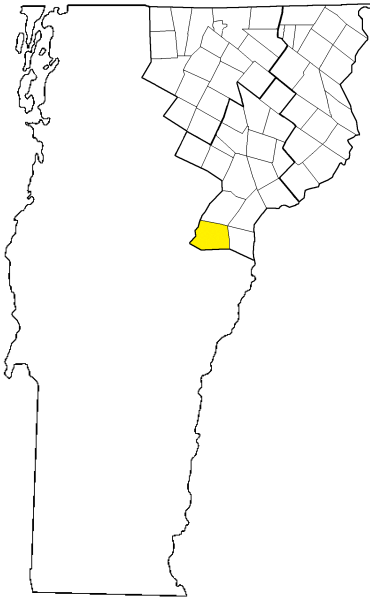
Town Offices: 36 Route 2 West, PO Box 183, Danville. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-4

Groton



Groton (Caledonia)

[Groton Video https://youtu.be/t5Wx2ewagUo](https://youtu.be/t5Wx2ewagUo)



Located on the southern border of Caledonia County, Groton is bounded by Peacham, Ryegate, Plainfield and Topsham. The surface of the town is diversified by hill and valley, presenting a picturesque landscape. Wells River, which rises in Groton Pond, flows through the town from northwest to southeast and historically afforded many opportunities for mills and machinery.

Groton is home to several beautiful ponds, including Groton, Levi, Ricker, Pigeon, Noyes and Kettle. Much of the town's wilderness beauty is protected within Groton State Park, a 25,000-acre forest and the second largest protected area in the state. Within its boundaries are six state parks and year round recreation.

Despite being nestled between Interstates 89 and 91 and containing a number of roads and trails, the park maintains a wild atmosphere of the northeast once lost, and now returning. Today, State Highway 232 (also called the Groton Forest Highway) snakes its way north/south through the heart of the state forest. The state forest is serviced by a vast network of hiking and multi-purpose trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, and off road use. In the winter, the network of trails that surround the Groton Nature Center, located on the shore of Lake Groton, are used for snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Groton was chartered in 1789 and organized at the first town meeting in 1797. The first settlement in Groton came in 1787. President Abraham Lincoln once pardoned Groton native Private William Scott, a member of the 3rd Vermont Infantry. Scott, commonly known as "The Sleeping Sentinel," had been sentenced to death after falling asleep at his post. Scott would die in a later battle due to several gunshot wounds. Groton is accessed by Route 302, off I-91, and Route 232 off Route 2. Groton Village is located in the southeastern part of town along Route 302.

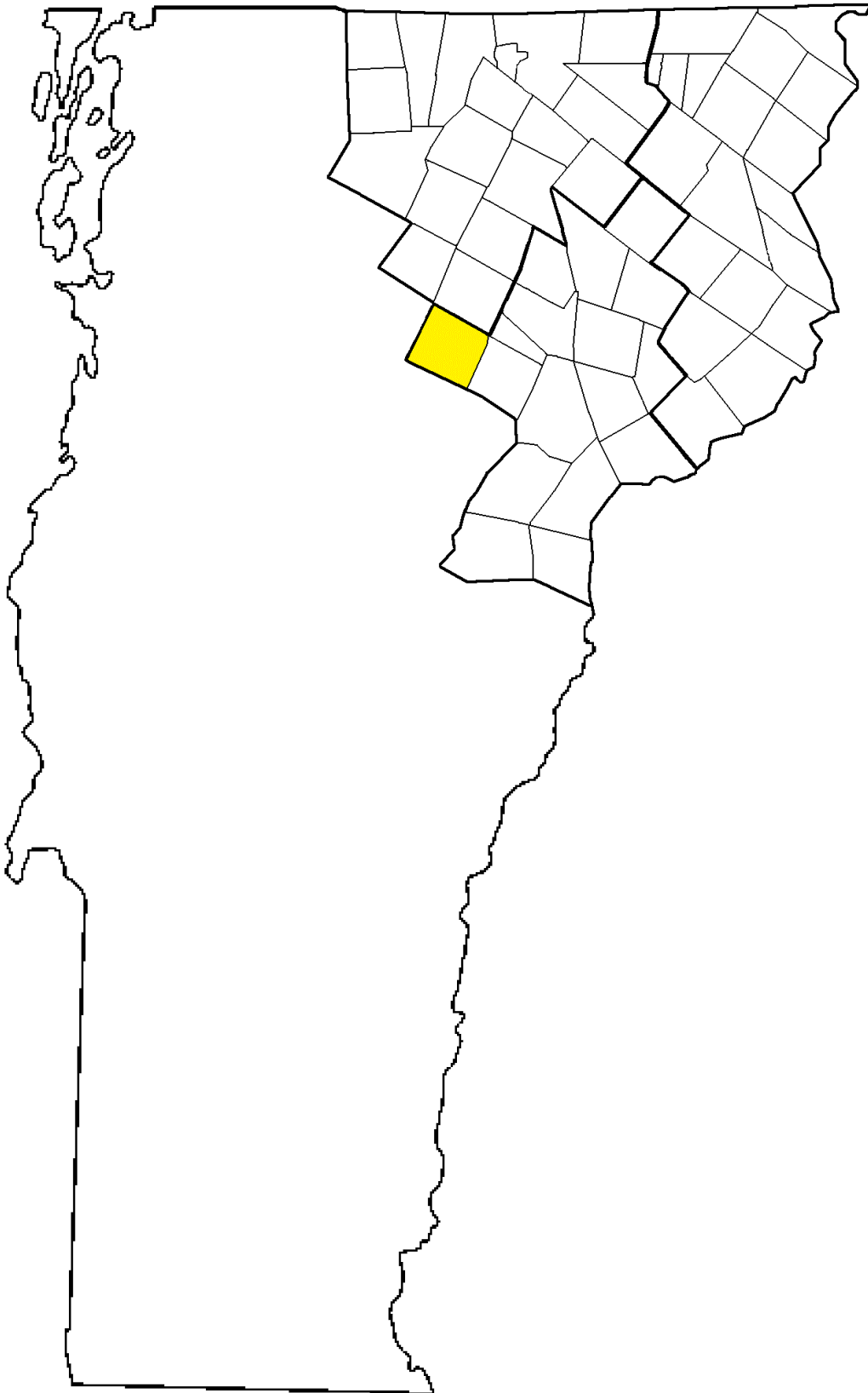
Website: www.grotonvt.com

Population: 1,022

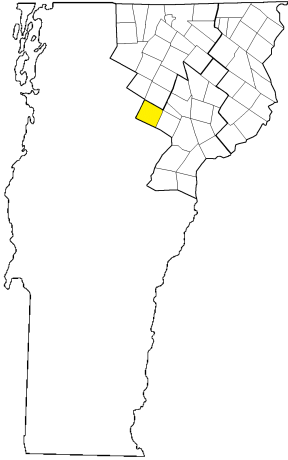
Area: 54 sq. mi.

Town Offices: 1476 Scott Highway, 584-3276, Hours: Mon., Tues., & Thurs. 8:30-12:30; 1:30-5, Wed., & Fri., 8:30-12:30.

Hardwick



Hardwick (Caledonia)



The most westerly town in Caledonia County, Hardwick is not particularly mountainous. It's bordered by Greensboro to the north, Woodbury to the south and Wolcott to the west.

The Lamoille River enters town very near the northeast corner and, historically, together with its tributaries provided excellent mill opportunities. The southeastern part of town is on the western slope of the eastern range of the Green Mountains. In its early days, the historic Bayley-Hazen Road served as the access road to Hardwick. Today, Route 15 connects Hardwick with several other Northeast Kingdom towns and links to larger Vermont towns such as Morrisville and Burlington. Route 15 also connects to Vermont Route 2 and St. Johnsbury and Montpelier, the state capital.

Hardwick, chartered to Danforth Keyes on Aug. 19, 1781, is likely to have gotten its name from Hardwick, Mass., where some of Keyes' associates lived. Hardwick's first permanent settler, Mark Norris, arrived on May 16, 1788 and the first town meeting took place in March of 1795 in Norris' home.

In 1798 Samuel Stevens located in what is now East Hardwick where he built the first grist and saw mills, as well as a building which has come to be known as "the Brick House." He named this village Stevensville, and he served as town treasurer for 21 years. By 1885, Stevensville was a thriving community, boasting two general stores, two churches, a carriage factory, a saw mill, a grist mill and several dwellings. In 1846, the first post office was established at the village, by then called North Hardwick.

The first settlement in South Hardwick, now Hardwick village, was made by Capt. John Bridgman in 1795. The town grew rapidly from 1790 to 1860. The St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad opened in 1877. Hardwick was dependent on agriculture and was known as a trade center until the opening of granite quarries nearby.

Granite quarrying began in 1868, and for a while the town was known as the building granite capital of the world. The quarries provided granite for some of the most prominent buildings in the United States. The granite industry reached its peak in 1911. Operations continued through the 1920s and until 1934 on a small scale. During World War II, the tracks of the Hardwick to Woodbury railroad were taken up to be used for scrap metal in the war effort.



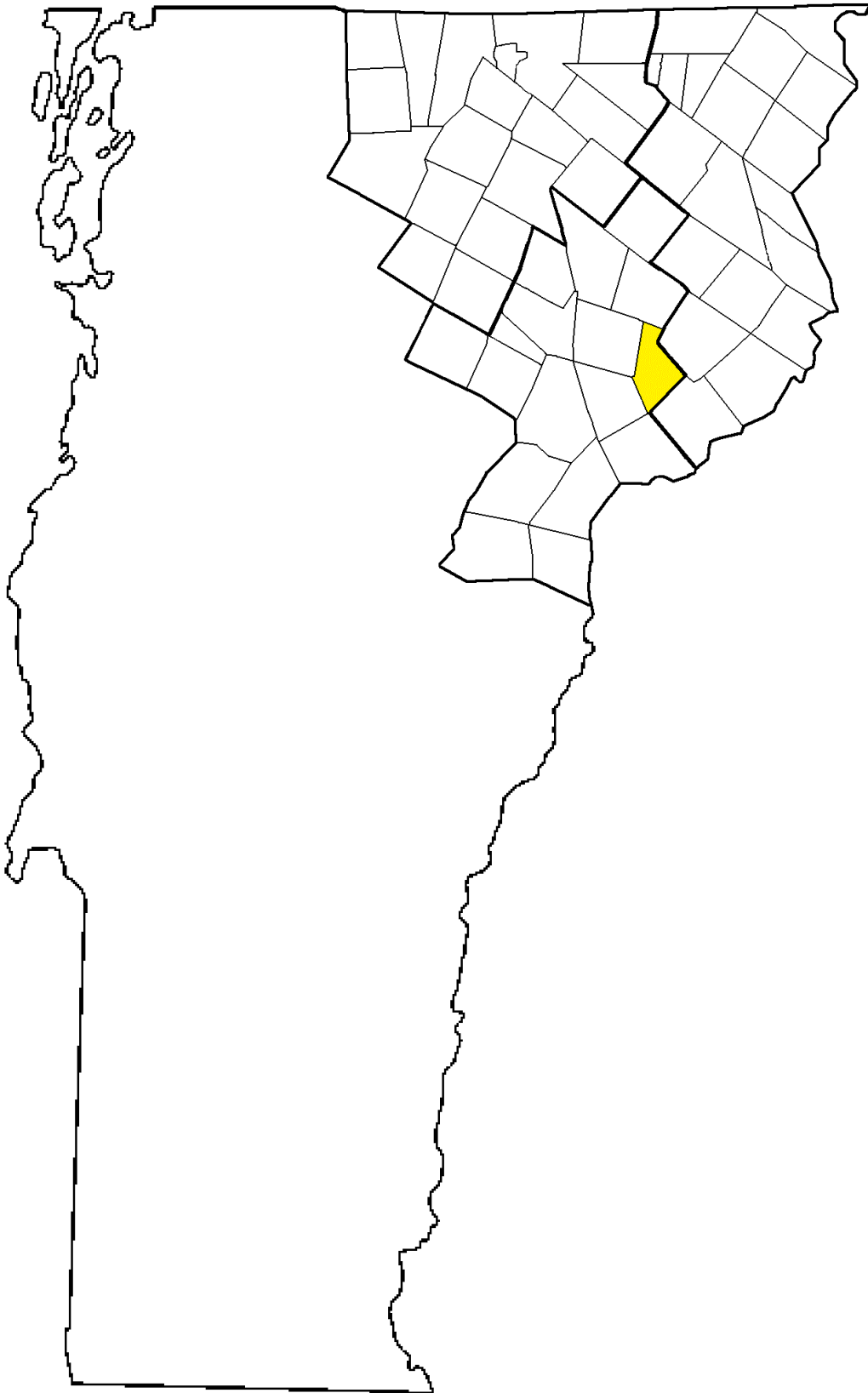
Hardwick is rich in farmland and in recent years developed into a regional center of organic agriculture. The town offers a range of dining options, and Hardwick Village has many beautiful Victorian-style buildings.

Website: www.hardwickvt.org

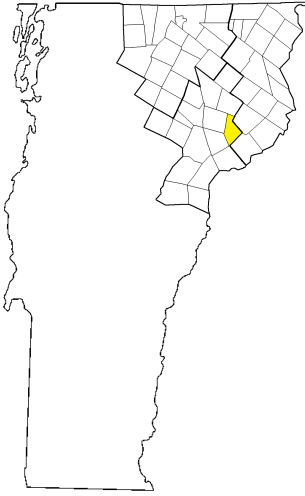
Population: 3,010 **Area:** 38.66 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,339

Town Offices: 20 Church St., PO Box 523. Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 472-5971

Kirby



Kirby (Caledonia)



Situated in the easterly part of Caledonia County, Kirby's soil is rich and well suited for agriculture. A mountainous region lies to the east, and the town is well watered with several springs and brooks among the hills that make their way to the Passumpsic and Moose Rivers. Historically, businesses in town were saw mills, quarries and even a starch factory.

The town did not settle quickly and has never held over 500 inhabitants. The first settlers began to arrive around 1792. The town charter was granted Oct. 20, 1786 and chartered in 1790 to Roswell Hopkins, known at the time as Hopkinsville. The name was altered by an act of the Legislature in 1808 to Kirby. The town is known for being a farming community without a trading center or village. Originally, the town was part of Burke. The first resident of Kirby was Maj. Benjamin Whitcomb who was noted for being a hunter and trapper.

The origin of Kirby's name is uncertain. It is believed the name came from a surname or possibly England. It is also believed the name may have originated from petitions that Seth and John Kirby submitted to the Vermont Legislature. In England, the name Kirby means a town that has a church. Today, the town of Kirby is home to two small ponds, Johnson and Kirby Pond, as well as Kirby Mountain which is nearly 3,000 feet in elevation.

Presently, Kirby is a bedroom community for surrounding towns. Since it is a "school choice" town, land values and real estate prices tend to be high, comparatively. Kirby is bordered by Lyndon to the west, Burke to the north, Victory to the east, and St. Johnsbury and Concord to the South. Burke Mountain, a ski resort, is a short drive away, and a nine-hole golf course operates off Route 2.

Population: 493

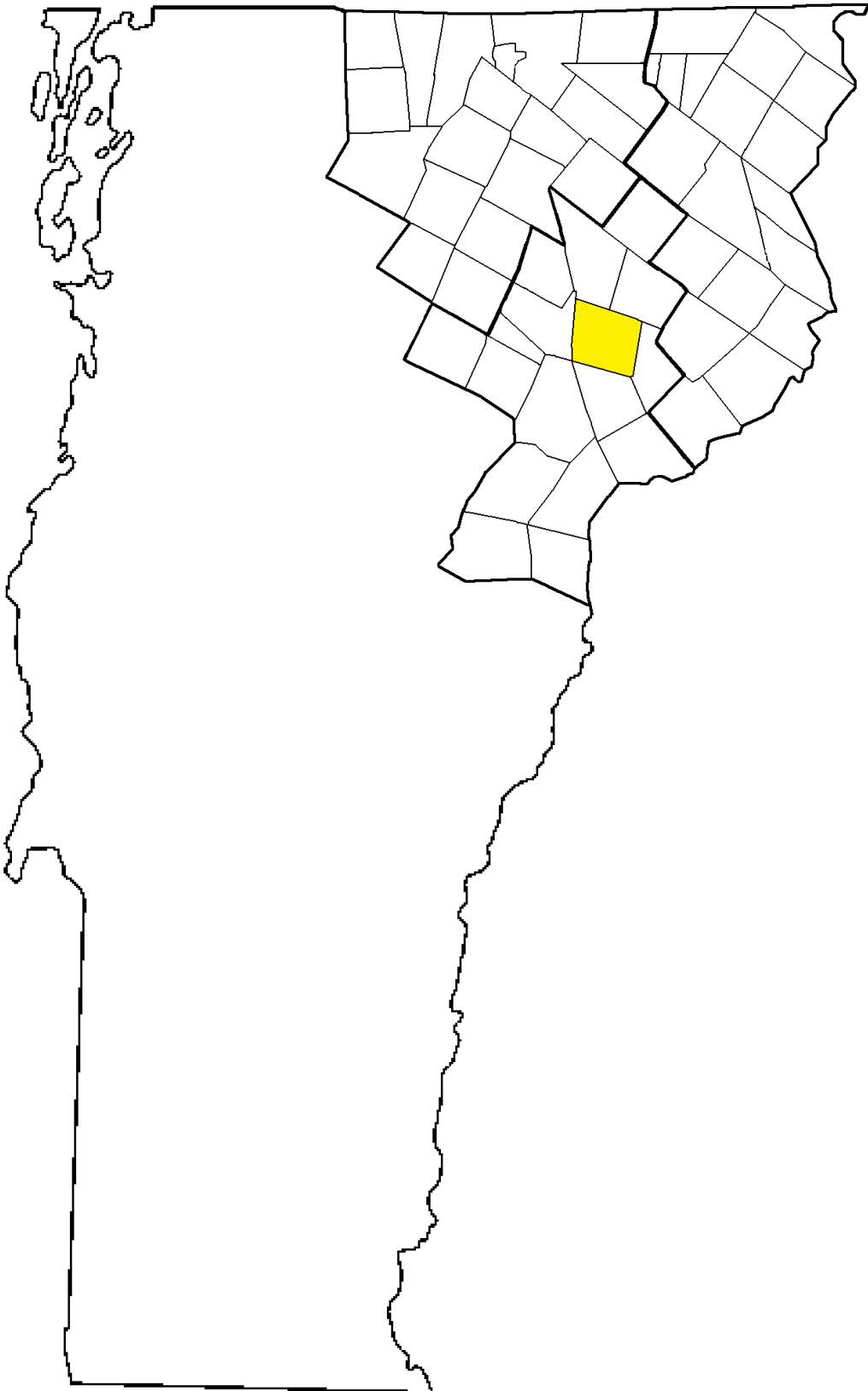
Area: 24.41 sq. mi.

Elevation: 1,260

Town Offices: 346 Town Hall Road, Lyndonville, 626-9386, Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8-3 and by appt.

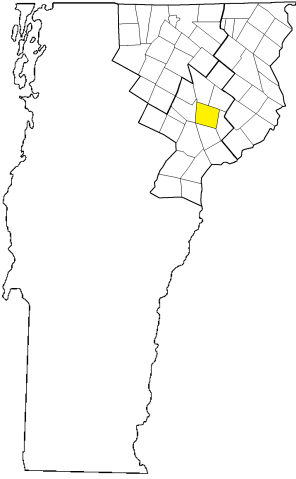


Lyndon



Lyndon (Caledonia)

[Lyndon Video https://youtu.be/R7rIcNU5sjE](https://youtu.be/R7rIcNU5sjE)



Located just north of the center of Caledonia County in the Passumpsic River Valley, Lyndon was founded in 1780. Its land is uneven with several hills and valleys carved by the many tributaries of the Passumpsic. It is cornered on the southwest by Danville, west by Wheelock, north by Sutton and Burke, and east by Burke and Kirby. The town contains the villages of Lyndonville, Lyndon Center and Lyndon Corner.

Lyndon is known as the “Covered Bridge Capital of Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.” The town is divided into meadow and upland which has been used effectively for agriculture. Its riverside location made it ideal for mills, factories and machinery. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad ran through the center of town. Lyndon was founded in 1780 by Hon. Jonathan Arnold, Daniel Cahoon and Daniel Owen of Providence, R.I., an exploring committee of an association of about 50 enterprising citizens of that city to settle a colony in the new state of Vermont. Barnet, Peacham

and Ryegate were the only chartered towns at the time. Standing on the summit of the high hill in Lyndon Corner, they mapped out their new town, which was a popular hunting ground for Native Americans. When the town was granted to Arnold and his associates, it was called Bestbury. The name was changed to Lyndon in honor of Arnold’s oldest son, Josias Lyndon Arnold, a native of Providence. He was a highly-educated lawyer and poet who settled in St. Johnsbury, but eventually decided backwoods life was not for him.

Jonathan Arnold would go on to secure charters for Billymead (now called Sutton) and St. Johnsbury, where he settled and died in 1793. Lyndon was once famous for its cattle and livestock, especially horses which were held in the highest regard across the country. Native trees of white pine, spruce, hemlock, fir, cedar, sugar maple, beech, birch, elm, ash and tamarack were prominent. Daniel Cahoon cleared the first home site and built the first cabin, relying for survival on forests full of game and rivers teeming with trout. Cahoon would become the first town clerk, lister and selectmen. In 1792, the first property tax was enacted to help with the building of bridges and highways.

Over the next several decades the town grew significantly in population. In 1931, during Prohibition, a Boston newspaper referred to Lyndonville as a haven for “rum running” gangsters, due to its proximity to the Canadian border. The town is home to Lyndon State College, a four-year liberal arts school founded in 1911, originally to train teachers. Lyndon Center is the home of Lyndon Institute, an independent high school that offers programs in arts, sciences, technology, and athletics. The school was founded in 1867 and now has students from across the country and around the world.

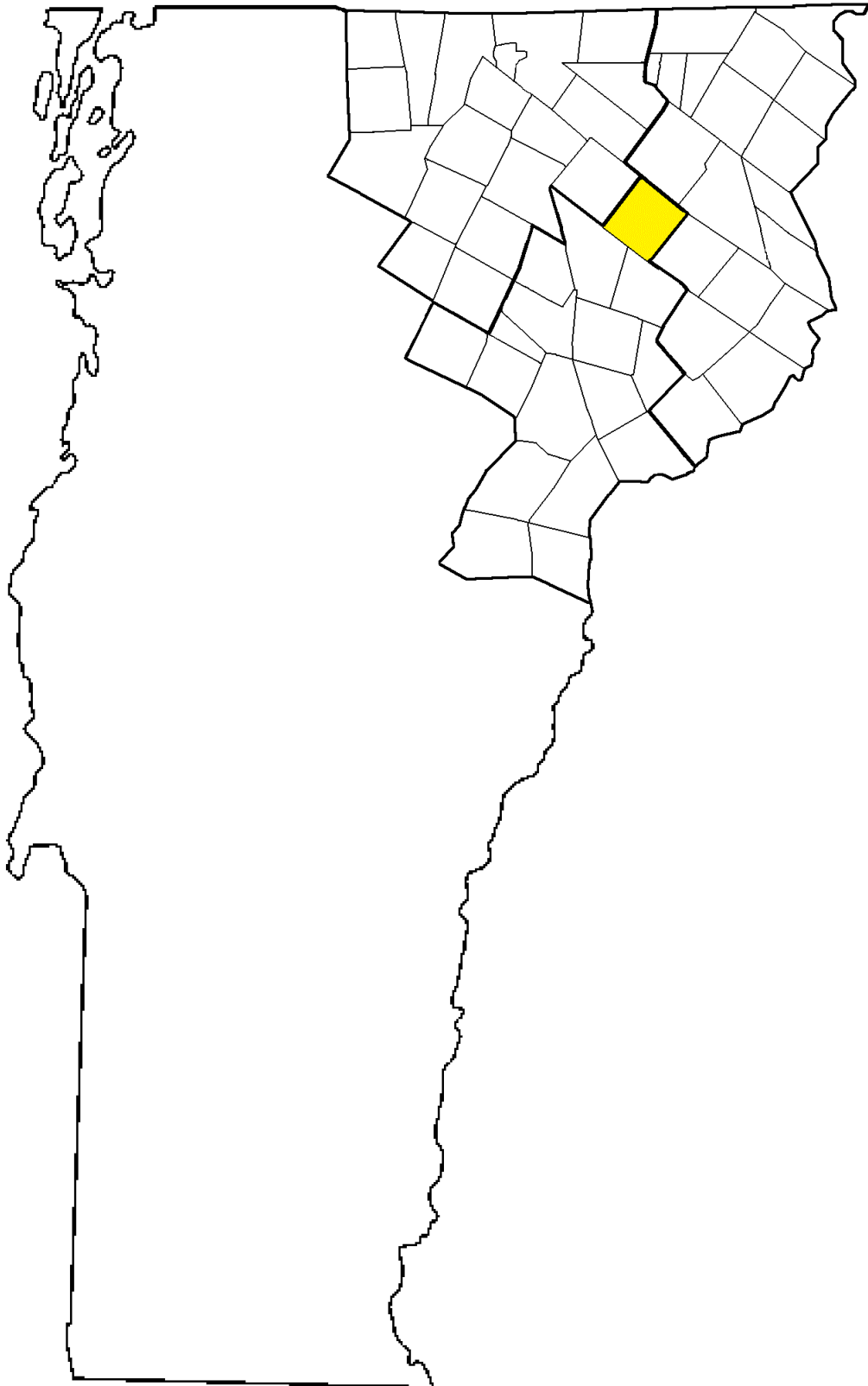
These days Lyndonville is a bustling downtown village divided by Route 5, a well-traveled north-south corridor. Over the years, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and retail have been staples of the economy. There is an industrial park located between Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury.

Website: www.lyndonvt.com

Population: 5,981 **Area:** 36 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 720

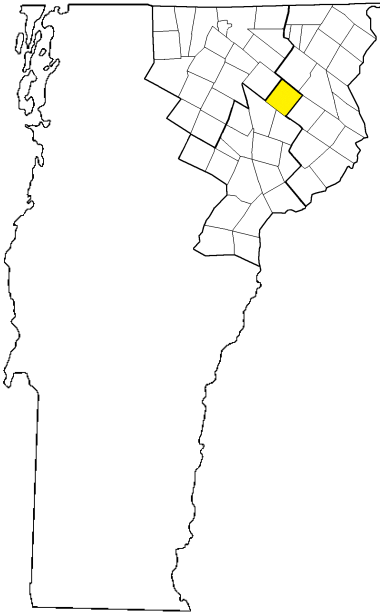
Town Offices: Lyndon Municipal Office Building, PO Box 167, 119 Park Ave, 626-5785, Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30-4:30

Newark



Newark (Caledonia)

[Newark Video https://youtu.be/PDwGrEKZ8ac](https://youtu.be/PDwGrEKZ8ac)



Residing in the northeast part of Caledonia County, Newark's origin is a story of rugged backwoodsmen who left the comfort of other towns to subdue the dense forests of this elevated, hilly landscape.

In 1795, the first land was cleared near Burke and settled by James Ball and his family. A few years later, Eleazer Packer came and settled much deeper into the forest. Others followed slowly and the town was organized in 1809. The first settlers encountered several hardships do the remote location. As the forests were cleared the soil was found to be perfect for growing wheat. The town has abundant sugar maple trees and is well-watered. The eastern slope of a mountain that extends from East Haven to the center of town is still densely forested.

Newark Pond and Center Pond are the largest bodies of water, while several small ponds and brooks dot the landscape. Lumber was a major staple of the economy and the town once held several saw mills, grist mills and starch factories. Nowadays, the center of town contains a few buildings contains a post office, town clerk's office, church and school. Newark is accessed by Route 114 and Route 5A.

It's secluded and wooded acreage offers breathtaking views and several hunting, fishing and hiking opportunities. It is bordered to the north by East Haven and Brighton (Island Pond), west by Westmore, and south by Burke. The land to the east is remote, heavily forested and sparsely inhabited. Lake Willoughby, the glacially-formed treasure of the Northeast Kingdom, is just a short drive up Route 5A. Other natural attractions in Newark include the Bald Hill Fish Hatchery and Jobs Pond.

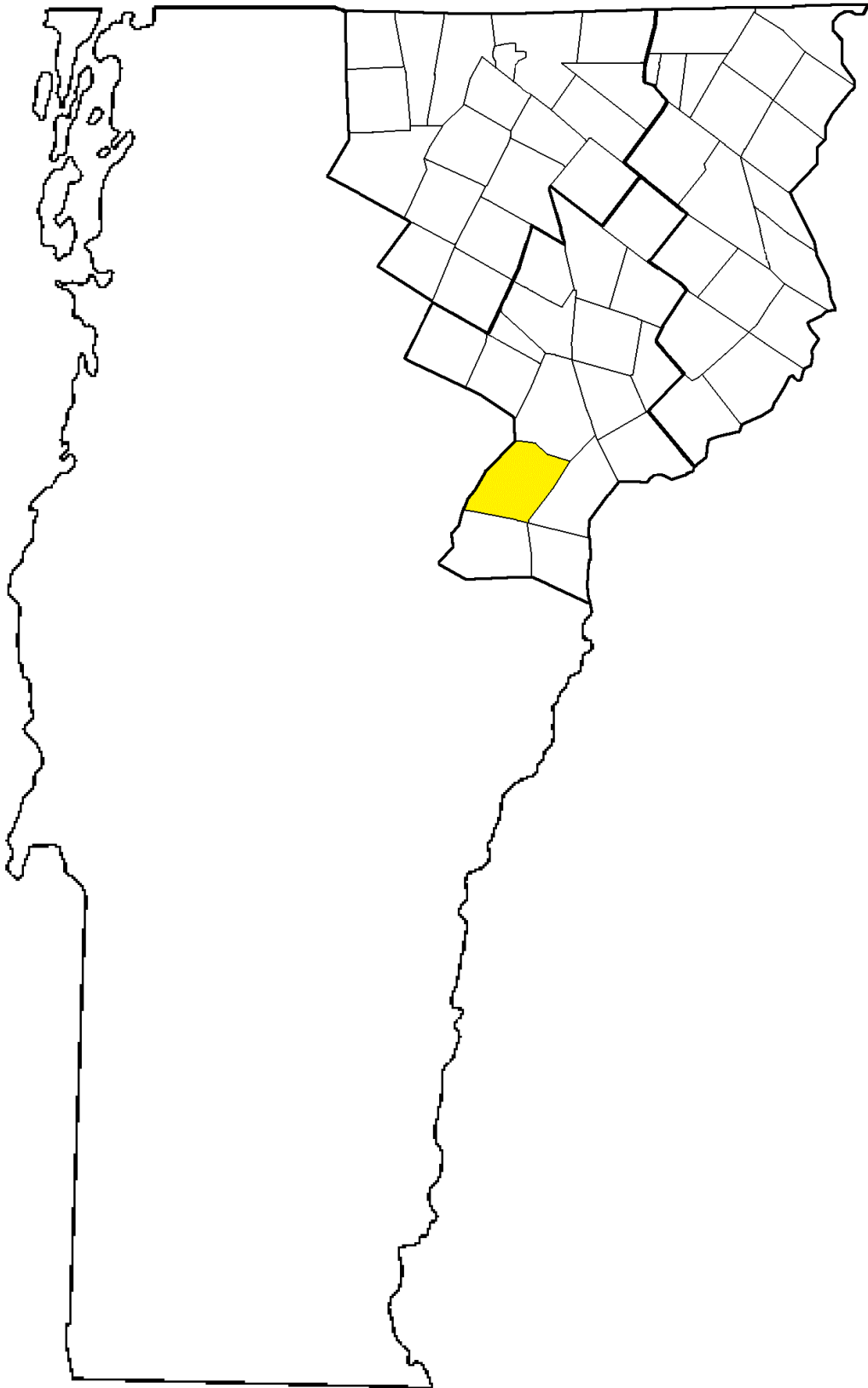
Population: 581

Area: 36.78 sq. mi.

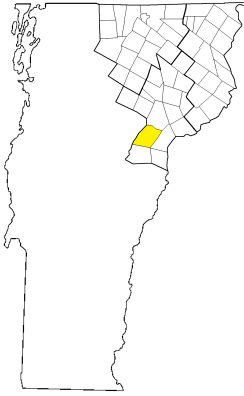
Elevation: 1,738

Town Offices: 1336 Newark St., Mon., Wed, Thurs., 9-4.

Peacham



Peacham (Caledonia)

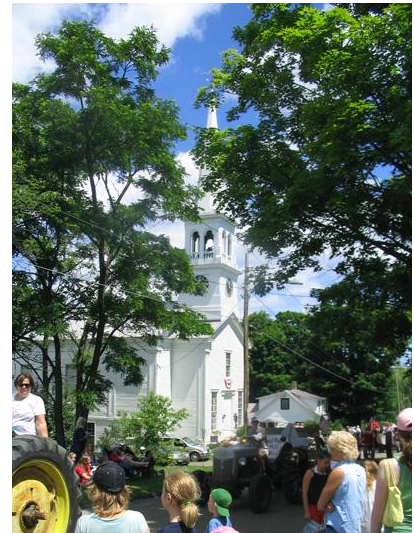


Peacham was chartered Dec. 31, 1763 as a part of the New Hampshire Land Grants. Many of the picturesque fields are farmed and agriculture remains a steady force. Peacham sits in the southwestern part of Caledonia County and is bordered to the north by Danville, to the east by the town of Barnet, to the south by the town of Groton, and to the west by the towns of Cabot and Marshfield, both in Washington County.

In 1774, pioneers from Newbury, Vt., staked their claim in Peacham. The French and Indian War had ended, and settlers from southern New England were establishing towns along the Connecticut River, including Newbury in 1762, followed by Barnet in 1770 and Ryegate in 1773. It didn't take long for these hearty folks to hear tales of cheap, fertile land to the west in a territory that wouldn't become known as Vermont for another 40

years. Around 400 pioneers set their sights on what is now Peacham. The group included Robert Carr, John Sanborn, John Skeels, Jonathan Elkins Sr. and Frye Bayley. Frye Bayley's uncle, Gen. Jacob Bayley, persuaded his nephew to carry dispatches to Montreal. The rough trail blazed by shallow axe cuts would later become the foundation for the Bayley-Hazen Road, a historic supply route during the Revolutionary War that was never completed. Portions of it are still traveled today. Frye Bayley never fulfilled his intention of permanently moving to Peacham. Elkins was the first permanent resident, moving his family there in 1775.

After the war, population rapidly increased and the town was a point of commercial importance for Native American trade. According to Esther Munroe Swift's *Vermont Place-Names: Footprints of History*, there are four stories on how Peacham got its name, but the most popular one has it attributed to a character from an early 18th century English opera. A popular play of the time, *The Beggar's Opera*, had a character named Polly Peachum. It is told that when the play was put on stage in the colonies during the 1760s the Royal Governor of New Hampshire (which owned Vermont's lands at the time), Benning Wentworth, honored the memory of Fenton by naming the town after her famous stage persona.



A high ridge passes through the westerly part of town. The views of the Green Mountains and the White Mountains of New Hampshire are breathtaking from higher elevations, such as Devil's Hill and Cow Hill. The heavily photographed landscape is dotted with streams, fields, ponds and farms. The village itself is a National Historic Village District. The largest body of water is Peacham Pond, which hosts several homes and seasonal camps. At one point, the town had four saw mills, two grist mills, a starch factory and a tannery.

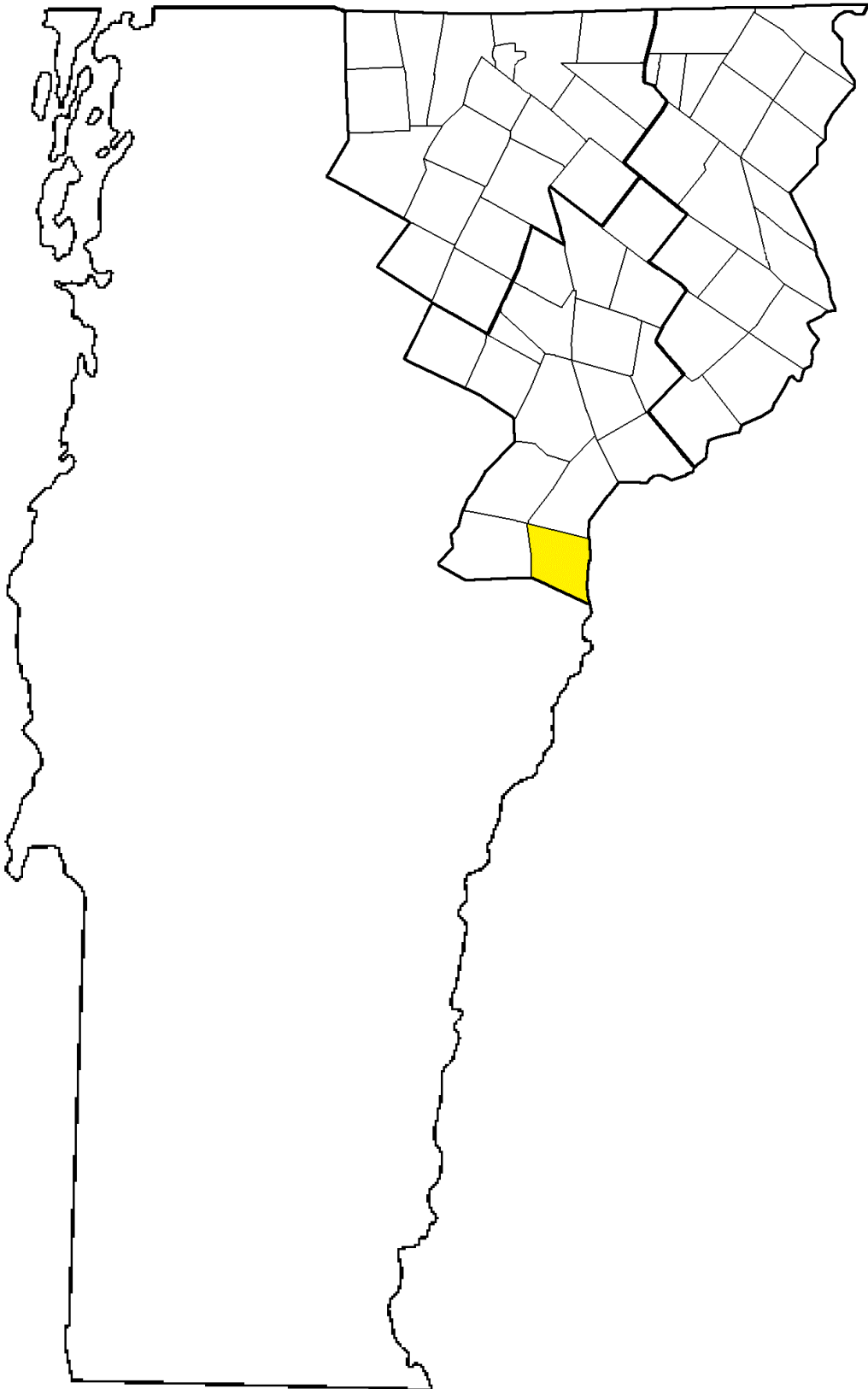
Peacham is now an agricultural area and a bedroom community. After completing Peacham Elementary School, students are allowed to attend any secondary school they choose, making Peacham attractive to families wishing to send their kids to the region's top private high schools.

Website: www.peacham.net

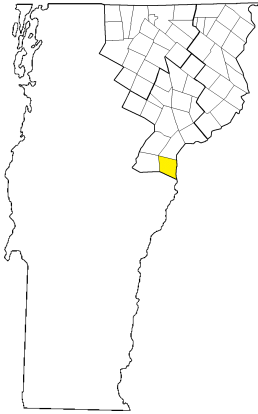
Population: 732 **Area:** 46.7 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 1,310

Town Offices: PO Box 244, 79 Church Street. Hours: Mon. 8-5, Tues-Thurs 8-noon.

Ryegate



Ryegate (Caledonia)



Ryegate sits in the southeastern corner of Caledonia County and is the southernmost community in the Northeast Kingdom. Bordered to the north by Barnet, with Newbury, in Orange County, to the south, and to its west is the town of Groton. Traversing its way through Ryegate is the Wells River making its way to the Connecticut River which flows on the eastern edge of the town.

The historic Bayley-Hazen Road divides runs north and south through the center of town, which is home to Lower Symes and Ticklenaked Ponds. Ryegate was chartered Sept. 8, 1763 as a part of the New Hampshire Land Grants. In the winter of 1773, a group of farmers from Scotland sent David Allen and James Whitelaw to scout tracts of land for settlement in North America. After landing in Philadelphia, they met with Dr.

Witherspoon, president of New Jersey College, who informed them he had a 23,000-acre township of land called Ryegate, in the province of New York on the Connecticut River.

The town was organized, with Whitelaw as the first town clerk, in 1776. One of Ryegate's more famous landowners was John Witherspoon, the reverend and president of the Presbyterian College of New Jersey (modern day Princeton University) and signatory of the United States Declaration of Independence. According to Edward Miller and Fredric P. Wells in "History of Ryegate, Vermont," published in 1913, the glory of Ryegate is in the men and women whom it has produced or who have descended from its early families. A sturdy race were those Scotchmen in Yankee-land who subdued the wilderness, covered the hills with fruitful farms and planted there the church and the school.



Today, Ryegate is a small, quiet town divided into three villages: South Ryegate, East Ryegate and Ryegate Corner. Easily accessible of I-91 and Route 302, the town is known to have excellent soil for farming. Since Ryegate has no schools, students often attend Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River.

Website: www.ryegatevt.org

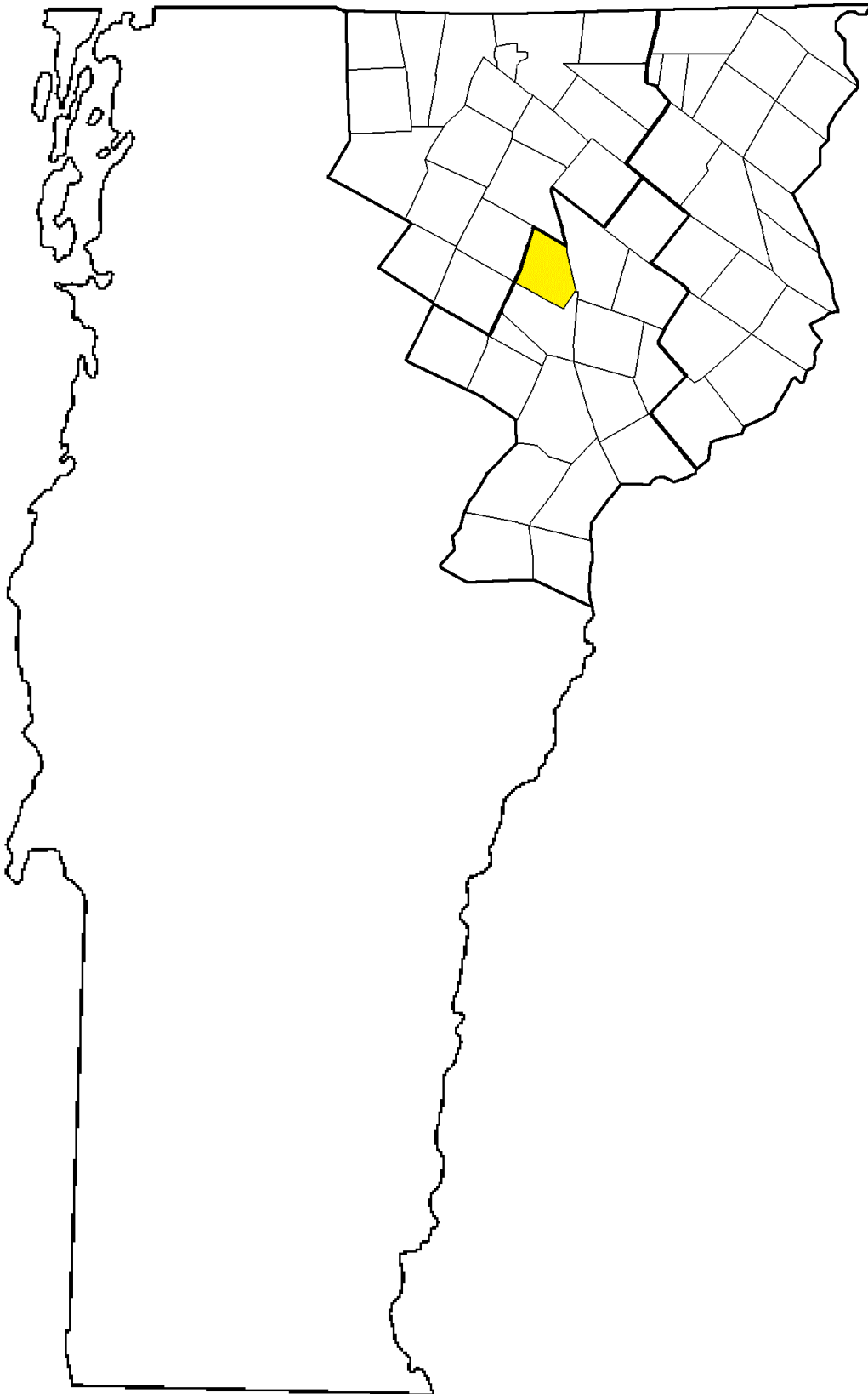
Population: 1,174

Area: 36.6 sq. mi.

Elevation: 1,060

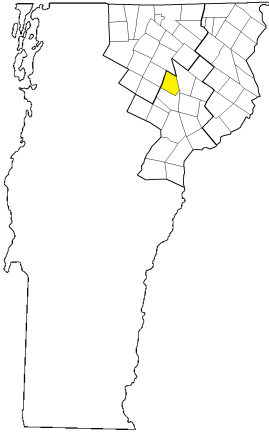
Town Offices: PO Box 332, 18 South Bayley-Hazen Road. Hours: Mon.-Wed. 1-5, Fri. 9-1.

Sheffield



Sheffield (Caledonia)

[Sheffield Video https://youtu.be/LPUsxKXhd8E](https://youtu.be/LPUsxKXhd8E)



Sheffield is part of Caledonia County and bordered by Wheelock, Sutton, Glover and Greensboro. It was chartered Oct. 25, 1793 as part of the Vermont Charter.

The late date was due to the reluctance of settlers to locate within the wilds of the more northern towns after the southern portions were settled. Before settlement, the dense forests were still standing wholly unharmed by the woodman's axe. The charter went to Stephen Kingsbury and the following winter, several families from New Hampshire settled in the southern part of town with the first settlement being made of John and Richard Jenness along with Jonathon and James Gray and their families.

The first few years, settlers had difficulty raising sufficient provisions, which were brought up from river towns on horses, much of the distance marked only by marked trees. A mountain range passes through the northern and western portions of the town, which separates the waters of the Passumpsic and Barton Rivers. Unlike most mountain ranges, this one is not characterized by cliffs, abrupt precipices, or sharply pointed peaks, but rather by gently sloping sides and rounded peaks that are heavily wooded. The town is watered by several brooks and streams, many of which converge and empty into the Passumpsic.

Despite its high elevation, the soil in Sheffield has been historically fertile and several farms still dot the landscape. Sheffield is home to several small trout ponds, including Duck Pond (named for being a favorite resort for wild ducks) and Bruce Pond (named after a man who attempted to construct a nearby saw-mill).

Today, Sheffield's town hall and post office are on Route 122 as part of a small village and a short distance from the Miller's Run School, PK-8. Also on Route 122, near the northern border of the town sits Holbrook State Park, one of the Northeast Kingdom's hidden gems. An unassuming dirt access road takes hikers or snowshoers to a trail network in a small, densely wooded area that is home to Round Pond, Long Pond and Mud Pond. Sheffield stands out within Vermont as the site of a 16-turbine industrial wind energy project that began producing power in 2012. It was designed to generate an estimated 100,000 megawatt hours of electricity each year and provides \$520,000 in revenue to the town annually. A portion is applied to the municipal budget to reduce local taxes, and the rest is put into a reserve fund to be invested by the town for future use.

Sheffield serves as a bedroom community and many residents commute to larger nearby towns like Lyndon or Barton. The nearest high school is Lyndon Institute, a private institution in Lyndon Corner, but students in Sheffield can be tuitioned to a school of their choice.

Website: www.sheffieldvt.org

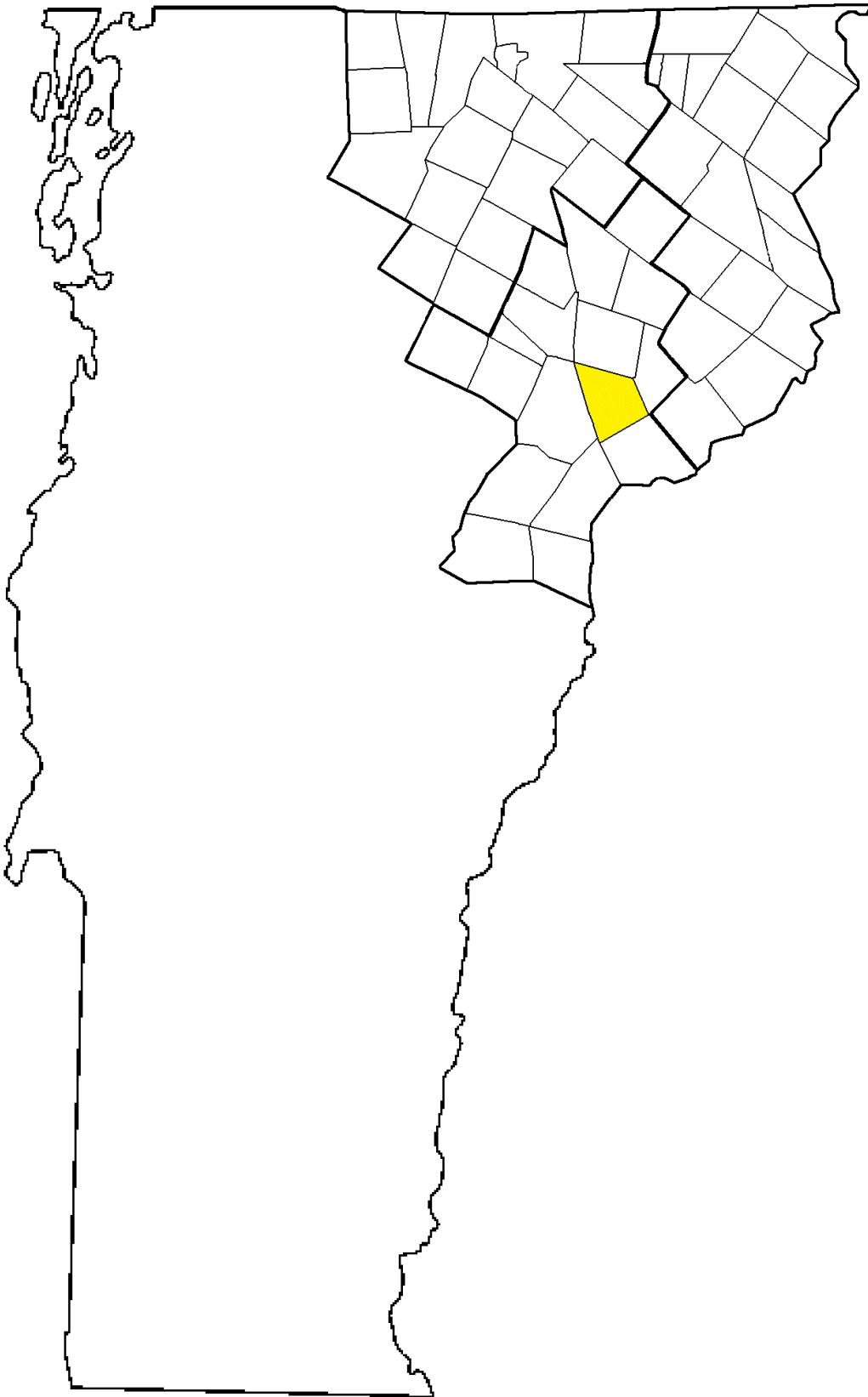
Population: 703

Area: 32.62 sq. mi.

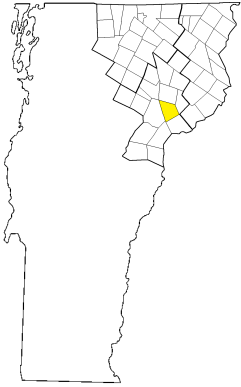
Elevation: 900

Town Offices: 37 Dane Road, Sheffield, Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-3, Wed. 5-8.

St. Johnsbury



St. Johnsbury (Caledonia)

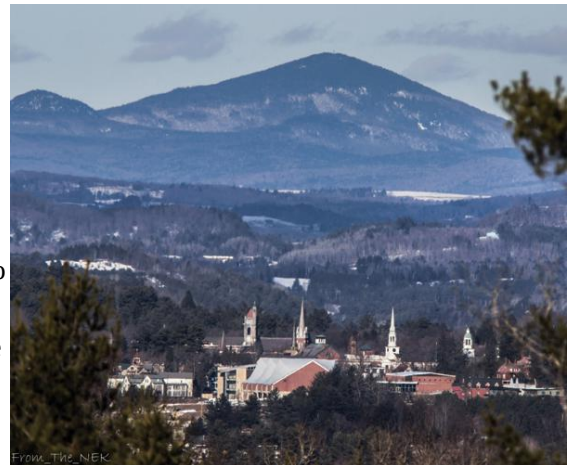


St. Johnsbury lies at the confluence of the Passumpsic, Moose and Sleepers Rivers and is the most populated town in the Northeast Kingdom. It's conveniently located at the intersection of I-93 and I-91, just 45 minutes from the Canadian border.

In the mid-1700s, King George III granted a 39,000 acre tract of land on the Passumpsic River – including the whole of St. Johnsbury and parts of Concord and Waterford – to 39 petitioners. A charter was issued in 1770 in the honor of the Earl of Dunmore. The conditions of the grant required that grantees settle and cultivate the land within three years, and prohibited the cutting of pine trees deemed suitable for the Royal Navy. Seven years after the “Dunmore” grant, Vermont declared itself independent. There was conflict over respecting the right of lands granted under seal of neighboring states and it is believed that most of the original grantees

settled elsewhere. In 1786, Vermont Gov. Thomas Chittenden made an official grant to Dr. Jonathan Arnold, a member of the Continental Congress, and associates. Arnold left Rhode Island in 1787 and, with six other families, built homes at what is now the center of town.

The new township was named after St. John de'Creveceur, the French consul in New York. This was done at the suggestion of Gen. Ethan Allen, a personal friend of St. John. The first town meeting took place in 1790 in the home of Dr. Arnold. According to the St. Johnsbury Historical Society, much of the town's heritage comes from the invention of the platform scale by Thaddeus Fairbanks, who established a business in 1830 that made the name "Fairbanks" synonymous with scales; and from George C. Cary, who founded the Cary Maple Sugar Co. in 1904. With the success and growth of the scale, maple sugar, and wood products industries, so grew St. Johnsbury. Due to its rapid growth, St. Johnsbury had become the Caledonia County seat in 1856. It also became a rail and highway junction, as well as industrial, commercial, and cultural crossroads of the region - a position in which it is firmly secure today.



Starting in 1850, railroads became a major factor in St. Johnsbury's growth and industry. Many cultural centers were built by the Fairbanks family including the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, a Museum of natural science and history (1891), and the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum (1871), which houses a library of over 45,000 books and includes a children's library. The adjoining Art Gallery (1873) is the oldest unchanged gallery of its type in the country. It has on display a collection of outstanding paintings by American and European artists, with special emphasis on works by the Hudson River School painters. Featured is "Domes of the Yosemite," the largest painting by Albert Bierstadt. For more than 150 years, St. Johnsbury Academy has offered local, regional and international students a comprehensive independent secondary school, widely recognized as an institution that develops character, academic excellence, and civic responsibility in its students.

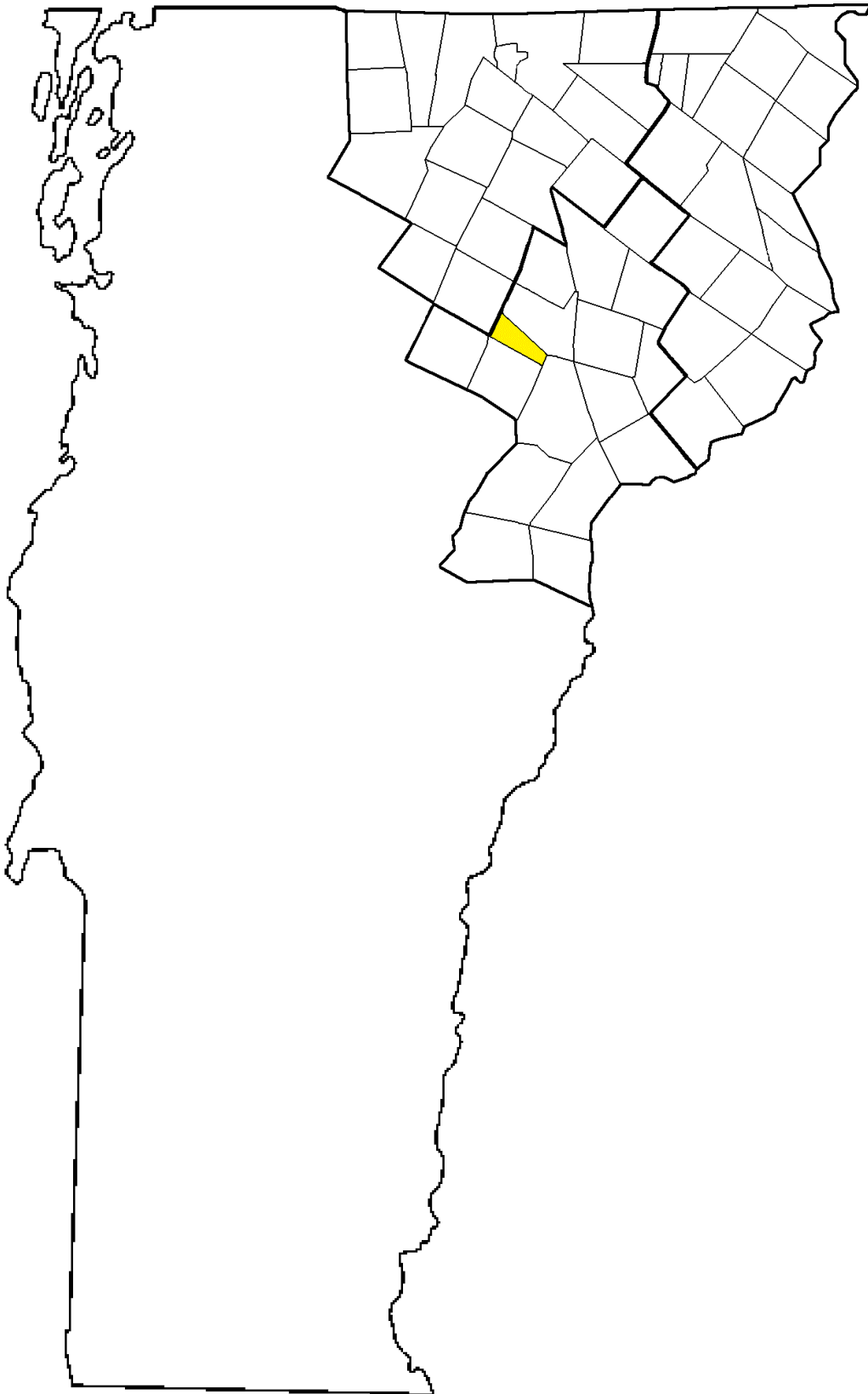
Many settle in St. Johnsbury and surrounding sending towns for the purpose of sending their children to the Academy. Today, St. Johnsbury combines an energetic business district and beautiful historical buildings. The town has been recognized for its growing arts and cultural opportunities.

Website: www.stjvt.com

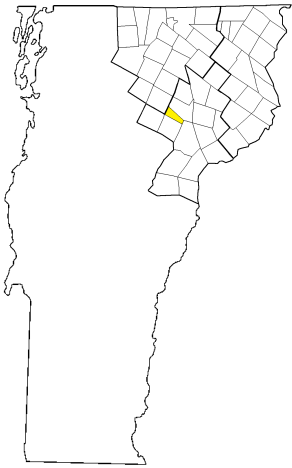
Population: 7,603 **Area:** 37.78 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 614

Town Offices: St. Johnsbury Municipal Building, 51 Depot Square, Suite 101. Hours: Mon. 8-5, Tues.-Fri. 8-4:30.

Stannard



Stannard (Caledonia)



Located in Northern Caledonia County, Stannard is bordered by Greensboro, Hardwick, Walden, Sheffield, Wheelock and Danville. The western portion of the town is the most inhabited, separated from the eastern portion by mountainous terrain. A steam saw mill was constructed on a remote pond in 1856 by T.G. Bronson. At the time, nearly 1 million feet of lumber was manufactured at the mill annually and sent to St. Johnsbury where it was used by E&T Fairbanks. Steammill Brook originates in Stannard Pond and flows south. Stannard was chartered on Aug. 19, 1867, having previously been known as Goshen Gore Number 1.

According to Esther Munroe Swift's *Vermont Place-Names: Footprints of History*, the town of Goshen Gore Number 1 was renamed by the Vermont General Assembly in honor of the American Civil War Hero General George Stannard following calls to do so by residents. Born in Georgia, Vt., Stannard moved to Saint Albans where he was called into battle in 1861 along with the rest of the Vermont Regiment. He was a 41 year-old lieutenant colonel and was promoted rapidly to a regimental command, which he held at Gettysburg. Vermont legislative journals show that in 1865 the state commended General Stannard for his "skill and bravery." Heeding the pleas of its residents, the legislature decided to give what had been known as Goshen Gore Number 1 independent status as a town named in the general's honor. Stannard is the only town in the state to have derived its name from the Civil War.

Stannard is accessible from the west through Greensboro and from Danville to the east.



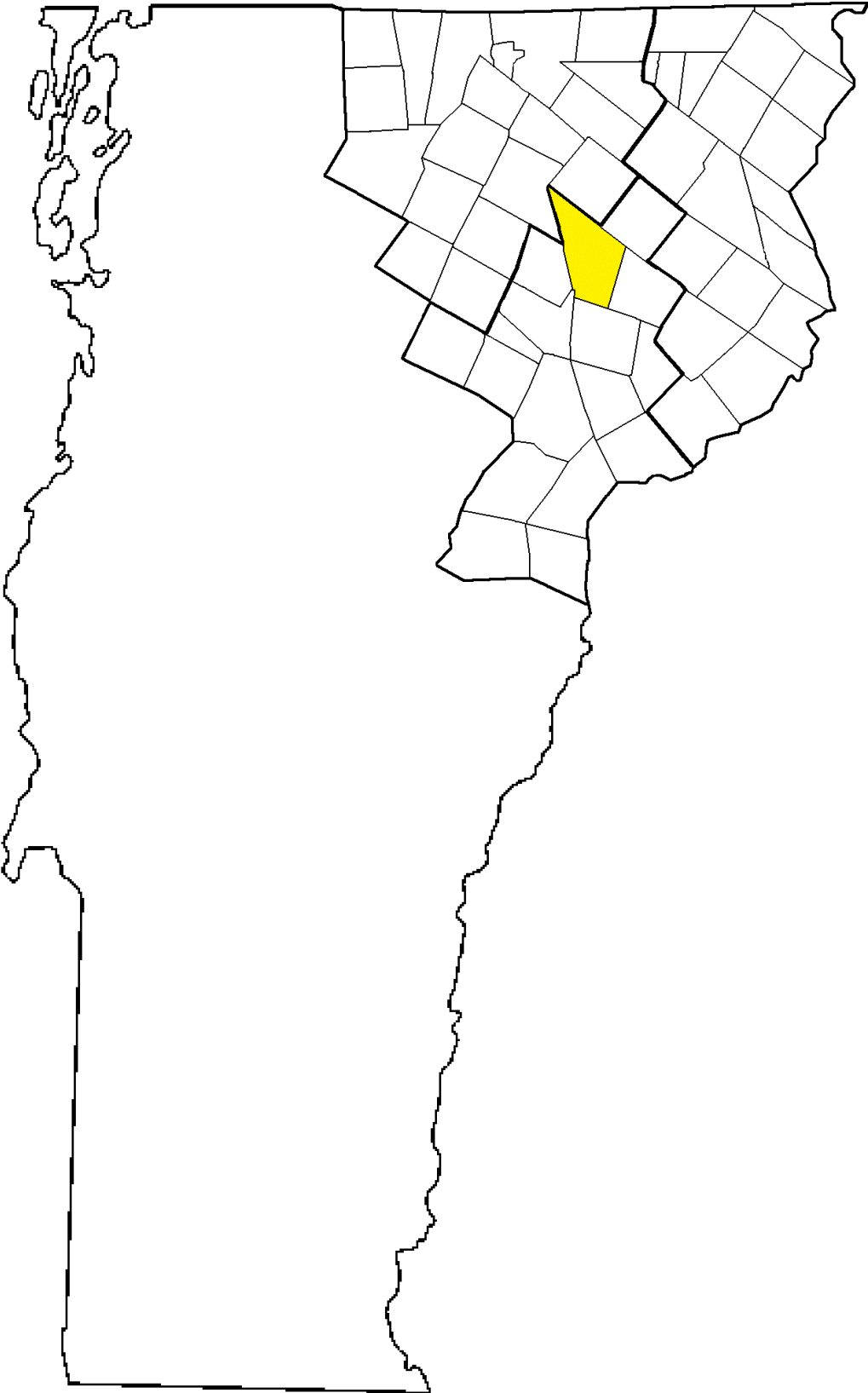
Population: 216

Area: 12.5 sq. mi.

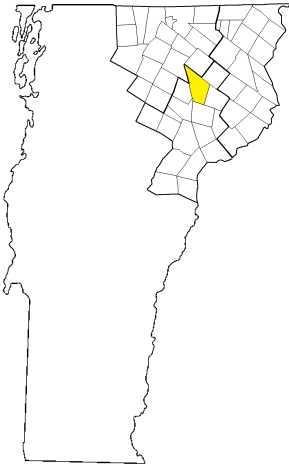
Elevation: 1,700

Town Offices: PO Box 94, Stannard Mtn. Rd., Greensboro Bend. Hours: Wed. 8-noon.

Sutton



Sutton (Caledonia)



Located on the northern end of Caledonia County, Sutton is bounded by Lyndon, Burke, Westmore, Newark and Sheffield. The town is bisected by Route 5, which runs north and south through the Northeast Kingdom. Several small trout ponds are contained within Sutton, including Bean, Vail, Duck, Blake, Marl, Dolloff ponds. Several brooks and streams flow across the landscape, as well as the West Branch of the Passumpsic River.

A large portion of the northern section consists of Willoughby State Forest, which contains over 20 miles of hiking trails. Most of these trails are well suited to novice and intermediate hikers. Other trails are privately-owned on Wheeler, Bald, Haystack and McSherry mountains and some are maintained by the Westmore Association, the Northwoods Stewardship Center and the Green Mountain Club. Several remote, wooded areas are accessible by a network of roads built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Mount Hor, near beautiful Lake Willoughby, rises 2,648 feet above sea level and 500 feet above the lake.

Sutton was chartered by the name Billymead in 1782 to Jonathon Arnold and associates. The name Billymead was derived from Arnold's son, William. In 1790, several families from Sandwich and Moultonboro, N.H., joined families from Lyndon and other adjoining towns to settle in the new town. Unfortunately Arnold's son, William, later became a terrible disruptive drunk. In 1812, the townspeople became so disenchanted with William and their town name that they voted to change it to Sutton. The people were so eager to use the new name that they started before the Vermont legislature approved it. The approval of the new name didn't come until two years after it was changed.

While the legislature was considering the name, the Billymead post office was opened. The name of the post office didn't change until around 1817. The Sutton resident who came up with the new name was Joctan Putnam who was originally from Sutton, Mass.



Website: www.suttonvt.org

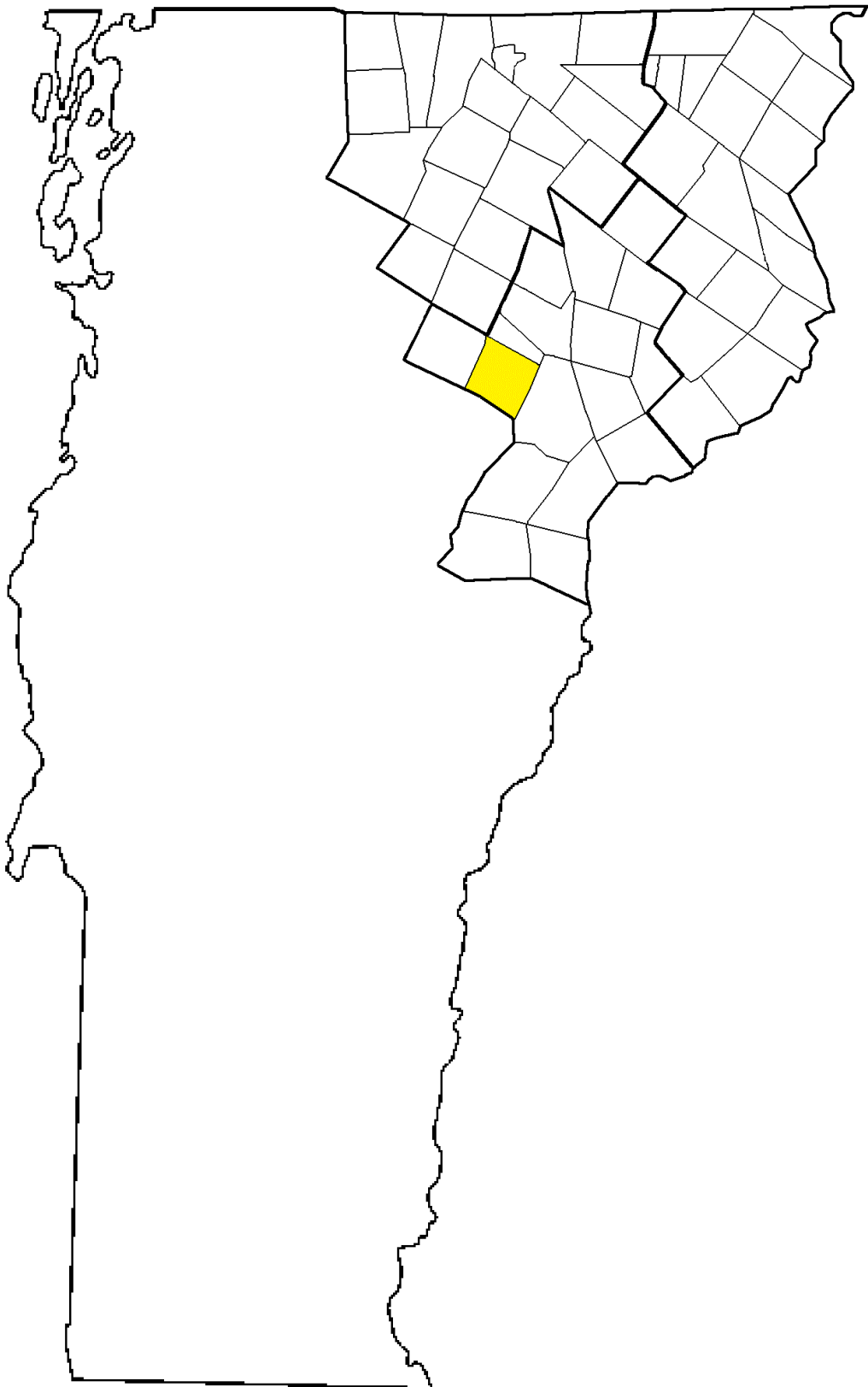
Population: 1,029

Area: 38.26 sq. mi.

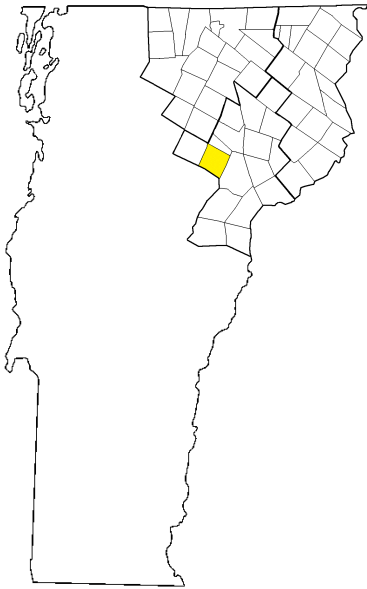
Elevation: 1,152

Town Offices: 167 Underpass Road, PO Box 106. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8-4:30, Fri. 8-noon.

Walden



Walden (Caledonia)



Situated in northwestern Caledonia County and surrounded by Danville, Cabot, Greensboro, Hardwick and Stannard, Walden was chartered on Aug. 18, 1781 to Moses Robinson and 64 others.

It was originally in Orange County until the formation of Caledonia County in 1796. Joe's Brook, which flows out of Cole's Pond in the northern part of town, runs south into Joe's Pond in Cabot and West Danville. Cole's Pond was discovered by a hunter of the same name from St. Johnsbury. Lyford Pond, in the southern part of town, was discovered by one of Gen. Hazen's men of the same name. Walden was founded along the historic Bayley Hazen Road, an important supply route during the Revolutionary War that runs along the western border of town. In 1779, a block house was built in this territory and a small garrison was left to defend it. The officer left in command was named

Walden, who requested the town receive his name when chartered.

Walden is known for its elevation and abundant snowfall. The highest point is the summit of Stannard Mountain, near the town's northern border, with an elevation of 2,579 feet.

One of Walden's hidden treasures is the Steam Mill Brook Wildlife Management Area, a 10,826-acre that is open to regulated hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing. It is surrounded by Noyestar Road, Summerhill Road and Stevens Hill Road. The WMA can be accessed from a number of places, including Stannard Mountain Road, Coles Pond Road in Walden and Danville, and Rock Road.

Walden has no post office, zip code or centralized village, but Walden School, PK-8, educates elementary students who can then be tuitioned to any approved secondary school in the region.

Walden's location offers picturesque views of the surrounding Green Mountains. The town is easily accessed using Route 15, a major highway connecting the Northeast Kingdom with the northwestern region of Vermont.

Population: 935

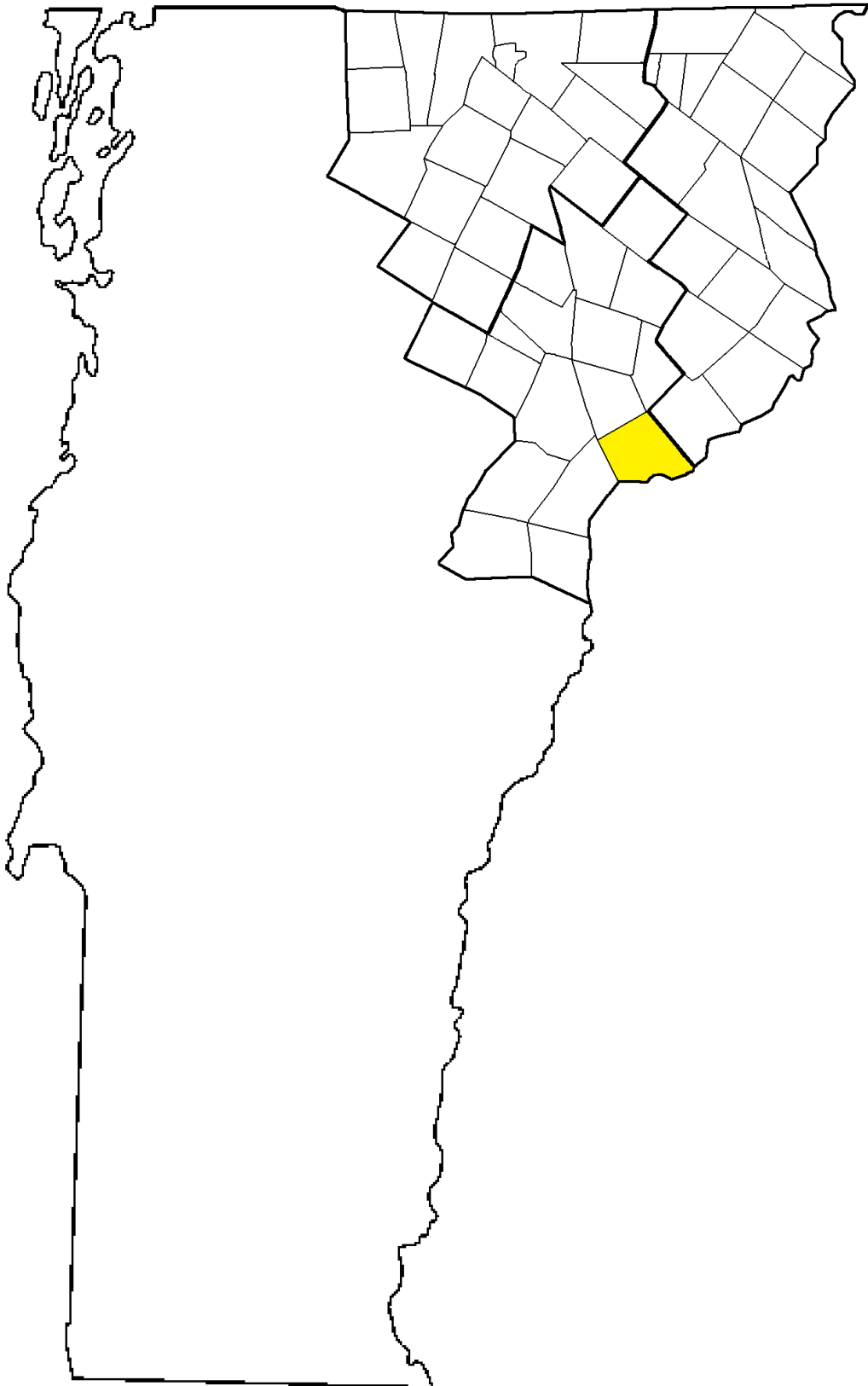
Area: 39 sq. mi.

Elevation: 1,683

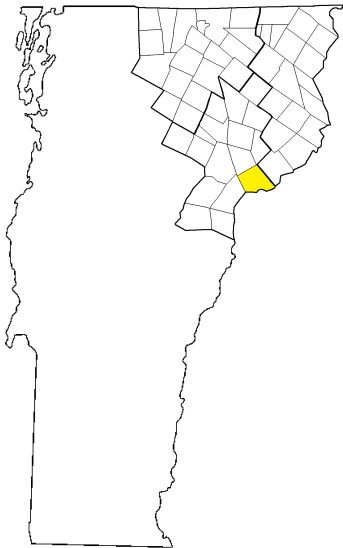


Town Offices: 12 VT Route 215, West Danville. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 9-4, Thurs. 9-5.

Waterford



Waterford (Caledonia)



Pleasantly situated in Caledonia County on the Connecticut River, Waterford was chartered on Nov. 8, 1780, as a part of the Vermont Charter.

According to Esther Munroe Swift's Vermont Place-Names: Footprints of History, in its charter the original name of the town was to be Littleton, but was changed to Waterford instead after New Hampshire named a town Littleton. The northern border of Waterford is tended by the Moose River which, after completing its course, empties into the Connecticut River. The Connecticut, having traveled in a southern direction from Canada, bends westward to form the southern border of Waterford before turning south again.

Waterford sits at the eastern edge of Caledonia County. The town is bordered to the north by the county seat of St. Johnsbury. To its east sits the town of Concord, in Essex County. Lying to Waterford's south is the Connecticut River and the state of New Hampshire and to its west is the town of Barnet. The surface is generally broken, presenting that diversified scenery of mountain and valley so common to Vermont. The soil is fertile and well adapted to agriculture. Except for the Passumpsic, Waterford has no rivers in town limits but it's well watered by brooks and streams. Styles Pond covers about 100 acres and lies in the northern part of the town.

The town, by name of Littleton, was chartered Nov. 8, 1780 to Benjamin Whipple and his associates. The name was changed to Waterford in 1797. With no centralized place of business, the occupation of the people has centered primarily on agriculture and much of the business goes to adjoining towns like St. Johnsbury, Concord and even Littleton, N.H. Since Moore Dam was built in 1957, two villages have existed. The original village was known as Waterford (now Upper Waterford). It sits above the dam and the second one, known as Lower Waterford, sits below the dam and is home to the town clerk's office, post office, library and the Historic Rabbit Hill Inn B&B.



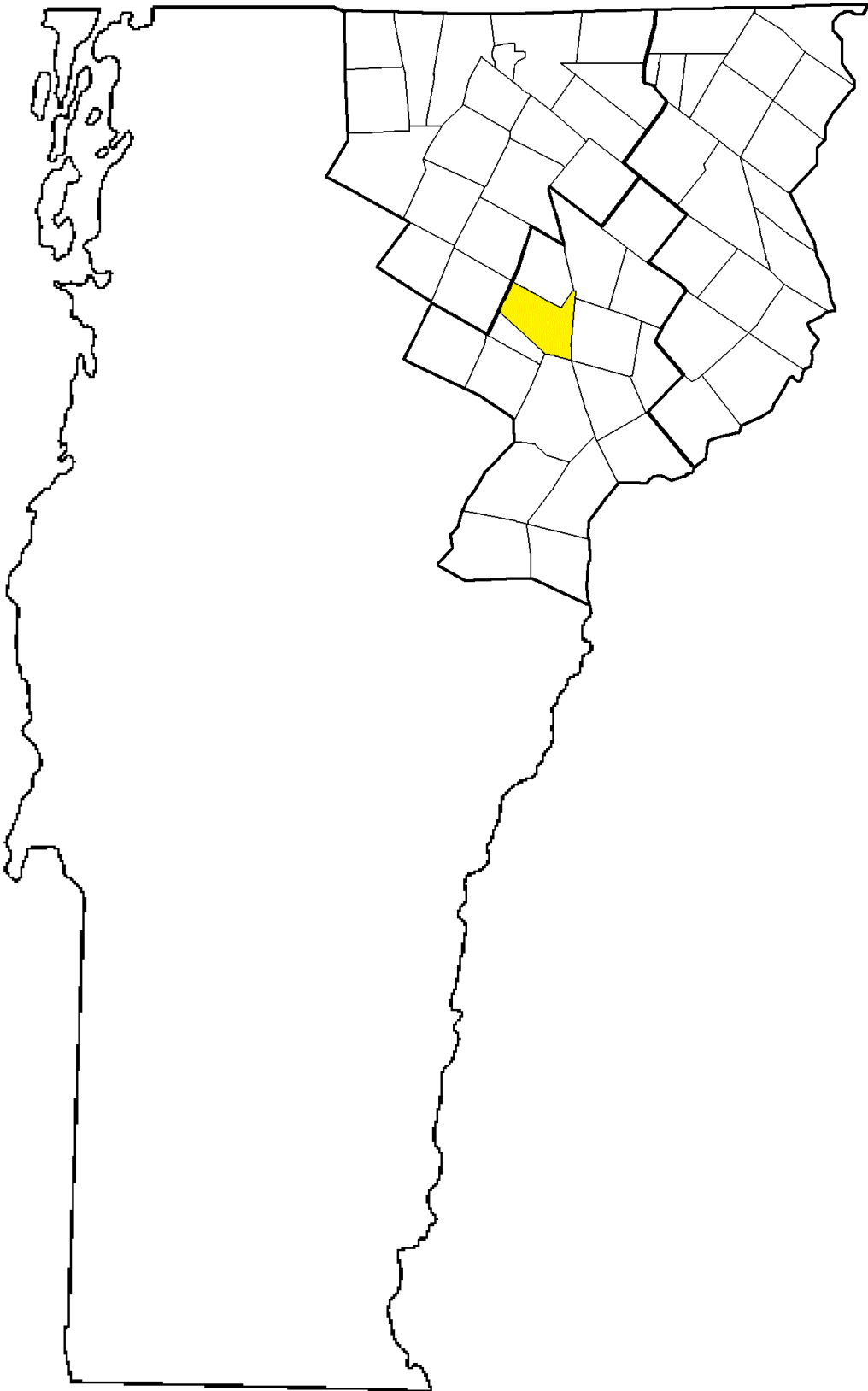
Waterford students attend Waterford Elementary School through 8th grade. Afterwards, many attend nearby St. Johnsbury Academy or choose to be tutored to another secondary school in the area.

Website: www.waterfordvt.org

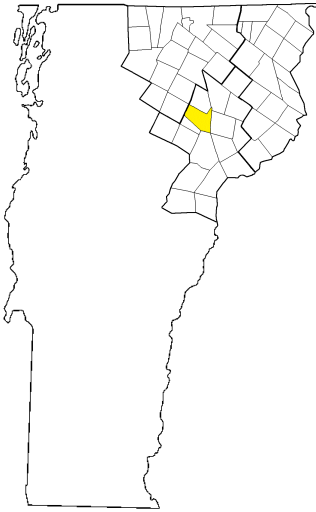
Population: 1,280 **Area:** 38.2 sq. mi. **Elevation:** 816

Town Offices: PO Box 56, 532 Maple Street, Lower Waterford. Hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri. 8:30-3:30 and Tues. 12-6.

Wheelock



Wheelock (Caledonia)

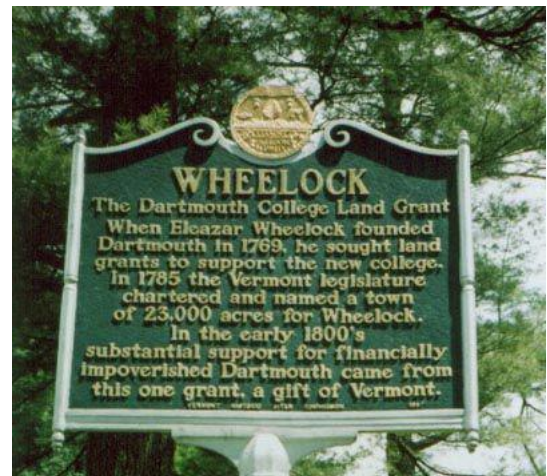


Wheelock was chartered to John Wheelock and the trustees of Dartmouth College on June 14, 1785. It was named for Wheelock, who was the College's second president, as well as his father Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College. The College received a large percentage of its permanent funding from the money paid by the town's rental residents up until the late 1800s. Due to these connections, qualifying residents from Wheelock can get a scholarship to the college.

Wheelock is also the only Vermont town to be chartered to an organization that is located completely out of the state. This historical little town is alongside Millers Run stream, which empties into the Passumpsic River. The general surface of the town is uneven.

One range of the Green Mountains runs through the west part of the town, but is nowhere very steep or stony. Roads cross the summits in several places. The land upon the mountains is well timbered and susceptible to cultivation. The eastern part of town is more level and good for farming. Historically, large quantities of hay, oats, and lumber were carried from this town to Lyndon and St. Johnsbury and large quantities of maple syrup were also manufactured here. In 1796, the town voted to build its first meeting house. It was a large, two story edifice, and, like others of its kind, was never finished. Two mineral springs in town were once thought to have medicinal value.

The village is situated near the northeast corner of the town on Route 122. Chandler Pond and Flagg Pond lie on the eastern and western sides of the town, respectively. The town is heavily wooded with several dirt roads and surrounded by the towns of Sutton, Sheffield, Greensboro, Walden, Danville and Lyndon.



Population: 811

Area: 38.8 sq. mi.

Elevation: 1581

Town Offices: 1192 Route 122, Wheelock, P.O. Box 1328, Lyndonville 05851. Hours: Mon.,Thurs. 8:30-4, Wed. 10:30-6, closed Fri. Available by appointment.