

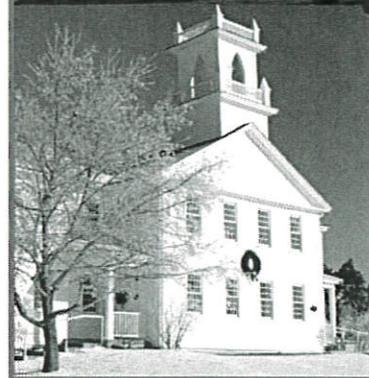
New London, New Hampshire Master Plan

Adopted by New London Planning Board
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with assistance from:
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission



Buildings of special historical significance to the Town from Colby-Sawyer campus to Homan's Corner include the red brick structures of the Colby-Sawyer College campus, the Grange, the First Baptist Church of New London, the Old Academy Building (now Town Offices), the New London Inn, and the Tracy Library. Important to the visual impact of Main Street are the green spaces that have been maintained in front of the College buildings, the Old Academy Grounds, the Sargent Common, and the Town Green behind the Information Building.

Special recognition should be made of the number of buildings along Main Street which have been adapted or restored. Of particular note are the new Susan Colgate Cleveland Library Learning Center in the barns of the Colby Homestead, the Old Academy Building (now Town Offices), the Baptist New Meeting House or First Baptist Church of New London, the New London Barn Playhouse, Tracy Library, the old Hospital building, the Sholes House (located next to the library), and the Solomon M. Whipple House now known as Woodcrest.

Throughout Main Street a general sense of unity has been achieved by the compatible architectural styles, materials and colors used, and by the scale of the structures. This cohesive sense is very important to preserve.

Old Main Street/Knights Hill Road & Burpee Hill

Extending from hilltop to hilltop, Old Main Street was, as the name suggests, an early center of activity. The Knight-Gordon House is on the site of the first town meeting in 1779. By 1800, the first meetinghouse and burying ground, town pound, muster field, the first stores, tavern, a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and several homes were located in the area. The Griffin Barn, previously located on the Dow/Griffin property off Knights Hill Road, was moved to the New London Historical Society property in 1968. The Burpee Hill School House was moved from Burpee Hill to Knights Hill in the 1950s and thence to the **New London Historical Society** property in 1977. It has been outfitted as a country store. By 1900, Knights Hill and Burpee Hill boasted three boarding houses. Today, there are approximately sixteen original houses still standing, dating from pre-1800 to 1842. Characterized by a blend of open fields, early homes and considerable new construction, care should be taken to preserve the open space and vistas of the Lake which survive.

Otterville

Originally called Goose Hole, Otterville, today, is a small settlement of about 10 houses, mostly Cape style structures built in the 1820s and 1830s, and clustered about the old mill dam. In 1808, the first saw and grist mill in the western part of New London was built in this vicinity. Later, in the 19th century, came cloth mills, blacksmiths, shoemakers, stores, a public hall, rooms for summer boarders and a wayside chapel. A sawmill was in operation here until the 1940s and some of its remains and the side walls of the dam are still visible today. Otterville Road was laid out in 1831 and, at one time, carried most of the traffic from New London to George's Mills. More recently, road configurations have isolated Otterville, including construction of Route 11 over Davis Hill in 1939 and I-89 which cut off part of Goose Hole Road. During the 1960s, lots were sold off around Otter Pond and new residents brought preservation interests and compatible new construction with them, though many of the structures have had many alterations over the years.

In 1980, seventy acres from the old Worthen Morgan Farm were deeded to the Town by Mrs. Stephen Phillips, to be the Phillips Memorial Preserve. South of Route 11 is Davis Hill which rises along the northeast shore of Lake Sunapee. Indian points, pottery and chippings of flint

and quartz have been found in the area and its granite rock was quarried by the stone masons who lived there in the 19th century. Davis Hill Road is currently protected to a very limited degree by scenic road designation.

Morgan Hill

At 1,600 feet, Morgan Hill, in the extreme north corner of Town, is the highest elevation above sea level in Town and is intersected by the town lines of New London, Springfield and Wilmot. County Road, one of the first roads laid out in the area as a range road, encouraged early settlement in the area. Originally planned to extend from Newbury to Wilmot, it was built from Newbury to Morgan Hill, where it terminated. Today, this rural area is characterized by hilly terrain and the old cellar holes which remained after the early settlers moved "downhill". The "Sheep's Dip", a deep, natural stone formation filled with water, is a lasting reminder of the area's pastoral past. Surviving structures of interest include the Upper and Lower Putney Houses, constructed in 1800.

Little Lake Sunapee

Along these shores, Indians once camped and fished. In New London's beginnings, the Lake was the baptismal site for those who joined the first church. Beginning in the late 19th century, this area became a haven for vacationers' summer homes, resulting in the construction of numerous cottages and Twin Lake Villa, a summer resort which has been operated by one family for over one hundred years. The Adams-Cross House, constructed in 1830, later saw use as a tavern. From the Lake's frozen surface in winter, ice for the community was cut. Summer months saw the establishment of youth camps and sailing regattas. Although Camp Sunapee Road is protected, to a limited extent, by scenic road designation, the potential for archaeological investigation should be noted.

New London Historical Society Property

Since 1962, the New London Historical Society has acquired, moved, and reconstructed 19th century buildings on its Little Sunapee Road property. Its collection of fourteen antique and reproduction buildings illustrates many of the architectural details commonly found in New London during the mid-1800s. Its "village" features a cape-style farmhouse, store, schoolhouse, barns and outbuildings.



Pleasant Lake

Development in this area consists of densely developed homes along the lake shore. Additionally, two relatively large residential developments, Slope'n Shore and Hall Farm, are located within the watershed for Pleasant Lake. The character of the area is changing from rural to suburban. Older structures are concentrated at the head of the Lake and include Pleasant Lake Inn (Red Gables), parts of which predate 1800. Other noteworthy historic sites include the brick kiln, Pingree mill and a schoolhouse moved to the New London Historical Society in 1967. The view of Mt. Kearsarge over the Lake is one of the most spectacular sights in Town and should be preserved. The Pleasant Lake in this area, no doubt, holds great potential for archaeological study.

Elkins

Located at the south end of Pleasant Lake, the village of Elkins was so-named in July 1896, in honor of Dr. John Elkins. Initially, the village was known as “Scytheville” for the industry which gave it its birth in 1835. During the 19th century, the headwaters of the Blackwater River powered the Scythe Company, a shingle mill, saw mill, grist mill, woolen mill, tannery and other small industries. Although the Scythe Company closed in 1888, virtually all of the houses survive today, as do the dam and mill pond. On the bank, side by side, overlooking the Scythe Company in Elkins, were two identical houses erected for their foremen. In 1963, one was moved to the site of the New London Historical Society to be the first building in their complex, “Old New London,” and is known as the “Scytheville House.” Before it was moved, it was lovingly referred to as Maude Swift’s “Cat House,” as she housed her extensive collection of stray cats in it. The other building was moved in 1965 to the east end of Main Street overlooking the magnificent view to the south and west to Mt. Sunapee and Vermont, and became a private home known as ‘Low Sweep’.

Low Plain Area

The quality which distinguished this low plain area owes as much to its open space and views as its structures. The focal point for open space in this area is the 200 acre Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain. This natural wetland area which abounds with wildlife can be viewed from a self-guiding trail.

Crockett’s Corner (the intersection of Routes 11 and 114 /Hominy Pot) to King Hill

The view from Crockett’s Corner at the intersection of Routes 11 and 114 is universally valued among local residents. This area, in particular the “Hominy Pot” district, was the destination of New London’s earliest settlers who followed Lyon Brook from North Sutton and here they constructed the Town’s first homes and original schoolhouse. One of three industrial areas in Town, early residents used water power from Messer and Clark Ponds to propel grist and saw mills for the infant community, according to the provisions of the original Town charter. Later, industry included a carding and cloth dressing mill, a hat factory and a shingle mill. Over the years, the area has been called “Minot’s Square”, “Harvey’s Mills”, “Trussell’s Mills”, and, finally, “Hominy Pot”. Important surviving early structures include the Crockett Homestead and Brocklebank-Todd Homestead, both of which were constructed before 1800. Two outbuildings from the Morgan Farm on King Hill Road were moved to the New London Historical Society in 1972. These buildings are the Carriage Shed and Blacksmith Shop. Route 11, the interstate, and subsequent development have, unfortunately, done much to obliterate the original appearance and historic integrity of this area.

Tracy Road Area

Located in the west part of Town, this was historically one of the areas of earliest settlement, with settlers moving up through Hominy Pot. Several pre-1800 houses survive on King Hill Road. In 1895, Willow Farm, a historic farm, became the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Tracy of Cleveland, Ohio. During the ensuing years, they directed the construction of magnificent stone walls, introduced advanced methods of agriculture, erected the first greenhouse in Town and developed a 9-hole golf course, abandoned in 1942 which was due to World War II. Nearby and worthy of note is St. Andrews Chapel, a stone structure dating to 1905. County Road from Knights Hill to Tracy Road has been designated a scenic road.