

The Currier & Ives Trail

A Cultural and Scenic Byway

Inventory of Sites and Amenities for the Scenic Byway Corridor
Management Plan



Prepared by the
Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
and the towns of
Henniker, Hopkinton, Salisbury, and Webster, NH

February 2010

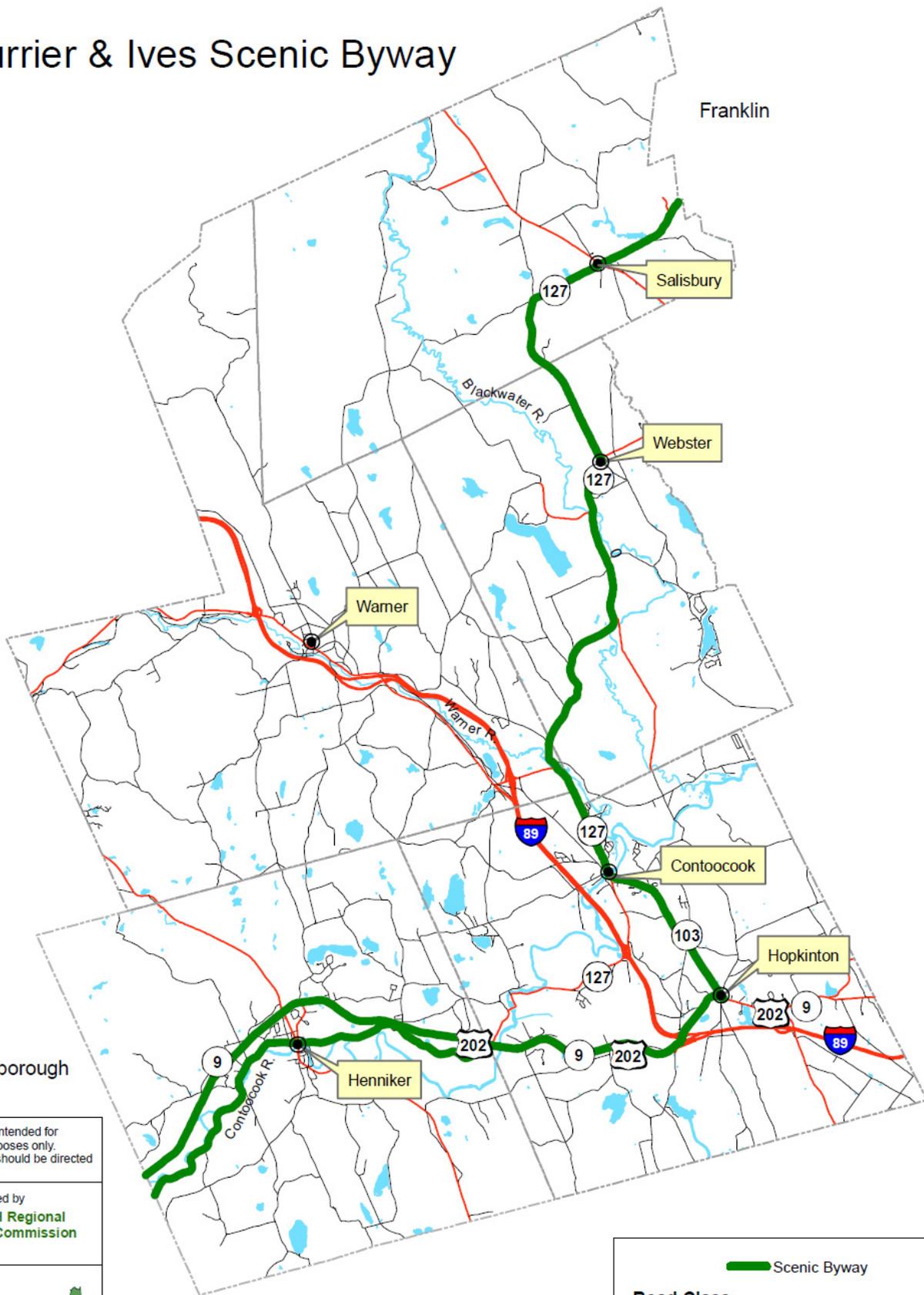
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Currier & Ives Scenic Byway



Franklin

127

127

89

127

103

127

202

9

202

89

202

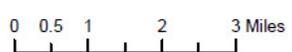
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Hillsborough

This map is intended for planning purposes only. Corrections should be directed to CNHRPC.

Map produced by
Central NH Regional Planning Commission
 May 2009

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Legend

- █ Scenic Byway
- █ Interstate Highways
- █ Classes 1 and 2
- █ Class 5
- █ Rivers and Streams
- █ Water Bodies

Introduction

Quintessential New England views, historic villages, and outdoor recreational opportunities await year-round along the Currier and Ives Trail, a New Hampshire Cultural and Scenic Byway.

Wending its way through several picturesque small towns in central New Hampshire, this 30-mile long route offers residents and visitors a chance to explore the nature, history, and culture of the area. In order to preserve and enhance its characteristic features, the towns encompassing the byway (Salisbury, Webster, Hopkinton, and Henniker), along with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, have received funding to create a Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

The purpose of the CMP is to maintain the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, environmental, and archaeological characteristics of the byway. Together, the member communities create strategies for protecting valuable features along the Currier and Ives Trail and for promoting it to the public. The CMP addresses a broad set of issues including resource protection, roadway safety and improvements, tourism, and economic development.

A key component of the CMP is an inventory to describe a core selection of the vistas, historic and cultural sites, and natural amenities that travelers may experience as they follow the Currier and Ives Trail. The following sections map out and list these sites, but this should not be considered an exhaustive description. The Corridor Management Plan is a living document that can be modified and expanded as the Byway Committee sees fit.



 Byway Route

Byway Features

-  Historic
-  Recreational
-  Cultural
-  Scenic
-  Natural

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Currier and Ives Trail Through Salisbury

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Data sources: NH Granit (1:24,000), NH Department of Transportation, CNHRPC.

Map prepared by CNHRPC, October 2009.

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Salisbury

Salisbury has a long and rich history as a small agricultural and industrial town, which is expressed today in its bucolic scenery, old stone walls, and remaining farms and heritage buildings.

Officially formed in 1768, the town's population peaked in 1820 at 2,016, when sheep farming and cottage industries thrived. Today, Salisbury is home to 1,270 residents.

The Currier and Ives Trail begins on NH Route 127 at the town border with Franklin. Historically the two towns were one; however, Salisbury ceded land for the formation of Franklin in 1828.

Today, an important state historic site, the birthplace of Daniel Webster, can still be visited in West Franklin, close to the start of the Currier and Ives Byway.

Travelers enjoy scenic farmland and wooded sections as the Byway follows NH 127 southwest into Salisbury. Several historical mill sites are clustered along the route near Shaws Mill Pond and Gerrish Road. The Byway continues through the intersection of NH 4, where several historic buildings are clustered. The current Salisbury Town Offices are located in the Salisbury Academy Building, the only property in the town to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. From this intersection, the route follows NH 127 southwest through scenic terrain until it crosses into the town of Webster.



Daniel Webster's Birthplace (West Franklin)

Just beyond the start of the Currier and Ives Trail, this important landmark lies in West Franklin, NH. Daniel Webster is one of New Hampshire's most prominent historical figures, known for his oratory powers in both state and federal government.



Salisbury Academy Building/Salisbury Town Offices

Originally known as Academy Hall, this building was part of the South Road School from 1806 to 1959. Now it is used for the town offices and as a meeting place. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.



Scenic Wooded View of the Byway

In the early nineteenth century, farmers cleared the land of trees and built stone fences to contain sheep flocks. As the farming sector waned, fields returned to forests. Remnants of the stone walls still remain along roadways and property boundaries. State legislation protects historic stone walls under RSA 539:4.



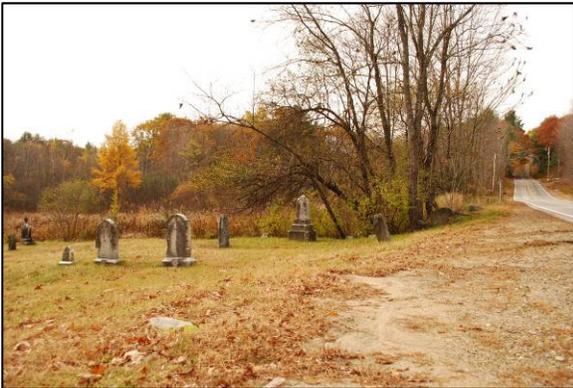
Salisbury Congregational Church

Built in 1791, this church once claimed Daniel Webster as a congregant. Still in use today, it is the only active church in Salisbury.



Jeremy Webster House

This historic home on Rt. 127 was the residence of Jeremy Webster, a cousin of Daniel Webster's. The house was built c. 1790.



Fellows Cemetery

Located on Rt. 127, or South Road, this cemetery is one of thirteen town-owned cemeteries in Salisbury.



Byway Route

Byway Features

- Historic
- Recreational
- Cultural
- Scenic
- Natural



Currier and Ives Trail Through Webster

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Webster

As travelers make their way south on NH 127 through the town of Webster, they are surrounded by the farms, fields, and scenic outlooks of the northern New England landscape. Roughly paralleling the Blackwater River, the Currier and Ives Trail passes by the Blackwater Dam, built in 1940-1941 by the US Army Corps of Engineers as a flood control measure. Part of the town, including several homes and estates, was purchased by the government and demolished to make way for the dam. Webster's Old Meeting House was moved from the area known as Burbank's Mills to its current location; a cemetery and parts of Route 127 were also moved during the dam construction project. Today, downstream of the dam, the Blackwater River offers whitewater kayaking opportunities accessible from a put-in behind the Webster Elementary School. Upstream of the dam, visitors to the Cogswell Woods Area can enjoy picnics and a self-guided tour of historic sites marked by labeled granite posts.

Today, mill industry activity along the Blackwater has departed and agriculture is waning, leaving Webster largely a rural bedroom community. While the town's population has risen in recent decades, the lack of extensive commercial and industrial development means that much of Webster's natural and historical character remain to be enjoyed. In fact, the town has approximately 90 homes predating 1900, 41 of which were built before 1800. Travelers along the Currier and Ives Trail will see many historical homes along Battle Street and farther south as Route 127 wends its way southwest into the lower corner of Warner.



Webster Meeting House

Originally known as the Westerly Meeting House, this building was constructed in 1791 in what is now the Blackwater Dam flood basin. In 1941, it was slated for demolition. Town citizens purchased the building back from the federal government and moved it up Potash Hill to its current location. It was listed in the National Register in 1985.



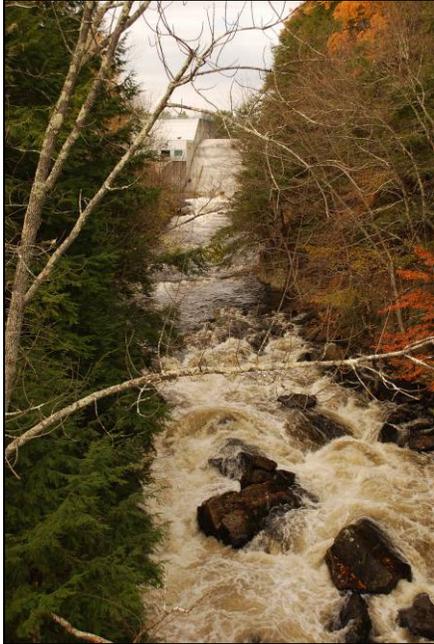
First Congregational Church

Along with the Meeting House, the First Congregational Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It was built in 1823, replacing an earlier structure. The adjacent parish house was built in 1780, first occupied by settler John Corser, and later acquired by the church.



Webster Town Hall

The Town Hall facility consists of two historic structures recently connected. The former Anderson Memorial Church retains most of its structure except the steeple. In 1990, a connecting portion linked the church to Grange Hall, dating to 1884. Today the town library occupies the former church and community activities including annual town meeting are held in the complex.



Blackwater Dam, Webster

This concrete dam was constructed in 1940-41 following severe flooding in 1936. It is 1,150 feet long and 75 feet high, and cost \$1.32 million to build. Maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers, it has the capacity to hold fifteen billion gallons of water. Because of the dam, water levels downstream in the Blackwater River and Merrimack River are controlled to prevent future flooding.



Blackwater River, Cogswell Woods Area

An access road off of Rt. 127 provides access to the Blackwater River north of the Dam in the Cogswell Woods Area. An open picnic area offers a place to stop and rest. Numbered historic markers show the locations of structures lost during dam construction. A pamphlet from The Society for the Preservation of the Old Meeting House provides a guided walking tour of those sites.



Blackwater River – recreation

Below the dam, whitewater kayakers will find Class II-IV rapids between Sweatts Mills and Snyder Mill east of Route 127. Canoeists, anglers, and swimmers will also find ample places for recreation on the Blackwater River. Facilities such as Cold Brook Campground offer visitors a place to stay while enjoying the area.



View of Mt. Kearsarge from NH 127, Webster

Rising to the northwest in Warner, Mt. Kearsarge dominates the horizon from a vista point along Route 127. What were once fields have now returned to forests in the near distance, providing a colorful frame for the mountainous backdrop.



Historic Farmstead, Webster

Agriculture was the first major economic activity undertaken by European settlers in Webster, and its mark on the landscape is still evident. This farm retains its classic red barn and the characteristic wood-lined fields so characteristic of New England.



Yankee Trail Sign, Webster

The Currier and Ives Trail was originally designated as a “Yankee Trail” to celebrate the 1976 US Bicentennial. Its current designation is a New Hampshire Scenic and Cultural Byway, but occasional original signs remain along its path.



Veterans' Memorial, Allen Road & Battle St.

This memorial, located at the junction of Allen Road and Battle St. (NH 127) is dedicated to Webster residents who served in major conflicts since World War I. Built in 1991 and funded by local residents, it replaces an earlier monument to World War I veterans removed due to deterioration.



Byway Route

Byway Features

- Historic
- Recreational
- Cultural
- Scenic
- Natural

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Carrier and Ives Trail Through Hopkinton

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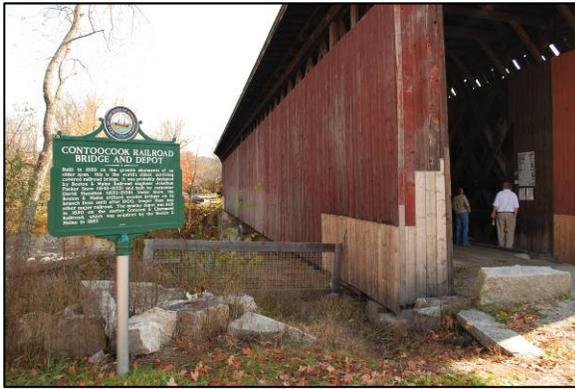


Hopkinton

The Currier and Ives Trail continues on NH 127 south from Webster through the extreme southeast corner of Warner and into the village of Contoocook, where it crosses the Contoocook River. The Contoocook Depot and Covered Railroad Bridge are widely recognized landmarks dating back to 1850 and 1889, respectively. Historic homes, businesses, and churches cluster in Contoocook Village around the intersection of Routes 103 and 127. Here the Byway turns onto NH 103 and follows the route southeast into Hopkinton Village. Just off the Byway are the Hopkinton Fairgrounds, where the annual Hopkinton State Fair has been held since 1915. The fairgrounds have also hosted the New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival since 1976, showcasing one of the state's historically significant agricultural sectors.

In Hopkinton Village, First Church, Town Hall, the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society, and St. Andrew's Church preside over the town center. A park sponsored by the Rotary offers an open area for relaxation and holds memorials to the town's veterans. The Byway then turns west on US 202/ NH 9, traveling through rolling farmland and presenting scenic vistas of distant mountains.

Hopkinton, once home to the New Hampshire Legislature and state courts before Concord was established as the permanent state capital, retains a dignified historic character in its village centers. Byway travelers will find active downtown areas with businesses offering services and amenities to residents and visitors alike.



Contoocook Railroad Bridge

The Contoocook Railroad Bridge was built in 1889 along the Concord and Claremont Line of the Boston and Maine Railroad. It is the world's oldest surviving covered railroad bridge (although the rail line has been abandoned), and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



Contoocook Railroad Depot

Built in 1850, the Contoocook Depot served as a stop for passengers on the Concord and Claremont rail line and a gateway to Contoocook Village. Today it is a museum owned by the Contoocook Riverway Association, who have restored it to 1890s condition. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.



Contoocook Village

One of three village centers in Hopkinton, Contoocook Village grew up around mills and associated industries established along the Contoocook River during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This is the first significant village that Byway travelers enter when traveling south along the Currier and Ives Trail. Restaurants and small businesses cluster around the main square.



Hopkinton Fairgrounds

In 1915, the first “Hopkinton Fair” was held at George’s Park. The fair grew in size and popularity throughout the twentieth century, and in 1953 moved to its current location. In 1985 it was renamed the “Hopkinton State Fair,” and is now a five-day event drawing crowds from all over New Hampshire and New England. Other agricultural events, including equine and sheep festivals, are held at the fairgrounds each year as well.



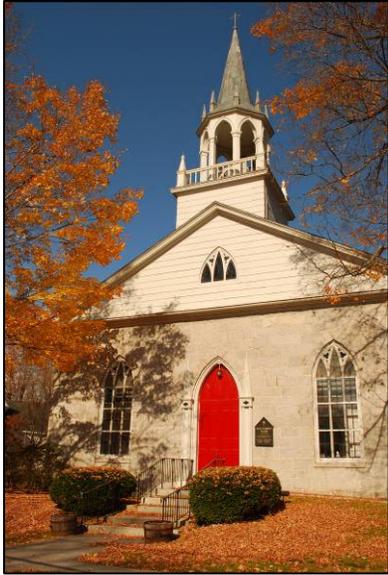
Hopkinton Town Hall

Hopkinton Town Hall was originally built as a courthouse for Hillsborough County in 1874. The imposing portico and columns, often seen in the architecture of governmental buildings of the era, are indicative of the building’s Greek Revival style.



Old Hopkinton Cemetery

This cemetery was established in 1765 and continues to operate today. Located on Main St. in Hopkinton Village, it provides a tranquil setting for a walk through Hopkinton’s history. Archibald Stark, father of General John Stark, is buried here.



St. Andrew's Church, Hopkinton Center

Erected in 1827, this was the first stone Gothic style church to be built in New Hampshire. The spire was added in 1930 and was designed by renowned architect Ralph Adams Cram. St. Andrew's Church still has three original windows made of hand-rolled glass. The church was recorded for the Historic American Building Survey in 1964. Recordation information can be found online at <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/pds/habshaer.html>.



First Church, Hopkinton Center

The First Congregational Church was built in 1789, and until 1819 was owned and maintained by the town of Hopkinton. The church tower contains the second oldest bell in New Hampshire, made by Revere and Sons in 1811.



Park, Hopkinton Center

A community park lies at the center of Hopkinton, where residents and visitors can picnic, relax, and enjoy the historic village center. In the park stands a statue commemorating Hopkinton's World War I soldiers and another memorial dedicated to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans.



William H. Long Memorial

This brick building, built in 1890, is home to the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Antiquarian Society preserves, documents, and educates the public about the history of Hopkinton and the state of New Hampshire.



Old Baptist Church

Another historic building gracing Hopkinton Village's Main Street, this building was once the Baptist Church. Today it houses several private apartments.



Houston Barn

The Houston Barn, located on Houston Drive west of Contoocook Village, was built in 1910-11. Upgrades were made in the 1930s. The new library built in 2007 next to the barn was designed to harmonize with its architecture.



Hopkinton Library, Brockway Local History Room

The library, located on Houston Drive west of Contoocook Village, is open to the public. A special feature of the library is the Brockway Local History Room, containing wall paintings by local artists and depicting local scenes. The library is approximately half a mile from the Byway.



Lewellen Bandstand

The bandstand, located next to the Contoocook Railroad Bridge and Depot, provides a summer venue for local concerts. The seasonal farmers' market is also held at this site.



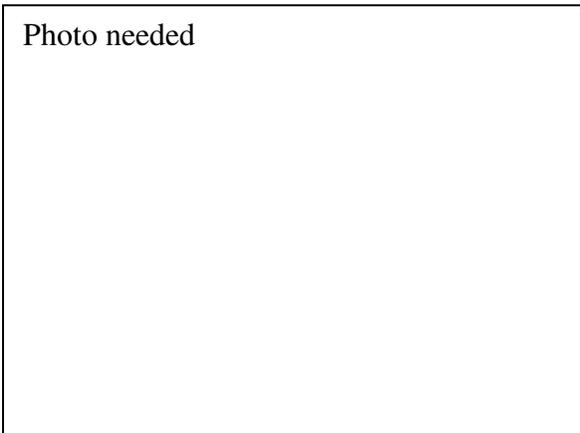
Contoocook Village Cemetery

This cemetery, established in 1829, is located on Main Street in Contoocook Village. The town owns and operates the cemetery, which is still available for burials.



Gould Hill Orchards & Little Nature Museum

Approximately one mile east of Rt. 103 south of Contoocook, Gould Hill Orchards offers pick-your-own apples and a roadside farmstand. Also in the same building is the Little Nature Museum, providing interactive exhibits, trails, and educational programs to enhance appreciation for the natural world.



Putney Hill Cemetery

Hopkinton's oldest cemetery lies just off the Byway on Putney Hill Road, where travelers can take in a spectacular scenic view. This is also the site of the original town center.

Photo needed

Beech Hill Farm

A quick three-mile side trip east of Hopkinton Village, north of Route 202/9, will bring Byway travelers to Beech Hill Farm. There, visitors can enjoy a farm tool museum, nature trails, corn mazes, and an ice cream stand during the summer months.



Hopkinton Village – Historic Homes, Business Center

Hopkinton Village, just west of the intersection of Rts. 103 and 202/9, is a picturesque and very well preserved historic New Hampshire Village. Lining Main Street are many federal and colonial style homes dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Byway travelers will also find a handful of eating establishments and small stores in Hopkinton.



Stanley Tavern

This is an eighteenth century Georgian tavern building with Federal details. It was used as a tavern between 1791 and 1864. It was listed in the State Register of Historic Places in 2002 and the National Register in 2005.



John Derry Blacksmith Shop

A pile of horseshoes still stands in front of this former blacksmith shop. Later turned into a pour house, the building became known as the Horseshoe Tavern. Located on Main Street next to Kimball Lake, this building is about a quarter mile from the Byway.



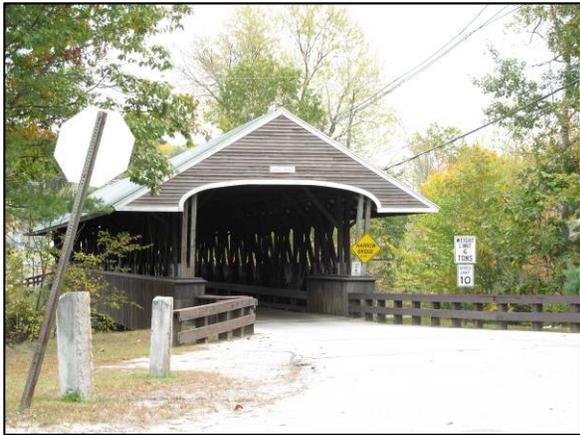
Kimball Lake Recreation Area

Located east of the Byway off of Main Street, the Kimball Lake Recreation Area offers boating and swimming to residents. In addition, Kimball Pond Cabins are available for community events by applying to the Hopkinton Recreation Department.



Smith Pond Bog

Just west of Hopkinton Village on Rt. 202/9, Smith Pond Bog contains trails over its “quaking bog.” This 52-acre wildlife sanctuary is owned by the New Hampshire Audubon Society. Smith Pond, covering eight acres, is a kettle hole pond formed when glacial ice melted approximately 12,000 years ago.



Rowell's Covered Bridge

This bridge, located on Clement Hill Rd., was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It is just upriver from the Hopkinton Dam on Rt. 127, approximately one mile north of the Byway.



Hopkinton Dam

The Hopkinton Dam was built between 1959 and 1963 by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Together with the Everett Dam, it provides flood protection for communities downstream along the Contoocook and Merrimack rivers. Elm Brook Park is located within the flood control complex. Rangers provide educational programs and lead tours of the dam.



Elm Brook Park

Operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Elm Brook Park is a popular recreation spot approximately one mile north of the Byway off Rt. 127. Visitors can take advantage of swimming, boating, picnicking, playground, and trail facilities.



Stumpfield Boat Launch

A ramp for motorboats as well as a canoe/kayak put-in are available at the Stumpfield Boat Launch just off of Rt. 202/9 in Hopkinton. This facility is part of the Hopkinton-Everett Lakes complex operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.



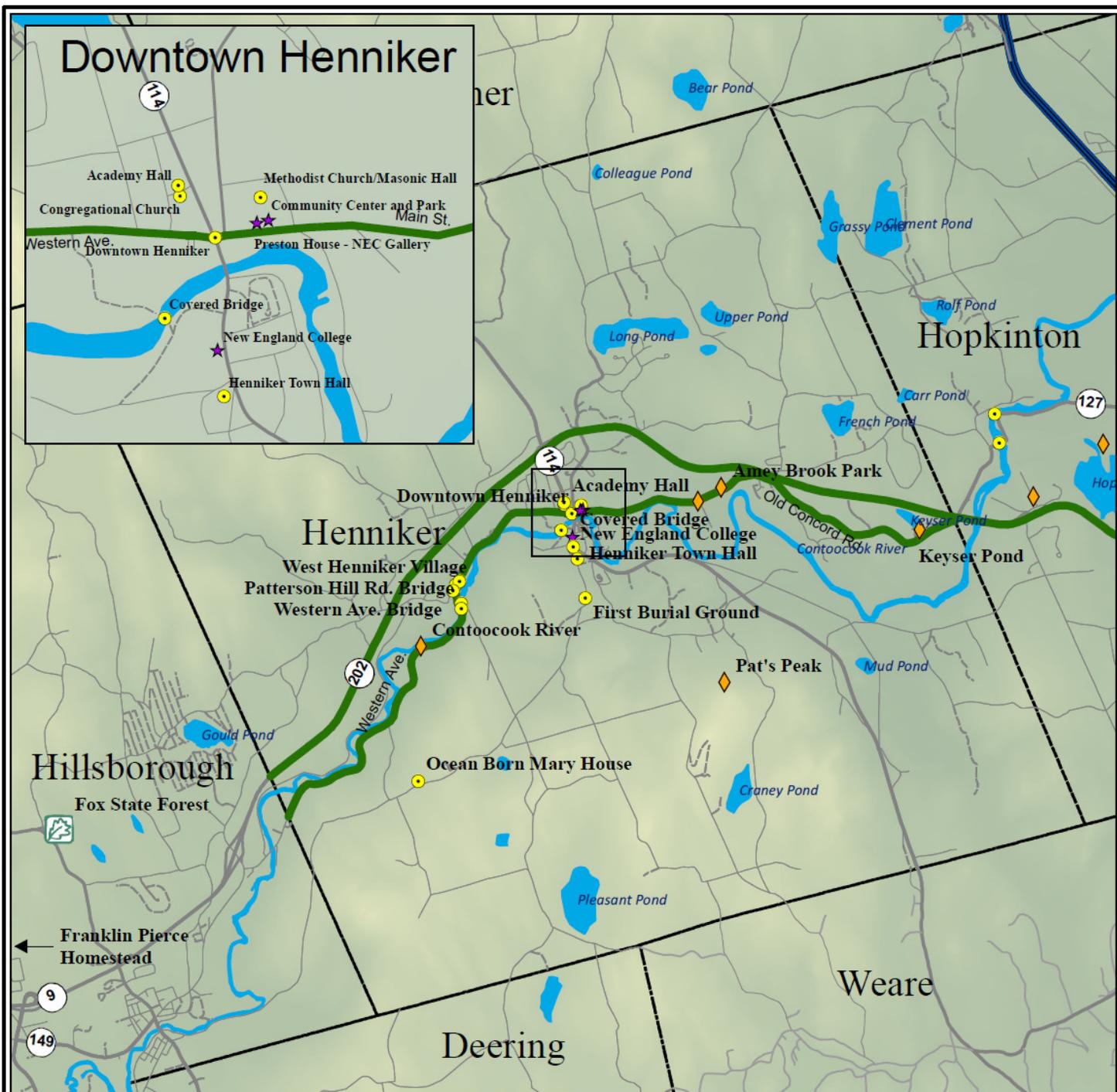
Scenic Vista, Hopkinton

Rolling fields edged with trees provide the foreground to a long scenic view of distant mountains to the southwest. Fall foliage season offers a particularly picturesque time of year for visitors and residents alike to enjoy the scenery.



Duston Country Club

This is a privately owned nine-hole golf course open to the public and located just off Rt. 202/9 in west Hopkinton. A pro shop and sandwich shop are available for supplies and snacks.



Byway Route

Byway Features

- Historic
- ◆ Recreational
- ★ Cultural
- 🌲 Scenic
- 🌿 Natural

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Currier and Ives Trail Through Henniker

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Henniker

The Currier and Ives Cultural and Scenic Byway follows US 202/NH 9, now a bypass, through the town of Henniker. Many historic, cultural, and scenic attractions lie along what are now local roads, closer to the Contoocook River. Picnickers, kayakers, and others in search of quiet recreation find excellent opportunities on the Contoocook as it winds its way through the town.

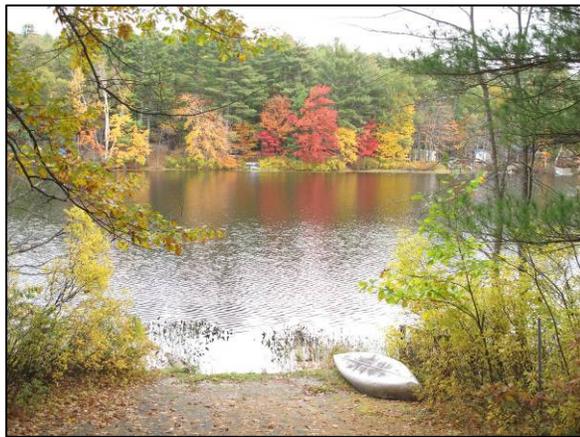
In downtown Henniker, half a mile south of Routes 202/9 along NH 114, lies New England College, a small liberal arts college founded in 1946. The college anchors the village and creates a classic small college town atmosphere in Henniker. Also of note in the downtown is Henniker Town Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Pat's Peak is a local ski area located off the Byway further south on NH 114 and is a popular winter attraction.

Extending past the Henniker town line and the end of the Currier and Ives Trail, Hillsborough provides a natural place to wind up a drive along the Byway. Two destinations in particular may be of interest to travelers. First, the Franklin Pierce Homestead is located at the junction of Routes 9 and 31. Built in 1804 by Franklin Pierce's father, this was where the future U.S. President spent his childhood and where the Pierces entertained friends and notables, including Daniel Webster. A second popular destination is Fox State Forest, located northwest of downtown Hillsborough on Center Road. Containing 1,500 acres and 22 miles of trails, Fox State Forest is also the State of New Hampshire's forestry research station.



Contoocook River, Henniker/Hopkinton

The Contoocook is one of New Hampshire's most accessible major rivers, offering fly fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming opportunities for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. It follows a winding path through Hopkinton and Henniker, paralleling the Byway along Western Avenue.



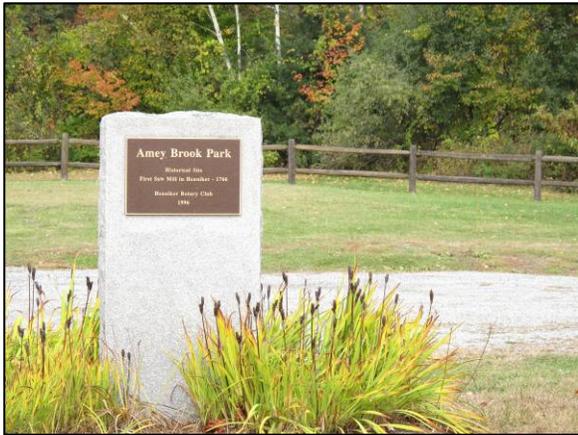
Keyser Pond

At the eastern edge of Henniker just off Rt. 202/9 lies Keyser Pond. A public boat ramp provides access for paddlers and small motorcraft. Keyser Pond Campground provides tent and RV sites as well as rental boats and recreational activities.



Old Concord Road Trails

A small parking area on Old Concord Road and a small kiosk mark the entrance to the Old Concord Road Trail area. The Army Corps of Engineers owns and manages this 226 acre site.



Amey Brook Park

Amey Brook Park provides a grassy picnic area near the Contoocook River on Old Concord Road. It is also the site of the first sawmill in Henniker, established in 1766.



Henniker Community Park

Residents and visitors can enjoy picnics and community events at the Henniker Community Park on Main St. Summer concert series are held each year at the park's gazebo.



Methodist Church/Masonic Hall

This building has changed ownership several times since its construction in 1834. Built by Baptists, it was sold to Methodists in 1856. Later the Masons bought it, and eventually donated it to the Town of Henniker in 2001. It is now a community center and teen activity center.



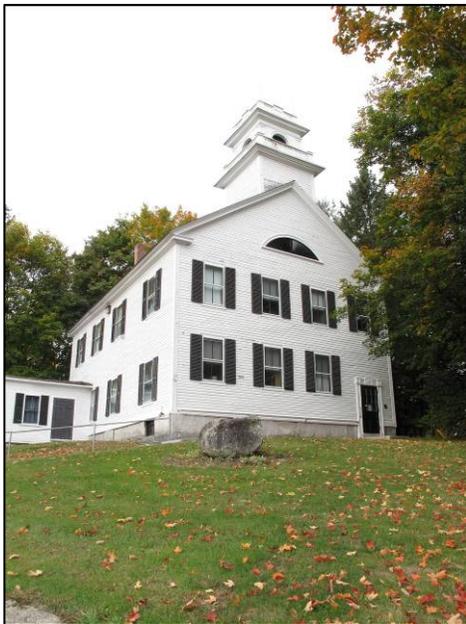
Covered Bridge, Henniker

This wooden truss bridge was built using traditional methods in 1972 by New England College. It crosses the Contoocook River providing a pedestrian connection from the College to the downtown area. It was listed in the State Register of Historic Places in 2003.



New England College Gallery at Preston House

The NEC Art Gallery is free and open to the public. Established in 1988, it showcases the art of local and regional artists. Exhibitions are rotated through frequently, offering fresh displays for visitors throughout the year.



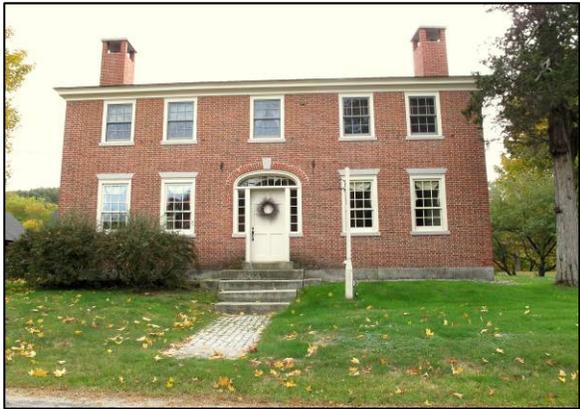
Academy Hall

Academy Hall was built in 1837. Originally a school building, this structure is now owned by the Town and used by the Henniker Historical Society. The Historical Society has office, storage and archive space here, as well as a museum that is open to the public.



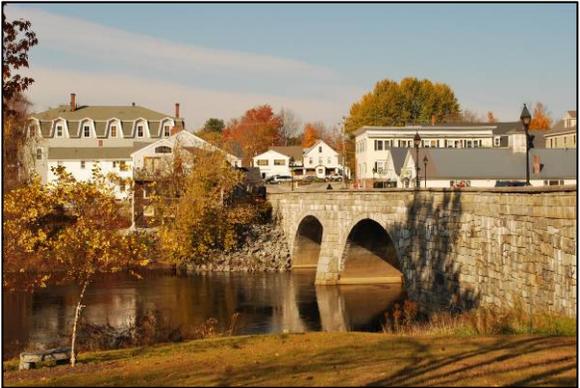
New England College

New England College is a small liberal arts school known for its arts and humanities programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The main campus is just south of the Byway on Rt. 114 in Henniker.



Imri Woods House

Located on Western Avenue in West Henniker Village, this is an 1825 Federal brick two-story house with many of its original features.



Downtown Henniker

The village of Henniker is a wonderful example of a historic river mill town. Settled in the 1760s, today it is a thriving small college town. Among Henniker's more famous residents are Edna Dean Procter, a well-known poet, and Ted Williams of Boston Red Sox fame. The village was determined eligible for the National Register in 1996 as an historic nineteenth century village. This is the largest business district that travelers will enter along the Byway corridor. Restaurants, shops, and lodging can all be found in Henniker.



West Henniker Village

West Henniker Village, along old Rt. 202/9 (now Western Avenue), was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Within its boundaries are the Patterson Hill Road bridge and the Western Avenue road bridge, both metal truss bridges. The remains of the Contoocook Valley Paper mill are also within the village.



Henniker Town Hall

The Henniker Town Hall was built in 1787 and located in the geographic heart of Henniker. It has served as a meeting place, center of governance, and repository for town documents for more than 200 years. It is part of the Henniker Historic District and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.



Congregational Church

Built in 1834, the Congregational Church features original stained glass windows and most of its original façade. Like the church in Hopkinton, this church also contains a Paul Revere bell in its steeple.



Western Ave. Bridge/Patterson Hill Rd. Bridge

Two metal truss bridges cross the Contoocook River in West Henniker Village, the Western Avenue Bridge and the Patterson Hill Road Bridge. Both are within the Village district determined eligible for listing in the National Historic Register.



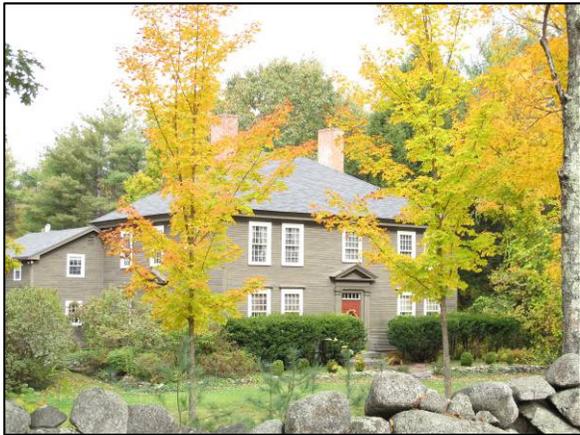
First Railroad Station in Henniker

A historical marker notes the site of the first railroad station built in 1849. That original structure was moved, and the current station building was erected in 1900. Today it is owned by a landscaping company, used for offices and a demonstration area. It is located about half a mile south of the Byway on Depot Hill Rd.



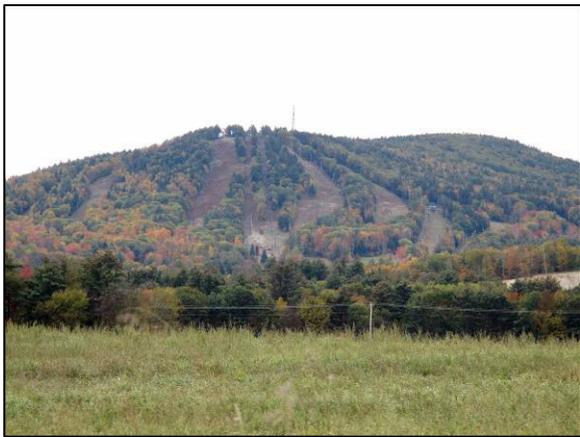
First Burial Ground

South of the Byway on Depot Hill Rd. lies Henniker's first burial ground, established in 1766. It is one of ten cemeteries in town.



Ocean Born Mary House

This is a house with an intriguing story. It was owned at one time by Louis Roy, who promoted the house as the home of Ocean Born Mary. Although Mary was a historic Henniker resident, she never lived in this house. However, Roy drew visitors and gave tours, telling tales of buried treasure and the presence of Mary's ghost.



Pat's Peak

With 29 trails and nine lifts, Pat's Peak is a popular destination for downhill skiers in central New Hampshire. It is located approximately two miles south of the Byway on Rt. 114. Views of the mountain can be seen from Old Concord Road and Rt. 202/9.



Franklin Pierce Homestead

The Franklin Pierce Homestead is located in Hillsborough, a few miles beyond the end of the Currier and Ives Trail. Pierce was born in 1804 and became the only US President from New Hampshire. Today the site is a tourist destination listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Fox State Forest, Hillsborough

Fox Forest, two miles north of Hillsborough center, covers 1,445 acres and serves as the state's research and demonstration facility. It contains the rare black gum-red maple swamp ecosystem. Trails offer public access to the forest.