

54 Haverhill Corner Historic District

Haverhill, New Hampshire

The Haverhill Corner Historic District is located on the east side of NH Route 12A at the Haverhill-Piermont line in Haverhill, NH. The District also includes Court Street from Route 10 and extends about half a mile east. The "Corner," as it is often called, was part of a mile-wide parcel of land that was claimed at one time by both the Towns of Piermont and Haverhill. Eventually, the land was divided between the two towns. Haverhill Corner is situated about 200 feet above the Connecticut River and the adjacent agricultural land.

By the early nineteenth century, Haverhill Corner was the bustling juncture of the Coos Turnpike and the north-south thoroughfare, featuring a county seat with the court house, county records building, jail, distinguished private academy, prosperous bank, private "social" library, printing center with its own newspaper and book publishing business, as well as the center of mercantile activity, crafts, and trades, including cabinetmaking. The Village showcased many fine private homes of frame and brick construction, some of them doubling as offices for lawyers and judges.

Supplementing these private dwellings were a number of taverns, required by the importance of the Village in transportation, county government, and law. Surrounding the town center on the north, east and south were prosperous upland farms and, still more important, rich bottomland or "intervale" fields below the terrace on the west. Haverhill Corner was richly endowed with natural advantages, which had been improved by the enterprise of its settlers since the 1760s.

Haverhill Corner's buildings represent a wide spectrum of architectural styles from vernacular Georgian, Bungalow, and Greek Revival, to the Federal style being the most common. Several private residences date prior to 1790, built by farmers who owned large tracts of land that extended from the Haverhill Corner area to the floodplains of the Connecticut River.

The destruction by fire of a large commercial block on the west side of Main Street in 1848, coupled with the decision of a railroad corporation to direct its route north to Woodsville, weakened the predominance of the Corner within the region. For the most part, Haverhill Corner in the twentieth century has remained a quiet agricultural village, occupied by year-round farmers, businesspeople employed elsewhere, retirees, and seasonal "summer people." Because its buildings were at least adequately maintained even during the Depression, Haverhill Corner has survived as an exceptionally intact village with the marked character of the early nineteenth century.

The Haverhill Corner Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

Sources: "Haverhill Corner Historic District." *Connecticut River Byway*. America's Byways: Federal Highway Administration. Web. Accessed April 23, 2013. <http://byways.org/explore/byways/2487/places/60857>
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http://www.geocities.ws/afka_bob/nhhistmk/nhhist160.htm National Register of Historic Places. Haverhill Corner Historic District. Town of Haverhill. Grafton County. New Hampshire. National Register # 87001415.
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