

# 75 Lower Waterford Village

Town of Waterford, Caledonia County, Vermont

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Lower Waterford Village stands as a historic and celebrated testament to the town of Waterford, which was once separated between two communities, Upper Waterford Village and Lower Waterford Village, on the banks of the Connecticut River between Vermont and New Hampshire.

Lower Waterford Village is perhaps best known by its nickname, the “White Village,” due to the fact that most of the early-20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings: a Congregational church, the

Rabbit Hill Inn, a library, a few stores and over two dozen homes are all painted white.

In 1919, J.W. Davies, a businessman and philanthropist from St. Johnsbury, Vermont who is credited with bringing the process of milk homogenization from Europe to the United States, and his wife, bought and moved into what is now known as the Rabbit Hill Inn. Simultaneously, they bought and renovated most of the other homes in the village, painting them white and adding green shutters. In so doing, the Davies essentially created the White Village.

Upper Waterford Village, which is no longer in existence, was a vibrant small town with a church, hotel, saw mill, tannery, blacksmith shop and about 30 homes. Between the years of 1926 and 1953, properties throughout the Village were purchased and demolished to prepare for the construction of a hydroelectric dam and the subsequent inundation of water. With the completion of Moore Dam in 1956, everything 809 feet below sea level was flooded.

During the years that both Villages were thriving communities, a rivalry existed. Rumor has it that an early name for Lower Waterford was “Pucker Street;” so called because residents of Lower Waterford Village were considered “too aristocratic” in their character (pucker referring to pursed lips).

Today, tourists and residents alike enjoy Lower Waterford Village for its simplistic atmosphere and charm. In fall, the White Village is a wonderful place to visit, with its crisp white buildings contrasting with the vivid colors of fall in Vermont.

## **Sources:**

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