

61 West Newbury Village Historic District

Snake Road, Newbury, Vermont



Of the three historic districts in the Town of Newbury, the West Newbury Village Historic District is the most isolated and rural, located at an elevation of 940 feet and surrounded by hills. From the Village, one can look east to see the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the distance.

The West Newbury Village Historic District consists of 14 main structures that date from the early 19th century to the early 20th century, most of which are of wooden construction. The majority of the buildings are located on a section of Snake Road that runs south. As is common of 19th century historic structures throughout Vermont, the Greek Revival style is quite popular in West Newbury Village. The most visually striking building in the Historic District is the Union Meeting House, which was built in 1833 and used as a town meeting center and place of worship.

While the economy of West Newbury Village has always centered on agriculture, and it is one of the smaller villages in the Town of Newbury, there was a time in its heritage where it featured a village hall, church, school and store. The school building, built in 1894, was home to the West Newbury School until 1970, and is the Town of Newbury's only remaining 19th century school house. It currently functions as the location of the Newbury Historical Society.

Samuel Eastman, the contractor for the Union Meeting House, was also the owner of the first store in West Newbury, the Old Eastman Tyler Store, built in 1841 and in operation for about 130 years.

Two of the oldest buildings in the Historic District are the Smith-Holmes House and the MacDuffie-Ansley House. Both structures are Cape Cod houses that date to around 1825. The Smith-Holmes House was the second home that Colonel John Smith (1758-1851), an early settler, built in Newbury. Colonel Smith had an extended military career, serving in the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812.

The West Newbury Village Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Sources:

National Register of Historic Places. West Newbury Village Historic District. Town of Newbury. Orange County. Vermont. Reference # 83003218. <http://www.crjic.org/heritage/V16-192.htm>