

IRISH HILL ROAD

5 THE COGGINS FARM, before 1815 In 1815 Joshua Isham sold 200 acres to Oran Isham for \$5000. The land began near the Falls bridge and led up Irish Hill Road. In 1846 the land was divided into three parcels. Among the subsequent owners was Smith Frisbee Pierson (1864-81) and his son James S. Pierson, (1881-85), who sold the farm to Thomas Coggins. Three generations of Coggins', (including Michael and Mary), owned it from 1885 to 1943. It was purchased from Eustace Thomas by James Moulton who remodeled the house and barns, (1958-75). The present owners are Keith and Margaret Coutu.

6 IRA ANDREWS 1826-1847 This lot was purchased from Joshua Isham in 1825. Ira Andrews was a wheelwright, wagon maker and a coffin maker. He also cut clothing to measure from the wool cloth finished at the fulling mill.

8 VERNON TAYLOR c. 1822 One of several brick houses in Shelburne built in three bays with a central entrance.

THOMAS ROAD

11 THE POLLARD HOUSE c 1846 This compact Greek revival house was built by Ira Andrews, a wheelwright, wagon and coffin maker, after he bought 38 and 12/100 acres, a portion of Oran Isham's farm. He had reduced his acreage to 15 when he sold it to Frank and Anna Osier in 1883.

Fred and Rita Thomas purchased it on Jan. 9, 1930 from the estate of Frank Osier and sold it later that same year to Virgil Pollard and Phoebe Carlson. In 1939, by a warranty deed, Phoebe Carlson conveyed the property to Virgil and Helen Carlson Pollard.

After 60 years of Pollard ownership the house and 3.9 acres were conveyed to their daughter and her husband, Robert and Mary Pollard Mack.

EARLY INDUSTRIAL SITES

A. SAWMILL

Built about 1785 by Ira Allen.

B. FULLING MILL

Built by David Fish in 1789.

C. GRIST MILL

Built by Ira Allen in 1787. Was partially destroyed by a flood in 1927. The stone from this building was used to build the Vermont House at the Shelburne Museum.

D. RESIDENCE

Nathan Fish 1803.

E. WAGON SHOP

Samuel Basford 1869.

F. BLACKSMITH SHOP

Built by Ira Allen about 1785.

A Short History of Shelburne Falls

Shelburne Falls is a hamlet in the town of Shelburne, Vermont. It is located about one mile southeast of Shelburne Village, on the road leading to the town of Hinesburg. It got its name from the falls of the La Platte river which runs through the area. The change in height of the river, together with steep banks on each side, made the site ideal for the building of dams which would supply power for the early industries.

Ira Allen started the first settlement at Shelburne Falls in 1785. He had a rude bridge built across the river together with a dam for water power. He built a sawmill on the west side of the river and a "forge" (blacksmith shop) on the east side.

In 1786, a dam was built at the lower end of the falls. The next season saw a gristmill in operation. A fulling mill was built between the sawmill and the gristmill in 1789 by David Fish. Fulling is the process of removing the natural grease from woolen cloth. In 1805, the fulling mill was bought by Samuel Fletcher. He owned and operated it until he died on April 23, 1852. Since that time it remained unoccupied. In 1927, a flood swept away the fulling mill and damaged the stone building formerly used as the gristmill.

In 1803, Joshua Isham leased to Nathan Fish a house and lot that was located near the fulling mill, together with the fulling mill and the lower dam.

In 1869 there was a plaster mill located beside the gristmill on the north side of the lower dam. Across the river from the sawmill was a wagon shop operated by Samuel Basford. A general store was located a short distance to the west of the falls. It was operated by George Curry. Later the store was moved a short distance to the west and was replaced by a saloon operated by George Peet and a Mr. Laprees.

In 1906, a Woodmens Hall was added to the rear of the store and was the scene of many dances and other community events.



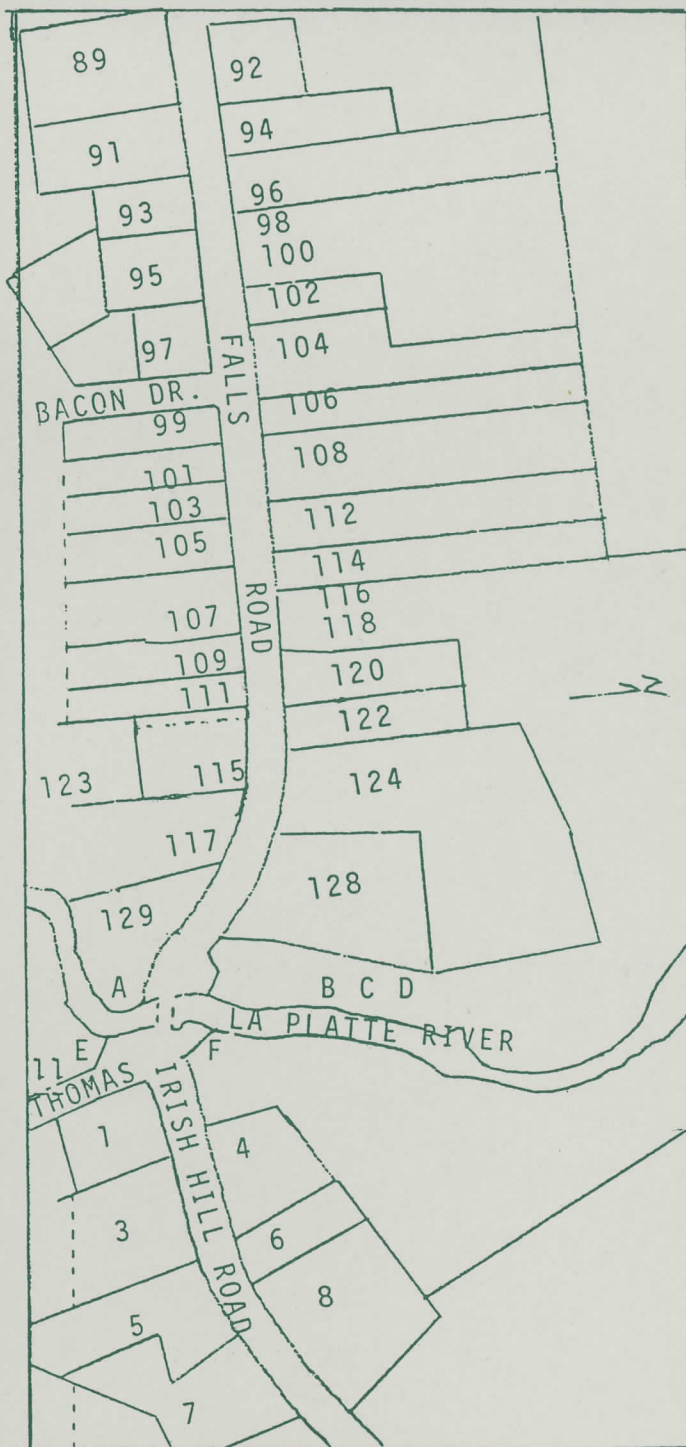
Early photo of covered bridge and sawmill at Shelburne Falls.

WALKING TOUR OF SHELburne FALLS

VERMONT BICENTENNIAL 1991

Shelburne Historical Society
Shelburne, Vermont
05482

Map of Shelburne Falls



With House Numbers

FALLS ROAD

- 89 THE MACGREGOR HOUSE c. 1890** This house sits on what was once a 96 acre farm, which was early owned by George Bliss and then Mrs. Casenda M.P. (William) Lawrence. Built by Frederick Bacon in 1890, the house has a short history. It was bought, with 4½ acres, in 1910 by Joseph and Blanche Wetmore. In 1951 Latham and Louise MacGregor bought it from the estate of Joseph Wetmore with a nine/tenths acre of land.
- 91 EDWARD BURBO c. 1892** This was formerly part of the William Bacon estate which was subdivided from the Wm. Lawrence farm.
- 92 THE GEORGE MILLER HOUSE c. 1866** This one and a half story house was first owned by George and Matilda Miller. The lot purchased from Joel Bartlett for \$2900 contained 11 acres, stretching to the Falls School House Corner. Fred and Mary Miller inherited and sold it to Ambrose and Mary St. George. Ten or more acres were sold to Eugene Viens for a development before James and Ruth St. George inherited the premises. After two more residents the present owners are John Crabbe, Jr. and Lucinda Hutchinson.
- 94 THE WOODMEN'S HALL c. 1841** Dr. Jonathan Taylor, the eighth town physician, purchased eleven acres from Henry Morse in Shelburne Falls and erected his home and office there in 1841. This structure has served many purposes; Headquarters for the Modern Woodmen of America Camp 9004, social events, Town Meetings and voting place during the construction of the Village School and Town Hall, restaurants, stores and residences. It now houses six modern apartments owned by Dr. Edwin St. Marie.
- 96 AMMI GILLET c. 1835** There was a schoolhouse here in 1801. Justus Warner had a shop here in 1832.
- 98 LUCIA HATHAWAY c. 1900** Lucia was the wife of Albert who operated the blacksmith shop on lot 100 with his son, Arthur.
- 100 BLACKSMITH SHOP c. 1830** This vernacular building served Shelburne Falls for almost 100 years. Note the hand-wrought hinges and latch on the door.
- 105 ED QUINLAN c. 1891** Clayton Shortsleeves, a longtime resident of the Falls, said that this house had been moved from the Webb estate around 1891. We don't know when it was built.
- 106 GEORGE CURRY c. 1852** The building that is now used as a garage was the meeting place for the Modern Woodmen of America 1906 to 1913. It originally extended out to the sidewalk. The front part was a general store operated by Thomas Thompson around 1900. The store is shown on an 1869 Beers Atlas map.
- 107 L. E. STEVENS c. 1893** This was part of the William Lawrence farm in 1889.

108 THE THOMAS OAKES HOUSE c. 1850 This attractive Greek revival homestead was built by James Digry (Degree) in 1849-50. The house and lot on 1¼ acres was sold in 1851 for \$1000. Starting in 1864 the John Papineau family resided there for 67 years. Little has been done to change the exterior in the last 140 years.

The "pesthouse", was transported from the Mary Fletcher Hospital and served as a playhouse for the Oakes' children. It is now an apartment.

112 FRANCIS GOSSELIN c. 1853 More recently known as the Marie Bacon Hamilton house.

114 FRANCIS GOSSELIN & LEANDER CHAUVIN c. 1851 This was long known as the Samuel Basford place. It was owned by the Basford family from 1864 to 1890. Samuel operated a wagon shop on the east side of the river from at least 1869 until he died in 1877.

117 THE NOONAN HOUSE c. 1805 The Noonan house is one of the three older homes in Shelburne Falls.

Samuel Fletcher signed a lease with Joshua Isham in 1805 to operate a fulling mill and a carding machine under the same roof, in a building between the gristmill and the sawmill.

David Fish also had a lease from Joshua Isham and had erected and put into operation a clothing works in 1789 in the same area. No records of a deed are available but W.S. Rann, 1886, states that Samuel Fletcher purchased the clothing works in 1805.

A deed from Joshua Isham to Thomas Fletcher, (Samuel's nephew), for a lot adjoining Samuel Fletcher's lot mentioned the N.W. corner of Samuel's house in 1809. Samuel Fletcher operated the fulling and carding mill throughout his life and died in 1852 at the age of 72. His widow, Lucy S., engaged Henry Morse to dispose of her husband's estate and in 1857 the house and 3 acres were purchased by Moses and Almira Degree. At times the east cellar entrance had provided a place for an early store.

The Degree heirs sold the house and 5 acres to Kate Purcell Noonan in 1900. The home has been owned by the Noonan family for 91 years. Its present owners are John T. (Terry), and Brenda Noonan.

124 THE ISRAEL BURRITT HOUSE c. 1794 Ira Allen sold 2¼ acres of land "contiguous to the LaPlatte River" in 1794 for 15 pounds to Burritt. Burritts' house and barn were already standing. Two months later he sold the premises back to Allen for 60 pounds. A little later Joshua Isham acquired the property and manufacturing facilities (the grist and saw mills) and operated them until his death in 1840.

The Burritt house appears in deeds 20 years later as the "home place" of Hazelton Lake.

A long list of owners leads to three generations of Shortsleeves and to the Kent family who acquired the property in 1981.