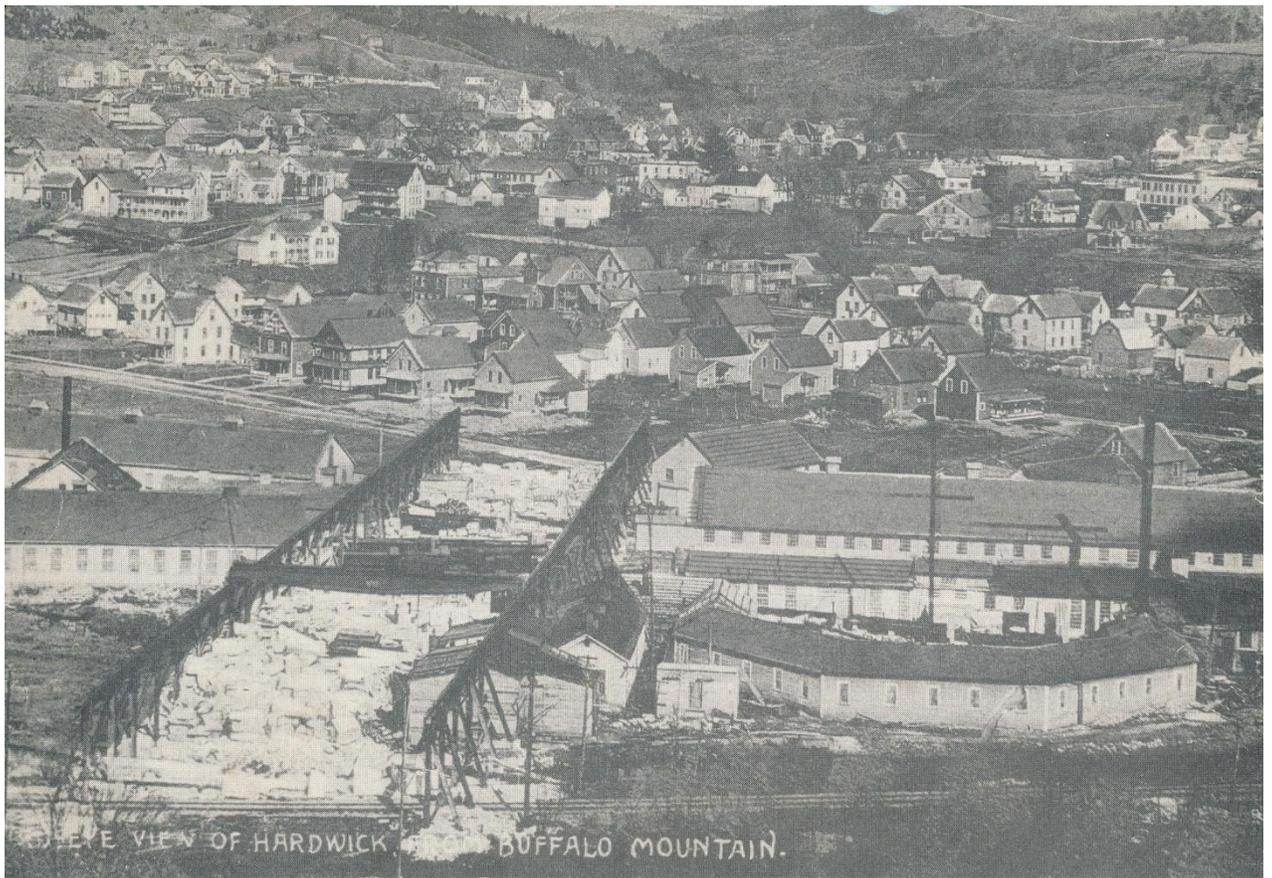


HISTORIC, SCENIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Historic Resources

Historic record

The Town of Hardwick has a rich history, which informs the values and traditions held by residents today. A period of about 30 years (1890-1920) of industrial production of commercial granite sets it apart from other towns in the region. The town, through support of the Hardwick Historical Society (HHS) will ensure that this history is available for residents, new and old. The HHS spearheaded a major renovation of the 19th century railroad depot into a remarkable archives and museum for its holdings.



A survey of historical documents in the various repositories in Hardwick, completed in April 2001, revealed a wealth of holdings. The Town Clerk's Office has responsibility for town records from the early 19th century, including the records of the school system. HHS has focused on records in the areas of business and social activity as well as genealogical resources. The Hardwick Gazette recently donated its complete morgue from 1896 to the Hardwick Historical Society.

The two Historic Districts recorded on the National Register of Historic Places are the Downtown Hardwick Village Historic District and the Hardwick Street Historic District. In addition, the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation recognizes the West Church Street Historic District, Granite Street Historic District, Wakefield Farm Historic District, Holton and Kimball Hills Historic District, the East Hardwick District and the Mackville Historic District.

Historic sites and structures

Listing in the National Register honors a historic place by recognizing its importance to its community, State, or Nation. Recognition does not add any additional permit requirements or limit the use of private property. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public to restore them, or even to maintain them. Similarly, recognition on the state survey does not add any additional permit requirements or limit the use of private property.

Hardwick is fortunate to have had an inventory of the historic structures completed for the town. The *Town of Hardwick Historic Sites and Structures Survey* (1985) includes descriptions of the 434 structures. Of all these historic structures, only two have been listed on the National Register- the Cobb School and 143 Highland Avenue. A third structure has been found eligible for the National Register; the 1913 Yellow Barn, formerly associated with Greensboro Garage. The Yellow Barn might be added to the National Register in the future which might make renovations eligible for grant funds.

In 1898 the former Hardwick Academy / Town House was converted to an opera house. In 2001 the Northeast Kingdom Arts Council was founded and began work to restore the Town House. Many improvements have been completed and the Town House is once again a functioning theatre.

Scenic resources

Hardwick is the “Gateway to the Northeast Kingdom” and has a varied landscape including open and wooded land, working farms and appealing village areas. Views of rural lands from the following vantage points have special scenic importance to the community: Center Road, Bridgman Hill, Slapp Hill, Ward Hill, and Belfry Road. Central to Hardwick’s scenic offerings are Buffalo Mountain, Hardwick Lake, the Lamoille River, and Mackville Pond, which contribute to both the beauty and the recreational opportunities. The Hardwick Trails system and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) provide walking and biking in the summer months. In winter, the Hardwick Trails offer groomed cross country skiing and plan to groom its 6 miles of bike trails for fat bikes. The LVRT offers snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

Archeological resources

Archeological sites contain a fragile, complex and irreplaceable record of past human activity. Two areas have been identified as “expected moderate-to-high archeological sensitivity.” The first is located on both sides of Alder Brook) from Hardwick Lake to Eligo Pond in Craftsbury. The second area of archeological sensitivity is along the entire length of Greensboro Brook from the Lamoille River up to Caspian Lake in Greensboro. This rating does not necessarily indicate

that any archaeologically significant resources have been located in the area and none have yet been found.

With the Lamoille River flowing through the heart of the town, and Alder, Cooper and Nichols Brooks flowing into the Lamoille from the surrounding hills, the town of Hardwick was almost certainly an important landscape for Native American peoples. Native Americans not only utilized rivers and streams for food and water, but also as vital transportation corridors. Although there have been no Native American archaeological sites reported in Hardwick to date, this is largely due to a lack of professional archeological studies conducted in the area, the alteration of some portions of town's landscape through development, and the inundation of certain areas due to dam impoundment. Native American archaeological sites and historic archaeological sites related to early settlement, agriculture, industry and tourism likely remain to be discovered within Hardwick's borders, as they have been in most of the towns surrounding Hardwick.

Goals, Policies, & Recommendations

GOAL

- To identify, protect, and preserve important natural and historic features of the Hardwick landscape, including significant scenic roads, waterways and views, important historic structures, sites or districts, archaeological sites, and archaeologically sensitive areas.

POLICIES

- Development within any designated historic districts should be in character with the surrounding architecture.
- Telecommunications towers and other large obvious structures should be carefully sited to minimize impacts on scenic resources.
- Development around the natural scenic resources identified should be sited and constructed in such a manner as to retain the natural scenic beauty of the areas. Removal of the natural vegetation on the site should be minimized and structures should be screened or hidden from view as best possible.

ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Hardwick should continue to support the endeavors of the Hardwick Historical Society.
- The Select Board should continue to support the Village Center Designations in the Hardwick Village and in East Hardwick.
- The Select Board should explore a tax stabilization program for downtown façade improvements.
- The Select Board should continue to provide funds that will make a significant contribution to those matching funds raised by local organizations and individuals for the purpose of maintaining or improving the above named historic structures owned by the Town of

Hardwick. Line items for these funds for each of these buildings should be included as part of the town budget.

- Where an archeological site is discovered on an undeveloped property or part of a property, the town supports the purchase of development rights on the effected portion as a means of compensating landowners for the loss of development rights. Purchase of development rights are always on a willing seller basis.