

Historic Buildings of Interest

Shelburne Falls is home to many historic buildings established by early settlers and still in use today. More information on these and other historic sites is available at the Shelburne Historical Society and Museum at 33 Maple Street.

H1. The Arms Academy Building

(intersection Maple and Church Streets)

Arms Academy, built in 1880 as a private high school funded by Ira Arms, by 1910 was a public high school for Shelburne area students. The school closed in 1967, and in 1971 became home to the Shelburne Historical Society museum and its extensive display of memorabilia reflecting the earliest and later years of Shelburne's history. The building itself is Italianate with elements of Queen Anne and Stick style with a checkerboard cornice design.

H2. Montgomery Houses *(34 and 12 Severance St.)*

These houses were built identically in the Queen Anne style with Craftsman style sash. The siding has been changed on the first of three Montgomery houses on the corner of Church and Severance Streets. The second Montgomery house is painted in Victorian colors. The two houses and a third at 21 Maple Street were built in the early 1880's by Thomas J. Montgomery for his wife's sisters. Montgomery was an Englishman of mysterious background, described as a man of wealth and taste. He was never listed as a permanent Shelburne resident, but for several years was its biggest taxpayer. Unfortunately he developed financial problems and eventually moved from town.

H3. Trinity Church *(15 Severance St.)*

Built as the Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in 1884, its style is modified Gothic Revival with characteristic stone decoration and arched windows. Thomas J. Montgomery commissioned the building as a memorial to his wife's relatives. The church remained Episcopalian until the 1950's when its congregation joined with the Congregational and Baptist churches to form the Trinity Fellowship.

H4. Severance House *(6 Maple St.)*

This large, white house, the oldest standing house in the village, was built in 1784 by Martin Severance Jr., son of the area's first permanent settler of record. It is hybrid "Early Republic" with Federal style influence. In 1839, Martin Jr's son, Asa started a private school in the house to provide an alternative to the Baptist Academy on Main Street.

H5. 3 South Maple Street

This Victorian house of Italianate style with Gothic Cottage influence, was built in 1853 by Dr. Edwin Bissell, a local dentist. In 1883 he sold it to Linus and Catherine Yale of Yale Lock Manufacturing Company. The Yales later sold it to Henry Patch, son of Jonas K. Patch, one of the country's first commercial photographers.

H6. The Patch House *(5 Maple Street)*

This Federal house with Italianate influence was built in 1860 by Jonas K. Patch. Mr. Patch was married to the great-granddaughter of Martin Severance, and was a practicing photographer in Shelburne for over 50 years.

H7. 10 Maple Street

This small, hybrid "Early Republic" house with Federal style influence, is built of "hewn timber and plank", and was probably originally a shop or mill.

H8. 21 Maple Street *(corner Maple and Warren Sts.)*

This is the third house in the village built by Thomas J. Montgomery.

H9. 3 Pleasant Street

This green "village" Victorian was built by local businessman Charles Gould in 1880. It is Italianate in style with Second Empire style influence. The small house on the corner of the lot was built as a playhouse for Mr. Gould's granddaughter.

H10. The Patchwork House *(15 Gardner Avenue)*

This house was built in 1932 by Carlton P. Davenport as a playhouse for his children. He collected materials from some of western New England's most famous landmarks, and assembled them into a true patchwork, including oak timbers from the 128 year old Cheapside Bridge, doors from the Shelburne Falls Cutlery, windows from the first Sweetheart Teahouse, floorboards from the Amherst Armory, ceiling boards from a Vermont woolen mill, etc.

H11. 40 Church Street

This Victorian house, with a matching carriage house in the rear, was built by Joseph W. Gardner in the late 1860's. It is Second Empire style with elements of the Stick style. Gardner later sold the house to Thomas J. Montgomery.

H12. 31 Maple Street

This large, white house built in the 1850's in the Federal style with elements of Italianate, was built for Joseph W. Gardner, then manager of the Lamson & Goodnow Manufacturing Co. The house became the parsonage for the Baptist Church which was at the foot of Church St.

Shelburne Massachusetts

Graced by the beautiful Deerfield River, Shelburne Falls is located just off the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) and 8 miles west of Interstate 91.

Shelburne was first settled in 1756 as part of Deerfield known then as "Deerfield Northwest." It was initially organized as the district of Shelburne in 1768 (named in honor of William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne) and was officially incorporated as a town in 1775.

The local falls on the Deerfield River were known as Salmon Falls. The Falls were considered an important native fishing site and an area of peaceful cooperation. A 1743 statute designated twenty acres of land along the Deerfield River for use as a public fishing area, later sold in the 18th Century to a private landowner. Permanent settlement of Shelburne began in the vicinity of Salmon Falls about 1760 by five families.

The village of Shelburne Falls brings together the towns of Shelburne and Buckland with a vibrant and thriving business community spanning the river and tied together by the Iron Bridge and the Bridge of Flowers. The two towns also share a common Historical District and Cultural District.

Today, visiting Shelburne Falls is like stepping back in time to a nineteenth century New England village. Its residents are proud of their historic homes, restored village buildings, art studios, and the beautiful New England hills surrounding the river valley with active farms, productive forests, and protected natural areas.

Walkers' Etiquette

Most of the sites and trees on this tour are on private property. Please be respectful!

- Please do not litter
- Stay on the sidewalk
- Cross streets at intersections
- Keep dogs on leashes and under control
- Do not pick flowers or collect plants
- Park your car well out of traffic
- Don't block driveways or gates

Brochure by Shelburne Open Space Committee with thanks to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Shelburne Historical Society, May 2018

A Walking Tour of Shelburne Falls

Notable Village Buildings, Landmarks and Trees



The Stone Fire Tower on Mt.. Massemet, accessible by trail from Halligan Avenue, overlooks the village.

Town of Shelburne



Village Trees of Note

- T1. **Red Maple** *Acer rubrum*
(Town Common - very large tree on corner Main and Water St.)
- T2. **Cucumber Magnolia** *Magnolia acuminata*
(71 Main St.)
- T3. **Sugar Maples** *Acer saccharum*
(96 Bridge St.- many examples throughout town)
- T4. **Black Locust** *Robina pseudoacacia*
an invasive from the Appalachian and Ozark Mountains (opposite drive at 51 Water St.)
- T5. **Ginko Biloba** *Ginko biloba*
(6 Maple St. near 132 Bridge St.)
- T6. **White Oaks** *Quercus alba*
(Large trees at entrance to school – 75 Mechanic St.)
- T7. **Shademaster Locust** *Gleditsia triacanthos*
an invasive cultivar of the Honey Locust
(75 Bridge St. by the Village Information Center; a common downtown street tree)
- T8. **Norway Spruce** *Picea abies, picea excels*
(Cross St. near Mechanic St.)
- T9. **Littleleaf Linden** *Tilia cordata*
European cultivar (corner of Bridge St. and Main St. in front of Arms Library)
- T10. **American Liberty Elm** *Ulmus Americana*
'American Liberty'– a cultivar bred to possess resistance to Dutch Elm Disease (60 Bridge St. in Arms Library back yard)
- T11. **Red Cedar** *Juniperus virginiana*
(19 South Maple St., along driveway)
- T12. **American Basswood** aka American Linden *Tilia americana* (24 South Maple St.)
- T13. **Eastern White Pine** *Pinus strobus*
(several at 5 Maple St.)
- T14. **Shagbark Hickory** *Carya ovata*
(on lawn at 3 South Maple St.)
- T15. **Norway Maple** *Acer platanoides*
an invasive species of maple introduced from eastern and central Europe and western Asia (55 Main St.)
- T16. **White Fir** *Abies concolor*
(120 Bridge St. near Severance St.)



Village Landmarks

- V1. **Severance Tablet** (*Maple and Bridge Streets*)
This tablet indicates where Martin Severance, the first village settler, built his log cabin in 1760. He migrated from Deerfield in search of farmland and built the cabin which remained his home until his death in 1810.
- V2. **Glacial Potholes**(*Deerfield St. at Salmon Falls*)
The Glacial Potholes began to form after the last ice age, about 14,000 years ago when Lake Hitchcock filled the Connecticut Valley. The Deerfield River built a delta into the lake, and after Lake Hitchcock drained, the river then cut downward into its delta sediments. During this process, which continues today, the river flowed over the bedrock and started eroding holes into the hard rock.
- V3. **Bridge of Flowers** (*22 Water St.*)
The bridge was built in 1908 by the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway so that freight could be picked up and dropped off in town. The street railway company went bankrupt in 1927. In 1929, Antoinette Burnham proposed transforming the bridge into a garden. The SF Women's Club took over management and maintenance of the plantings as they still do today.
- V4. **Iron Bridge** (*end of Bridge St. at the River*)
This truss bridge built in 1890 spans the Deerfield River and links the towns of Shelburne and Buckland.
- V5. **Baker Pharmacy** (*52 Bridge St.*)
Baker Pharmacy, founded 1867, is a classic drug store with one of the few remaining old fashioned soda fountains where you can get a real milk shake.
- V6. **Shelburne Falls Bowling** (*alley 43 Bridge St.*)
The SF Bowling Alley is the second oldest bowling alley in the country, offering candlepin bowling since 1909.
- V7. **Memorial Hall** (*55 Bridge St., Town Offices*)
Built 1897 on land donated by the Orzo Miller post of the Grand Army of the Republic, Memorial Hall now houses Town offices and a 438 seat theater for Pothole Pictures, opera broadcasts and Town meetings.
- V8. **Pratt Memorial Building** (*Main and Bridge*)
The Pratt Memorial building, a domed Beaux-Arts building on the National Registry of Historic Places, was a gift to the town built in 1914 for the Library by Francis and Lydia Pratt in honor of Josiah and Catherine Pratt. It houses the Arms Library founded 1854.
- V9. **Cowell Gymnasium** (*51 Maple St.*)
Built during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this gym has served the area since 1936 and is the site of Town tennis courts.
- V10. **Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum** (*14 Depot*)
The Trolley Museum preserves Shelburne Falls & Colrain Street Railway trolley car No. 10 which was built by Wason Manufacturing Co. in Springfield in 1896. For 20 years it crossed the Deerfield River on what is now the Bridge of Flowers.