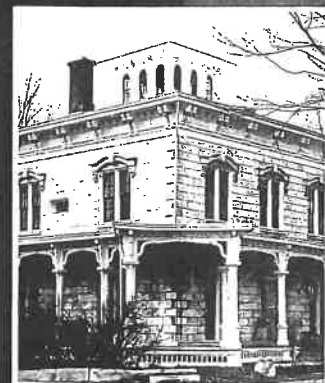
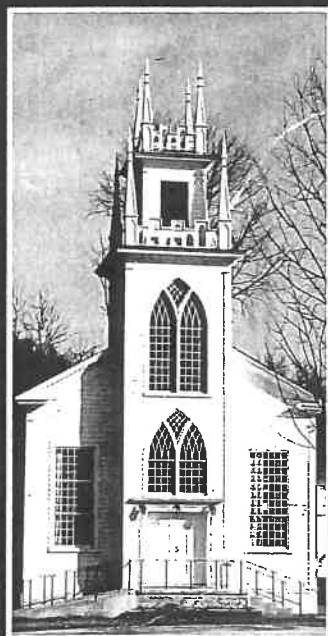


# THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF RUTLAND COUNTY

VERMONT STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Among the several impressive Federal style buildings in West Haven is one (29) built in 1798 for Dr. Simeon Smith and believed to have been used by him as a guesthouse and dance hall. The eavesline is marked by an exceptional entablature, complete with dentils and small modillion blocks.

interests. In 1798 Dr. Smith had another house (29), with a second floor ballroom, built along the Whitehall to Vergennes stage road and not far from his first house (27). Used to entertain Smith's guests, this refined Federal style I-house, trimmed by an elegant cornice with modillion blocks and dentils, likely was designed by William Sprats. Sprats, who by that time was living across the West Haven border in Hampton, New York, had made his reputation as a master builder in Litchfield, Connecticut. He may also have designed the nearby 1804 home (30) of Smith's nephew Daniel, who had bought the iron works in Fair Haven village. Ornamenting this large, hip-roofed, Georgian plan dwelling are an elaborate central entryway and Palladian window above, both with leaded glass and framed by fluted pilasters, and a cornice similar to that of Dr. Smith's house.

By 1810 there were 679 West Haven residents, most of whom were engaged in farming. Christopher Minot, who married Dr. Smith's widow after Smith's death in 1804, continued to improve the large Smith landholdings in town. About 1819 he hired Zaccheus Greeley to live on the property and work for him chopping wood, clearing land, and then farming on shares. Helping Greeley was his young son Horace, to whom the Minots lent books. After serving an apprenticeship at the Poultney *Northern Spectator*, Horace went on to become a noted American newspaperman and the founder of the *New York Tribune*.

Many West Haven farmers gradually turned to raising sheep for wool, a business made more profitable by the completion in 1823 of the Champlain Canal, which linked the Hudson River to Lake Champlain at the southern tip of West Haven and provided convenient access to out-of-state markets. By 1840 the number of sheep in town had reached 8,029, the human population climbing less dramatically to 774. New residents as well as some of the settled



Marking the crossroads in West Haven village is the Baptist church (15), built in 1831 at a cost of \$2,000. Although the original pinnacled cresting on the two-stage belfry is now gone, the building, with its large, pointed arch windows, is a noteworthy early example of the ecclesiastical use of the Gothic Revival style in Vermont.

farmers built a number of new homes with Federal or Greek Revival style features. Dr. Benajer Wicker's house (1a, 1835) is one of the most unusual. Overlooking Lake Champlain, this large Georgian plan house with its Federal style doorway is the only one standing in West Haven that is built of stone similar to that used in other Champlain Valley lakeshore buildings. The Jakway family, who raised Merino sheep, lived in a brick, sidehall plan Greek Revival style farmhouse (3, c.1845), while the Field family owned a large Georgian plan house (9, c.1842) built of wood. Some of the wool these farmers produced was made into cloth at the Hubbardton River woolen mill, which was built by Erastus Coleman on his farm (25) about 1834 to replace the carding mill begun by him more than thirty years earlier.

There was much activity through the eastern part of town along the Fair Haven turnpike (opened about 1810), and the stage road, along which Oliver Hitchcock ran a tavern (22, c.1816). The small village of West Haven, however, did not develop on either road but rather at a crossroads near the center of town. The local Baptist Society, formed in 1803, chose this location to build its church (15) in 1831. Gothic Revival in style with pointed arch windows, it may have been designed by master builder Elisha Scott, who also planned the Fair Haven Congregational Church (remodeled in 1891) and the East Poultney Episcopal Church. Just down the road was the parsonage (11, c.1840). West Haven Congregationalists erected their own church (13, c.1832), simpler in design, across the street.

BY THE MID 1850s J. and A. Adams had established a boatyard at the southern tip of West Haven to build boats for the Champlain Canal trade. Still, farming remained the primary activity for most town residents. Farmers switched from raising sheep for wool to breeding

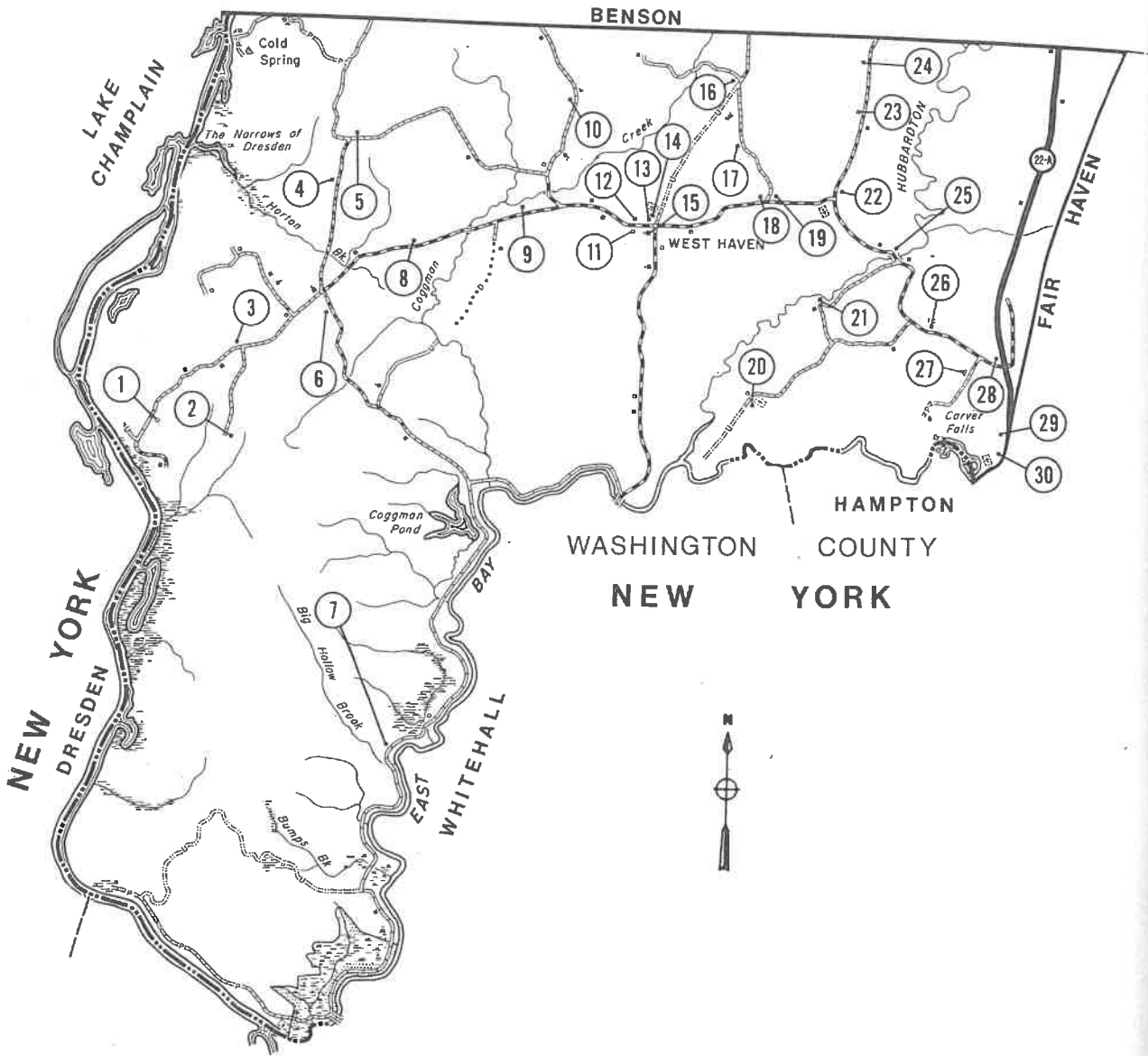
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# TOWN OF WEST HAVEN MAP

Sites Listed in the State Register of Historic Places  
(Numbers correspond to Register listing that follows.)



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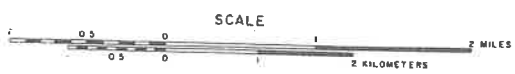
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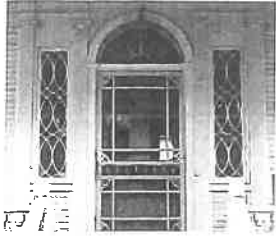
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SOURCE: VT. AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP, 1979.

30 (Farm)  
a. House, 1804



Federal style, Georgian plan, hip roof.  
Features: sidelights, entry fanlight, entry pilasters, Palladian window, Queen Anne porch, enriched cornice.  
b. Carriage Barn, c.1870  
c. Smokehouse, c.1840  
Brick.  
d. Granary, c.1890  
e. Carriage Barn, 1903  
Colonial Revival style, hip roof.  
Features: metal ventilator, date inscription, polychrome slate.  
f. Barn, c.1890  
g. Barn, c.1850  
h. Barn, c.1880

31 House, 1902  
Queen Anne-Colonial Revival style, hip roof, 2½ stories.  
Features: bay window, shinglework, enriched frieze, porch, Palladian window, cornice brackets, unusual window, balcony.  
Related carriage barn, barn.

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