

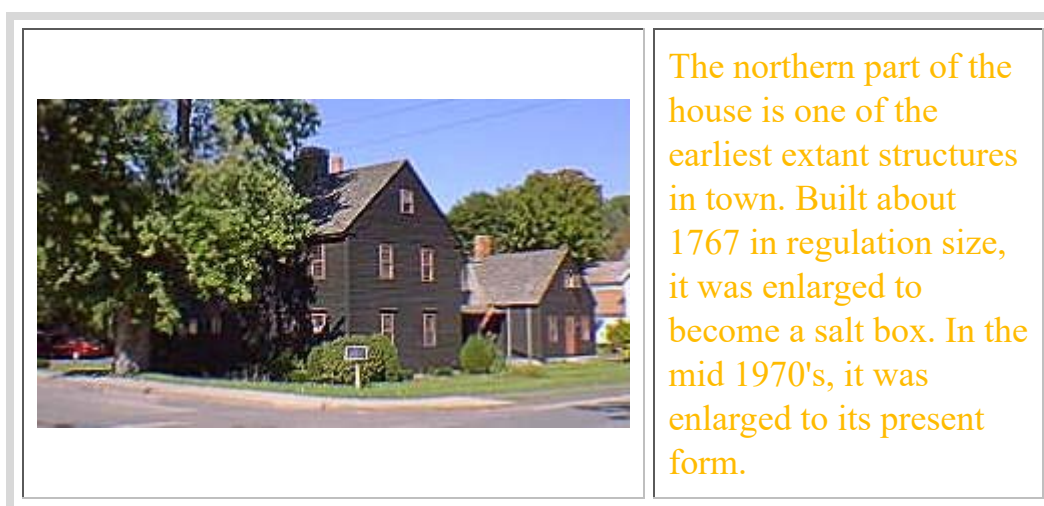
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WILLIAMSTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS



Williamstown was founded in 1753. Near the center of the town is the oldest home. It is at the corner of Water Street (Route 43) and Latham Street. In front of the home is a marker.



A few blocks further north on Water Street is the intersection with Massachusetts Route 2, the famous Mohawk Trail. The Mohawk Trail follows the old Native American trail originally used by the Mohawk Indians. The trail goes through the Berkshires to Boston and passes by the very important Revolutionary War towns of Lexington and Concord, but that's part of another **Revolutionary Day**.

The intersection at Water Street and Route 2 is also near the center of Williams College, which was founded in 1793. Just up the hill to the left, Route 2 intersects with US Route 7. At the intersection is a park that contains the 1753 House. The house was constructed for the Williamstown Bicentennial in 1953 with tools and materials used in 1753.



Also in the park is a meetinghouse marker.



SITE OF THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE

This park was the site of the first meeting house built in 1768 and removed in 1797 to make way for a second meeting house completed in 1798 and destroyed by fire on January 21, 1866.

The first meetinghouse was likely visited on May 2, 1775 by the patriot forces enroute to Ticonderoga. At the time of their visit, they consisted of:

- Edward Mott and about 16 volunteers from Connecticut
- James Easton, John Brown and the Berkshire volunteers they had recruited thus far in Pittsfield, Lanesboro and Hancock.

Additional men were recruited in Williamstown to join the Berkshire volunteers for the assault on Fort Ticonderoga.

The park was also the site of West Hoosic Fort used in the French and Indian War in 1756. There are two markers near the Williams Inn that recount the history of the fort and its defenders.

About a mile further north on Route 7 is a bridge across the Hoosic River. Just over the bridge on the left is the River Bend Farm Bed & Breakfast. In front of the B&B is a marker. The home was formerly owned by Colonel Simonds. A stone memorial at the Bennington Battlefield (an upcoming stop) notes the valuable service rendered by the Massachusetts Forces under his command.



RIVER BEND FARMHOUSE TAVERN

Built about 1770 by Benjamin Simonds who was captured at Fort Massachusetts 1746, redeemed in 1747, soldier at the West Hoosic 1750-1756, first settler, 1752, father of the first child born in this town, colonel in the

Revolutionary War and
commander of the Massachusetts
Forces at the Battle of
Bennington.

Enroute to Old Bennington, VT



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