

Project Summary

Cultural resource survey type: Phase 1 archaeological background and architectural reconnaissance survey

Location: Town of Northampton, Fulton County, New York

Survey area: 34.7 square miles

Quadrangle: Broadalbin

Sensitivity assessment:

Prehistoric: Low sensitivity

Historic: High sensitivity

Archaeological background methodology: No testing was provided; literature and site file search information is provided.

Results of archaeological background research:

8 known (recorded) archaeological sites
3 recommended archaeological sites (pending archaeological review/ testing to identify if eligible)
21 mapped documented (commercial) structures in the Village of Northville

Results of architectural survey: 3,000 properties in the project area
885 properties more than 50 years old
2 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRL)
93 properties recommended eligible for the Northampton Designated Landmark Register
154 properties recommended potentially eligible for the Northampton Designated Landmark Register
3 Historic Districts recommended

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Date: November 13, 2009

Sponsor: This project was partially funded by Preserve New York, a grant program of the Preservation League of New York and the New York State Council on the Arts.



Introduction

The purpose of this report is to identify the cultural resources of the Town of Northampton, including the Village of Northville. This report will be used to understand the historical significance of the town and the importance of its resources.

The Town of Northampton resides on the eastern edge of Fulton County, New York, entirely within the Adirondack Park, 3.7 miles north of the southern park boundary. The northern town line borders the Town of Hope, Hamilton County, and the eastern town line borders the Town of Day, Saratoga County. The western town line borders the Town of Mayfield, Fulton County, and the southern town line borders the Town of Broadalbin, Fulton County. The Town of Northampton is approximately four miles wide and eight miles long.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town of Northampton has a total area of 34.7 square miles (89.9 km²), or 22,208 acres, of which 21.0 square miles (54.5 km²) is land and 13.7 square miles (35.4 km²) (39.37%) is water, 899 acres falling within the limits of the Village of Northville and 9,537 acres making up the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District.

The Town of Northampton received its name from the 6,000-acre Northampton Patent, granted in 1741. The entire town was originally part of the Town of Broadalbin. Northampton became a separate town on February 1, 1799. Alexander St. John became the town's first supervisor that year. It is home to the Great Sacandaga Lake (formerly called the Sacandaga Reservoir). The lake has a surface area of about 41.7 square miles (108 km²) at full capacity, and its length is about 29 miles (47 km). To some the word "Sacandaga" means "land of the waving grass" in the Mohawk language and to others it has been interpreted to mean "drowned lands" and "much water" (Simms, 42).

Of the total upland acres, excluding the Village of Northville, approximately 74% of the town is made up of forest classification lands ranging from brush cover to stands of trees. Small lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands account for less than 15% of the upland area. Roads and utilities occupy 3%, and limited open-field areas with minimal agricultural activities account for less than 2%.

Demographics

According to the United States Census of 2000 for the Town of Northampton, there were 2,760 people, 1,163 households, and 782 families residing in the town (not including Northville). The population density was 131.1 people per square mile (50.6/km²). There were 1,962 housing units at an average density of 93.2/sq mi (36.0/km²). The racial makeup of the town was 98.26% white, 0.33% African American, 0.07% Native American, 0.29% Asian, 0.25% from other races, and 0.80% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 1.09% of the population. Religion statistics are not available. A household is defined as one or more people living in a residence. A family is more than one person living together, either married or of the same bloodline.

There were 1,163 households, of which 25.5% had children younger than age 18 living with them, 54.1% were married couples living together, 8.3% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.7% were not married or not related families. 26.7% of all households were made up of individuals, and 13.5% had someone living alone who was age 65 or older. The average household size was 2.37, and the average family size was 2.85.

In the town, the population was 21.8% under age 18, 7.3% ages 18 to 24, 25.0% ages 25 to 44, 28.1% ages 45 to 64, and 17.8% ages 65 and older. The median age was 42. For every 100 females there were 100.1 males. For every 100 females age 18 and older, there were 96.5 males.

The median income for a household in the town was \$37,420, and the median income for a family was \$44,896. Males had a median income of \$32,900 vs. \$20,938 for females. The per capita income for the town was \$18,997. About 6.2% of families and 11.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 16.9% of those under age 18 and 7.4% of people age 65 or over.

As of 2009, the Village of Northville's population is 1,155 people. Since 2000, it has had a population growth of 1.76%. Based on an average of home sales, the median cost of a home in Northville is \$126,350. Home appreciation over the past year has been -5.10%. Compared to the rest of the country, Northville's cost of living is 0.88% higher than the U.S. average. Northville public schools spend \$9,318 per student. The average school expenditure in the U.S. is \$6,058. There are about 13 students per teacher in Northville. The unemployment rate in Northville is 11.00% (U.S. average is 8.50%). Recent job growth is negative; Northville jobs have decreased by 0.60%.

The above information is available through the U.S. Census Bureau and is compiled on Wikipedia.com

Background

Geology

The Sacandaga River flows from the north border of the town into the Great Sacandaga Lake. Prior to the creation of Great Sacandaga Lake, the Sacandaga River flowed from the north to the south, then near the southeast corner of town, the river turned east and then northeast until it flowed to the Hudson River near Lake Luzerne. The Sacandaga River Valley was rich with alluvium (sediment left by the river), while the other areas of town were sandy, gravelly loam. The historical map that shows the Sacandaga River flowing through this valley can be found in Appendix A, Map 1.

Soils

The soils of eastern Fulton County were developed from glacial till and lake deposits thousands of years ago. A wide range of soil types were identified and are shown on the soil maps in Appendix A (maps 2-5). The various soil types and their characteristics are available online at <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/OSD/index.html>.

Archaeology

The Sacandaga River Valley has very few identified prehistoric sites, even though this area lies between two regions rich in prehistoric archaeological material: the Mohawk River Valley and the Upper Hudson River Valley. In general, this area resembles the typical northern New York Adirondack mountain range, an area of few identified prehistoric sites because the area's harsh winters and poor soil did not suit prehistoric peoples.

Archaeologist W.A. Ritchie (1980) explains the thin distribution of Paleo-Indian (9,500-7,000 B.C.) points in the Northeast. Most people were found in the largest fertile valleys along coastal plains, where the largest concentrations of food mammals roamed. This distribution explains the lack of points found in the Adirondack Mountain Region. Ritchie writes that "it is obvious that the early hunters penetrated inland from the major river valleys, following smaller tributary streams into rough uplands." Therefore, even an isolated find of a Paleo-Indian point in the region would be very rare because the Sacandaga River Valley is not a major river valley.

During the Archaic Period (7,000-1,000 B.C.), there is evidence of increased mobility and wider circulation of populations throughout the Northeast, but little evidence is found in northern New York. During this period, mobility was governed by sources of food, clothing, and shelter. Seasonal campsites were most likely occupied by small groups who fished, hunted, and gathered in various areas as the seasons advanced. Most Archaic sites are small and lack evidence of substantial dwellings or other evidence of steady occupation.

Although no Archaic sites have been recorded for the Sacandaga River Valley, in 1972 the New York State Museum accessioned artifacts from a large site that encircled Fish House. A site file search shows that six sites existed, but only two survived the creation of the reservoir. The surface evidence here was found to be a collection of projectile points including Early Archaic bifurcates, according to the associated findings of other archaeologists and their findings in Albany and Saratoga County. Two others reported sites in the Fish House

vicinity and were recorded by Arthur Park in 1922. He reported "camps" and "traces of occupation" in and around Fish House. It is not known with what period these findings were associated or whether they are the same sites previously described.

The Woodland Period (3,000-350 years ago) is known for increased populations with increased establishment of fixed home bases. Storage pits, fortifications, and grave sites are evidence of settlements in more resource-rich lowlands. The Late Woodland Period is the last stage of prehistory in the Northeast which has been characterized by population expansion. This territorial expansion period has little evidence in upstate New York. South of the Mohawk Valley, many Woodland sites have been found in southern New York but not in the Sacandaga River Valley.

Only one officially recorded prehistoric archaeological burial site is located in the Sacandaga River Valley, found on the town line of Day and Edinburg on the west shore of the Sacandaga River. Unfortunately, this site and probably many others along the banks of the Sacandaga River were submerged or affected by the creation of the reservoir in 1930. The prehistory of the Sacandaga River Valley will remain largely unknown.

Table 1 Known sites (site file search)

OPRHP#	NYSM#	NAME	DESCRIPTION	Other INFO
A03507.000001	3318	None given	1899 site file – traces of occupation	East shoreline
A03507.000002	1433	Osborn Bridge	1899 site file	submerged
A03507.000003	1435	None given	1899 site file – Clovis & bifurcate points	submerged
A03507.000004	1436	None given	1899 site file	submerged
A03507.000005	1437	None given	1899 site file	submerged
A03507.000006	1434	Fish House	No information	In Fish House
-	3315	None given	Fish House to Sinclair Point	The oxbow, now submerged
-	8590	None given	Brick, cut stone, transfer-ware, hand-blown glass	On shore of Fish House

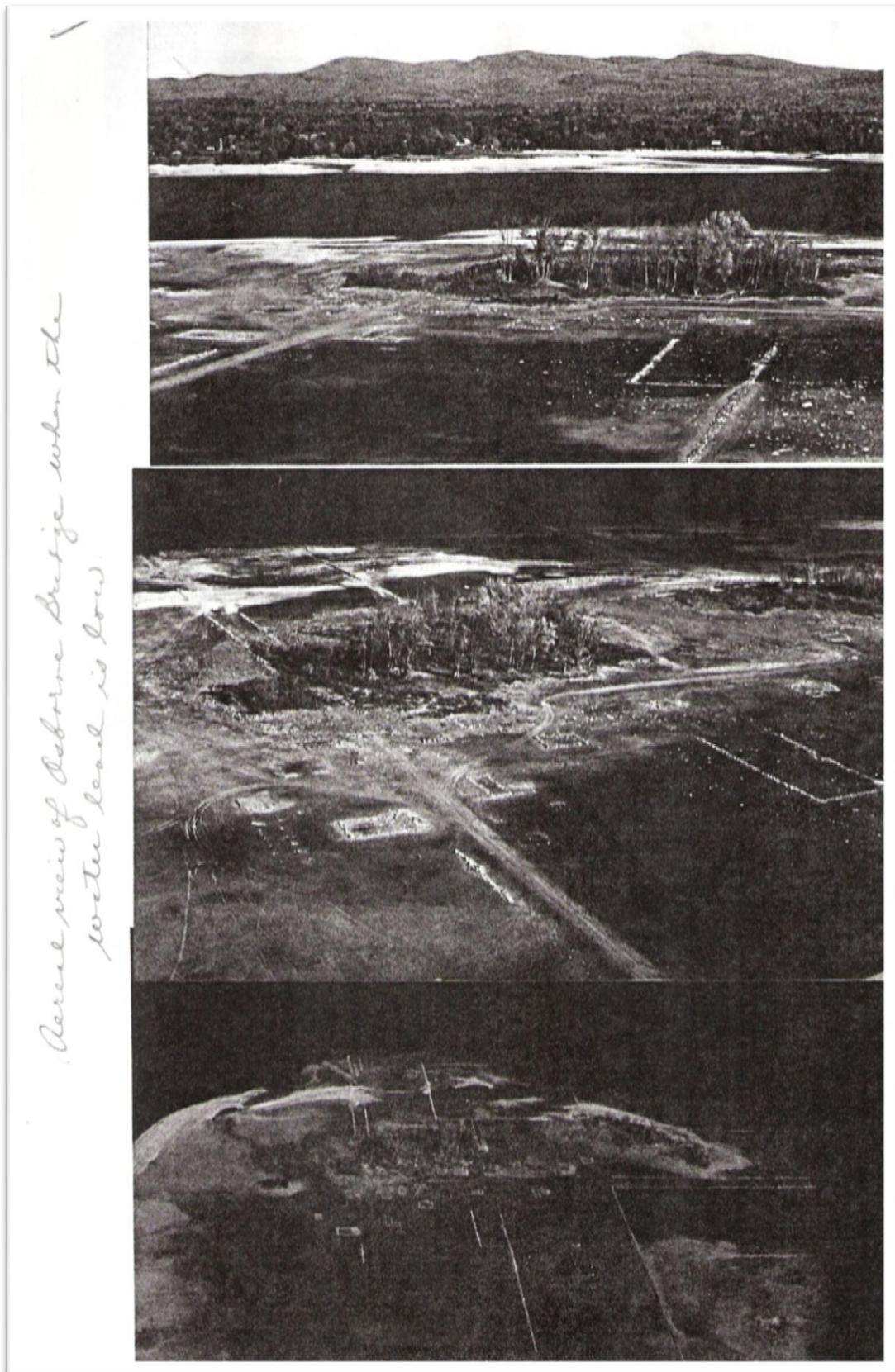
Mapped documented structures (MDS) are buildings that can be identified by researching historic mapping. These structures have lost their place on the current map because most likely they have been burned down, or were moved. According to the 1902 map of the Town of Northampton, over 60 properties (parcels) had structures that were burned, or moved before the creation of the reservoir. The structures on these properties have left a foundation footprint that is forever a part of the history of Northampton. See Map 23 for the properties affected.

Today there are foundations and roads still visible at Osborn Bridge. When the Hudson River - Black River Regulating District dam lowers the water in the reservoir, it is possible to walk to these ruins and on these historic roads. Archaeological testing is recommended to be performed at Osborn Bridge to assess whether or not the site is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Sites entirely underwater, like portions of Sacandaga Park and Fish House, may be affected and not meet the criteria of National Register eligibility. Further assessment is needed by an archaeologist.

Further research is also needed to identify each property in the entire town affected by the reservoir and how many survived the flooding. Town historian Gail Cramer has provided a list of properties she believes have been moved to the Village of Northville before the flooding occurred (see table below).

Table 2 Houses moved to the Village of Northville because of the flooding of the valley

Current address	Moved from
511 Reed Street	Parkville
251 N. Second Street	River Road south of the bridge
362 S. Third	Parkville
521 Union Street	Parkville
531 Union Street	Parkville
511 Union Street	Parkville
232 N. Second Street	Parkville
212 N. Second Street	Parkville
11 N. First Street	Parkville
352 S. Second Street	Parkville
25 N. First Street	Along the Sacandaga River
131 N. First Street	River Road south of the bridge



Aerial view of Osborn Bridge when the water level is low.

Figure 1 Aerial view of Osborn Bridge ruins when the water level is low



Figure 2 A rare mortar & pestle found together in the Town of Northampton, estimated at 400-1,000 years old. Exact origin is unknown. It is approximately 16" x 20" x 16" in size.



Figure 3 Godfrey Shew House

History of the Town of Northampton

Fish House

The Fish House area was the earliest occupied area in the Town of Northampton. Fish House takes its name from the hunting and fishing lodge that Sir William Johnson built at the end of the French and Indian War, in 1762. Johnson was known for his good relationship with the Native Americans – he was the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs. It is believed that Johnson was personally shown this location by the Native Americans because of its abundance of fish and game in the low, marshy area, surrounding the Vlaie Kill, where the Sacandaga River turned to run easterly and then northeasterly.

Sometime between 1767 and 1771, Godfrey Shew, a German farmer, moved his family from Johnstown, at Johnson's request, to this isolated outpost to oversee this hunting and fishing lodge on Johnson's land. In 1778, in a raid by Indians and Tories, Shew and three of his sons – all of whom were Revolutionary War Patriots-- were taken prisoner; his home and barn were burned. After his release, in 1779, Shew returned to Fish House. He built a new home in 1784. His second home is a reminder of the sacrifices that our early settlers made living in remote, hostile areas. Godfrey Shew died in 1804. In 2006, the Godfrey Shew House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of the nomination can be found in Appendix B.

After Sir William Johnson's death in 1774 and the confiscation of his lands by the Patriots after the Revolutionary War, his property was sold; and nearly 100 acres became Alexander St. John's, who later became the town's first supervisor at the first town meeting in 1799. His home still stands on Old Fish House Road.

John Fay came to Fish House in 1805 and built what would later become the Fish House Hotel. It was a two-story, wood-frame residence with wraparound porches on both the first and second story, detailed with wood brackets.

This settlement, once called Northampton, was made up of five intersecting Native American trails that later became roads. To the west was Broadalbin, to the northwest was Vlaie Creek, to the north was Osborn Bridge and Northville beyond, and to the east were Fayville and Batchellerville. A plank road led from Amsterdam to Fish House starting in 1849. This intersection was marked with a hand pump and two hotels.

The Presbyterian Church was formally organized about the same time as construction of the plank road. According to the Northampton 1860 map, the community contained four churches, a harness shop, two physicians, two hotels, a store, two schools, and several prominent families with large homes. Once the railroad was extended from Gloversville to Northville, bypassing Fish House, the Adirondack Park tourist traffic was diverted away from Fish House.

The 1930 reservoir would prove fatal to the heart of the community by flooding its epicenter, but many significant historic buildings remain and some were relocated. About half (everything north of the yellow line depicted below) of Fish House was lost.

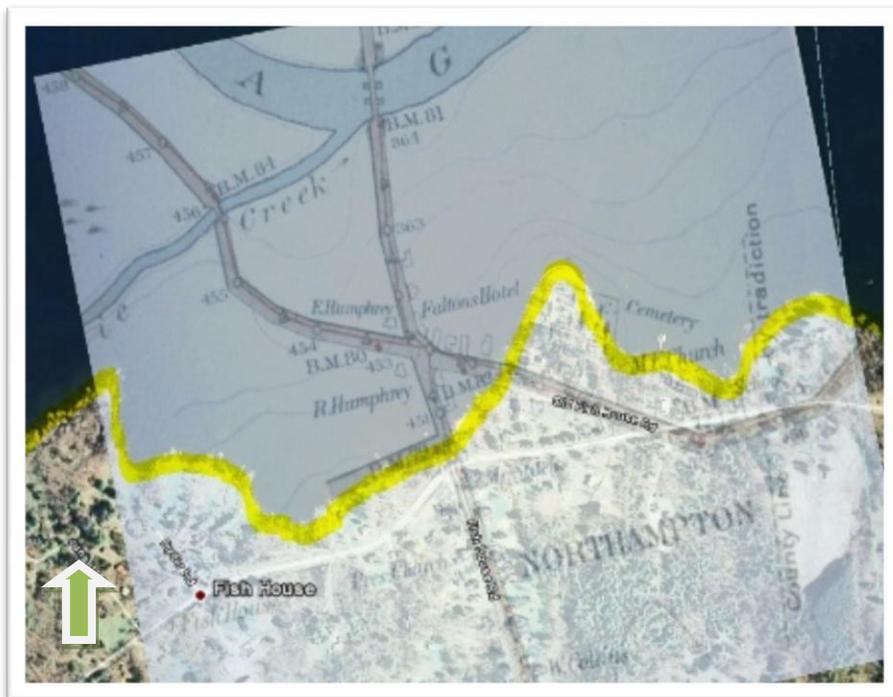


Figure 4 Overlay of an 1897 map (by C.G. Locke) over an aerial map of Fish House

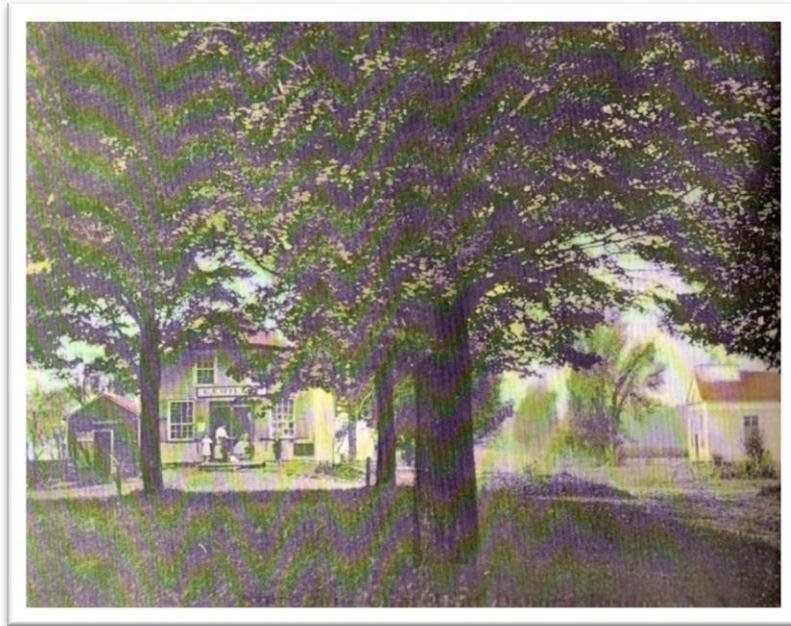


Figure 5 Looking west at Osborn Bridge's Wilbur Store and M.E. Church

Osborn Bridge

Osborn Bridge was once about halfway between Fish House and Northville, about three miles north of Fish House. From Osborn Bridge, one could go south to Fish House, west to Cranberry Creek, and north to Northville, or southeast to Batchellerville. Osborn Bridge was also known as "Osborne's Bridge."

In the early 1800s, the Osborn family, along with Garret Van Ness, Abel Scribner, and John Brown, settled on the west side of the Sacandaga River, while the Denton family settled on the east shore. The post office was eventually named Osborn Bridge. Calvin Osborn built a floating log bridge here, hence the name, but it was John Paterson who built the 253-foot-long covered bridge, in 1840. The covered bridge was joined entirely with wooden pegs. (See Figure 45 on page 45.) The settled area immediately surrounding the Dentons' place became known as Denton's Corners.

This little farming community grew significantly in the later part of the 19th century, with 50 homes, the Methodist Episcopal Church, two stores, a shoe shop, two coopers, a cabinet shop, and a schoolhouse. The village was flooded by the reservoir in 1930.



Figure 6 “Jammers” working the log drive

From 1850 to 1920, the logging industry was a significant portion of the Town of Northampton’s economy (Shaw, 79). Log drives played a significant part in the lives of the people who lived along the Sacandaga shores and the log drivers who manipulated the floating lumber toward the mills downstream.

In the winter months, logs were cut and limbed. Horses or oxen were used to drag the lumber to the skid way. Then the logs were hauled to the banks of the rivers and streams. At first, logs were set adrift on large log rafts or towed by a small steamboat. Later the logs were marked (branded) and awaited the spring runoff to send them on their way, downstream to Glens Falls. A sluiceway was sometimes built, like a small dam with a center opening, so rushing downstream waters would carry the lumber farther until the next sluggish area and sluiceway. Problems included logjams, still waters, winds scattering logs, floods, and drought, so booms were set up along the Sacandaga River to round up the logs.

The Sacandaga Boom Co. was created in 1870, about 1.5 miles south of Osborn Bridge. The company's boom was anchored by three piers made of timber and rock. The boom was held together with floating logs and chains connected to capture the logs. On the west bank was a boom house full of supplies (chain, tools, boat, oars, pike poles) that the supervisor, Zina Cook, used.



Figure 7 View of a log boom

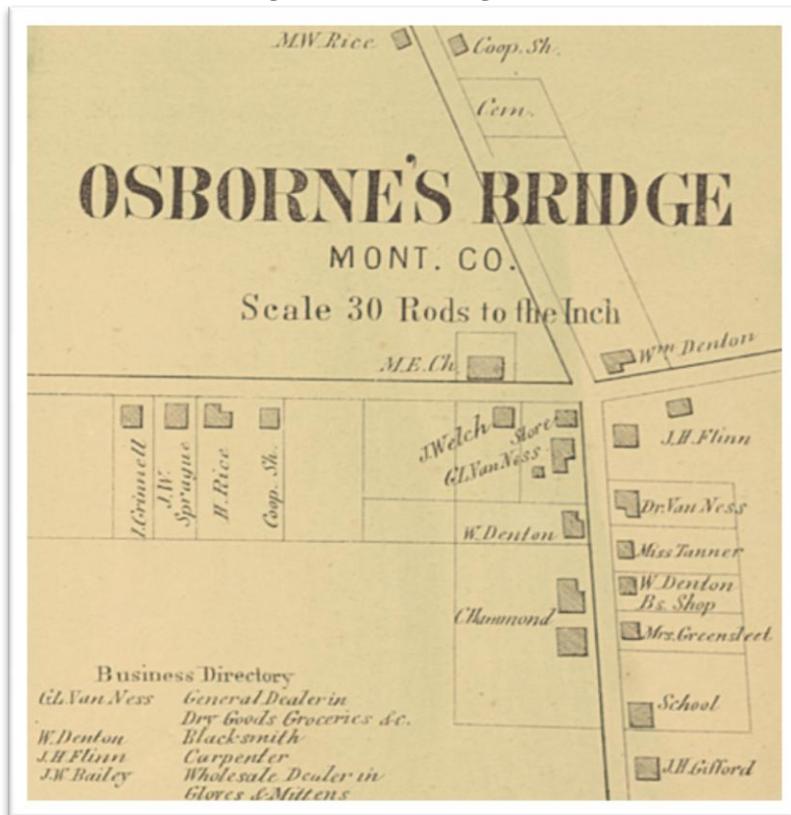


Figure 8 Map of Osborne's Bridge from the Stranahan and Nichols 1868 Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties



Figure 9 Cranberry Creek store & post office

Cranberry Creek

Cranberry Creek was named after the creek that flows south from the Tamarack Swamp, just north of this small village. It was situated between Gloversville and Northville. This location would prove ideal in 1875, when the Fonda-Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad made a stop here in addition to connections made by the stagecoach for Osborn Bridge and Fish House. In the 1920s, the American Feldspar Co. acquired land on the Mountain Road near Cranberry Creek. It was used to quarry feldspar for use in pottery glazing. There was a tram to take material from the quarry to the railroad (Cramer).

M.A. Gilbert was the station agent for the railroad company, a position he held for 12 years. A.G. Kiltz was the postmaster. The village also had two churches, the Christian and the Methodist Episcopal; a store; a schoolhouse; and 25 or 30 dwellings. Its location would later prove fatal, for if it had been just half a mile to the north or to the west, it would not have been affected by the reservoir. The railroad line between Mayfield and Cranberry Creek was also lost to the reservoir. Much of the Village of Cranberry Creek was moved to the west, into the Town of Mayfield, to higher ground.



Figure 10 Corner of Bridge and Main streets in the Village of Northville

Village of Northville

The Village of Northville sits on a small peninsula north of Osborn Bridge, originally between the Sacandaga River on the west and Hunters Creek on the east. Shortly after the Revolution, people settled here in pursuit of new land and a new life. Samuel Olmstead was the first to build here, in 1788 (Decker).

In 1797, the first planned road was laid out, which is Main Street today. Ridge Road is thought to have been the first road that led to Northville and north to Wells in 1794. The first bridge was built over Hunters Creek; it made Main Street accessible to the south of Northville. In 1794, another road was laid out from the ford in the river, up the steep bank, and across to Main Street. It was named Grove Street, which today is Washington Street. In 1807, only six families lived on Main Street. The first store in town was started by Abraham Van Arnam around 1800. He also started a shoe shop and a tavern in the very same building, in addition to a tannery and a mill.

The first settlers of Northville made their living by farming, but blacksmiths, sawyers, tanners, carpenters, and others moved in as well. Early farming produced wheat, rye, barley, corn, and maple syrup. Between 1800 and 1835, growth of the village slowed, and then the village grew again because of lumber, the second most important industry after farming. In the winter, the loggers went upstream into the woods to cut down logs, and in the spring, when snow runoff made the river stronger, the logs floated downstream. By 1850, New York was the leading producer of lumber in the nation.

Many types of trees were harvested. The hemlock became one of the most widely sought after as its bark was used in the tanning of leather. These trees were felled and debarked ("barking"), and the remainder of the tree left behind. Hemlocks were harvested almost to extinction in the area.



Figure 11 Northville Hotel on North Main Street

An important part of Northville's architectural history is its hotels. Hotels were first needed for the wintering lumberjacks, stagecoach passengers, Adirondack hunters, and finally for the summer tourists enjoying the amusements of Sacandaga Park. At least nine hotels existed. Only one remains standing in its original location, the Northville Hotel (at 131 North Main Street), which was built in 1813 (Shaw, 63) by Abraham Van Arnam for his daughter and son-in-law, James Lobdell. At present, the hotel looks very different from the photo in Figure 11 above.

Other hotels included the National Hotel, which burned, making way for the Winney House on the same site on S. Main. The Sacandaga Hotel at the foot of Prospect St. hill burned in 1888. The day it burned a wedding was being performed at a home on Prospect Street within sight of the hotel. When the fire broke out, the brother of the bride left the ceremony in wedding attire to fight the blaze. Winney House burned in 1909, but part of the front portion was saved and reused on a house on Second St. The Lyon Hotel burned in the winter of 1910 where a woman jumped from a window and lost her diamonds in the snow. The woman was fine, but the diamonds were never found. The Riverview Hotel operated until 1930, when it was lost to the creation of the reservoir. This hotel had steps which went down to the river's edge. In the winter of 1906, three boys stood on those steps watching the ice break up. The ice swept the steps away, carrying the three boys with it. They were all rescued. The James Van Every Hotel, formerly known as the Eglin House, burned in 1912. The Brunswick Hotel, also known as the Carpenter's Rooming House, was torn down in the early 1960s. The Tower Inn had many names including Anibal House, Kathens, Flewellings, Tunnicliffs, and Avalon. It was lost to fire 1958 (Decker).

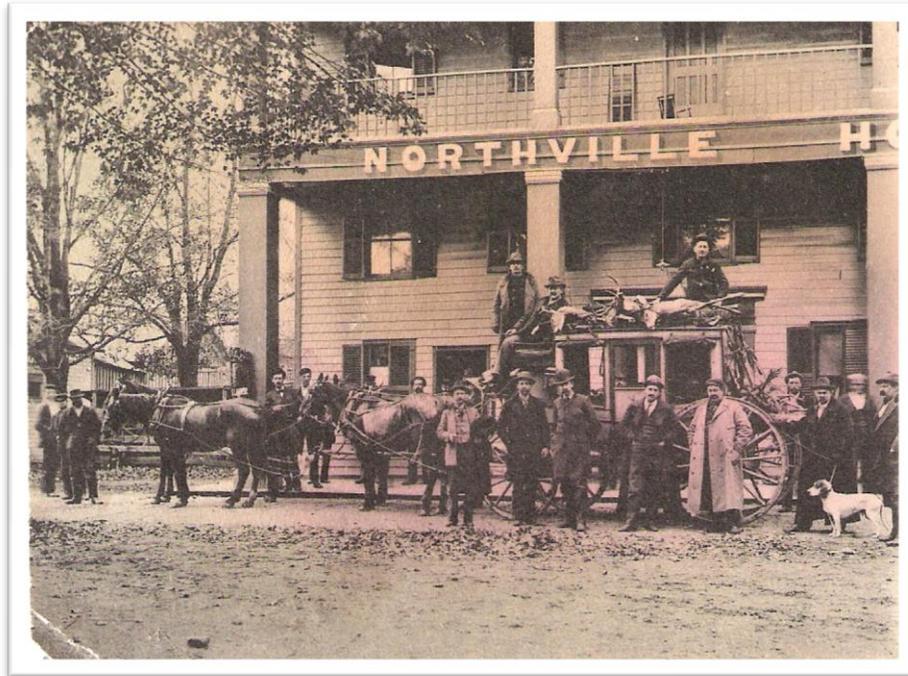


Figure 12 Northville Hotel as the stagecoach returns from a hunt

Joseph Spier's store was on the corner of South Main and Washington streets. His home was the first brick building in the village, built in 1819, at 331 S. Main. His son, Joseph F. Spier, was the first postmaster in Northville, which was in his store. The post office was named Sacandaga in 1824, but in 1827 the name was changed to Northville. Joseph F. Spier lived at 520 S. Main.

Several stagecoach companies and routes were established starting about 1815(Bennis). Around 1840, finally, a regular stagecoach route was established from Amsterdam, through Broadalbin, through Fish House, and onto Northville, making mail delivery more dependable. By 1875, the F, J & G Railroad brought mail twelve times per week to Northville. But the need for stagecoaches was still apparent to bring passengers from the stations to rural communities. Fish House, Batchellerville, Osborn Bridge, Cranberry Creek were popular stops. In 1918 James Cole operated a stage coach called the "Tally-ho" that would bring hunters (passengers) to points north like Piseco Lake.

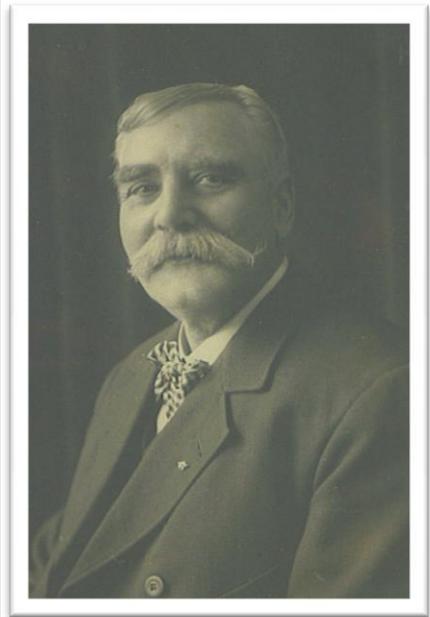
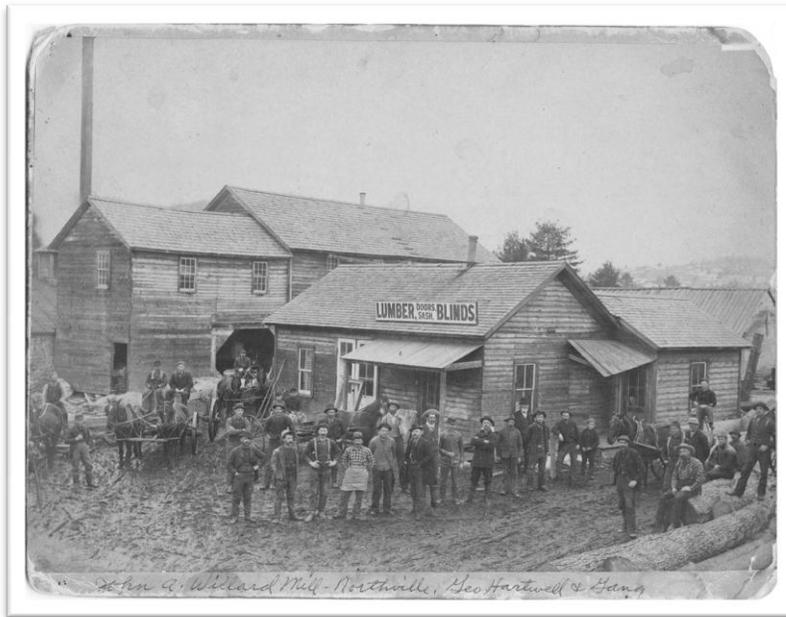


Figure 13 Hubbell House on Bridge Street

The Globe Metallic Binding Co. was founded by Ray Hubbell and James Cole in 1880. Hubbell followed his father into the lumber business and then opened a mercantile shop in Northville in 1871. An energetic man, Hubbell thought of a new way to fasten linoleum to the floor. Although his factory was destroyed by fire in 1890, it was rebuilt within two months. In 1890, Hubbell was elected to take charge of constructing a village water system. He and Cole also started a glove factory in Northville. He was the first man in Northville to own an automobile, sometime after 1904.

In 1940 the return of chimney swifts to the Hubbell Factory Chimney was first recorded. Since then, the birds have returned to their summer home each year on May 6. The village gathers just before dark to see the thousands of birds flying clockwise around the chimney and suddenly reverse direction and then dive into the chimney. Now part of Northville culture, this event is celebrated each year with a large gathering.

The Northville Knitting Mill was started in 1891 by Eli Van Brocklin. The mill produced shirts, sportswear, underwear, and other items, employing as many as 250 people. Van Brocklin built his home on First Street. The first electric light post was in front of his home, run by a cable connected to the mills; these were the first buildings to have electricity in Northville.



Figures 14 & 15 John Willard mill, north of Sacandaga Park, west of Northville, and John A. Willard

Businessman John A. Willard holds a significant place in the history of Northville. He was born in 1851 in a log cabin in the Town of Hope but lived in Northville nearly his entire life. He never had an education but learned about the business world by listening to others at his first job at age 16. He was best known for his successful lumber yard and mill. The mill was located at the west end of today's Bridge Street on the west side of the Sacandaga River. Today the site is underwater at the present-day Northville Beach. Willard was also involved in politics, was one of the founders of the Northville Bank, served as town supervisor, water commissioner, and joined the Masons and the Shriners.

Willard had four sons, Seymour, Harold, Hubert (Hugh), and Wesley, along with one daughter, Eugenia. John Willard built the R.G. DeWitt 5 & 10 store (1914), homes in Northville for his five children, and resided at the east end of Northville at the corner of Bridge and Sixth streets. He lived a full life, dying at age 91 in 1941.

A forgotten aspect of Northville's architecture is its industrial buildings made up of knitting mills, glove factories, lumber factories and others. See Map 25 in Appendix A to identify the location of the various commercial buildings that are no longer.



Figure 16 Parkville looking north, 1908

Parkville

Around 1828, about three-quarters of a mile north of Northville, a dam was built across the Sacandaga River by Andrew McNutt, formerly of Edinburgh, Scotland. The dam was made of timber and had a wheel to power the gristmill on the west side of the river and the saw mill on the east. The saw mill was thought to have produced 400,000 feet of lumber annually. McNutt sold the dam 20 years later to Isaac Le Ferve and Isaac Van Valkenburg. A tannery was built, called the Park Tannery, from which Parkville got its name. Small homes and businesses gathered there, including a small school, a hard pan store, and a general store.

A few small homes in the Village of Northville that still exist today were relocated from Parkville in preparation for the reservoir. For example, the home of Silas Kent, once a mill in Parkville, and the general store in Parkville are now both on Second Street in Northville.



Figure 17 Gifford home at Gifford Corner

Gifford Corner

Gifford Corner is located near the corner of Route 30 and Mountain Road. The Gifford Corner School stood at this corner on the east side of Route 30 with the railroad tracks just behind it. Gifford Corner is located south of Gifford Valley.

Gifford Valley

Sometime just before 1860, the Price brothers moved to the west side of the Sacandaga River, where the stream flowed into the Sacandaga River just northwest of the Village of Northville. In 1860 the Gifford family moved to this little valley, and the area was named after them. They were mainly farmers, but a merchant and a lumberman also lived in the valley.

Gifford Valley is the original home of Schoolhouse #9, which currently resides behind the Town Hall on South Main Street. This little red schoolhouse operated here until 1926, and closed when the Northville School consolidated. It was moved to the village in 1990 to be used as a museum.



Figure 18 1890 Burleigh Lithography illustrates the community of Hardscrabble

Hardscrabble/Maple Grove

Hardscrabble, also called Maple Grove, is located in the far northeastern corner of the Town of Northampton. It is accessed by either Ridge Road or Prospect Hill Road and is divided by the Fulton County and Hamilton County line. It seems likely that the portion in Fulton County can be referred to as Hardscrabble, while the center of Maple Grove is in the Town of Hope, just to the north. Historically this was the road used to get from Northville to Hope Falls and Wells. This is a mountainous region, and it is difficult to imagine what life would have been like here when it was first settled, around 1841.

"Hardscrabble" refers to the barren soil and rocky glacial till that can be found here. Despite the landscape, this little community was primarily residential farmers who depended on the Village of Northville for most of their goods and services. There was one school located on the corner of Maple Grove Road and Hardscrabble Road, and there was a school located just outside the town called Steenburg School District.

It was in this area that the Willards also had a small mill, which utilized Hunters Creek.



Figure 19 The second Sacandaga Station, built in 1920, in Sacandaga Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003

Sacandaga Park

When the Fonda-Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad opened 27 miles of track in 1875, it connected the world with Northville, the first “gateway to the Adirondacks.” This area was selected for a natural area away from town to create a picnic grove. The railroad purchased 17 acres from John Mc Cuen’s farm for the new picnic area. Soon after, people began asking to rent or purchase land in the picnic grove for their own private use. A lease was allowed on small parcels, and social groups started camping in the area. Most of these groups were Methodist Church members from Gloversville and Johnstown.

The first railroad station was named the Northville Station, built in 1884 near the present-day intersection of Route 30 and Bridge Street. It was a simple vernacular two-story wood-frame building, later embellished with Victorian details. A second station was built to the south called the Sacandaga Station near the present-day intersection of McKinley and Adirondack Terrace. It was across the tracks of the to-be-built Adirondack Inn (1888). It was a single-story Victorian building. In 1920 the second Sacandaga Station was built as a single-story, shingle-style, wood-frame building. It was built just 400 feet north of the first Sacandaga Station. The railroad station is one of the last reminders of a stop on a track that led to this tourist attraction. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. A copy of this listing can be found in Appendix B.

This was a new era of traveling for pleasure. With the ease of railroad travel, people began to stay the night, and wooden platforms were available on which to erect a tent. Camping was now part of the Sacandaga Park experience. The park's popularity grew, and people built cottages on their parcels. The seasonal cottages were embellished with porches, fretwork, gingerbread, spindles, brackets, and gable decorative trusses. Later,

because of the park's popularity, the Methodists moved out of Sacandaga Park to the Round Lake camps in Saratoga County and elsewhere.

The railroad company developed a camp and recreation area in 1884, which became "Sacandaga Park, gem of the Adirondacks" -- a destination of more than 700 acres of hotels, cottages, amusements, and a swimming and boating area.

As part of its promotion of Sacandaga Park and the park's increasing popularity, the FJ&G railroad built the Adirondack Inn in 1888. The Victorian-style inn was four stories tall and had more than 100 rooms. A large sitting porch was constructed with an excellent view of the park. The railroad began to advertise the park as an amusement park with rides, a midway, and a water slide into the river. It also advertised the park as a healthful place to take in fresh air, reminiscent of the time.

Only nine cottages were spared when fire destroyed 111 cottages on May 8, 1898. The fire was devastating, but no one was hurt. After the park began to grow again, and the railroad added a nine-hole golf course, paths, gardens, a sports venue called Sport Island, a miniature railroad ride, the open-air Rustic Theater, water and sewer lines and more. Some believe that Sacandaga Park is the Adirondacks' first planned community.



Figure 20 The park lagoon

The railroad formed the Sacandaga Amusement Co., responsible for the addition to the park of a roller coaster, bowling alley, donkey rides, shooting gallery, and toboggan rides. Other popular attractions were an acrobat performing stunts off a balloon and parachuting to the ground and a bear named Fred who lived in a pen behind the dance hall. The railroad hired a landscape architect whose last name was Chapman to beautify the grounds with wooded paths, miniature lakes, rustic bridges, arbors, and gardens throughout.

A large island in the center of the Sacandaga River, called Sport Island, was the site of the grandstand and the sporting events. It included a baseball diamond, which became home to the New York State Baseball League. There was also wrestling, boxing, and reenactments/encampments of Native American events. Sacandaga Park had 90,000 visitors in the summer of 1912.

To the west of Sacandaga Park, high on the hill, near the giant boulder that gave the resort its name, was the High Rock Lodge. The High Rock was built in 1901 on 300 acres of the old Houseman Farm, west of the tracks. Other hotels inside the park were the Pines Hotel (near the midway) and the Old Orchard Inn (near the golf course). J. Ledlie Hees, the president of the FJ&G Railroad, built a summer mansion called Heeswijk just west of the golf course. President Warren Harding stayed overnight at Heeswijk in 1920.

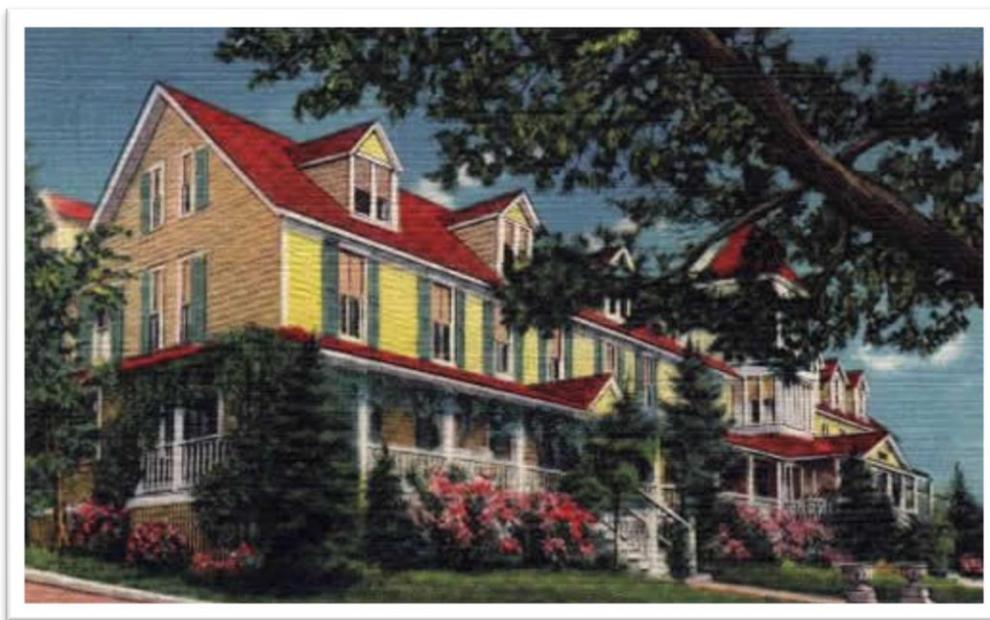


Figure 21 High Rock Lodge

In 1904 the automobile arrived in Northville, and by 1908 Ford had provided the affordable Model T so that families could travel as they pleased. They no longer had to depend on train schedules and could go beyond where the tracks ended.

In 1925 the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District established the proposed water level for the reservoir and the properties they would take by eminent domain. This included the merry-go-round, bowling alley, skating rink, billiards room, bath house, toboggan house, laundry & bakery, and other midway booths, not to mention the Pines Hotel, Sweet Cottage, and other utility buildings and cottages. These were set ablaze in preparation of the reservoir.

The railroad track was below the proposed waterline as well. The railroad workers worked feverishly to remove the tracks, but they didn't have enough time to pull up the entire track, so the remaining track was

flooded. All that survived in Sacandaga Park was the Adirondack Inn, the dance hall, High Rock Lodge, the Rustic Theater, the Old Orchard Inn, the golf course, the Sacandaga Station, the Heeswijk, a child's playhouse at the Heeswijk, and a few decorative stone walls as well as many original cottages.

The railroad sued the regulating district for creating the reservoir and for its loss of income. The F, J & G received \$1,727,696 on June 27, 1929, but they still suffered a great loss. The railroad reorganized and continued to operate a shortened train route (into Broadalbin with a bus run from there into Sacandaga Park) into the 1950s, when it finally went out of business.

The cottages on Osborn Road burned down in 1939, followed by High Rock Lodge (1951); the Rustic Theater (1955); Heeswijk (1964); and on Sept. 8, 1975, the Adirondack Inn. The Old Orchard Inn was demolished in 1965. The remainder of the property was sold in 1952 to Bill Delia's Adirondack Properties, which then parceled out the assets to various private and commercial interests. There was a short-lived revival of the theater in the 1960s as the Sacandaga Summer Theater. The Sacandaga Park Summer Theater is now gone.

F. J. & G. R. R. Co.

BUILDINGS

AT

SACANDAGA PARK.

BELOW THE TAKING LINE.

BUILDING NO.	NAME	COST TO REPRODUCE NEW	PRESENT VALUE.
39	Rustic Theatre	\$14,817.82	\$12,604.00
40	Murphy Building	6,517.33	5,882.63
44	Refreshment Stand	1,152.00	742.00
45	Restaurant	3,100.00	2,366.00
46	Photograph Booth	1,030.00	788.00
47	Pop Corn Booth	515.00	460.31
48	Shooting Gallery	2,339.00	1,897.00
48-A	Souveneir Booth	4,294.00	3,359.00
48-B	Skee Ball	3,208.00	2,894.00
49	Game Booth	1,052.00	829.00
50	Hitching Rack	184.00	147.00
51	Bowling Alley	9,242.27	7,356.00
52	Billiard Room	2,181.79	1,509.69
53	Merry-Go-Round	7,499.39	6,735.84
54	Rustic Ticket Office	250.00	190.00
55	Boat Pavilion	600.00	450.00
56	Rustic Popcorn Booth	490.00	337.00
57	Saddle House	158.00	126.00
58	Hose House	250.00	172.00
58-A	Electric Building	203.00	124.00
59	Engine R for Merry-Go-Round	230.00	123.00
60-61	Two Toilet House	288.00	194.00
62-63	Riverside Cottages #1 & 2	1,790.00	1,455.00
63-A	" " #3	1,586.27	1,392.12
64	" " #4	1,807.00	1,439.00
66	Bath House	2,922.04	2,323.00
67	Women's Bath House	1,463.00	1,153.00
68	Toboggan House	1,936.00	1,431.00
69	Help's Cottage-Hotel Pines	1,354.00	1,034.00
70	Pines Annex-So. of Hotel	2,678.00	2,275.00
71	Engineer's Cottage	1,213.00	971.00
72	Laundry & Bakery	1,100.00	924.00
73	Pines Hotel	22,522.00	19,318.00
74	Skating Rink	10,013.37	9,243.37
75	Pines Annex (No. of Skating R)	10,733.00	9,155.00
76	Pavilion (Ea. " " ")	380.00	304.00
77	Teamsters Dwelling	3,726.00	2,786.00
78	Teamsters Barn	\$ 720.00	\$ 533.00
79	Sweets Cottage	9,865.21	8,879.00
80	" Barn	4,831.00	3,775.00
81	" Hay-Barn	1,420.00	350.00
82	" Garage	200.00	150.00
83			
84	" Small Work Shop	180.00	120.00
85	Log Cabin Inn	12,568.00	10,658.00
86	Boguskie Dwg.	7,703.00	6,500.00
86-A	Log Cabin-Inn Gar.	240.00	192.00
	Power House	5,246.84	3,273.44
	Total	\$167,579.87	\$138,710.95
	Willard Garage	6,000.00	4,800.00

Figure 22 Valuation of the properties below the taking line (to be flooded) & see Map 24 in Appendix A



Figure 23 Conklingville Powerhouse at the dam

Reservoir

Ever since 1867, it is believed that business interests and politicians were the driving force in asking the legislators to dam the Sacandaga River. They wanted to provide water to the mills and power companies. They wanted to make the river more navigable, especially during dry spells. And most importantly, they wanted to protect people from periodic flooding that occurred downstream along the Hudson River. The flooding caused property damage, crop damage, and loss of life.

New York State created the Regulating District to develop dams and reservoirs to capture excess runoff to prevent flooding in the Hudson River and Black River basins, and to release such captured water gradually during periods of low river flow to maintain water quality in each river basin. This system was designed to reduce damage from spring storms and snowmelt, including disease and destruction of life and property, and to improve river navigation and public sanitation. In addition, the creators of the Regulating District were also keenly aware that this increased and carefully monitored flow would also fuel downstream industries, such as hydroelectric power generation. Hydroelectric power is a clean and renewable energy source that is created when the water is directed through a turbine, which activates a generator that produces electricity. Utilizing water released from the Regulating District's reservoirs, these hydroelectric plants produce enough clean and renewable electricity for over 450,000 homes. - Hudson River-Black River Regulating District

Plans to start development of the reservoir were slow. Following the turn of the 20th century, more severe flooding occurred, which intensified concerns, but the state continued to stall because of funding problems.

After more severe flooding, construction plans were adopted for the Sacandaga Reservoir, set to begin in 1924.

The engineer in charge was Edward Haynes Sargent, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He came to live in Northville while building the Conklingville Dam and stayed from 1924 until his death in 1954. He built his home on Bridge Street and married Emma Olmstead of Northville.

The dam was constructed west of Northampton in Conklingville, in the Town of Day, Saratoga County, at a narrow part of the Sacandaga River. Before the dam was completed and the flooding of the valley was to begin, residents were notified. Residents could relocate or move their homes to higher ground, or their homes would be destroyed by fire or demolition. Some families resisted the move and were forcibly ejected.

In 1927, the first construction contract was let. This marked the start of the clearing of land and removal of structures in the reservoir's 29-mile-long, five-mile-wide path. Workmen cleared the valley all summer that year. It was common to see clouds of smoke from burning trees and houses in the valley.

To prepare for the flooding, the bodies from 24 cemeteries -- more than 3,500 in all -- were removed and reburied in other cemeteries provided by the State of New York. It is said (but may not be true) that not all the graves were relocated because the only graves moved were the marked grave sites, and workers removed only the skulls and large bones for reburial at the new cemeteries. Today, relocated burials are quite obvious to identify; their gravestones are small, plain, and very close to one another.

On March 27, 1930, the Conklingville Dam was dedicated. The waters of the Sacandaga River were restricted from then on, creating the Sacandaga Reservoir. Later on, some felt the term "reservoir" might be misconstrued as fenced in, no fishing allowed, and thus limit tourism. Others thought the name was too similar to Hamilton County's Sacandaga Lake in Lake Pleasant. In 1959, the Hudson River Regulating District changed the name to "Sacandaga Lake" and advanced proceedings to add "Great" to avoid confusion with the other lake. Years later, in June 1968, Governor Nelson Rockefeller signed into law a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Campbell, Assemblyman Harris, and Senator Niles that the body of water created by the Hudson River Improvement Project be named "Great Sacandaga Lake." In 1959, the Black River Regulating District (created in 1919) and the Hudson River Regulating District (created in 1922) were merged into the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD).

The water level fluctuates between 740 feet and 771 feet above sea level (HRBRRD).

Within the boundary of the Town of Northampton, the reservoir consumed all of Parkville, Osborn Bridge, and part of Sacandaga Park, Cranberry Creek, and Fish House. The creation of the reservoir would forever change the Town of Northampton by separating Fish House from the rest of town.

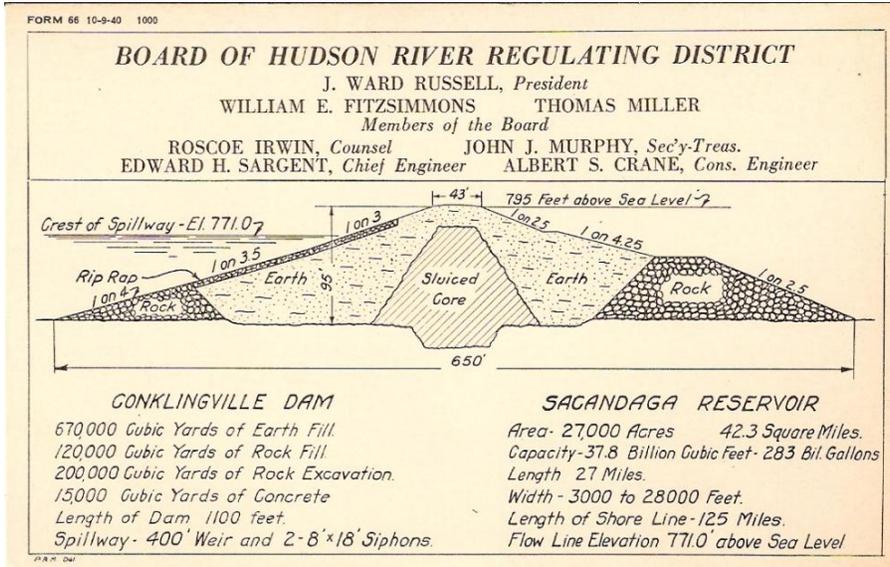


Figure 24 Section drawing of the construction of the dam



Figure 25 Earthwork creating the Conklingville Dam



Figure 26 Northampton Cemetery in Fish House

Cemeteries

Ten cemeteries are currently located in Northampton. The oldest is the Northampton Cemetery in Fish House, which lies near the shore of the reservoir (343 burial sites). The Fish House Presbyterian cemetery (60 burial sites) is located on the south side of the Presbyterian Church. One of the earliest burials in this cemetery dates from 1803, and the last was in 1864. The oldest cemetery in the Village of Northville is on South Main, near the Methodist Church. The second oldest cemetery in the Village of Northville is on Prospect Hill (more than 3,116 sites), at the top of North Main. In Gifford Valley there are three cemeteries; one is public, and two are on private land. The Gifford Valley earliest burial is 1812 and the last was 1979. The King Cemetery (1,626 sites) is on the west side of the reservoir, just south of the golf course, which contains several relocated burial sites from the creation of the reservoir. The Ridge Road Cemetery (sometimes referred to as the Schoolhouse Cemetery) sits back off the road and is located near the site of an old schoolhouse. It can be seen on the 1868 map of Northampton. A list of the gravestones of some of these cemeteries can be found at <http://www.fulton.nygenweb.net/cemeteries/index.html>.

The cemeteries in Northampton that were relocated were those in Cranberry Creek, Osborn Bridge, North Broadalbin, Munsonville, family plots of Corey or Houseman, Cook, and two with no name. A list of these gravestones, plus more about the locations of the cemeteries outside the town, can be found at <http://www.fulton.nygenweb.net/cemeteries/Sacandagacem.html>



Figure 27 Former Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Fish House

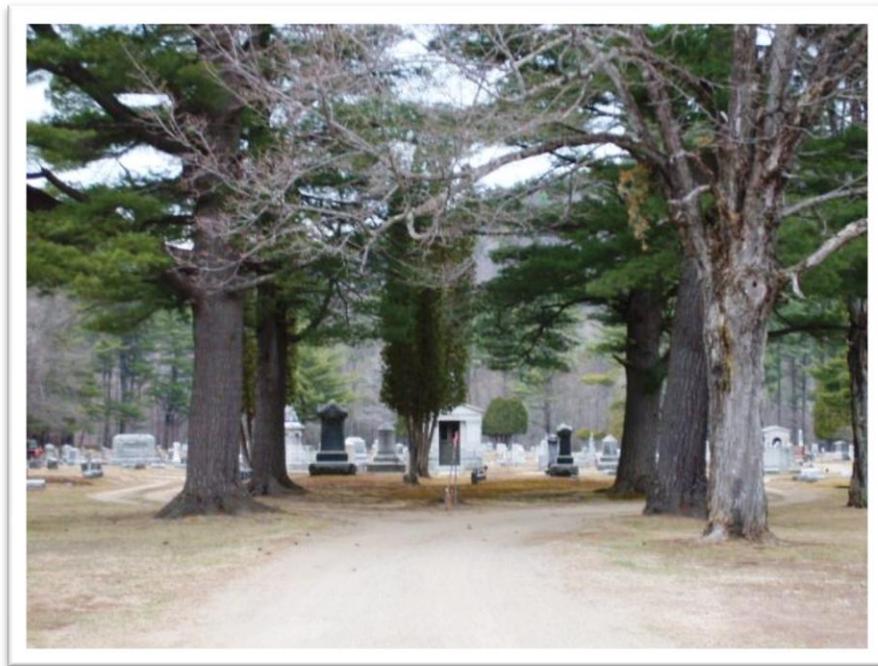


Figure 28 Prospect Hill Cemetery



Figure 29 Large cedar tree at King Cemetery

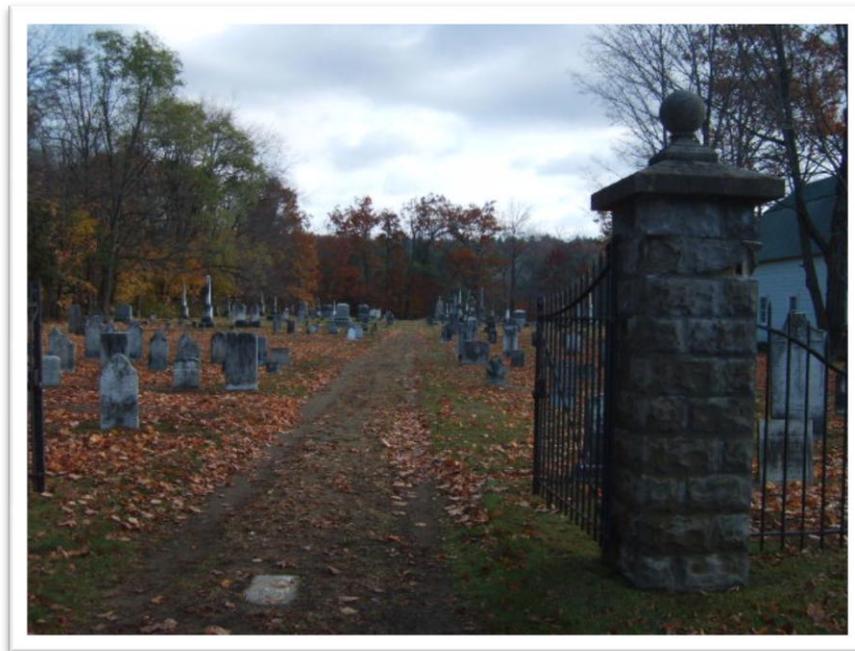


Figure 30 Northville Cemetery on South Main Street



Figure 31 Gifford Valley Cemetery



Figure 32 Former Presbyterian Church in Fish House

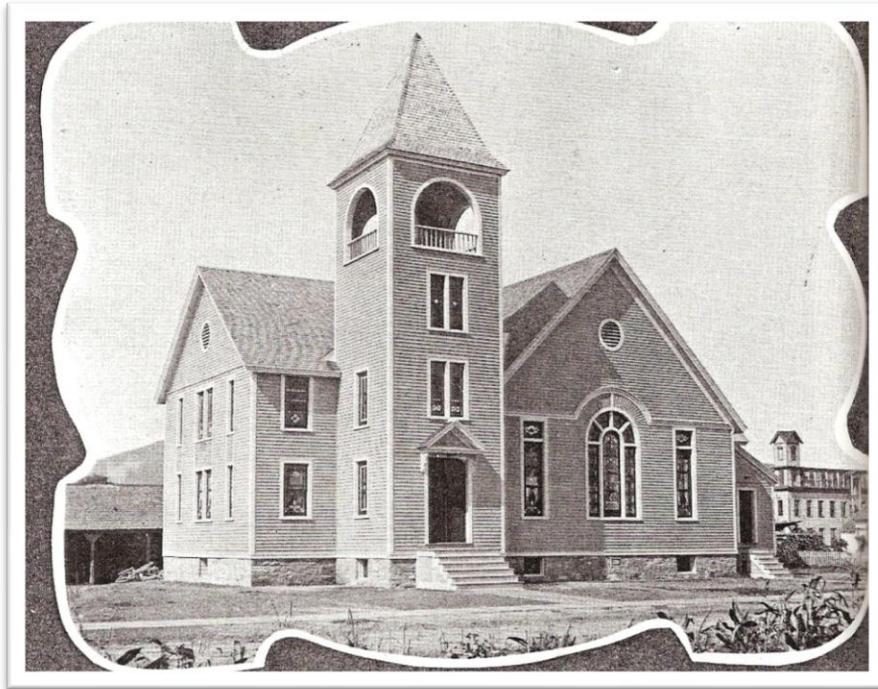
Churches

Presbyterian Church in Fish House, 1808

The forming of the Presbyterian Church in Fish House is thought to have begun in 1808, and some sources refer to the start of the church when Reverend Truman Osborn came to Fish House in 1814. Church meetings began to take place just west of Fish House until a wooden church was built near the site of the current brick church. The Presbyterian Church that is still standing in Fish House was built in 1870 from local brick by Josiah Carr, who also built the Dutch Reformed Church in Day. The church has been closed to congregations since 1919. It has no steeple or pews, and it recently received a new roof. It is also important to mention that the 1860 map of Fish House depicts four churches: the Presbyterian, the Episcopalian, the Catholic, and the Methodist (or M.E. for Methodist Episcopal). No information was found about the Catholic or Episcopalian churches.

Northville United Presbyterian, 1849

Northville United Presbyterian is at 161 Reed Street. The congregation was organized in 1849, and their church was built in 1857. This church building is believed to be the oldest in the Village of Northville. The church was damaged by fire in 1936 and was repaired by 1937. An addition was constructed on the northwest rear of the church in 1957 for education.



**Figure 33 Baptist Church, built in 1903 on First Street in new location
Note sheds to left and knitting mill to right**

Baptist Church, 1802

The Baptist Church of Northville is currently located on 111 N. First Street, and the congregation was organized in 1802. The congregation first met in the multi-congregational meetinghouse that was built and dedicated in 1804 at the northeastern corner of Bridge and Main streets. The meetinghouse had no windows or heat, was rebuilt in 1847, and torn down in 1869. A new wood-frame church was built in 1870 with a 75-foot-square bell tower along with a dome top and spire. The church held 500 people and had an attached lecture room that held 175 more people. In 1902 lightning struck the bell tower. The bell was sent crashing down through the balcony and into the basement. The property was sold, and the church was rebuilt in 1903 at its current location on N. First Street with a 65-foot-high bell tower. In 1975 a two-story addition was constructed.

Methodist Church in Osborn Bridge, 1827

The Methodist Church congregation was organized in 1827, and a church was built with logs. It was later replaced with a wood-frame building. It was lost to the creation of the Sacandaga Reservoir.



Figure 34 Northville Methodist church's steeple

First United Methodist Church of Northville, 1798

First United Methodist Church of Northville is located at 301 South Main Street. The congregation was organized in 1798. In 1805 they too used the meetinghouse that was built on the corner of Bridge and Main streets. They built their first wood-frame church in 1822 on the corner of Main and Washington streets. The wooden structure was moved west to make way for a brick masonry church on the same site in 1872. The church was designed by their own Reverend Clark, who was also an architect. This brick masonry structure was built from brick made in a local brickyard just south of the village. In 1903, the parsonage was moved to First Street to make way for the new parsonage. A large brick addition was built on the rear for education sometime after 1956.

Methodist and Christian Churches in Cranberry Creek, 1890

The Methodist Church and a Christian Church were organized in Cranberry Creek. The Methodist Church was organized in 1890 as a satellite church of the Northville Methodist Church. This church was reorganized as the Cranberry Creek Community Church and was moved to avoid flooding. In 1991, the floor collapsed from rot, and the church was demolished. A new church was built to replace it. The Christian church was organized in 1822, but they did not build a church until 1845.

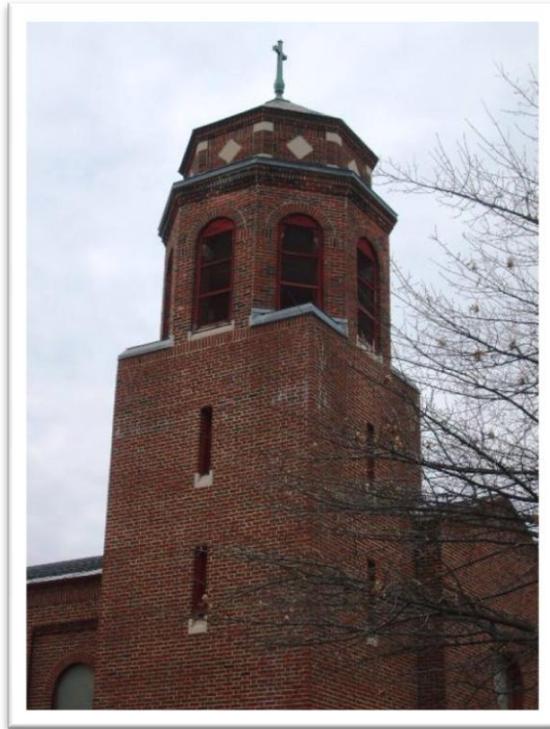


Figure 35 Saint Francis, built in 1922, on Bridge Street

St. Francis of Assisi, 1887

St. Francis of Assisi is located at 501 Bridge Street in Northville. Catholic missionaries celebrated Mass in private residences around Northville from 1887 until 1891. The congregation was more organized in 1920 and built their church in 1922. In 1920 a Franciscan residence was established on the corner of Bridge and Fourth streets. The building to the west (next door), built in 1896, serves as the rectory today. Summer Masses were organized in Sacandaga Park until the 1930s. Stone for the church foundation came from Seven Hills Road. It is a brick masonry structure built in the Italian Renaissance style. Woodwork and beams are made from oak, and the stained-glass windows were made in Innsbruck, Austria.



Figure 36 Fish House M.E. Church

M.E. Church in Fish House, 1859

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Fish House was organized in 1859. Their congregation built a wood-frame Greek Revival - style church that year and dedicated it in 1860. Reverend Quinlan began as pastor with 15 members. The membership of the church increased from 15 in 1859 to 47 in 1878.

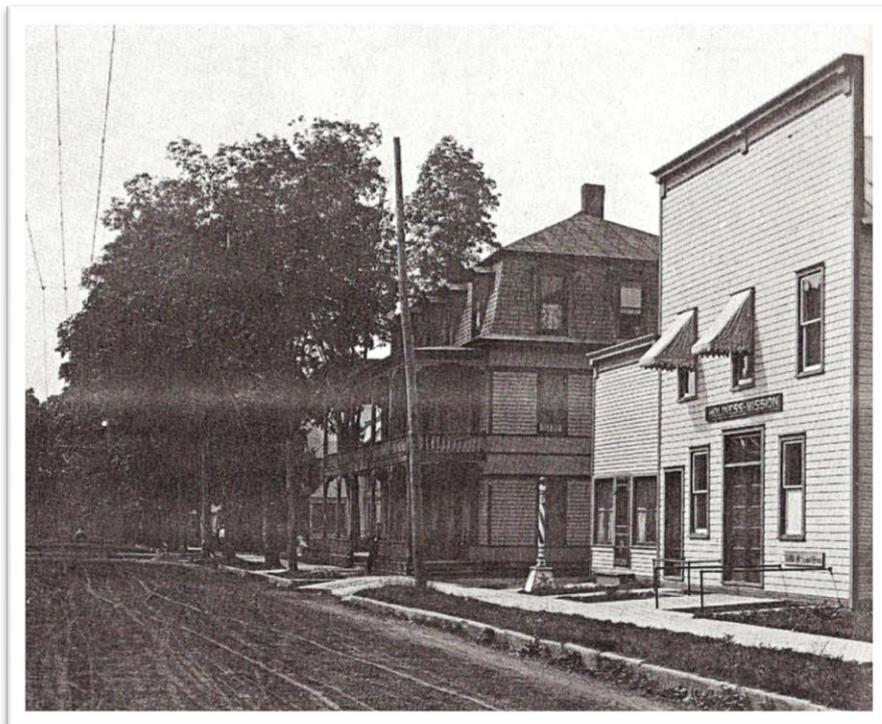


Figure 37 Pilgrim Holiness Church to the left and Lyons House (hotel) center.

Note high false front.

Pilgrim Holiness Church, 1906

The Northville Church started out as the Holiness Mission around 1906 or 1907. A group, led by Henry Early, saw the need for a holiness church due to the spiritual decline they found in the church they were attending. A building was built on Main Street by Uriah Patrick. Brother Early was their first pastor. This two-story building had living quarters above and a barbershop attached on the south side. Unlike the other churches in town, a collection box was used instead of an offering plate.

After 1965 Reverend Edward Lecates undertook a radio broadcast called "Glorious Freedom" from a Johnstown radio station. Also under his leadership, the Northville Christian Academy was founded, with Reverend Lecates as both the pastor and principal of the school starting in 1975.

In February 1988, a membership meeting voted on the board's recommendation to sell the property and build a church and parsonage elsewhere. A new location was sought. Because of the sale of the church property, the Academy was closed. A cleared lot was located on Mountain Road (now County Highway 123) and was purchased by the church with the monies received from the sale of the former church. In 1991 the new church was dedicated.



Figure 38 Schoolhouse #9, built in 1830, was originally at the southeast corner of Collin-Gifford Rd. and High Rock Rd. in Gifford Valley and now is on S. Main Street.

Schools

The first school in Northville was built in 1802. Then a larger school was built on the corner of First and Bridge streets. At this time the Northville School taught students in grades first through eighth; students had to travel to Gloversville to attend high school. In 1876, a Union Free School District was formed. Still, there were a number of one-room schoolhouses in the outlying areas. But in 1901 the school commissioner ordered consolidation of the country schools. Parkville, Maple Grove, Gifford Valley, Gifford Corner, Osborn Bridge, and Fish House were all joined to the Union Free School, which was on South Main Street. In 1910 the school was accredited as a full four-year high school. In 1920 an addition was constructed. In 1928, a Central School District was formed. A new school was built on Third Street, and the first class graduated from the just constructed school in the spring of 1933 without ever attending a class at the new school. One by one the country schools closed, until in 1941 the last school closed, Maple Grove. The old Union Free School was sold to the Serfis Glove Corp. of Gloversville, and the building was used as a glove shop from 1938 to 1969. Finally, in 1972, Paul Bradt tore down the Union Free School to make way for an office building, now the town municipal building.



Figure 39 & 40 Current photos of Schoolhouse #9 on South Main in the Village of Northville

In 1975 a Christian Day school was started by the Pilgrim Holiness Church. The students were taught in the church basement and at the former Tony's Market on Main Street. The second year of enrollment began with 31 students. When the congregation built a new church on the Mountain Road in 1988, they sold the church/school building. After the sale it was a restaurant called Flamingo and now is owned by the Baptist Church of Northville as a recreation hall. (Cramer)

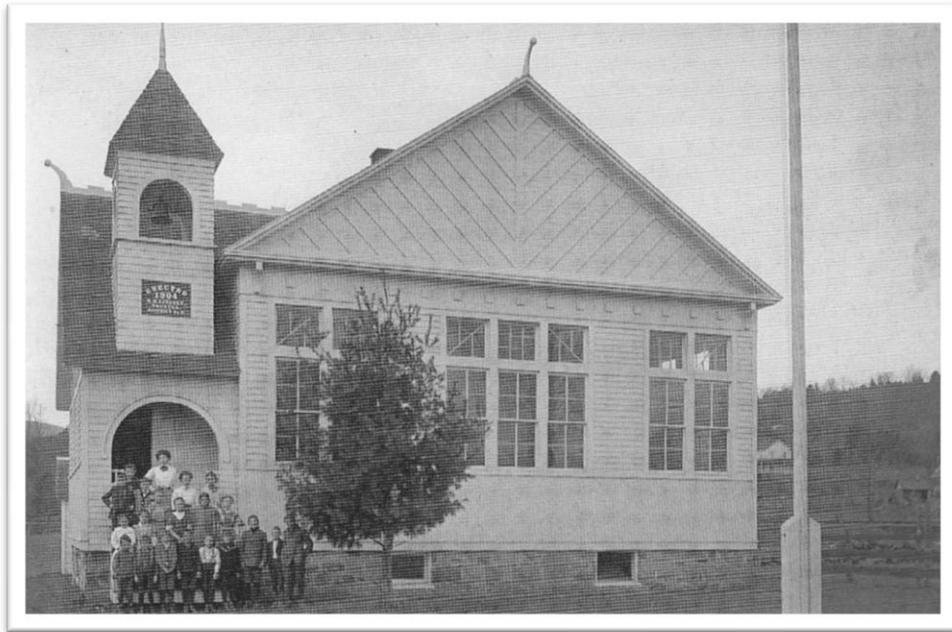


Figure 41 Schoolhouse #8 at Gifford Corner built 1904



Figure 42 Schoolhouse #8 extensively remodeled as a residence



Figure 43 Schoolhouse #7 at Cranberry Creek was lost to fire about 1950



Figure 44 Union Free School, built in 1888, now the site of the town municipal building

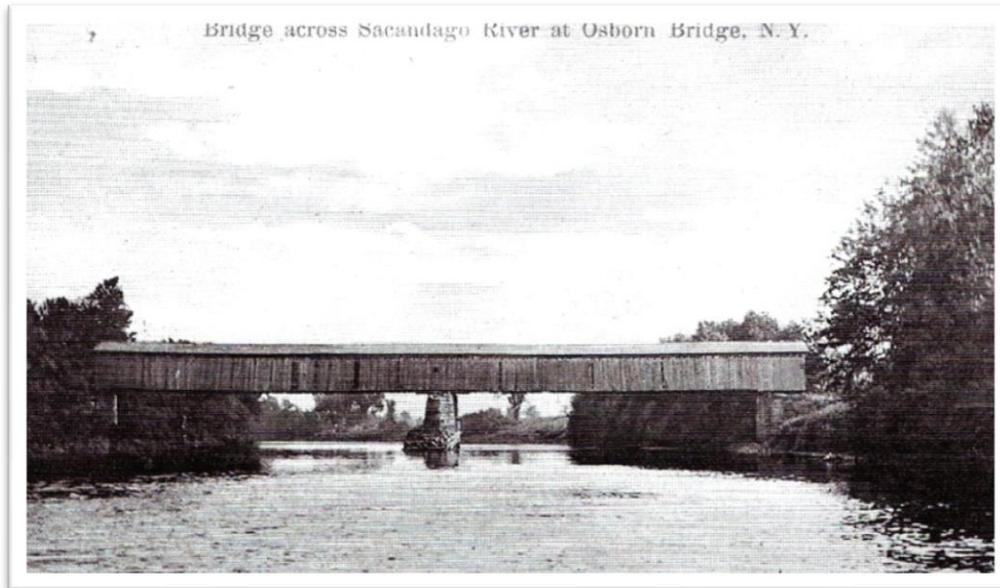


Figure 45 Osborn Bridge, built in 1840

Bridges

Northampton had four of New York's 250 covered bridges. They were located in Fish House (2), Northville, and Osborn Bridge. The oldest and largest was in Fish House. This was a two-lane bridge on Dyke Road that crossed the Sacandaga River. The smaller bridge in Fish House crossed the Vlaie.

The Fish House covered bridge was built 1814 to 1818 by Daniel Stewart and his laborers. The bridge consisted of 12 timber arches and was 380 feet long. It was considered a well built and engineered bridge while it lasted -- 112 years, until the reservoir came. When the flooding began, the bridge was cabled down to try and save it, but the bridge was eventually set afloat when the reservoir water rose and it was cut free. Wood was salvaged from this landmark and reused by Fish House residents. Thousands of wooden pegs or pins used to hold the bridge together were sold by the Ladies Aid Society of the Fish House Methodist Church with the identifying Fish House Bridge name and date painted on them. The timbers and uprights were bought by a contractor named Wells Brothers and were used to construct what is called the Greta Room at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

In 1835 a small covered bridge was constructed over the Vlaie in Fish House. In 1883 it burned down and a new one was constructed the same year. Then it was burned down in 1930 in preparation for the reservoir.

In Osborn Bridge, just north of Fish House, Calvin Osborn built a floating log bridge, hence the name, but it was John Paterson who built the 253-foot-long covered bridge, in 1840. The covered bridge was joined entirely with wooden pegs. The bridge was burned down in preparation for the reservoir.

In 1860 a lattice-type covered bridge was constructed to span the Sacandaga River in Northville. In 1882 it was washed out by a large ice jam; no photos remain. During the summer that same year, a new iron bridge replaced the 1860 bridge. Stephen Acker, from the Village of Northville, built the abutments for the second bridge that crossed the Sacandaga River. This bridge, built by the Groton Bridge Co., was the first two-span

iron bridge in the area. A third bridge was a truss built in 1930, on a much higher elevation, in preparation for the higher water level caused by the reservoir (see page 55 for a photo of the construction). The fourth bridge was built in 1990 as a simple concrete deck (see page 79 for a current photo).

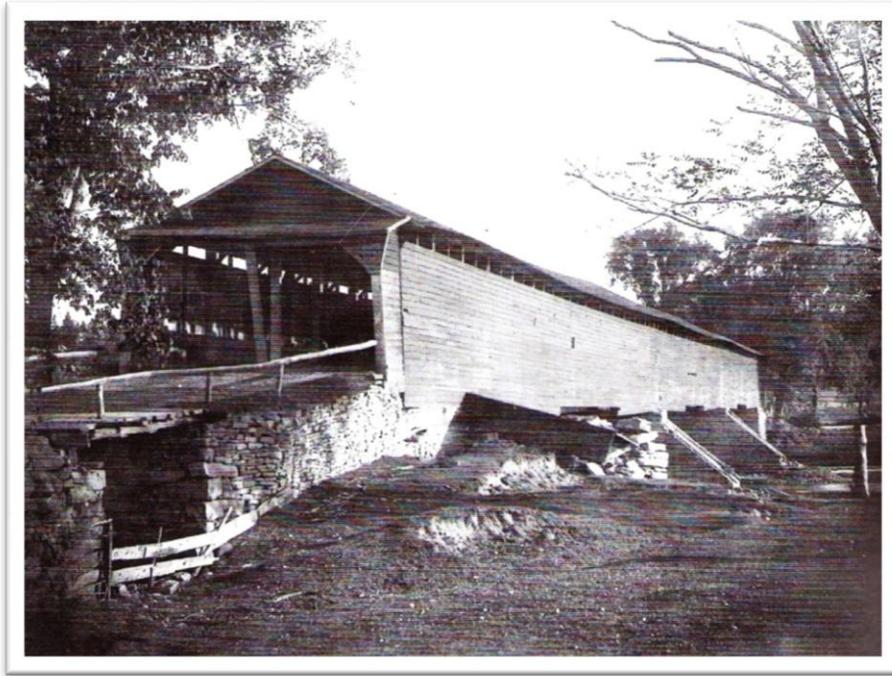


Figure 46 Fish House Bridge over the Sacandaga River, built 1814-1818

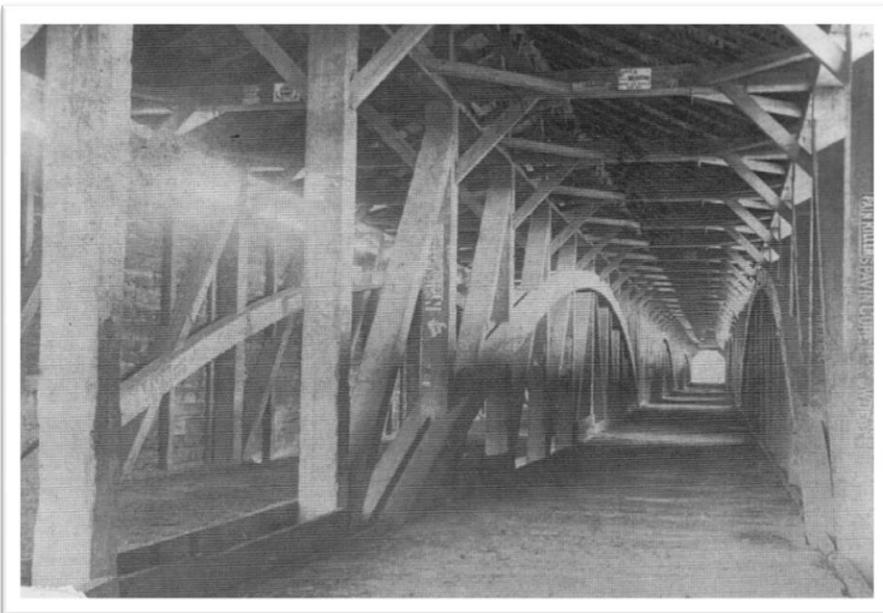


Figure 47 View inside the Fish House covered bridge with 12 timber arches

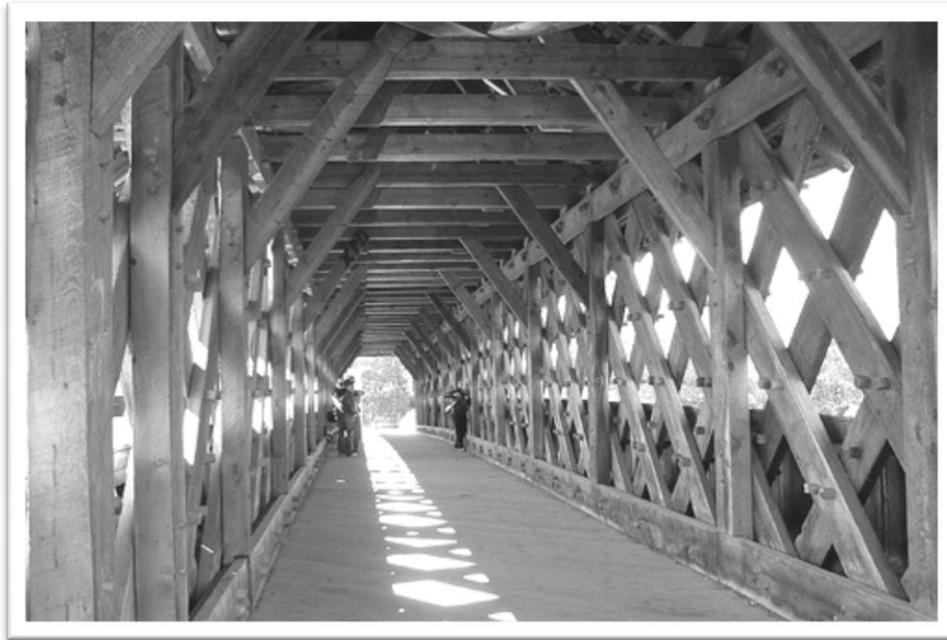


Figure 48 View inside a lattice- covered bridge

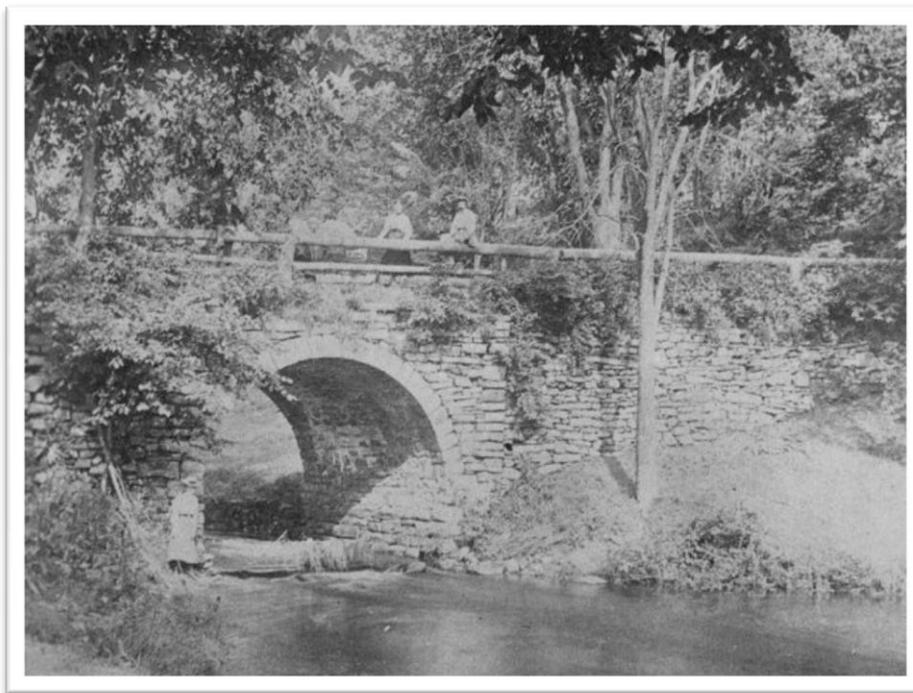


Figure 49 “Hog’s Back” or Hunters Creek, South Main Street

This laid-up stone arch bridge (pictured above) was built over Hunters Creek at the end of Main Street in the Village of Northville around 1859. The original stone arch was probably built when Main Street was laid in 1797 (Bennis, 103). As part of the construction and creation of the reservoir a new causeway (dam) took the place of the second stone arch. In 1932, the dam broke open resulting in a 100' gap (Bennis, 196), and while repairing it, the spillway collapsed, taking the life of Harry Fleig, a Regulating District engineer. To save the

dam, dynamite was used to drain down the Northville Lake. A coordinated effort from the Hudson River Regulating District and the village repaired the concrete spillway and replaced the dam (causeway) you drive over today. The existing bridge with spillway can be seen on page 73.

Around 1901, in Sacandaga Park there was a wooden pedestrian bridge that connected Sacandaga Park to the Sport Island grandstand area. It is believed to have been taken down each year and erected after the spring runoff had occurred. In 1918, the Sport Island grandstand and miniature railroad ride were lost to fire so there was no reason to erect the bridge the following year.



Figure 50 Bridge to Sport Island

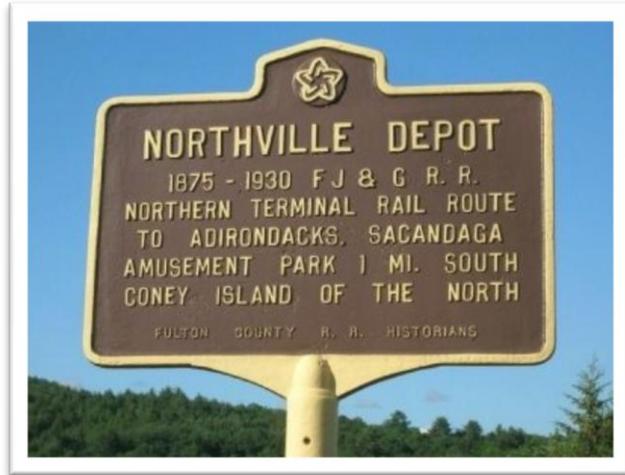


Figure 51 Sign marking the end of the tracks near the Northville Bridge

Closing

Transportation formed the town

The events of Northampton's past have molded its character, making it unique today. During the Revolution, families set up farms here despite the hardships of living in isolation. After the Revolution, new growth helped settle the Village of Northville and the other small communities with the help of the logging business and stagecoach stops at this "Gateway to the Adirondacks." This was a great accomplishment because many roads were just old Native American trails through the woods. It is difficult to imagine that the area was settled without the help of railroads or cars.

By 1875, the railroad reached from the southern end of Northampton all the way to Northville, bringing goods to and from Northampton while opening the Adirondacks to greater numbers of visitors. Sacandaga Park lured visitors to the Town of Northampton, which in turn helped foster new permanent residents and seasonal businesses. Many factories and businesses were successful in Northampton because of the railroad.

The advent of the automobile and the reservoir changed the character of Northampton forever. The decision makers of the past were probably not aware how the decisions they made would affect Northampton. Now Northampton is not connected to a mass transit system or even to the smallest scenic railroad, nor is it an exit off I-87 leading to the Adirondacks. This seclusion has helped preserve the town; it appears that time has stopped here in some ways. The decision to create the reservoir also affected the town greatly. The reservoir cut off the railroad, destroyed many working farms, but in turn it became a recreational lake for boaters and campers. With all these changes and transitions, the town remains true to itself by holding on to what is left of its past, knowing that the lure of the Adirondacks will never die.