



Campton Historical Society



This informational brochure was produced by the Campton Historical Society, founded in 1991 to preserve the community's heritage, and to recognize and protect significant historic structures and sites.

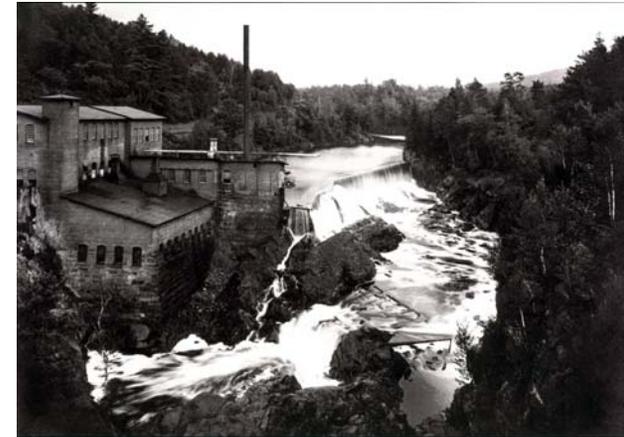
The Society's headquarters is the 1855 town House, located one mile north of Blair Road and Route 175.

For further information, write to us at PO. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223, or visit our web site at www.CamptonHistorical.org



Town of Campton, New Hampshire
HISTORIC SITE SERIES
Site #14

Livermore Falls



This site is off U.S. Route 3 south, 5 miles from the intersection of Route 49. It is just before the Plymouth town line. A N.H. Historic site is just across the river off Route 175, 1.7 miles north of Route 175A in Holderness.

This brochure is underwritten by:

LIVERMORE FALLS

One of the early settlers in this area was Moses Little, who bought thousands of acres of land here in 1771. He served as Moderator, Selectman, and Justice of the Peace. This area was originally known as Little's Falls. Because of the water power, he was able to establish a saw mill, grist mill, and several other enterprises. He built a house on the west side of the river in 1786. In 1827, Judge Arthur Livermore acquired the property, and the area became known as Livermore Falls. The house went through several other owners, including the Holmes and Schofield families. It was run as a boarding house, and became known as the Riverview Hotel.

Around 1919, the Emily Balch Cottage Hospital in Plymouth was running out of room. In 1920, the hospital purchased the Schofield property, in Campton, and opened the Sceva Speare Memorial Hospital at this site in 1921. It was in operation until the present Speare Memorial Hospital was built in 1946.

A small community was established on the east side of the river below the falls. It included a tannery, shingle mill, fish hatchery, and several homes. In 1888, a pulp mill was built by Arthur Homans, but it was destroyed by fire the next year. The Fibrewood Company then built a pulp Mill on the west side of the river, and it too was destroyed by fires in 1890 and 1894. A much larger pulp mill was built slightly upstream in 1889, which was in production under several owners until the early 1950's. The first was the J.E. Henry Co., and then Parker Young in 1917. A flood in 1973 destroyed the dam and powerhouse. An attempt was made to build a hydroelectric plant on this site in 1988, but the permit was denied. In 1992, an area on the east side was designated a state forest, and a plaque along route 175 marks the site of the first New Hampshire state fish hatchery, built in 1788.

The first bridge at Livermore Falls was several hundred feet upriver from the current one. It was deteriorated and closed, and replaced with a ferry. In 1869, Holderness, Plymouth, and Campton jointly constructed the second bridge, which lasted 14 years. The third bridge was erected in 1886 by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, the remains of which you see today. It is 103' above the Pemigewasset River, is 263' long, and was closed in 1959. Because of its unique design, it became known as the "Pumpkin Seed Bridge".

