

# Colonial Storowton

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The way of life of old New England may be lived again in Storowton, a colonial village of the revolutionary era on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass.

Storowton is a village such as the New England forefathers erected. A dozen early American structures surround the broad tree-shaded village green, each building having been painstakingly sought out and taken down board by board and brick by brick to be restored to its original state. The hand-made nails and much of the primitive window glass in the buildings as originally erected perfects the authenticity.

Dominating the green is the old Salisbury meeting

house where Daniel Webster worshiped as a boy. The white church with its wineglass pulpit and hand-made organ is typical of the early nineteenth century.

Next to the church is the red brick schoolhouse where children of Whatley, Mass., learned their reading, writing, and arithmetic for more than a century. A tiny stove in the center of the room is surrounded by desks initialed by several generations of boys and girls, with the schoolmaster's desk on a small raised platform. In the bell tower there is a small bare room, the master's living quarters.

There are three types of houses in the village. The Gilbert homestead which represents a farmhouse of 1794, the Potter house which is the village mansion, and third is the gambrel-roofed cottage known as the Phillips house which was brought from Taunton where it had stood upon its original foundations since 1767.

The Gilbert homestead was the first house to come to the village. It was brought from West Brookfield, Mass., where it was erected in 1794. Behind the Gilbert house is the herb garden with more than a hundred herbs and simples such as were used by early New England housewives for flavoring and medicinal purposes.

The Potter house, built by Captain John Potter before and after the Revolution, was once the center of Brookfield activity. The outside boarding is grooved to represent stone regularly laid. At the left of the main entrance is the long family room with a huge fireplace and blanket bars on either side.

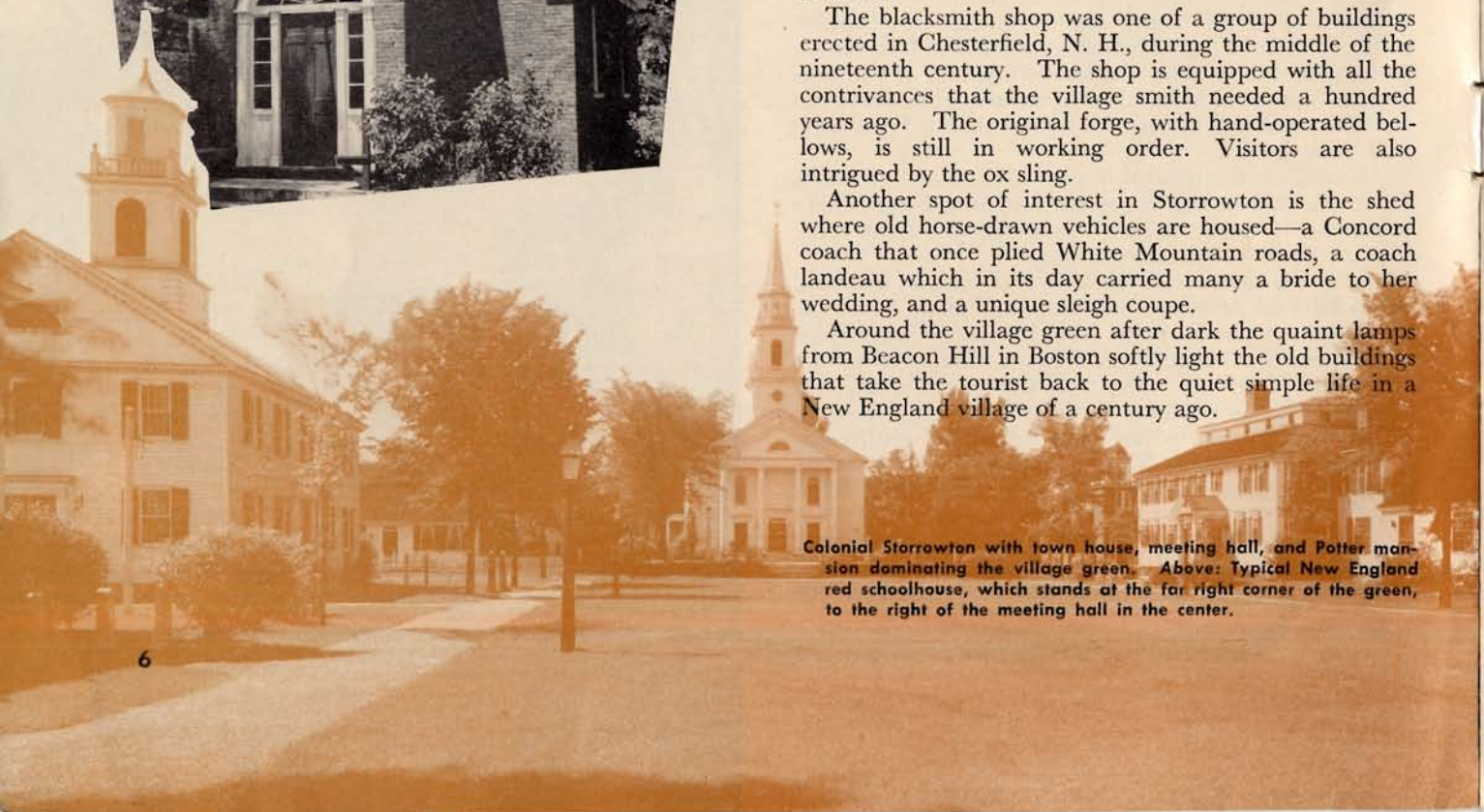
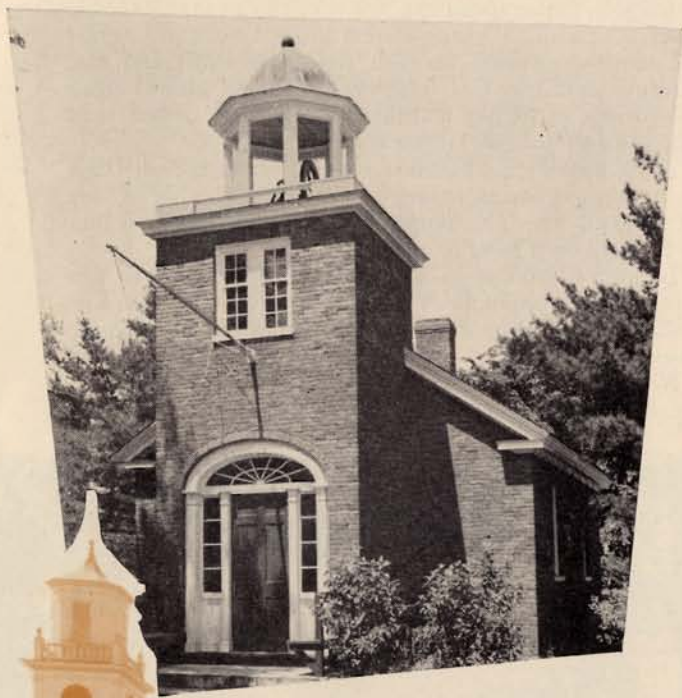
Across the green is the Town House which used to stand in Southwick, Mass. Among the exhibits on display is a group of lovely mannequins modeling a century of wedding gowns.

The tavern with the country store in one end of it was built in the last years of the eighteenth century at Atkinson Hollow in Prescott, Mass. The store, in the left-hand corner of the building, has the original shelves and drawers that held the wares Atkinson Hollow folk came to purchase. An interesting feature is the old bar with its foot rail.

The blacksmith shop was one of a group of buildings erected in Chesterfield, N. H., during the middle of the nineteenth century. The shop is equipped with all the contrivances that the village smith needed a hundred years ago. The original forge, with hand-operated bellows, is still in working order. Visitors are also intrigued by the ox sling.

Another spot of interest in Storowton is the shed where old horse-drawn vehicles are housed—a Concord coach that once plied White Mountain roads, a coach landeau which in its day carried many a bride to her wedding, and a unique sleigh coupe.

Around the village green after dark the quaint lamps from Beacon Hill in Boston softly light the old buildings that take the tourist back to the quiet simple life in a New England village of a century ago.



Colonial Storowton with town house, meeting hall, and Potter mansion dominating the village green. Above: Typical New England red schoolhouse, which stands at the far right corner of the green, to the right of the meeting hall in the center.