

# Historic Walking Tour of Barton Vermont



photo courtesy of holytrinityvermontcatholic.org  
St. Paul's Church tower

To Orleans

To Westmore

The **Town of Barton** was originally chartered on October 20, 1789. The land was granted to Col. William Barton, among others, who founded the town.

**Barton Village**, formally Barton Mills, was incorporated into the town of Barton on November 21st, 1874.

Throughout the years several fires and floods have taken their toll on the Village. Despite the fact that many historic sites within our borders have been destroyed, the Village has shown incredible resilience.

Barton Academy and Church Street



Link to Website



Walking Tour Audio

County Fairgrounds

## Crystal Lake

E.M. Brown & Son



photo courtesy of CLFHA

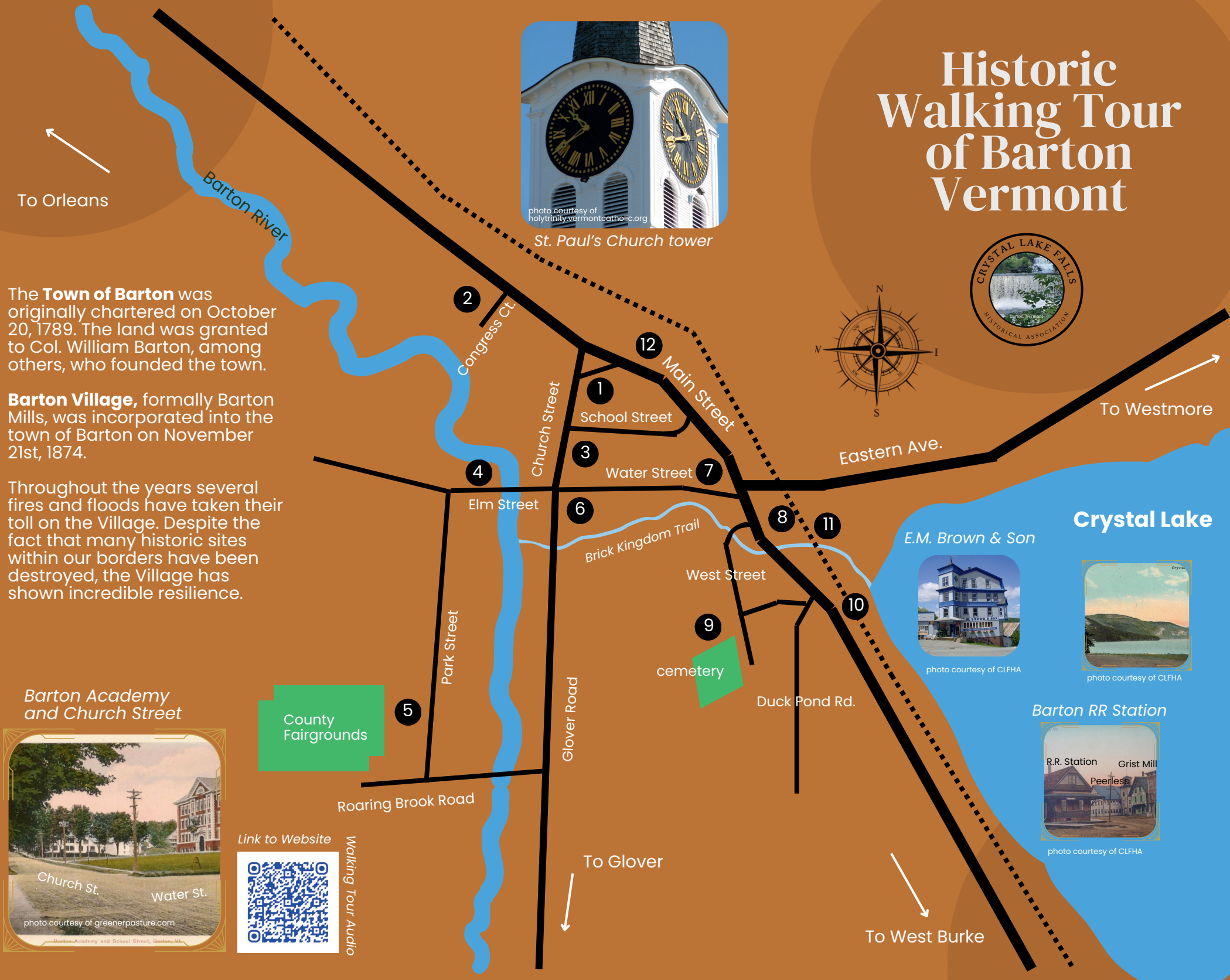


photo courtesy of CLFHA

Barton RR Station



photo courtesy of CLFHA



# Welcome to Barton!

The tour of Barton Vermont begins and ends at the center of town, Village Square. Many buildings and businesses have come and gone, and you will notice a great many changes as you go on your tour. But the spirit of the community lives on.

## 01 Village Square

The center of town has always been a focal point of the village, yet over the years, fires and abandoned buildings have changed its landscape. The evolution of the Pierce Block built in 1885 and still standing is a good example.



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 02 Hotels

As a tourist destination and center of commerce, Barton once boasted several hotels. The largest was the Hotel Barton located where the Mountain View Apartments stand today. Built in 1896, the 32 room hotel featured modern conveniences like steam heat, electric lights, and toilets. The building burned down in 1971.



photo courtesy of Darlene Young



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 03 Barton Academy

Barton Academy and Graded School was constructed in 1907 to house grades K-12. In 1967, when Lake Region High School opened, grades 9-12 started attending there. Currently Barton School educates grades K-8.



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 04 Barton River at Elm Street

Since its founding, Barton River has been essential to the development of the village. You are standing near the spot where four pioneers from Rhode Island planted potatoes along the river in 1795. Soon, other village pioneers cleared land for crops along the river.



photo courtesy of Dan Taylor

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## 05 Park Street & County Fairgrounds

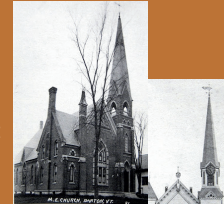
Park street was laid out in 1868 for the Orleans County Fairgrounds at Roaring Brook Park. For over 150 years, this agricultural fair has been a late-summer event celebrating farming in the area.



photo courtesy of Dan Taylor

## 06 Church Street

Before it became the Solid Rock Assembly of God Church, this was a Methodist Church designed by architect George H. Guernsey. Construction was completed in 1887.



photos courtesy of Darlene Young

The Congregational Church at the corner of Water and Church Streets was completed in 1874.



## 07 Water Street Mills

The Industrial Age in Barton began with saw mills and gristmills built on the outlet from Crystal Lake, which powered the mills. Many business made this street their home producing chairs, carriages, sleighs, metal foundry, flour and feed stores.

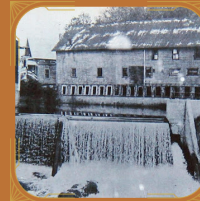
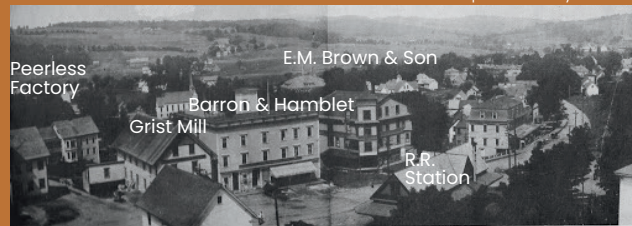


photo courtesy of CLFHA

The Owen-Pierce House was built around 1820 and is home to the Crystal Lake Falls Historical Association and Museum

## 08 Center of Industry: Upper Main Street

photo courtesy of CLFHA



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The arrival of the rail road in 1857 helped Barton become a regional industrial center. Manufactured goods along with agricultural products were routinely shipped to Boston. Factories such as Peerless Manufacturing became the largest employer in 1892. The E.M. Brown & Son building gives a good perspective of how much upper Main Street has changed over the years.

Peerless Manufacturing



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 09 Welcome O. Brown Cemetery

In 1826, early Barton settler Welcome O. Brown began leasing a portion of his farm to the village for a cemetery. Among those buried there is Dr. John Baptiste Masta, Abenaki native, Dartmouth graduate and town physician prior to the civil war.



photo courtesy of Dan Taylor

## 10 Crystal Lake

Over the years, Crystal Lake has had many names. Native Abenaki called it Wsaginebes (Bitter Pond). The French called it Le Belle Lac (Beautiful Lake). The Le Beau Lac Boathouse was a social club built in 1905. Crystal Lake State Park was created in the 1930s along with a Beach House that was constructed from granite from the east side of the lake.



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 11 The Conversion of St. Paul's Church

In 1878, the first Catholic Church in the village was constructed where the E.M. Brown parking lot is today. As the Catholic congregation grew, a new church was constructed where you see it now in 1902.



photo courtesy of CLFHA

## 12 Main Street

Main Street has been the heartbeat of the village for 230 years. Many businesses from barbershops to tin makers, from Comstock's Meats to Whitcher's farm and equipment store set up shop along this street. The black and white photo of the Seaver Block was built in 1878 and was originally an opera house. It became the center of Barton's cultural life hosting town meetings and entertainment. The building burned down in 1929 and was replaced by the Barton Memorial Building you see today.

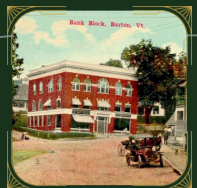


photo courtesy of CLFHA



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