

Northern New England Chapter, Society for Industrial Archeology

FALL TOUR and ANNUAL MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

Windsor, Vermont

Beginning at 9:30am(rain or shine)

Meet at the parking lot in back of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Rt. 44 (Union St.). From here we will car pool to two covered bridges in Vermont and two in New Hampshire. The afternoon will be spent at the American Precision Museum which is having Model Engineering Show on this day. Admission to both museum and show is \$10.

MORNING - We head west into Vermont on Rt. 44, then back to NH and drive up Town House Road towards Cornish City.

BOWERS COVERED BRIDGE - Built in 1919 and washed downstream during Hurricane Irene, this small tied arch bridge was rebuilt and returned to its original location in 2012. Located off Harrington Rd. towards the west end of Brownsville in West Windsor.

BEST COVERED BRIDGE - Similar to the Best bridge, but built 50 years earlier in 1869. Located 3 miles west of Best bridge, this little covered bridge is off Churchill Rd. and can be seen from Rt. 44 next to a large red barn. Were these bridges built by the same person 50 years apart? Or by father and son? The builder is unknown.

CORNISH-WINDSOR COVERED BRIDGE - After seeing two very small covered bridges we'll now stop at the largest in the country at 450 feet. Built in 1866 for \$9,000 by James Tasker and Bela Fletcher of Town Lattice truss design, it's the fourth bridge on this site. Closed in 1987 due to safety concerns, extensive rehabilitation was required before allowing the bridge to be reopened for traffic across the Connecticut River in December 1989.

DINGLETON HILL COVERED BRIDGE - Built in 1882 by James Tasker of multiple king post-style truss design, it was fabricated in a schoolyard and hauled to the site. Still being used today and approximately one mile up Town House Road.

BLACKSMITH SHOP COVERED BRIDGE - A couple miles further up the road just before reaching Cornish City, this bridge was built a year earlier(1881) for one family to cross the river by the same builder and same design. This is the only bridge we'll see today that is no longer in use with a nice view of the river below.

LUNCH and MEETING

We plan to visit the historic Windsor diner for lunch and NNEC meeting. One of the last of 651 diners built by the Worcester Lunch Car Company, it was built in 1952. At our annual meeting, we will be electing new leaders. Please consider being out next President, Vice President (2), Secretary or Treasurer.

Carolyn Weatherwax, our Treasurer for many years is retiring. A Volunteer is needed. The Treasurer maintains our membership records, receives and deposits the dues, and reimburses expenses.

AFTERNOON

We'll spend the afternoon at the American Precision Museum, a short walk from both the diner and church parking lot. Located in the historic brick 1846 Robbins and Lawrence Armory, there will be a model of the waterpower system at the model show and described to us by John Johnson at the 2010 Winter Conference in Plymouth, N.H.

The museum is open until 5pm which will give us plenty of time to see both the museum and the Model Engineering Show at a location next to the parking area. Admission is \$10 for both the museum and the special exhibit. There is no single fee if you want to see only the museum or the Model Engineering show. One admission includes both.



Former Robbins and Lawrence Armory (1846), home of the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont

DIRECTIONS

From New Hampshire - From North or South on Rt. 12A, cross the Cornish-Windsor bridge. Drive straight to traffic light and continue on Rt. 44 West (Union St.) a short distance. The brick St. Francis of Assisi church is on your right followed by the white rectory building. Turn right just past the rectory building and go to the rear of the parking lot.

From Vermont, Maine, Mass. on Rt. 91. - If heading south, take Exit 9 to Rt. 5 south and turn right at light onto Rt. 44 West(Union St.). If heading north, take Exit 8 to Rt. 131 East to Rt. 5 north and turn left at light onto Rt. 44(Union St.). The brick St. Francis of Assisi church is on your right followed by the white rectory building. Turn right just past the rectory building and go to the rear of the parking lot.