Start of Driving Tour: Norwich Historical Society

277 Main Street

Start here and return. Continents collided, mountains tilted up. Mile-thick glaciers carved through the earth. Millions of years of water contoured this place. It’s the origin story of this place we call home.

1 Waterpower at Blood Brook

Elm Street Bridge

The ledge outcroppings at Blood Brook, pressed upward over millions of years, created a natural spot for harnessing water into ponds to power mills. There were gristmills for grinding grain and sawmills that sawed logs into wood that could be used for building houses and wooden tubs. There were also mills to process cloth and several tanneries that tanned leather.

2 Pattersonville

12 Campbell Flats Road

This is the site of the former Pattersonville Chair Company factory village, complete with worker housing, a general store, dance hall, and mill.

3 The River as a Transportation Artery

Intersection of Old Bridge Road and Route 5

Across Route 5, Kendall Station Road leads to what was once a busy railroad station for freight, the Pattersonville Chair Company, and the Strafford copper mine.

4 The Log Drives and the Hamlet of Lewiston

Ledyard Lane off River Road

The Lewiston area was home to Norwich’s first settlers, an important crossing to Hanover, and a transportation hub for Dartmouth. Much of the village was razed for the interstate in 1967.

5 Across the River: Managing Water

Ledyard Parking Lot, Boathouse Road, Hanover, New Hampshire

Dams have controlled flooding and slowly we have controlled pollution in our river waters.

Information for this podcast drawn from Hargen Archaeological Associates area survey, the writings of Brian Dade in Norwich, Vermont: A History, and in Proud to Live Here in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire, by Richard Ewald with Adair Mulligan. Thank you! Special thanks to the National Park Service for its contribution through the Certified Local Government Program, administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.
HISTORIC DRIVING TOUR
— NORWICH RIVERS & MILLS —

A Companion to the Norwich Historic Audio Tours