

Trail head:

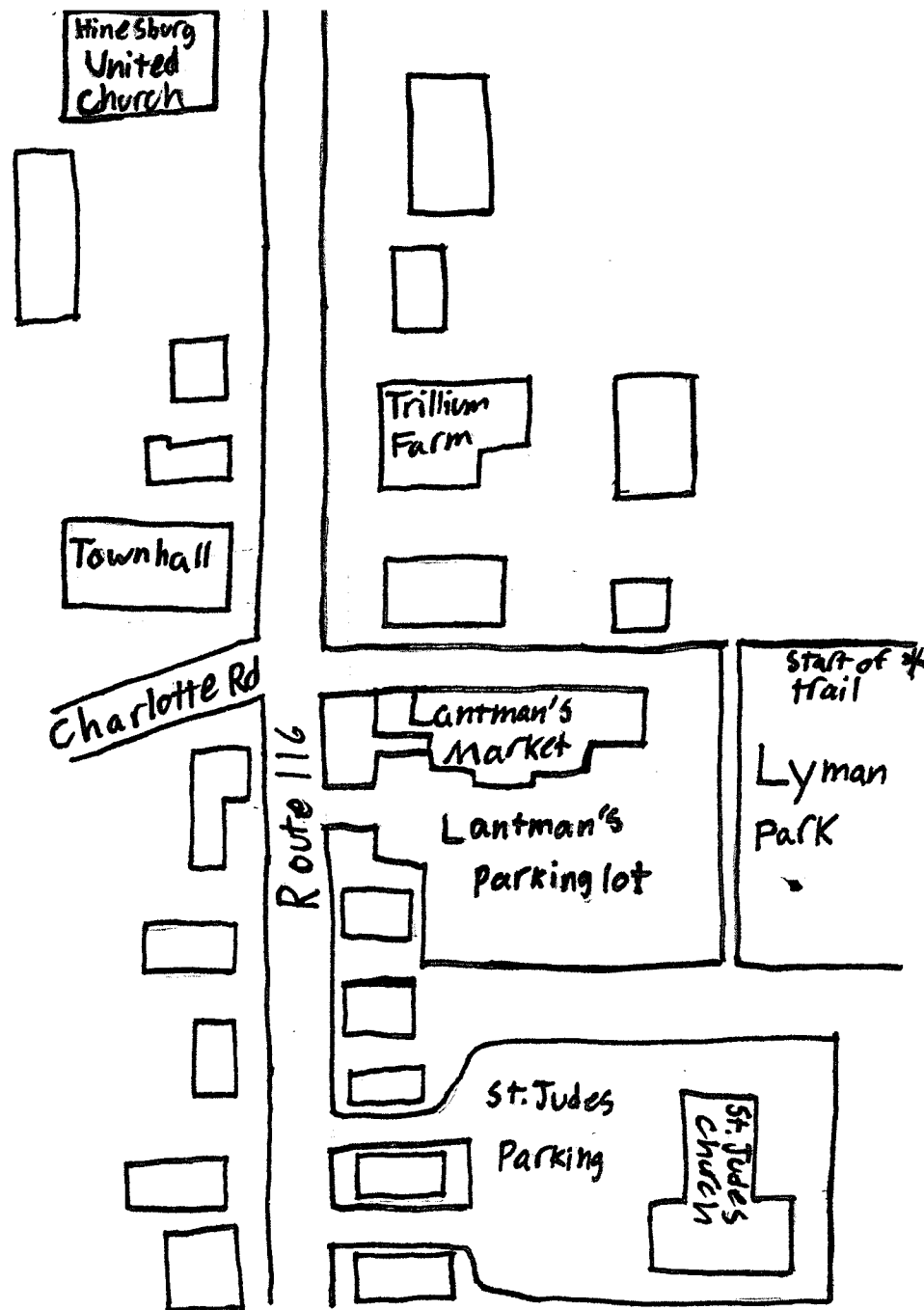
St. Jude Catholic Church
back parking lot.
10759 Route 116
Hinesburg, Vermont

Directions : Walk across
Lyman Park to trail head
behind base ball back stop.

Trail Difficulty: Moderate dirt
trail in woods and field

What to bring: sturdy shoes,
bug spray, binoculars and wa-
ter.

Duration: 20 mins for
Overlook trail. Scenic vista
that overlooks Hinesburg
Village. Maps include historical
perspective of what one would
see looking from the overlook
in the 1700's thru 1900's.



Please respect the farming
operation, as farm animals and
machinery maybe near or on
the trail.

HART
Russell Family Trail

Overlook Trail

Historical
and
Nature Quest

Prepared by
Boy Scout Troop 690

Trailhead:
10759 VT Rte 116
Hinesburg, VT

park behind
St. Jude Church

[http://www.hinesburg.org/
hart.html](http://www.hinesburg.org/hart.html)

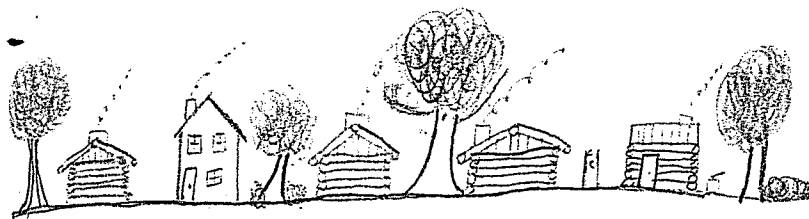
Clues:

At trail head follow the small path and cross the wooden bridge over the marsh until you spy a red marker on an old fence post. Cross the dirt road and walk up path so that you enter the tree line. Once you reach the Overlook trail on the left follow it up, up, up, the hill which during the 1800's lay bare of all trees due to logging and farming, as did most of the Champlain Valley. Down the dip you go, now surrounded by trees on all sides. Then up again to find the Overlook on the left hand side at the top of the hill. From here you can study the buildings in the village below and, using the sketches, imagine what it looked like a hundred or two hundred years ago. In the 1700's the town consisted of only 4 log cabins and one small framed merchants house that would also serve as the towns tavern. In the 1800's you would see more wood framed houses and the town hall. You would also see the Hinesburg Hotel which present day Lantman's Store sits on. To leave the Overlook continue to follow the trail. You will walk past the crazy tree with its limbs twisted all around itself. Walk thru thick forest with rock ledges until you come out to an open trail.

You have two choices for a hike:

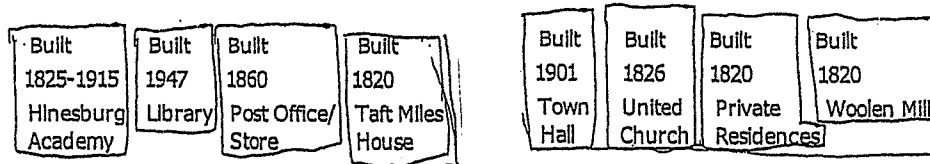
For a short walk turn right and you walk thru the meadow that leads down to an intersection

View from the Overlook 1700's

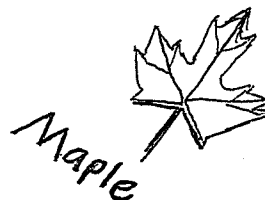
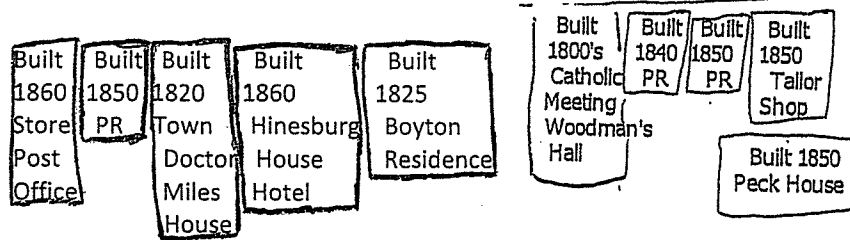


4 log cabins and a small framed house that served as the town tavern

View from the Overlook 1800-1900s



Main Street



and bear right. You will then see the Overlook sign again on your right. You have made a complete loop and can follow the trail you came in on back to the starting point.

For a longer walk, turn left and you will head along the Russell trail. This path will take you thru a beautiful mix of tall trees including maple, birch and some beech along with rock ledges. You will reach another fork in the path. Bear right to stay on the Russell trail. Follow until you come to another fork in the path. On the left side is a dead rotting tree with the path right next to it. Follow it up onto the ridge. Look down on right to see sugar house. Continue hiking the trail to another fork. Go right until you meet the sign bolted to the tree on the left that says Russell Loop/ Sugar house and the tree on the right will have another marker that says Hart trail. Pass the marker and leave the woods. ****If field is closed off by fence wire you must turn back**** If open then bear right into the meadow and head towards the old outhouse. Pass the old sugar house and walk downhill towards the gate. Once at the gate and gravel turn right and cross a small plank bridge back into the thicket. Follow the trail past blue bird house on left. Stay straight on trail and pass the Overlook Trail on right. It will take you back to the soccer field.