

NNEC - SIA SPRING TOUR: Saturday, June 4, 2022
Wakefield, NH. Tour beginning at 9:30 am (rain or shine)

For photos of many places, we'll visit and for more info see: www.historicwakefieldnh.com

The town of Wakefield, NH consists of several villages including Sanbornville and Union. The tour starts in the **village of Sanbornville at the Turntable Park parking lot at 9:30 am**. See directions below:

From Rt. 16 heading north: At the **Rt. 153 intersection** turn right onto **Rt. 153** to Sanbornville. A Circle K and a Dunkin Donuts with restrooms are at this intersection. Drive about **4 miles** to a stop sign; turn **left** onto **Rt. 109 North**. Go past the brick Town Hall building and turn right into **Turntable Park**.

From Rt. 16 heading south: At the **Rt. 109** traffic light intersection, turn **left** onto **Rt. 109 South**. Drive **0.6 miles** and turn **left** into **Turntable Park** before the yellow Garvin building and the brick Town Hall.

At **Turntable Park** we will view the 19th century, 60 ft. long railroad turntable with granite block circular walls. Adjacent to the park is the 1871 J.W. Garvin building that served various purposes including the first railroad station at this location. We can visit the Alvah T. Ramsdell designed 1892 Romanesque Town Hall* and the Opera House*. In the Town Hall first floor hallway see old photos of Sanbornville village.

Next, leaving **Turntable Park** we turn **left**, drive thru the village back to the intersection of **Rt. 153**. Go **left** onto **Rt. 153 North**. Continue on **Rt. 153 North** for about **2.6 miles** and turn right onto **Canal road**. Follow **Canal road** for about **1.2 miles** to a stop sign. Turn **left** and continue on **Canal road** for about **1.2 miles** crossing the bridge into Maine. Then take an immediately left onto the gravel road and park nearby.

Here is the **Newichawannock Canal***, an 1,800 ft. long, 16 ft. deep and 13 ft. wide unmortared stone canal and unmortared stone arch bridge* built in 1868. The canal runs under **Canal road** and is still in use. This canal supplied water to Horn Pond and to the Great Falls Manufacturing Company mills in Somersworth, NH twenty-five miles downstream. Some of the canal is underwater at Great East Lake and can be seen. The canal and stone arch bridge can be viewed without entering the woods. However, if you intend to walk along the Newichawannock Canal you should wear bug and tick repellent.

Leaving the **Newichawannock Canal** we take **Canal road** back to **Rt. 153** where we turn left. At the **Y intersection** turn right onto **Wakefield road**. Here we slowly drive through the Wakefield Village Historic District*. On the **left** are the **1837 Old Wakefield Town Hall**, the **1861 Wakefield Public Library** and the **1858 Little Red School House**. Just past the schoolhouse we turn **right** onto **East Side road** to see what is stated to be the oldest Town Pound in New Hampshire, built in 1774.

Leaving the Town Pound, take a **right** back onto **Wakefield road** and drive a short distance to **Rt. 16**. Take a **left** onto **Rt. 16 South** and drive **0.7 miles** to the **Miss Wakefield Diner** on the **right** for lunch. The diner is a 1949 stainless steel Jerry O'Mahony Diner of only two in NH (Tilt'n Diner is the other).

After lunch when leaving the Miss Wakefield diner turn **right** onto **Rt. 16 South**. Go **0.8 miles** and turn **left** at the traffic lights onto **Rt. 109 South**. Drive **0.6 miles** to **Turntable Park** on the **left** just before the yellow Garvin building. If people have carpooled, we will stop here so they may retrieve their cars.

Leaving **Turntable Park**, turn **left** and drive to the **Rt. 153** intersection. At this intersection turn **right** onto **Rt. 153 South** and drive about **4 miles** to the traffic light at **Rt. 16**. Continue straight across **Rt. 16** into the village of **Union**. Drive thru the village and stop at the train station on your **right**. Here we will visit the 1912 train station and museum, the freight house with a HO scale model B&M railroad circa 1909 depicting rail service in the villages of Wakefield, an old B&M wood water tower, a 1903 railroad snowplow, a caboose, and a 1850 cobbler shop. We will visit the nearby 1858 Union Blacksmith Shop and visit the circa 1908 Drew Mill and see the 1878 Drew Mill dam. For tour questions contact **Rick Coughlin** at 53Stucom@gmail.com or at (207) 384-2645.

* Listed on National Register of Historic Places.