

Stony Creek Historic Markers

1. *Stony Creek Dude Ranch:*

10.4 miles on Harrisburg Rd from Stony Creek Center. The Stony Creek Dude Ranch was started by Earl Woodward in 1935. He came from Forest Lake, Ohio. Earl purchased the site from Jack Arehart who had conducted the Stony Creek Country Club and earlier the Lake House. Also located here was District #10 school, post office, general store, hotel and cottages. This area was known as West Stony Creek, later changed to Harrisburg.

2. *Gristmill:*

On Harrisburg Rd, across from States Rd. This building was first operated as a blacksmith shop and once as a saloon. When run as a gristmill by Melvin Winslow, it generated waterpower from the adjacent creek.

3.

Tannery:

Next to the Laundromat on Warrensburg Rd. In 1852, John P. Bowman purchased an incomplete tannery which stood on this site. He finished the tannery and built additions to it until it had a capacity of 40,000 hides per year. Men came from other states to work in the tannery and many townspeople were also employed there. After the death of Mr. Bowman in 1891, the tannery operated sporadically until 1905. It was demolished in 1921.

4. *Dean Farm Heritage Trail:*

At Dean Farm on Murray Rd. The John Dean family first appeared in the 1820 census. John and his wife had 13 children, including Francis Dean, born in 1824. In 1871, Francis and his wife built the Dean Farm homestead, which is now a museum.

Two markers next to the Post Office. John P. Bowman, a well-known businessman from Cuttingsville, VT, moved to Stony Creek in 1852. He purchased an incomplete tannery, which, with a sawmill and three houses, were the only structures in the village of Creek Center. He completed the tannery and added sheds, shops and storage buildings. He also built a boarding house and 16 houses for workers. At the intersection of Hadley and Warrensburg Roads, he built an elegant home for his family.

6. *History of Stony Creek:*

At the lean-to at the four corners. Stony Creek Township, about 87 square miles in area, is in the southwestern corner of the original Town of Thurman formed in 1792. In 1813, the same year

that Warren County was formed, Warrensburg split off and the area left was named Athol. In 1852, Athol was split into the towns of Stony Creek and Thurman. The population in 1855 was 913 and reached its peak of 1,250 around the turn of the 19th century.

7. *Railroad Station:*

At Stony Creek Ranch on Warrensburg Rd. The Adirondack Railroad extended from Hadley to Stony Creek in 1869. By 1904, three trains daily, with an extra on Sunday, stopped at the Stony Creek Station. On December 25, 1939, the Stony Creek station was destroyed by fire. It was not rebuilt.

