



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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THE REAL NEW HAMPSHIRE

Since the Civil War, New Hampshire has been more an industrial state than an agricultural one. Yet thanks to the persuasive and often poetic language of those who have promoted tourism in New Hampshire for more than a century, all of us have accepted a rural and bucolic image of New Hampshire.

The idealized image of New Hampshire as a place of scenic beauty--of lakes, mountains, and pastureland--is true, and has served our state well. But it is not the whole truth. The real New Hampshire is also a place of mills and factories, of powerful streams harnessed in the service of industry, of working villages and cities.

New Hampshire has a proud industrial heritage. Industries in cities like Berlin and Manchester were the greatest of their kind in the world. Entrepreneurship and inventiveness in places like Franklin and Laconia created entirely new technologies. The hard work and resourcefulness of New Hampshire people in



*Patterson Hill Road Bridge, 1915,
Henniker, NH
(Photograph by James. L. Garvin)*

mill and factory made our state what it is.

Today, New Hampshire's landscape is filled with evidence of industry, past and present. In some cases, our industrial legacy represents the first or the largest of great enterprises that have changed life around the world. New Hampshire's place in the Industrial Revolution is beginning to be of interest not only to other Americans, but also to visitors from foreign countries.

A new form of tourism is beginning to make itself felt in New Hampshire. Our visitors

have always appreciated our natural beauty. Now, new visitors are also interested in our history, in the things we have built, in the ways we have harnessed our natural resources and changed our landscape. They want to see our mills as well as our mountains. We call this new form of tourism "heritage tourism."

Like our visitors, New Hampshire people must begin to appreciate our industrial heritage and the landscape it has created. We have long tried to preserve our natural beauty, our public monuments, and the historic buildings that embody our civic and political history. It is now time to work to preserve our industrial landscape, to show our mills and factories as proudly as we show our grand houses. Those communities that can take up this challenge will become the tourist destinations of the twenty-first century.

*James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian*

