

# DUNSTABLE

circa 1673



## HONORABLE MATTHEW THORNTON



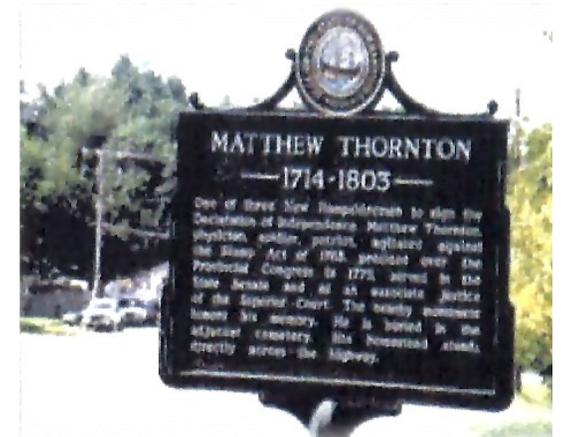
- Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Author of the New Hampshire Constitution
- Prominent Physician
- Revolutionary & Provincial Veteran



Researched and Designed for the Town of Merrimack,  
New Hampshire Heritage Commission  
by Anita Creager and Justin Calautti

# THORNTON'S FERRY VILLAGE

## HISTORIC SITE BROCHURE



TEL: 603-424-3531  
[www.merrimacknh.gov/town/boards\\_and\\_committees/heritage\\_commission](http://www.merrimacknh.gov/town/boards_and_committees/heritage_commission)

**1** [Located off Al Paul Lane](#)

(On Pennichuck Property)

Simon's Rock delineates an ancient property line of the original Billerica/Naticook Grants of 1656. The rock is the second largest glacial erratic in New Hampshire.



**2** [6 Manchester Street](#)



The ancient State Register Blanchard/Bowers property is believed to date back to 1726. Underground railroad, unmarked graves, and ancient apple trees create the perfect ambience for the Thomas More College Campus.

**3** [125 DW Highway](#)

The property is located on the old Kaolin Farm. The original owners of the property were the Lund Family. The barn and home have been converted into useable space by the Dunn Construction Company.



**4** [Located on the Property of Anheuser Busch](#)

Cromwell's Locks provided long boat access to brick yards, lumber stands, and agricultural crops shipping local products. John Cromwell, Merrimack's first merchant, built a trading post on this property in 1655.



Accessible by Merrimack River only

**5** [236 DW Highway](#)



The property is located near the old Abbie Griffin Farm. It acts as a reminder of past agrarian practices.

The current owners have built an addition housing All Basic Stove Shop.

**6** [255 DW Highway](#)

A small Greek Revival structure also owned by the Blanchard family. It now houses New England Wealth Advisors, a firm that appreciates investing in the past.



**7** [9 Smith Road](#)

The property is a fine example of a latter Federal style structure with an added Victorian barn. Although generally referred to as the Smith Farm, earlier owners were the Spaulding Family. Merrimack Building Supply has made this landmark their headquarters.



**8** [3 Jennifer Drive \(Thornton Street\)](#)

The barn harkens back to an earlier era of canal boats and riverside stores, not turnpike exits. The barn has been adaptively reused and converted into the Thornton's Landing commercial property.



**9** [304 DW Highway](#)



The famous James Thornton Tavern constructed around 1780 by his father, Matthew Thornton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Previously known as The Signer's House and Hannah Jack Tavern. Today it has been graciously preserved by the Common Man Restaurant company.

**10** [303 DW Highway](#)

The final resting place of many second and third generation families of Dunstable, New Hampshire (circa 1742). The Cummings family, original owner of the property, ran the Ferry near this location, later owned by Matthew Thornton.



**11** [Bridge over Naticook Brook East of DW Highway](#)

The dry laid stone bridge existed during Dunstable's early days. The crossing is documented on the 1921 historic Lund map. Near this place, in 1725, Mr. Farwell was murdered during Queen Anne's War.



**12** [381 DW Highway](#)



The Herrick Farm built circa 1800 later became the Reverend Wright Farm. The property lies directly across the river from the Underwood mansion in Litchfield, home of one of the town's original selectmen. Now owned by the YMCA.