



- 11. The former site of one of the three brick yards in the area, previously it was part of the main road that extended from Gilliland's farm, between 5 and 7, to Essex.
- 12. June 19, 1777, General Burgoyne established an encampment at the mouth of the river.
- 13. The site of former log booms where heavy chains held together wood that was floated down river from as far as New Russia. The wood was then moved to the log loading wharf.
- 14. Built in 1896, the log loading wharf was a busy hub for canal boats that carried wood to Ticonderoga, Burlington, and Canada.

1. The Phoenix Grist Mill (1843) was named for its rapid reconstruction after a fire destroyed the original 1810 building.

2. The site of a former store and post office. The second floor of the building, Independence Hall, served as a community center.

3. The site of the former saw mill (1800) that operated until 1940.

4. The site of the former paper pulp mill that was built in 1882. It was originally the Champlain Fiber Mill. In 1885, it became the New York and Pennsylvania Paper Company which operated until 1965.

- 5. The site of the former iron works started by George Throope and Levi Higby. The business operated from 1801 to 1883 manufacturing anchors and other iron products.
- 6. Camp Island is where Willsboro's founder William Gilliland camped in 1765 while waiting for his homestead to be built. It was covered over with black ash while the paper mill was in operation.
- 7. The landing wharf and boat launch is the starting point for the BRASS historic canoe trip to the mouth of the Boquet River. Individuals interested in paddling can pull their canoes ashore at Noblewood Park, across from 12, 13, and 14, to explore the preserved natural wonders of Willsboro. Keep in mind that at one time large canal boats were able to travel upstream to this point.
- 8. Originally believed to be the site where John Burgoyne delivered his famous speech on June 21, 1777, new research suggests that the location was actually across the river between 5 and 6 on the property of William Gilliland. There, Burgoyne, a British general during the American War of Independence, instructed his Native American allies not to scalp women, children, or old men. Burgoyne and his men were later defeated at Saratoga which proved to be the turning point of the war in favor of the American colonists.
- 9. After the Civil War, this was a popular horse track.
- 10. Once used as farmland, this area has been allowed to regrow natural riverside vegetation.

Two Historic Rambles in the Boquet River Watershed

Willsboro Paddle to Lake Champlain

See reverse for Wadhams Town Walk



The Boquet River was a focal point in the development of the Boquet Watershed, located in the Champlain Valley. The river connected communities in ways that we can only imagine, especially now that roads are our main vectors of transportation. A hundred years ago, logs floated from New Russia to Lake Champlain for processing in distant cities. The river powered grist mills, saw mills, and paper mills. Eventually several hydroelectric generators produced electricity for local industry, as well as for the community. The Boquet was a source of low-energy transportation of raw materials, water, food, and recreation—as well as a means of waste disposal. In 1984, the watershed communities came together and recognized the importance of protecting the river, thus BRASS was born.