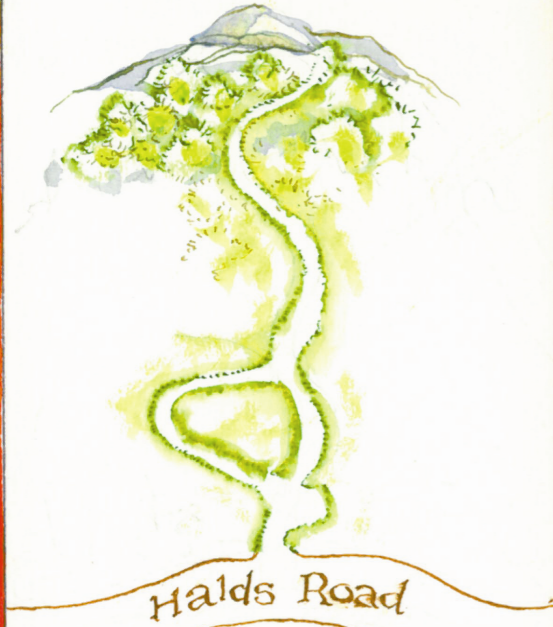


Directions to Coon Mountain

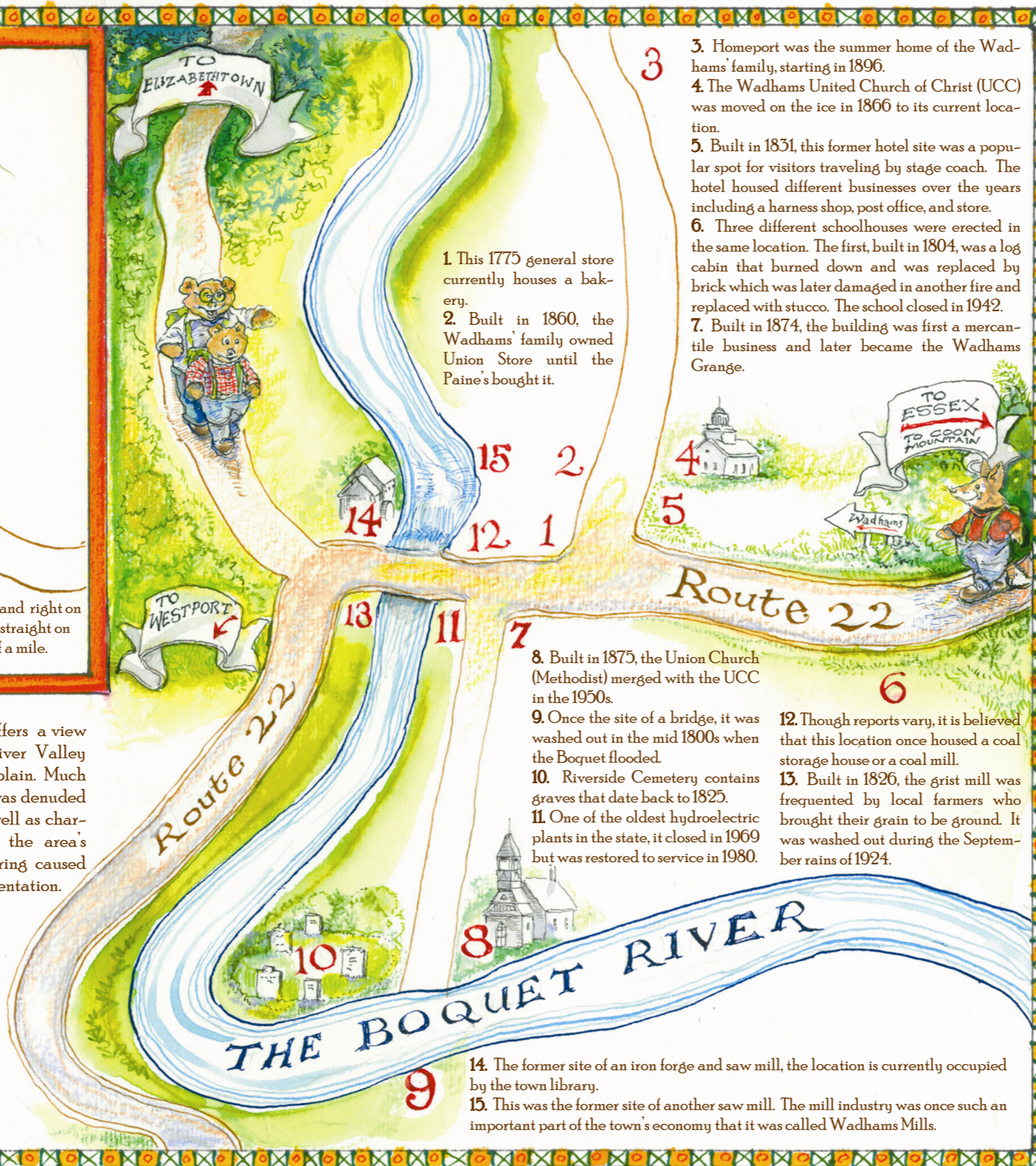


Head toward Essex. Turn right on Decker Road and right on Morrison Road. Cross the bridge and continue straight on Halds Road. There is a parking lot in $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.



Coon Mountain offers a view of the Boquet River Valley and Lake Champlain. Much of the mountain was denuded from logging as well as charcoal making for the area's forges. This clearing caused erosion and sedimentation.

It is also a site of historical importance. William Gilliland, the founder of Willsboro died on Coon Mountain. At the base of the mountain was the Merriam Forge Settlement. Taking advantage of the nearby river, residents established an iron forge and later a saw mill.



1. This 1775 general store currently houses a bakery.
2. Built in 1860, the Wadhams' family owned Union Store until the Paine's bought it.

3. Homeport was the summer home of the Wadhams' family, starting in 1896.
4. The Wadhams United Church of Christ (UCC) was moved on the ice in 1866 to its current location.
5. Built in 1831, this former hotel site was a popular spot for visitors traveling by stage coach. The hotel housed different businesses over the years including a harness shop, post office, and store.
6. Three different schoolhouses were erected in the same location. The first, built in 1804, was a log cabin that burned down and was replaced by brick which was later damaged in another fire and replaced with stucco. The school closed in 1942.
7. Built in 1874, the building was first a mercantile business and later became the Wadhams Grange.

8. Built in 1875, the Union Church (Methodist) merged with the UCC in the 1950s.
9. Once the site of a bridge, it was washed out in the mid 1800s when the Boquet flooded.
10. Riverside Cemetery contains graves that date back to 1825.
11. One of the oldest hydroelectric plants in the state, it closed in 1969 but was restored to service in 1980.
12. Though reports vary, it is believed that this location once housed a coal storage house or a coal mill.
13. Built in 1826, the grist mill was frequented by local farmers who brought their grain to be ground. It was washed out during the September rains of 1924.

14. The former site of an iron forge and saw mill, the location is currently occupied by the town library.
15. This was the former site of another saw mill. The mill industry was once such an important part of the town's economy that it was called Wadhams Mills.

Two Historic Rambles in the Boquet River Watershed

Wadhams Town Walk

See reverse for *Willsboro Paddle to Lake Champlain*



The Boquet River shaped the area and in turn the people shaped it. Today the river lacks the industrial uses of the past—save the reestablished hydroelectric plant in Wadhams. Much of the vegetation along its once denuded banks has regrown, and heavy industrial pollution is luckily a part of the past. The beautiful river is a natural treasure of the Adirondacks—fishing, recreation, and aesthetics are forever linked to the character and economy of the region.



BRASS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of water and life in the Boquet River Watershed.

Visit us at www.boquetriver.org.