Reading the Winter Landscape

How winter has shaped human's interations with the landscape around Bread Loaf, VT

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"The landscape is not just about identifying landscape patterns; more importantly, it is an interactive narrative that involves humans and nature" (Wessel 1997: 21).

The snow squeaked under my skis as I glided up the corduroy trail of *First Loop* at the Carrol and Jane Rikert Ski Touring Center at Bread Loaf Campus in Ripton, Vermont on Route 125, fifteen miles from Middlebury, VT. Blinded by the whiteness of the snow reflecting the January rays against the barren hardwoods, I couldn't help but think about the individual crystals of snow that draped like a carpet across the ground, covering the forest floor beneath, outlining each tuck and fold of the earth. The contrast between the blue sky and the pure white fluff added to the sparkling wonderland. The stillness swept through the trees, the silence that follows a snowstorm. The sound of my steady poling penetrated the quiet, still, air, only to be muffled by the snow falling from the branch above, creating a small blemish on the freshly groomed track. The forest was a black and white image, with the dark trees contrasting against the pure white snow. This was the winter landscape of the Green Mounts of Vermont (Figure 1).

13,000 years ago, glaciers inched across the Vermont landscape, pushing the earth up forming the Green Mountains (Albers 2000: 21). Originally the size of the Himalayas, they have declined in height as a result of erosion. The rounded tops of the mountains give way to the few peaks that still exceed tree line (Albers 2000: 26). Winter in the mountains of Vermont is a season of harsh conditions that have helped shape the landscape not only in a natural way, but also in the way in which humans have altered it. The landscape during the winter becomes a monotonous sea of white. Evergreens add color to the forested landscape and higher elevations, where the wind patterns, steep slopes, and permafrost are prevalent. The hardwood forests half way up the mountains cover more of the gradual terrain, which proved better for settlement. The snow covers up the pastures, fields, forest floors, ponds, old machinery, and dilapidated

buildings that adorn the landscape. It adds beauty to the barren landscape, as well as provides the means for experiencing the landscape in a different way.

For years Vermonters have struggled with this season, but the winter landscape that covers Vermont for about four months of the year is a signature image and part of life. White fluff falls, covering up the earth below. Sounds muffle and fluffy patterns creates a fabric of white that snuggles up against the trunks of trees and covers their branches. The snow plays tricks on the eyes, through the light reflection as well as the half covered objects on the forest floor. "The snow makes the mountains look perpendicular-sided, as though their spurs had been truncated by glaciers. Such the effect of the snow" (White 1956: 119). The harsh, blustery, crisp winter weather has an inhibiting impact on life as well as the patterns of life that are written on the landscape. This current cross-country skiers paradise was once farm land and untouched forest.

The hidden secrets, signs, and patterns of human influence that lie beneath the snow as well as on top long to tell a story, displaying a storyboard of the patterns. There is little left in the world that humans haven't touched or don't feel the need to control and have power over. Even though the two feet of fresh powder covered the leaves, twigs, holes, and a variety of other signs around the Bread Loaf landscape, traces of human interference are written in the landscape. In a way the snow hides the things of the past, but nothing of the present. According to George Anderson, "a walk through any part of the neighborhood around Bread Loaf Mountain massif will reveal old cellar-holes where farmhouses or homesteads one stood, but where now raspberry bushes cover their remains, or temporary lumber-roads have slashed through their vitals. Nature can cover up much in one year, encroaching upon cultivated sports with the remorseless persistence of a bulldozer" (Anderson 1969: 3). Jan Albers writes in her book, *Hands On the*

Land, "there is nothing wrong with finding human meaning in the landscape" (Albers 2000: 63). Forests are formed from both natural and induced disturbances, however, the seasons and weather patterns that inspire or inhibit certain activities help shape the landscape. This requires a more holistic approach to looking at the patterns of the forested landscape, or any landscape for that matter, looking at how the natural changes as well as the role of humans, and looking at the complex relationships between different ecosystems (Albers 2000: 41).

Humans are not the only driving force of change in the environment, but natural processes are constantly altering the landscape. Snow and ice scar trees, cracking the branches, storms, floods, fires, as well as the decaying of leaves, the growing of saplings or the rocks that are either eroding or being pushed up for below (Albers 2000: 63). Skiing down the trail, traces of human activity were left in the snow, leaving little to the imagination on which direction the previous skier went (Figure 2). Those tracks will be written on the landscape until the next storm when the evidence will be washed away or when the groomer makes its rounds across the trails. On the down hills the snow is almost shaved off, giving a nice icy decent for the next skier, as well as awkward banks of snow, that pose threats to the next in line. The straight tracks that streaks down the middle of the hill showed a confident skier, the one that whizzed down the hill, with no intentions of falling. Going up hill is the same. The harrowing bone trails showed the direction in which the skier was heading. Back-country trails leading off into the trees veer off the beaten path. The snow allows the skier to venture off into the unmarked landscape, gliding over covered stones and branches.

George Perkins Marsh stated that, "A certain measure of transformation of terrestrial surface, of suppression of natural, and stimulation of artificially modified productivity becomes necessary. This measure man has unfortunately exceeded" (Biddle and Eschholz 1973: 133).

Many times, however, many of the changes that occur to the landscape are a result of coping with the surrounding natural environment. The need to withstand the harsh conditions that pass through the mountains, such as the snow, frost, cold, wind, and short days, influence the common human patterns that are so visible throughout the forest. According to William Cronon, "seeing landscapes in terms of commodities meant something else as well: it treated members of an ecosystem as isolated and extractable units" (Cronon 1983: 21),

As I stood out in the field teaching local elementary students to ski, I thought about how today, it is much easier to come and enjoy the mountainous winter landscape. Being constantly up at the center, I met people of all ages and ability, just coming to play in the snow, and venture into the hills to view the beauty of the winter landscape and feel the rush of the brisk winter air against their cheeks. Whether it was a person's first time on skis, a Bill Kocher, or the Middlebury Ski Team, each was able to glide across the snowy fields and woods of Bread Loaf. This activity has shaped the landscape and how it is today, the result of what the winter landscape has to offer.

To understand and interpret a landscape such as Bread Loaf's, knowing the disturbance history of the area is critical (Wessel 1997: 130). Each downed tree, dead snag, multiple-trunked tree, or basal scar displays a story (Figure 3 and 4). Many times fires, blights, ice storms, and windstorms cause these alterations within the landscape. Around Bread Loaf, many downed trees are the result of the later two (Figure 5). The ice storm of 1999 took out many trees, as well as the strong winds that continue to whip through the forests. Increases in sever weather conditions have been thought by many, to be the result of an increase in global warming, which is a result of human impact on the environment. The alteration of the natural processes or the

increase in demand of natural resources and space has thrown the world into an unpredictable mess.

The touring center is located on the 527 acres of the land left to the institution in 1915 by Joseph Battell on the western slope of the green mountains and is now maintained for public use as well as a winter recreation area. During the nineteenth century, the winter offered an acceptable way of life to any person with energy to refrain from hibernation (Lee 1955: 249). It was a place for poets and writers to come and enjoy the picturesque landscape and weather patterns that the winter seasons throws at the landscape. It was a place where farmers could tend acres of meadows as well as pastures. It is a place for recreation, for skiing and snowshoeing. It is also a residential area, a place to raise children and build memories.

"One must not visualize the New England forest at the time of settlement as a dense tangle of huge trees and nearly impenetrable underbrush covering the entire landscape" (Cronon 1983: 25), During the late 1700s, towering spruce, yellow and cherry birch, hemlock, balsam, beech, maple, white and black ash, and basswood dominated the forested landscape. This isolated upland was pristine, appearing untouched and unvisited by settlers. Only the faint traces of the indigenous peoples and the unique weather patterns remained. It was an unbroken wilderness.

Settlement within the area didn't occur until the early nineteenth century; twenty years after the town of Ripton gained its charter from the government in 1781 (Bain 1993: 5). The road was constructed in 1803, making the land accessible, opening a new realm on the rural mountainous backbone of Vermont. Forests attract settlers and people. Log houses dominated the Vermont landscape until well into the nineteenth century, resulting from the distance from saw mills as well as the need to clear to land first when the original settlers came to the land.

Trees were a commodity and had a "financial bonus" for settlers (Albers 2000: 107). Potash (the potassium carbonate), which is derived from the ashes of burned tress and timber, were the main export industries during this early time period. The textile industry, which was beginning to be so prevalent in Vermont, also had a huge demand for potash.

The major clearing era that swept over the Vermont landscape ended around 1790, which was before most settlers came to Bread Loaf (Figure 6). This deforestation caused the climate to start to change, impacting the growing environment as well as rural life in general. Increased erosion, exposure to the elements, and inability to make money caused a new era to arise. As the soil eroded from the hill farms, so did the population (Albers 2000: 207). Valleys and western states began more inciting due to the harsh conditions farmers faced in the mountains. The original settlers struggled with the short growing season, and "eternally cursed the glacially deposited boulders as they coaxed oats, wheat, and potatoes from the ground" (Bain 1993: 6). Rocks can still be seen doting the landscape, lying motionless on the forest floor (Figure 7).

During the nineteenth century, land was cleared for four reasons: cultivated land for growing cops, pastureland for grazing animals, mowings to produce hay or logging (Wessel 1997: 42). Trees growing in the open tend to grow outward (Wessel 1997: 42). There are many examples of these throughout the trail system since much of the forest was logged, and parts closer to the lodge were originally deforested for pastureland for cattle and horses (Figure 8 and 9). The logging history is displayed also by the tree stumps that litter the forest floor, capped with hats of snow. Many of the current trails are former logging roads or bridal paths, where as some, to make the trail system more interesting, were newly cut for skiing. The multi-trunked trees are also a clear indication of logging (Wessel 1997: 65). During the 1830s, twelve sawmills were in existence across this rural landscape, providing a means of timber harvesting in close

proximity to the forest lots. It was during the civil war that the dense forested landscape and the surrounding habitats started to rapidly disappear.

Joseph Battell came up to Breadloaf in the summer of 1865, and stayed with the Parker Family, who currently owned the property. His intentions for the visit were to regain good health, but the fresh mountain air and the relaxed pace became such a part of him he stayed resulting in him purchasing the Victorian inn in 1861. The inn opened in the spring on 1866, and was a summer retreat, where guests were able to enjoy the many enjoyments of the rural mountain landscape. People came to the area to, "seek a place for recreation amusement, health, and enjoyment….one finds himself removed here to a higher atmosphere of entirely different life from which they are accustomed to the novelty charms, the freshness fascinates, the decided character pleases, the walks delight, the mountains impress and their air, cool, clear" (Lee 1955: 211-212). The touring center opened in the mid 1980's, providing everything from race courses to lesson areas to touring trails.

During the harsh winder months, Battell as well as other local towns people would labor in the forest, collecting firewood to be sold to erase their debts, which has accumulated over the warm months (Bain 1993:5). A snow roller packed down the twelve miles of mountain road for sledding. He built a carriage road where logging trails branched off. The road ended at the lodge ½ mile form the summit (Lee 1955: 216). This is now a snowmobile highway during the winter months. As I climbed up Gilmore trail, after passing Gilmore Cottage on the way, I intersected with what seamed like a back road, which was now the converted major snowmobile route during the winter. Route 59, formally Gilmore Road, is one of the many roads on the top of the green mountains that are left unplowed solely for the recreational activities instead of transportation (Figure 10). Battell also raised alderney cattle and ayershire cows in the pastures

surrounding the Bread Loaf complex, which are still intact today. The stubble of cut hay and corn stalks is covered up by the snow, allowing trails to outline the perimeter of the fields.

Around the 1860's, there started to be an interest in forest conservation (Lee 1955: 213). In reaction to the first hand interaction with logging across the landscape from which he looked upon from his porch, Battell began to see the possible long term affects this rapid deforestation would have on the beautiful surrounding landscape. He started purchasing all the land in the view from the inn porch at fifty cents, twenty-five cents, or even ten cents per acre (Figure 11). "Some folks go to Europe and pay $10,000 for a painting and hang it up in their home where none but their friends can see it. I buy a mountain for that money and it is hung up by nature where everybody can see it. And it is infinitely more handsome than any picture painted" (Bain 1993: 7). He soon owned more land than any other Vermonter at the time.

Now skiing through the forest, the yellow stick-like sign of the Green Mountain National Forest pokes up from the snow, a glimpse of color sprouting like a sapling (Figure 12). National forest signs mark the spot where the trail system parallels the Green Mountain National Forests. When Middlebury College acquired the land from Battell, some of it they sold to the national park service. By 1926, the Green Mountain National Forest had been established (Albers 2000: 260).

An abandoned hay loader lay nestled within the trees that outlined the Frost Fields (Figure 13). This was left over from when the hay was cocked and stacked by hand on the land around Frost Farm (Stanford 1916: 252). This invention was a result of the high demand for hay for the cavalry and transportation of the armies. Trees grew through it and rust had taken over. Another clue of how the winter conditions had changed the land use of the area. A small apple

orchard, with the gnarled branches, stood just below the cabin in which some of the best poetry was created (Figure 14 and 15). In one of his poems about his apple trees, *Good-by and Keep Cold*, he talks about how he chose to place the trees on the northern slope as to help protect them from the harsh winds (Biddle and Eschholz 1973: 248). They, however, like the cold rather than the hot, so the north helps reduce the sunlight. The Frost Farm, which is listed as a national historic landmark, as acquired by the college from the Morrison family in 1966 and was established as a memorial to Robert Frost. The property is about 170 acres and includes a house, barn, and log cabin where Frost spent many summers. Frost lived in the white house and bought the cabin in 1938 from Mrs. Noble who built it for him.

Rural winter life in the early times was miserable, providing a challenging environment to those who settled. In 1941, there were about 25, 000 farms and about 50 winter playgrounds (White 1956). Winter in the mountains was a time of isolation. Climate of the mountains have provided poor agriculture "unsuitable for agriculture", and the heavy rocks on the slopes of the mountains caused from glacial deposits, led farmers to abandon the idea of farming and move west (Albers 2000: 26). "Fog has certainly a poetry of its won…it does for the daylight what a lamp does for us at night. When the great world is shut off from us, the house becomes itself a small universe. Shrouded in perpetual mist, men love each other better, for the only reality then is the family" (White 1956: 120). The climate is different from that of the low, fertile lands of the Champlain Valley, providing a cooler temperature and shorter growing season. Frosts hit the ground earlier, has increased snowfall, and shortens the summers. This, however, prolongs the skiing season and makes it a more favorable atmosphere for winter recreation activities (Albers 2000: 26). Bark liaisons on trees show a tree's adaptations to the change in environmental

conditions (Wessel 1997: 79). The seasonal wind patterns are changing. The intensity of winter, as well as the duration and length are changing.

Since the weather was so harsh, many of the barns within homestead were attached to help reduce the amount of time spent outside. Many farmers intending on settling up in the mountains tried to believe that winter was much more tame than it really was. The constant freezing and stocking wood or checking on the animals led to unexpected hardships, sometimes forcing the families to abandon ship. Alice Herdan-Zuckmayer, an Austrian immigrant, stated in her book on farm life that, "we did not yet suspect how big an adventure we had let ourselves in for: we had no idea of Vermont winters, and we didn't know what it means to have a farm without adequate help" (Herdan-Zuckmayer 1987: 11). Transportation was slowed or even sometimes stopped as a result of changing conditions. Other local farmers were forced to abandon their farms due to change in legislation, as well as the increase in the unreliability of the younger generation taking over the farm. The isolation that comes with winter is due to the extreme conditions the season sets forth. The need to log for firewood, as well as the urge to stay inside where it is warm instead of venturing out in to the cold helps create isolated communities. Herdan-Zuckmayer stated later on that, "In the first winter we would have learned little about the place and people if it had not been for the telephone" (Herdan-Zuckmayer 1987: 40).

After talking with my neighbor, who grew up on the dairy farm just down the road, depended on what her land had to offer. During the winter months, their firewood would all come from their land. She had spent a fairly solitary life while growing up since there weren't many children with whom to play and her parents were on neighborly terms with the parents of a few children. Most of her time was spent outside or doing chores around the house. In the

winter she would sled to school and remain there for the entire day, breaking only for half an hour opposed to the full hour they had in the summer time. She never went to school but spent the long quiet winter hours quilting, making prize winning quilts. In 1945, her husband and she cleared more land and built a sugaring house on the hillside.

Off the trail about twenty feet, the old spring of 1959, lay below the snow cover, the sides barley visible (Figure 16 and 17). Icicles fringed the exterior pipes, a possible leak within the structure. The frozen ground not only posed problems for farmers, but also for water. If the spring froze over, livestock and farmers were forced to travel long distances or undergo intense labor to get water.

The animals were "cut, dried, and rationed out" during the summer so they would be ready for the winter (Cronon 1983: 138). Since the winters were harsh, the need for large tracts of land for mowing was critical. These were normally placed in close proximity to steam banks. The Middlebury River begins right around Bread Loaf campus, as well as many different streams branching off throughout the landscape, running down the mountains, veins and arteries on the landscape. The practice fields across the roads, where just that. Pastures lands as well, they are still hayed today. Small bridges have been built to accommodate the safe crossing of water (Figure 18). Many of the pastures appear to be Massachusetts Yankee style of their irregularly shaped fields, divided by trees and oriented towards each other (Figure 19). A barbed wire fence cut through the base of a hardwood tree, only to be connected to a broken post. The farmsteads on these tended to be isolated from one another, which is clearly represented on this winter landscape near Bread Loaf. However, the scattered settlement that occurred throughout the landscape was a result of the lack of understanding. It had a large impact on the natural environment as well as on the community. Isolation was created.

During the early twentieth century, winter began to attract a new kind of meaning. Snowfall, as well as the blustery winds, took a toll on the farmer's lives. Farmers viewed the winter differently than the vacationing skier would (Crane 1941: 109). The attachment to the winter landscape was also different. Farmers can't wait for winter to be over, while the skiers attempt to savor the last bit. According to Charles Crane, "the farmer sees winter as a sailor sees the sea…can't set off the board and walk. The elements are his to cope with at close range; and he may encounter such combinations of storm and waves of cold that his mettle and farm seamanship are supremely tested. But, survive or perish, most Vermont Farmers are Captains Courageous- and the winter sport folks are mere tenderfeet compared to them" (Crane 1941: 109). Since the growing season is about 110 days, there is a major difference in the ability to maintain crops as well as the leisure time to catch mistakes Meeks 1986: 161). The harsh, windy conditions that drove many farmers to different locations, causing them to abandon their farms, were soon thought to be a time of recreation. The snow was not something that should inhibit people from moving about, isolating them selves from others. Winter should bring people together.

As I flew down the Rock Garden trying to avoid the brambles that had managed to poke their way up through the now thin snow cover, a large rectangular piece of equipment caught my eye. At the base of a tree, only a few feet from the trail lay a rusty maple-sugaring arch, reminisce of the sugaring that once took place across the landscape (Figure 20). The hard, cold winters, as well as the dominance of maple trees throughout the landscape provided the perfect conditions for sugaring. At Middlebury College, during the early and mid 1900s, the students had their annual sugaring party on Bread Loaf Mountain. On this big mountain campus several

thousand trees are tapped each year. Sap was boiled down over roaring fires, then spread on snow-blankets to harden. Steak, sour pickles, and doughnuts were also served.

Another cabin caught my eye, as I shot down Myhre's driveway (Figure 21). This thirty-nine acre property parcel was acquired in 1974 and has a small cabin on it that is used by Bread Loaf staff during the summer season. A power line also sliced through the forest leading up to this structure (Figure 22). The field at the bottom has now become overgrown. A sugarhouse, as well as another homestead that were present during the 1920's, however, all if any trace of these buildings are hidden beneath the white blanket of snow. "The sweetness of maple syrup are touched with the symbolism of the running sap and he boilin' down, closely allied as the season and processes are with the primitive life, the woods, and the break-up of winter" (Crane 1941: 299). It is something that resides in most Vermonters as something special, marking the end of the harsh winter months. The process the maple trees undergo requires a blanket of snow across their roots. Maple sugar on snow has also become a major part of a Vermonter's childhood.

The network of the trails mirror the topography of the landscape as well as the different forests and meadows that create loops and views for the skiers (Figure 23**)**. The harsh wind highlights the need for a sheltered area skiing area, rather than spending most of the time within the open fields. The rolling terrain offers areas of all ability, as well as backcountry trails that button right up to the backcountry paths of the Catamount Trail system. The topography of the landscape also has a major influence on the plant communities since the direction in which the slope faces or the steepness of the pitch determines that can or can not grow, or in human settlement patterns, on which side of the slope to build or in what direction should their homesteads face. Signs mark the touring trails, indicating the name of the trail as well as the

location the trail is on the trail map (Figure 24). Trail names display the names of people, places, or things that are important to the history of the landscape. Battel loop, Myhres driveway, and Frost trail. Robert Frost, a famous Vermont poet who spent his summers at the English school at Bread Loaf, was an avid skier, claming that cross-country skiing was "the road not taken" (Ford 1978: 87). His trail twists through a red pine plantation then descended into hardwoods marked with red rectangular blazes.

The Wagon Wheel trail spun off this trail, as I headed off on the ungrowmed narrow trail. A line of blue trail blazes marked on trees marked a boundary (Figure 25). Trail blazes marked not only the trail system but also indicated boundary lines. Tom Wessel wrote that it is much easier to blaze trees than to build a stone wall to mark the property boundary. Soon I approached a dilapidated building. The Blue Bed House, had once been a small farm house, overlooking pasture land and a small orchard (Figure 26 and 27). "There was just a simple house to stand as a barrier, a safety zone, form nature. They sought protection from the natural world until they could transform it into a place of order, predictability, and profit (Albers 2000: 119). The land surrounding this now pile of boards and nails, was thinned, indicating the lawn space, as well as the one or two large trees that spread out over the forest floor, growing out, instead of up. Farmers need education to survive. The abandoned houses that once sheltered the hopes and disappointments of farm families were often abandoned, left for the encroaching woods to take over, soon to be decayed and hidden from view. Winter would take the lives of some or the courage and determination from others. In Daniel L. Cady poem called An Old Vermont Cellar Hole, "to wander near a ruined home, upon a springtime morning, informs the mind and charms the eye, but gives the heart a warning; for, Oh! The sense of human changes, that such a scene

discloses…..A human chapter closes." Sometimes the remaining lumber was stripped for other projects, but most of the time slowly rotted in the elements.

The landscape now has become altered by humans desire to experience the winter landscape through skiing and their drive for the outdoors. The climate and terrain offers the perfect area for skiing as well as the forests that provide a barrier from the harsh wind and precipitation. Over the years, tourism has increased as well as the increased appreciation for the winter landscape. Weather it was the thrill of flying down the slopes or if it was just to walk through the winter wonderland to view the snow covered landscape, winter provided a season of recreation. Roads have improved to help make the winter wonderland more accessible. The winter landscape has influenced human interactions within the environment and helps shape the Bread Loaf landscape. From the original settlement of farms with logging trails deep within the forested landscape, to what is now the Nordic Ski Center, this area was shaped by the winter. The trails are maintained for skiing, while the natural environment is kept healthy (Figure 28). With perfectly planted trees alongside the ski trail and the snowmobile trail, to the pasture that is decorated with flags, a timeline, and ten perfectly groomed starting tracks for races, this landscape has changed from a farm stead to a winter recreation center (Figure 29 and 30). Winter has won the landscape, influencing human's interactions with the landscape.

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Figures

Figure 1. Broken Gate Trail, the highest trai l within the Bead Loaf Trail System. This show the perfect Vermont winter landscap

Figure 2. Cross-Country Ski tracks on Gilmore Trail. The snow preserves the skiers moves on the landscape

Figure 3. A multi-trunked tree, which is a trace of past logging, probally for firewood to heat houses during the winter or for exporting

Figure 4. Bark leaons that show the stress of the harsh winter conditions of the landscape around Breadloaf

Figure 5. A Snapped tree due to the natural causes, such as wind or ice, such as seen on the branches.

Figure 6. A tree stump bearly visible beneath the snow, also shows the traces of logging.

Figure 7. Snow covered rock in a pasturse off of first loop right next to Myhre's cabin is a sign of the glacial deposits.

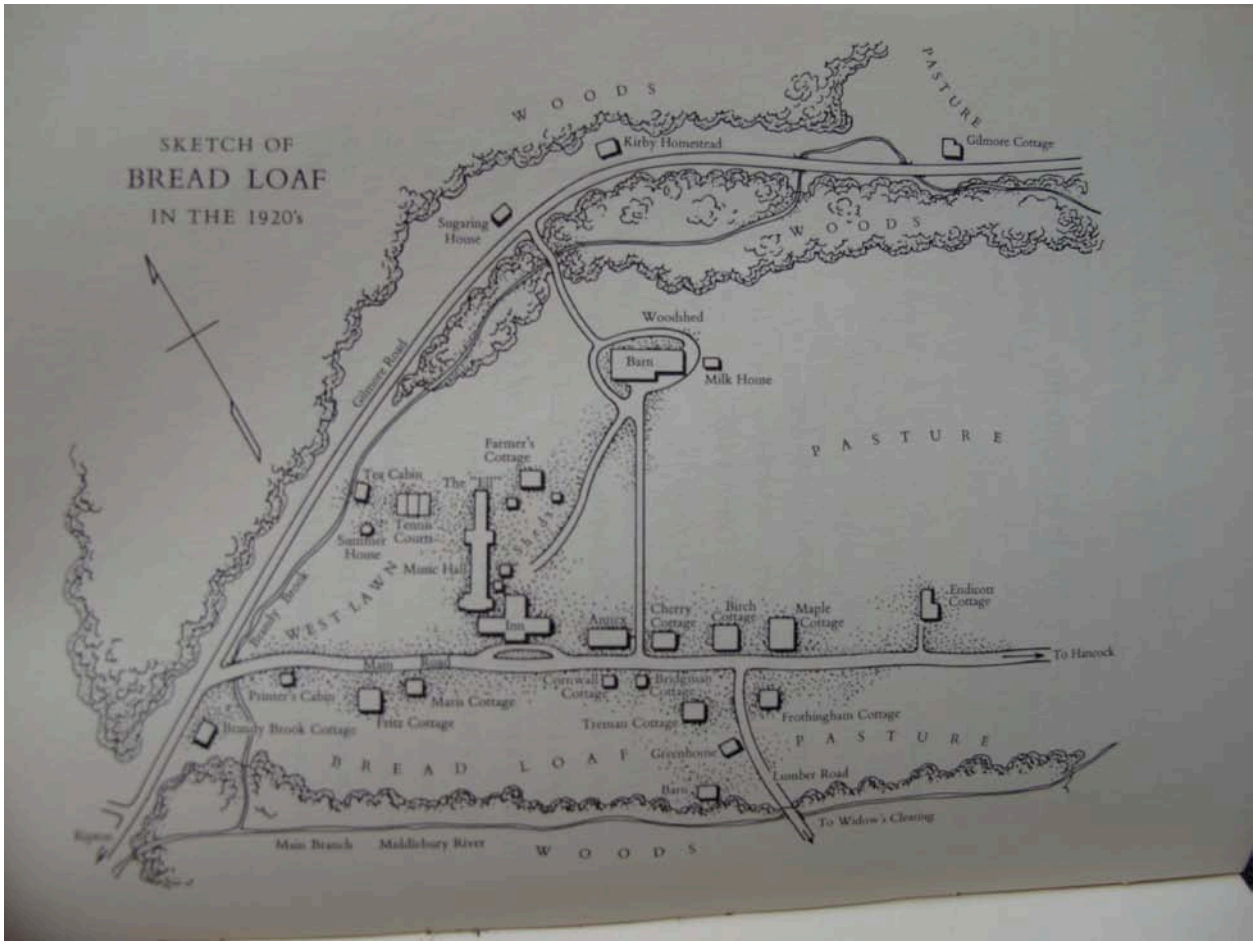

Figure 8. Sketch of Break Loag in the 1920s, taken from George Anderson's book on the history of Bread Loaf

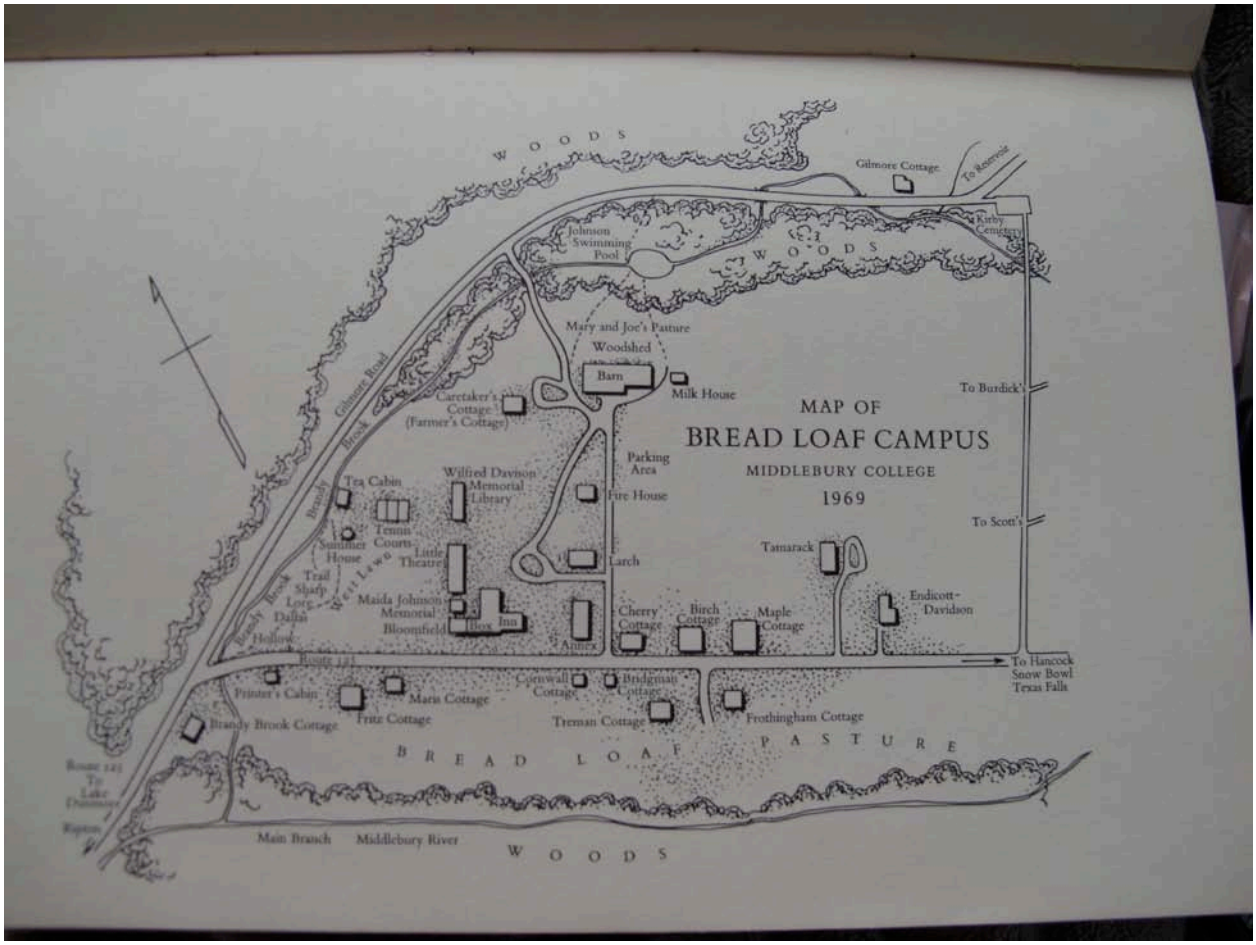

Figure 9. Sketch of Break Loag in the 1969, taken from George Anderson's book on the history of Bread Loaf

Figure 10. Intersection of Route 59 snowmobile route and broken gate ski trail.

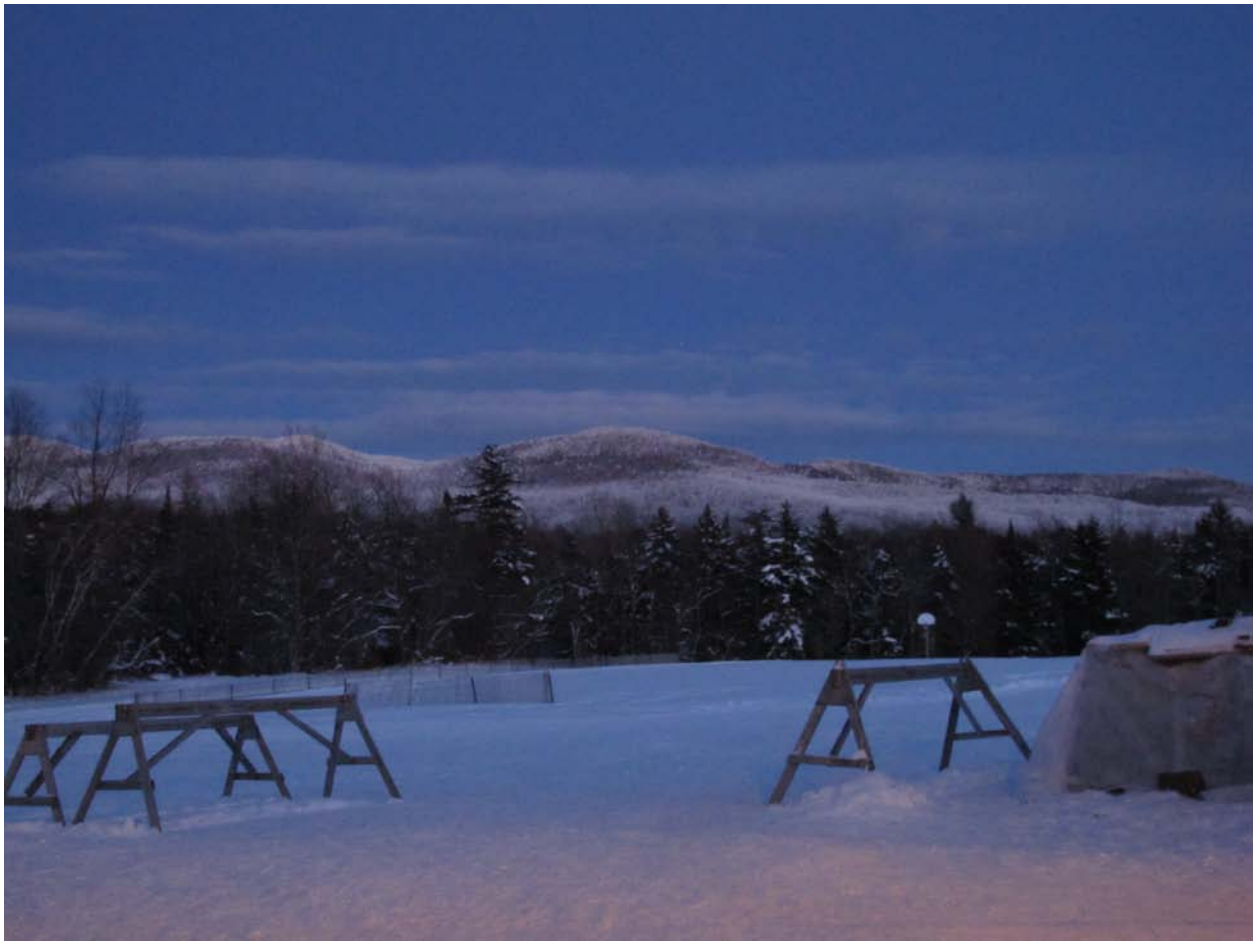

Figure 11. A twilight view of Bread Loaf Mountain from the touring center at Bread Loaf, with ski racks in the frount. The white tips of the mountains show the changes in elevation and slope that coincide with snowfall and temperature.

Figure 12. Green Mountain National Forest Marker, indication the boundary between the Touring Center Property and the Green Mountain National Forest, which was established by 1926. This is a trace of conservation on the landscape.

Figure 13. An abandoned hay rig lays on the edge of the fields around the Frost Cabin. This is an indication of the abandonment of the farm. Trees are growing through it and rust is taking over. This is another clue of how the winter conditions have changed the land use of the area.

Figure 14. Apple trees outside the Frost Cabin, a clear indication of human dominance over the landscape. The Apple trees love the cold winters and warm summers, thus enhancing their natural fruit bearing process.

Figure 15. Frost Cabin, where the famous poet Robert Frost composed poetry while attending the summer Bread Loaf Writer's Conference

Figure 16. Pond next to spring on the far end of *Figure Eight*, before *Morrison's Field*.

Figure 17. A 1954 spring, just off the end of *Figure Eight*, before *Morrison's Field*. Almost adjacent to a small pound, this spring was one of the first on the property providing water for the surrounding establishments. The freezing of the water during the winter posed problems for the users.

Figure 18. Bringe built for ski trail crossing at the bottom of Craig's Hill.

Figure 19. The field inside the *Practice Loop*, which were the original pastures in the early 1920s. They are exposed to the winds unlike the forested trails, provided different snow conditions. Trees are planted in the middle of the two fields to help reduce the winter wind.

Figure 20. An abandoned maple-sugaring arch off of the *Rock Garden*. The hard, cold winters, as well as the dominance of maple trees throughout the landscape provided the perfect conditions for sugaring.

Figure 21. Myhre's Cabin, built for the summer staff of Bread Loaf Campus. This cabin is not in use during the winter months.

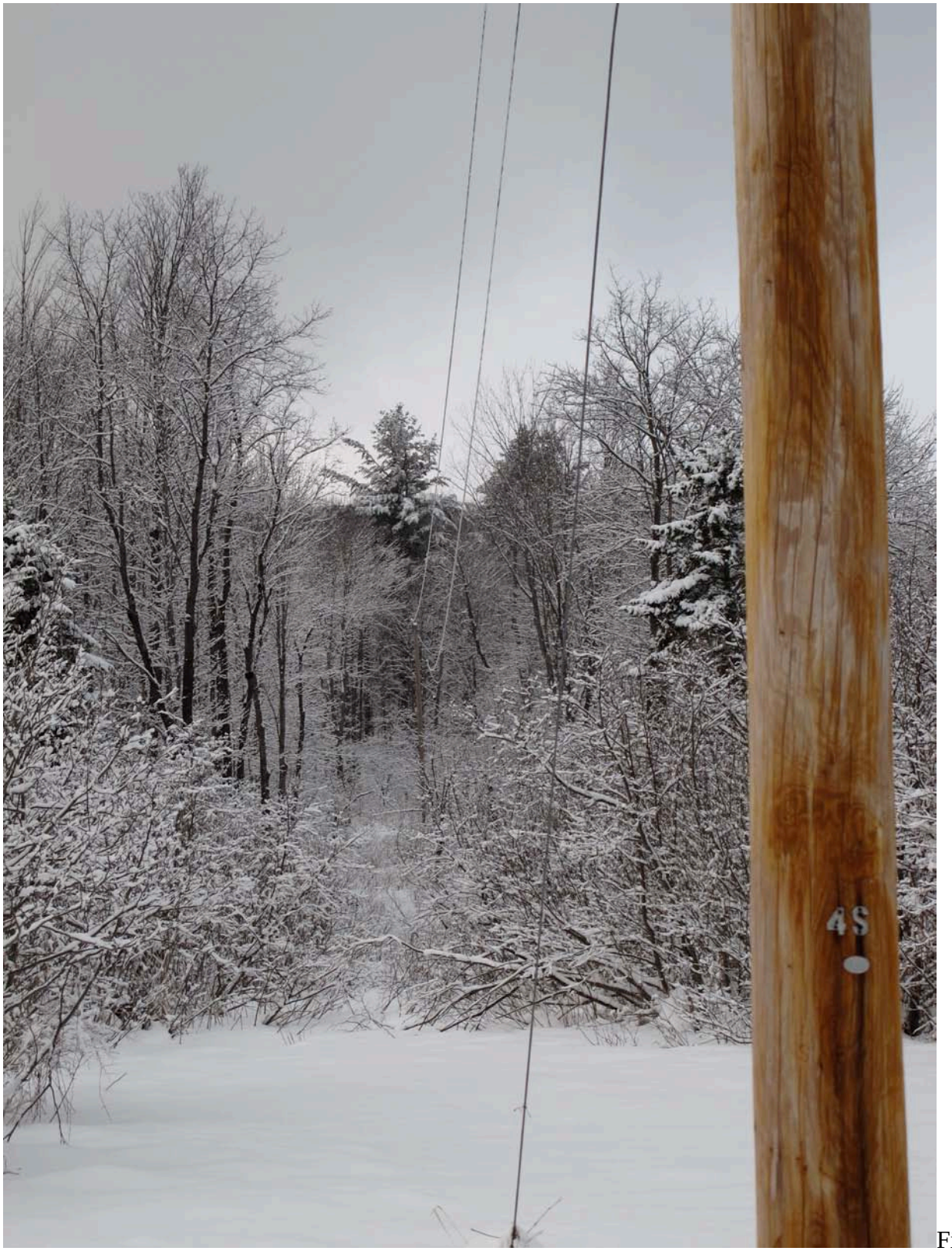

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Figure 22. Power line steaming off the line leading up Route 59, leading up to Myhre's cabin crossing the field where once a sugar shack stood.

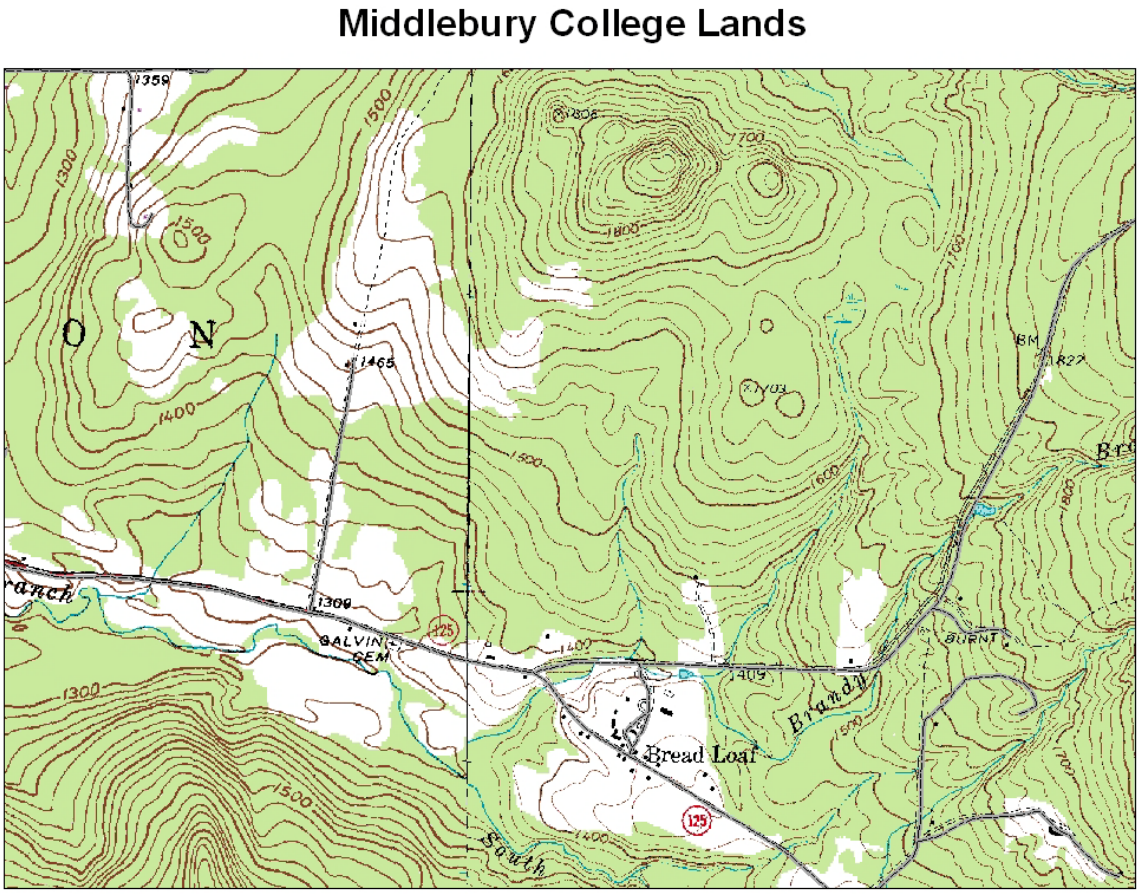


Figure 23. Topographic map of the Bread Loaf Area

Figure 24. Sign on tree pointing skiers in the direction of Bread Loaf.

Figure 25. Blue trail blazes on *Middlebranch* indicating property lines. This is much easier than to build something like a stonewall that would just be covered up in the winter. These blazes are high up on the tree trunks so that they are visible even after heavy snow falls. Red trail blazes mark the trails.

Figure 26. The Blue Bed House, a dilapidated homestead around the intersection of *Wagonwheel* and *Middlebranch.* This house is just one of the many farmhouses that were abandoned throughout Vermont. A few apple trees, grace the surrounding land, as well as grass land. The house once overlooked beautiful pastures. The snow has now covered most of the pile of timber up.

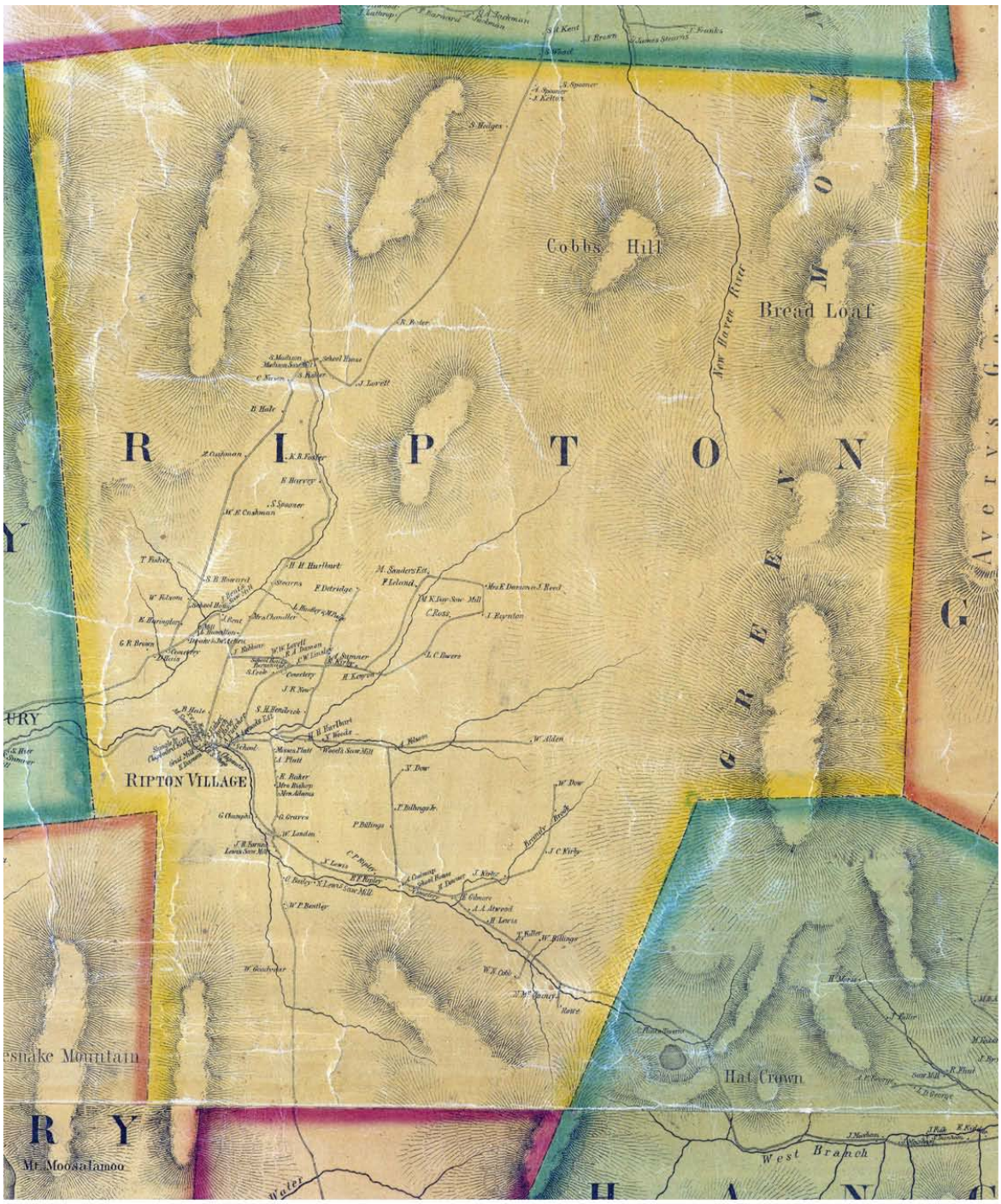
Figure 27. The Blue Bed House, a dilapidated homestead around the intersection of *Wagonwheel* and *Middlebranch.*

Figure 28. A fallen tree from a natural weather related instance that covered the *Wagonwheel* Trail, that was cut away to allow safe passage through the trail. Trail maintenance is visible all over the trail system, providing smooth and safe mobility for the users. The snow covered up most of the small fallen branches.

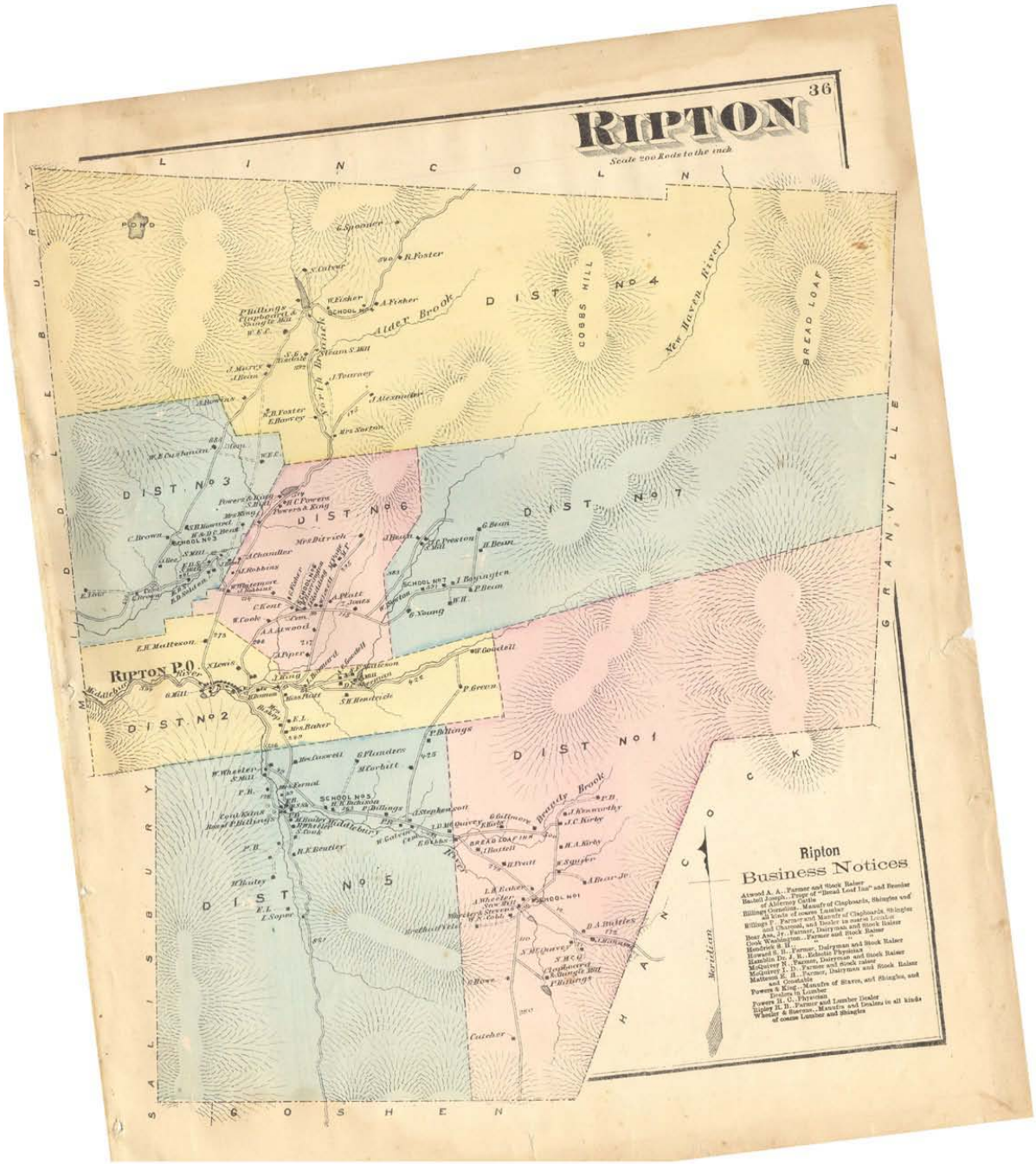
Figure 29. The top of Battel Loop, one of the original Bridal paths. The Snowmobile trail runs right on the other side of the pine trees, which are planted in a perfect line.

Figure 30. The race flags and ski racks on the Field outside the touring center.

Reference Maps



Ripton, VT Walling Map	1857 Map of Addison County, VT; H.F. Walling	Historical Maps at the Same Size for Easy Study Oct, 2006 Old Maps PO Box 54 West Chesterfield, NH 03466 413-772-2801



Ripton, VT

Beers Atlas

1871

Atlas of Addison County, VT; F.W. Beers

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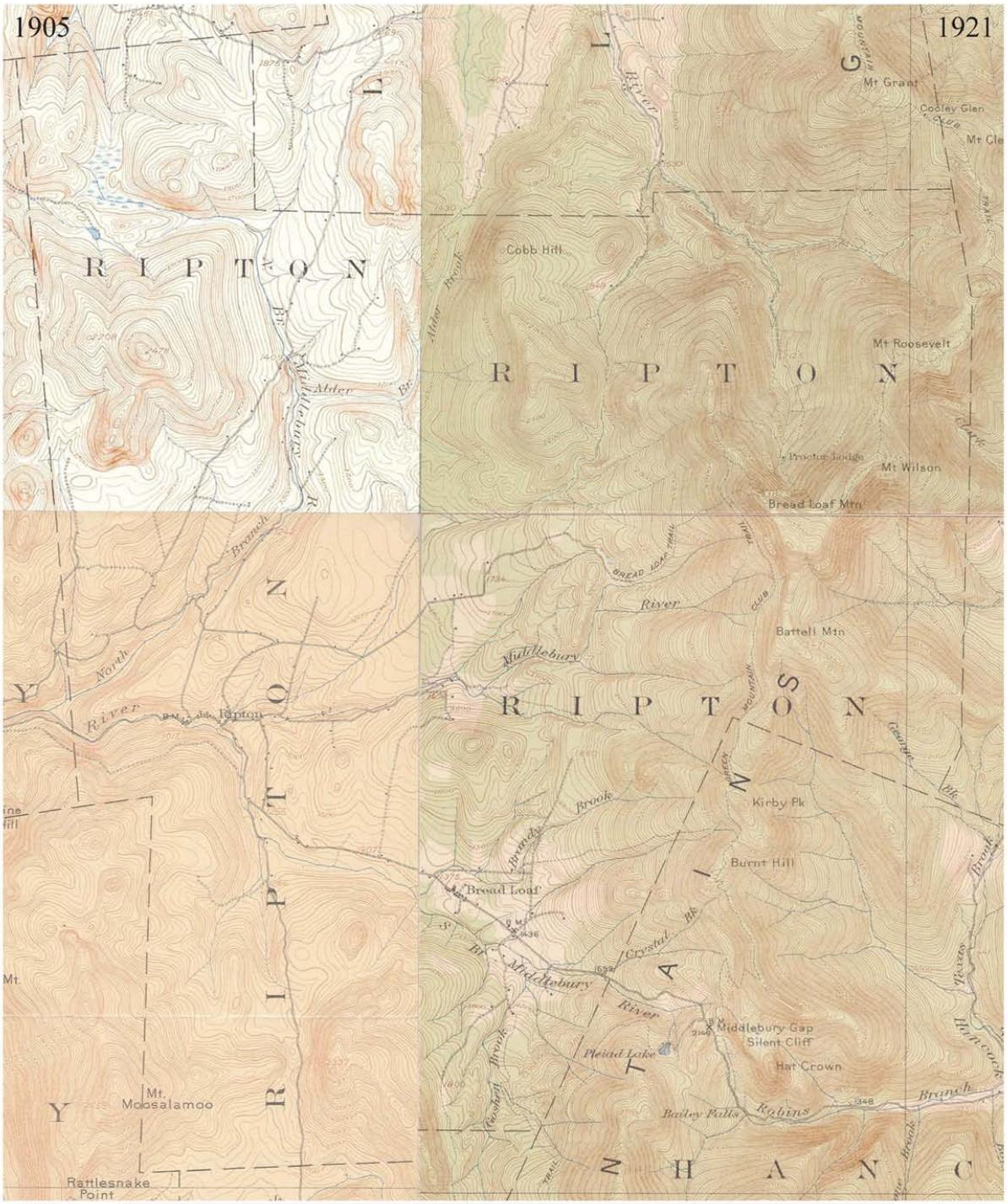

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Topographic Map

1904-1921

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