

AMST 335
New England
Roger Williams University
2:00-3:20
CAS 228
Fall Semester, 2006

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Week of October 10, 2006

Special Notice:
In Honor of Lief Erikson Day the "real"
European discoverer of America, and symbol
of proud Scandinavians everywhere,
Tuesday is Cancelled. Monday will be held
in its place. (In other words, attend your
Monday Classes on October 10th)

For Friday, October 13

Read, in *The New England Village*,

Chapter 4. Villages in the Federal Period, pp. 88 - 113

Chapter 5, "The Village as a Vernacular Form", 114-134

Chapter 6, "The Settlement Ideal", pp. 135-160 (We may not get this far, but just
in case. . .)

Download and Read,

Identification of Historic Landscapes by the National Park Service, which you can find at
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/cultural/landscape/004_idhl.htm

Notes on Readings:

- **In many ways Chapter 4 is the core of Wood's book.** Here we learn that the village forms we traditionally have associated with colonial New England are actually products of the early 19th century. There are some terms you'll need to understand here:
 - Elaboration
 - Central-Place Theory (note that not all towns or villages are central places)
 - Town Division as a Process (when and with what results)
 - Center Villages (and the economic changes which led to their creation)
 - Turnpikes (and the influence of transportation patterns on town growth or decline)

Give some time to studying the figures showing town development (figures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, 4.10, and 4.11) See if you can form a hypothesis about the different patterns of town development you see in each place.

- **Regarding Chapter 5**, it is important to understand the concept "vernacular" To help you with this, I've asked you to read the The National Park Service bulletin above.

Spend time looking at the woodcuts and period illustrations in this chapter, not only because they are valuable sources of information, but also because they are quite charming in their own right. The dates of the illustrations are important, as they show the evolution of typical New England townscapes.

- **In chapter 6** Wood focuses on the process by which the 19th century vernacular village form is transformed into the "ideal" American Community. He sees this as both a conscious and unconscious process shaped largely by intellectual and political elites. A list of some of the most important of these is found on pp. 141-142. Many of these appear on the list of Famous New Englanders on the class website. Clicking on the names will bring you further information about them and their roles in New England Culture.