



# **ENOSBURGH**

**Franklin County,  
Vermont**

## **A Community Profile**

**Prepared for the  
Vermont Council on Rural Development  
Community Visit  
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**By  
The Center for Rural Studies  
207 Morrill Hall  
University of Vermont**



## **A Note to the Reader**

Just as a community is never finished modifying, adapting, and organizing its natural, political, and social environments, an attempt to profile those dynamic processes must be a work in progress. Materials below are organized to reflect community characteristics and resources. Please join us in this profiling effort and call attention to major omissions, inaccuracies, and errors of fact.

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Thank you,

Fred Schmidt, Co-Director  
Chip Sawyer, Research Data Specialist  
Michael Moser, UVM Graduate Student

The Center for Rural Studies  
University of Vermont  
Website: <http://crs.uvm.edu>  
Phone: (802) 656-3021  
Email: [crs@uvm.edu](mailto:crs@uvm.edu)



# **Section 1.**

## **Town Organization**

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### **Where is Enosburgh?**

Enosburgh is located in Franklin County. Its northern border is shared predominately with the town of Berkshire, but also with Franklin and Richford towns. To its west lie Sheldon and Fairfield. To the east Enosburgh shares a boundary with Montgomery. To the south lies the town of Bakersfield. The Missisquoi River runs through a significant portion of the northern part of town. The

manufacturing. Sampsonville, also known as the Upper Falls developed as a prosperous hamlet when a small dam was built. Several businesses sprang up along the banks of the Missisquoi to take advantage of the water power available there.

Times change, and many of old dams marking the industrial era of the area have washed away leaving only a footprint of its history along the riverbanks. The hamlet of Bordoville is one place that developed out of the necessity for accessible services in a pre-automobile economy. Located in the southwest corner of Enosburgh off of Route 108, this once isolated hamlet featured its own post office, school, church, and grocery store. Bordoville offers beautiful views of the surrounding mountains including Jay Peak, Mount Mansfield, and Cold Hollow Mountain in Bakersfield. Located in East Enosburgh on the Eastern slope of Enosburgh Mountain, the hamlet of Hillwest existed in isolation from the rest of Enosburgh. The farmers that carved out a living here considered themselves to be from Montgomery more than from Enosburgh. These days the once abundant fields have grown back into forestlands leaving only remnants of the farming community that once settled this area.

**Government and Civic Structure:**

**Table 1.1 – General Town Characteristics**

**Town Name** TD-(0.0002cTD-(0-4.3(gh)95( on)FJ-51.2Cr26917T2 1 953-51.2C.0003 T t)-6.6(a4.1(m

Franklin County was incorporated out of Chittenden County by the Vermont legislature on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1792. When this county was created, it was much larger than it is today, including much of Grand Isle County and four towns in Lamoille County. Named for Ben Franklin, who had died in 1790, Franklin County was created just about a year and a half after Vermont was admitted to the Union. As Table 1.3. shows, town incorporation preceded the formation of Franklin County; seven of today's 14 minor civil divisions having been originally granted by New Hampshire's Governor Wentworth on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August, 1763. The remaining seven towns, including Enosburgh, were chartered by the Vermont legislature between 1780 and 1791.

Swift (1976:231) notes that Enosburgh (and Berkshire) was one of the six towns created expressly to help the state raise money. A town charter defined boundaries, but settlement often took years. Thus the date of organization is a good indication of when the town had sufficient "critical population mass" to collectively consider issues of governance and formalize commerce. (Some historians use the difference between charter date and organization as an indicator of the length of time a community takes to get mobilized, but others simply see it as a question of a resource capable of attracting a cluster of settlers.) A similar indicator of critical

demographic data from both the Town of Enosburgh and the Village of Enosburg Falls. All Town of Enosburgh data in this report includes the Village of Enosburg Falls (a pattern established by federal reporting).

Table 2.1 – Population Characteristics	Enosburgh	Enosburg Falls
	2,788	1,473
<b>Total Population, 2000</b>		
<b>Total Population, 1990</b>	2,535	1,350
<b>Absolute Population Change, 1990 – 2000</b>	253 people	123 people
<b>Percent Population Change, 1990 – 2000</b>	10%	8.4%
<b>Persons per Square Mile, 2000</b>	57.4	NA
<b>Persons per Square Mile, 1990</b>	52.2	NA
<b>Area in Square Miles</b>	48.57	NA
<b>Percent Dependent, 2000 (under 18 and over 65)</b>	.42%	NA
<b>Percent Rural, 2000</b>	100%	NA
<b>Percent Rural Farm, 2000</b>	2.4%	NA
<b>Population Reporting Native Birth (United States), 2000</b>	2682	NA
<b>Population Reporting French/French Canadian Ancestry, 2000</b>	882	NA

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002.



One of the Town of Enosburgh's most important historical figures is Roger Enos whom the town was named for. Roger Enos served under Benedict Arnold in the colonial war. He might best be remembered as leading his sick and disabled men out of the Maine woods and back to safety after an unsuccessful attempt to lead

Table 2.4 gives some insight into income data for Enosburgh, Franklin County and the State. Enosburgh lags consistently on all income figures, and has higher poverty levels than both the county and the state.

## Section 3.

### Business and Infrastructure Resources

#### History of Business and Employment in Enosburgh

Enosburgh’s agricultural history has mirrored that of the rest of the state over time. In the early settlement days one of the larger cash crops in the area was potash. The ashes of lumber being cleared to create fields was shipped north on Lake Champlain and along trail networks into Canada. In the commercial wool industry, after technological advances in unnecessary, an alternative means to get by. In Enosburgh wool became a large part of the local economy, though production levels never mirrored that of the rest of the state. In 1850 there were a reported 1,681 sheep on 149 farms. As the price of wool began to drop drastically, so did wool production in Enosburgh. By then there were only 44 sheep. Dairy was fast becoming the new “boom” industry.

By the mid 1800s cheese production in Vermont was transformed from a cottage industry to a factory-based industry, and the percentage of households with public assistance income in 1999 was 8.1% in Enosburgh, 5.1% in Franklin County, and 4.8% in the State.

Percentage of Households with Public Assistance Income, 1999	Enosburgh	Franklin County	State
	8.1%	5.1%	4.8%

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*

Green Mountain Salve for cuts, bruises, and rheumatism. At least two other local producers were known to have been profitably involved in this industry in the 1880s.

### Enosburgh Employment Information

Despite its revered agrarian past, employment in contemporary Franklin County follows regional trends. Please consider the data depicted in Table 3.1 which depicts employment in just the top five categories in Enosburgh and Franklin County. Employment in agriculture (and for that matter, all of the "extractive, primary activity areas of the economy) is in decline. The growth areas are in the service sector, indicating an increase in commuting, and obviously, ever closer ties to the national economy.

**Table 3.1–Enosburgh and Franklin County Employment Characteristics**

<b>Top Five Industries, 2000 (employed persons 16 years and over)</b>		
	<b>Enosburgh</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	276	5,362
<b>Educational, Health and Social Services</b>	263	4,464
<b>Retail Trade</b>	141	2,635
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Mining</b>	109	1,607 <b>(Construction)</b>
<b>Public Administration</b>	90	1,549

**Unemployment Rate, 2001**

**Table 3.2 - ENOSBURG - Annual Average Unemployment Rate, 1990-2001**



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>ENOSBURG</b>	8.0	10.8	10.7	10.0	8.8	8.2	9.9	7.1	6.4	5.1	5.6	7.4

**Property Values**

Table 3.3 shows average residential value, the Grand List and the Effective Property Tax Rate. These data are not strictly comparable with other census indicators here and are collected by the state Tax Department.

**Table 3.3—Enosburgh Property Valuation & Taxation**

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<b>Average Residential Value R-1 Equalized, (on less than 6 acres), 1999</b>	\$73,204
<b>Effective Property Tax Rate (rate per \$100), 2001</b>	\$1.87

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through Saint Albans onto Interstate 89 to Burlington is around 45 miles. The distance from Enosburg Falls, North to the Canadian Border on Route 108 is approximately 8 miles. The distance from Enosburgh to Montreal, Quebec is approximately 70 miles making Montreal a relatively close major international destination.

Table 3.4 (next page) depicts several indicators reflecting transportation in Enosburgh, but strictly comparable data is only now in the process of being released by Census 2000 and/or assimilated into the Center for Rural Studies databases. We will be eager to see the changes in these indicators over the decade.

**Table 3.4– Enosburgh Town Local Transportation Behavior**

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<b>Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for State Highways, 2000</b>	34,586
<b>Total Number of Accidents, 1997</b>	3
<b>Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 1997</b>	0
<b>Percent Population who Work in Town of Residence</b>	NA
<b>Percent Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000</b>	70.3%
<b>Percent Commuter</b>	

Table 4.2 shows that Enosburgh High School enrollment has decreased significantly in the past few years, while attendance rates are getting better. The retention rate in 2002 was significantly lower than the state level. The grades 9-12 dropout rate was 2.5% higher than the state average in 2002, while the student teacher ratio is lower than the state average.

**Table 4.2 - Enosburgh Falls Jr/Sr High School: General School Information**

School Participation Information	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Vermont (most recent)
Total School Enrollment	480	450	402	404	100,867
Attendance Rate	93.3%	93.9%	94.9%	94.1%	95.1%
Retention Rate	0.2%	3.5%	.7%	.5%	2.2%
Average Class Size	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0

1. general information, 2. program information, 3. staff information, 4. more community social indicators, 5. financial resources, 6. financial expenditure and 7. student performance. The Vermont School Report was last updated on February 25, 2003. Also available is the "Complete Vermont Report" which shows state averages and totals for up to four years of data.