



New construction supplements three existing buildings to create a rural village.

Just down the street from Robert Frost's home, the oldest house in Derry sits nearby the west-running brook that was the subject of one of his longer poems. The original 1710 house is supplemented by another from 1820 and a small school building, once a barn. The remainder of the 9-acre site is open fields and areas for parking.

The project brief was to make a mixed-use village that would give the town of Derry a second heart and celebrate its history as Frost's home and the site of the first white potato grown in America. In the plan, two restaurants in the old buildings and small farm-to-table stores line a main street and overlook a sloping green shaped for outdoor concerts. A curved hotel and apartment building with a central event hall surrounds the green and conceals shared parking behind. At the center of the site, a small second parking area with a tot-lot in its middle is surrounded on all sides by shallow buildings that hide it from view. New barn-like structures supplement the 1820's house (at right above) with offices and apartments, turning an existing parking lot into a small square. The main street and this square are connected by a narrow pedestrian mews lined by rowhouses and 6-plex apartments configured to resemble rowhouses. Against the rural highway, the facades of duplex houses create a colorful streetscape reminiscent of nearby Portsmouth as well as Derry's own gable-forward heritage.

The planning effort included preliminary elevations for all new buildings and floor plans for some of the more innovative residential units. These include a variety of 25-foot-deep buildings, some of which park underneath from the rear while presenting friendly faces to the street.

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