

## A short story about how this short granite and cut-stone wall came to be here

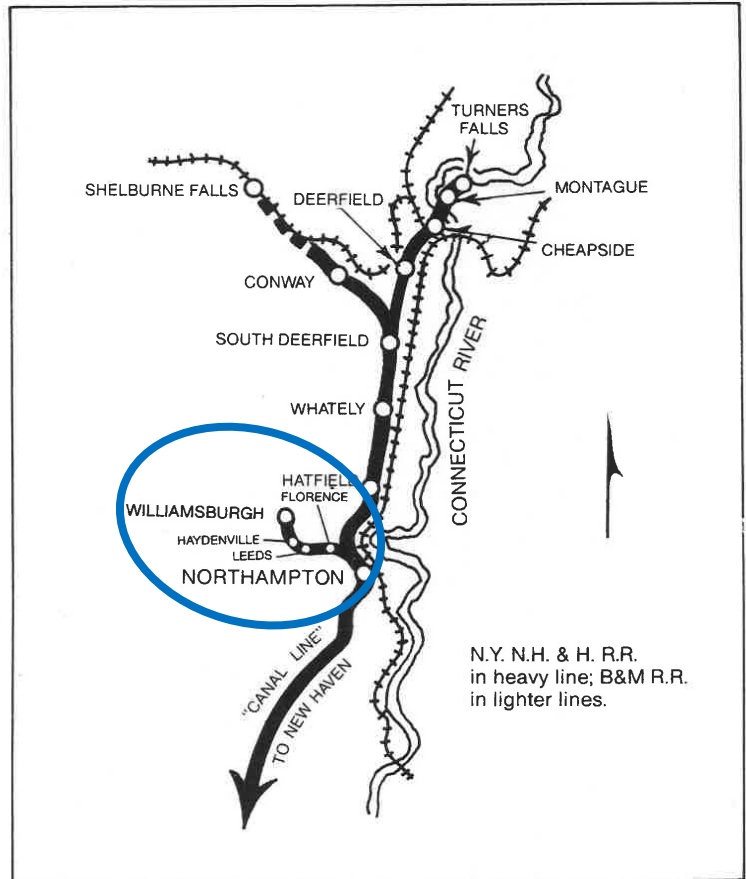


This trail used to be the right-of-way of the old Williamsburg Branch of the New Haven Railroad's Canal Division. Yes, the corridor actually started as a canal built from New Haven to Northampton in the 1830s, but it was never a commercial success and was quickly converted to become a railroad.

The railroad was open and operational to Northampton by 1862. The right-of way for this branch was acquired by the railroad in 1866 and it was built and open by



1868.



There was a steady 1.6% grade designed by the railroad coming up the hill from where Stop & Shop is today. The crest of that hill from Northampton is pretty much near where you are standing today.

In order to maintain this grade, the railroad cut down the land of Chestnut St by about two feet and built the stone walls on both sides of the railroad corridor and in front of both of these houses on the Chestnut St side too.

Both of these houses are notable in that they were built just before the railroad came to town and they are among the closest to sit next to a railroad in the U.S.