

# DRAWING NEW HAMPSHIRE

There are 243 towns and cities in the Granite State. Sue Anne Bottomley is going to draw them all.

BY LAURA JEAN WHITCOMB | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

It was a passing thought for artist Sue Anne Bottomley: Why not draw all of New Hampshire's towns to celebrate her return to New Hampshire? But, with snow on the ground, she decided to wait until spring to start her Draw NH project, a quest to sketch a scene of each and every town in the Granite State.

All 243 of them.

Bottomley, born in Concord and now a resident of New London, is ready for the challenge. She's been posting her colorful journey on her blog, <http://sueannebottomley.blogspot.com/>, so folks can keep up with her progress. "When I tell people about the project, they say, 'It sounds great, but what will you be drawing in each town?'" she says. "I'm not sure — that's part of the excitement."

As of May, she's drawn 138 towns. "Sometimes I do research before I go, sometimes not. I always do research after," Bottomley says. "I look around to see what resonates with me; what touches my brain and heart and hand." In East Lempster, it was the old buildings in town with a backdrop of modern windmills. In Bradford, it was the Congregational Society Meeting House,



built in 1838. In Weare, it was a display case of historical artifacts in the Stone Memorial Building. "I like it when people recognize the towns, but see them in a new way."

Bottomley sketches on site, and jots down a few color notes. Then she makes it work artistically in her >>>





New London studio. “I draw architecture, landscapes, animals and people, if they are in the scene,” she says.

Her mediums are ink and colored pencil, but, with a bit of water and some finger smudges, the final product looks like a watercolor. The drawings seem casual, but there’s classical training on Bottomley’s resume. She comes from an artistic family, has a degree in fine arts, has worked as a printmaker — with “a press in my house as big as a Volkswagen” — and has had exhibitions of her work. Many of her sketches are available as note cards; she’s done several popular cards of the town of New London.

With the help of her technical advisor, husband Bruce, Bottomley plans to put all her town drawings in a permanent online album, and eventually publish them as a book.

“It’s a celebration for me and the other people who live in New Hampshire, used to live here, or wish they did,” she says. “I just like it here.” □

Sue Anne Bottomley

New London, N.H.

[sueannebottomley.blogspot.com](http://sueannebottomley.blogspot.com)

