

Featured Historical Sites in Downtown Phillips

1The **Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad** (SR&RL) established its headquarters in Phillips in 1890, and was a narrow-gauge railroad that operated approximately 120 miles of two-foot gauge in Franklin County from 1879 to 1935. At the peak of its operation, the railroad owned over 500 freight cars and 24 locomotives. With the demise of the railroad, the shops and engine houses were either dismantled or moved to other locations, save for the machine shop and the Depot. The brick building was converted into the largest basketball court in Franklin County and is now the Phillips Area Community Center.

2The **“Fly Rod” Crosby Homes** are where Cornelia Thurza Crosby was born at 17 Pleasant Street in 1854 when the population of Phillips was a bit more than 1,600, and where she lived next door until her death in 1946. The white clapboard house she dubbed “St. Anthony’s Cottage.” She was the first to receive a Maine registered guide’s license and the first to fish regularly with a light fly rod and artificial flies. She was also the first publicist for the Maine Central Railroad, which brought tourists to Rangeley via the SR&RL. In her honor, a 45-mile, multi-use recreational trail that passes through downtown Phillips was created by the High Peaks Alliance.

3The **Phillips Historical Society Museum** is housed in this building, which was constructed for Captain Joel Whitney in 1835. Whitney was a farmer raising wheat, Phillip’s first postmaster and owner of what was said to be the best potash factory in Maine. The house was



purchased by the Phillips Historical Society in 1965 from Orris M. Vose, Superintendent of the SR&RL. The Museum is host to “Fly Rod” Crosby memorabilia including back issues of the Phillips Phonograph featuring “Fly Rod’s Notebook.”

4The **Bridge across the Sandy River** will take you to Amble Street and onto the grounds of the SR&RL Museum via the Fly Rod Crosby Trail; follow the blue and white

trail signs. In 1808 Benjamin Wilbur built the first bridge across the Sandy River near Tuff’s mill, a combination saw and grist mill. Before that all lumber and grain for the mill, as well as passengers, crossed the river by raft. While crossing the current bridge (built in 1927), be sure to look upstream from the bridge and imagine the covered railroad bridge that once crossed the Sandy River.

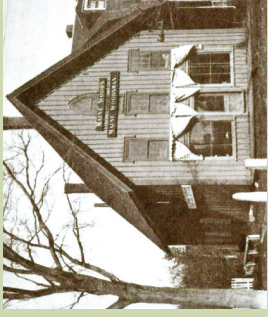
5The **Beal Block**, constructed in 1873, was once located on this site, and now hosts the Phillips Hardware Store. The wooden block was 120 feet in length, 65 feet in width and three stories high, and dominated the business district with ten businesses including two banks, the telephone exchange and town office. The mural on the wall depicts the view from the corner of Pleasant and Main where it stood until destroyed by fire in 1970. Nathaniel B. Beal, president of the Phillips National Bank, is said to have made the highest bid of \$50 to have the block named for him.



6The **Phillips/Union National Bank** was once housed in this building at 18 Main Street. Organized in May, 1875, with capital of \$50,000, its first president was Darius Howard. Located here today is the Stove Top Antiques Shop where you can view three old bank vaults.

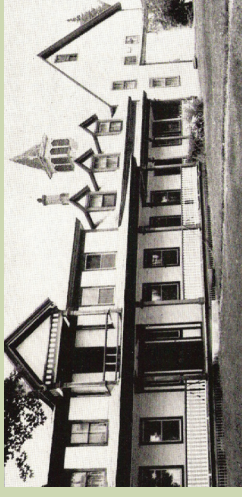


7The **Office of the Phillips Phonograph** was once housed in this building. Built in 1848, it had previously served a cheese manufacturing company; today it is the home of the Phillips Community House. The Phillips Phonograph



was established by O.N. Moore on September 14, 1878 and occupied the upper story of the building. Cornelia “Fly Rod” Crosby was a regular contributor to the newspaper, which underwent several transformations as the Maine Woodsman and the Maine Woods. It was discontinued in October 1918; copies of the papers are housed in the Phillips Historical Society Museum.

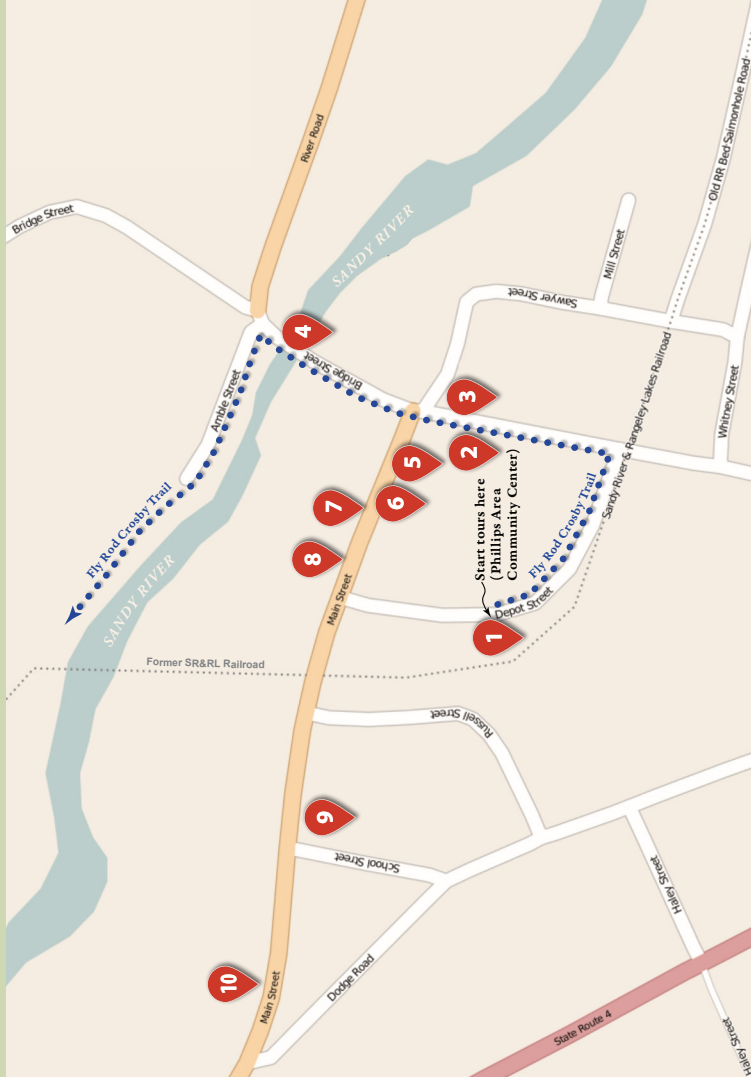
8The old **Toothaker Farm House** was built in 1832 and offered downtown apartments for rent. It is now a family residence.



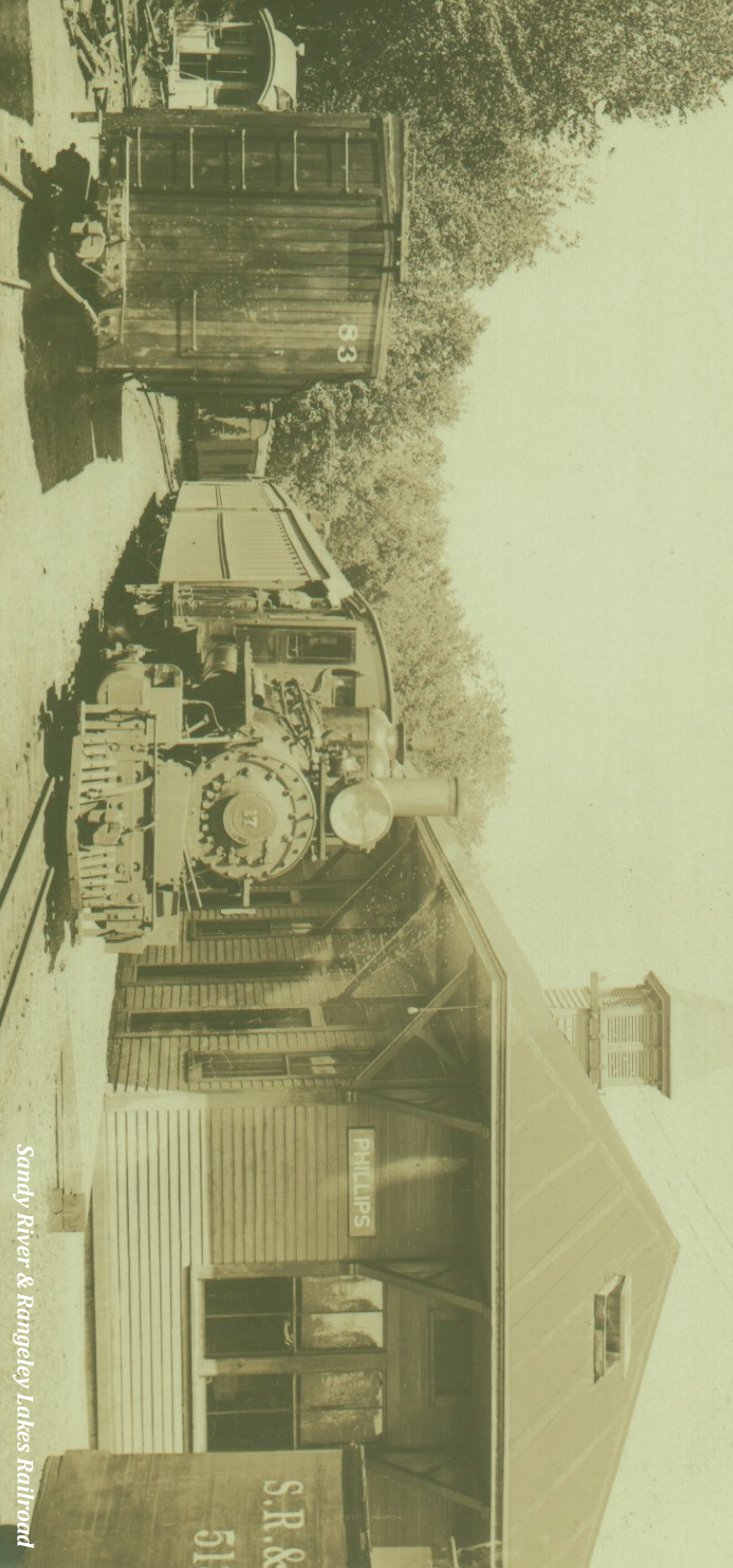
9The **Paul G. Whittemore Building** housed the Phillips High School from 1894 to 1969. It then functioned as a Middle School until the last eighth grade class graduated in 1988. Astronomy, Geology, French and Italian were once taught here. Today it serves as the fourth home of the Phillips Public Library, which was established in 1911. It is named after Paul G. Whittemore, a graduate of Colby College and veteran of World War I, who became principal of the high school in 1921, and for 43 years also taught science and math and coached the cross country track team. His message to the Class of 1964 was: “...we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we are willing to give.”



10The **Elmwood Hotel** once stood on this site in the days when Phillips was a famous destination for “sports.” Owner Theodore Page, a veteran hotel owner in Washington, D.C., hosted many famous people at the Elmwood. According to the Phillips Phonograph, in 1878 the Elmwood Hotel charged guests between \$1.00 and \$1.50 a night, depending on whether they purchased dinner. The Elmwood was destroyed by fire in 1922.



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Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad



Main Street



Bridge across the Sandy River

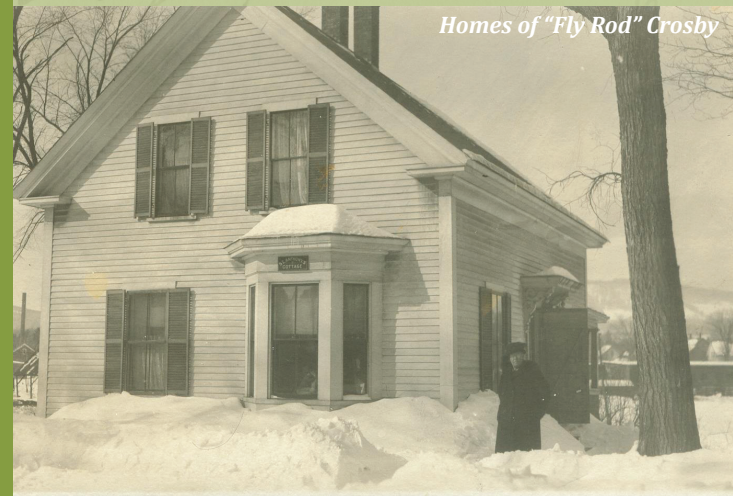
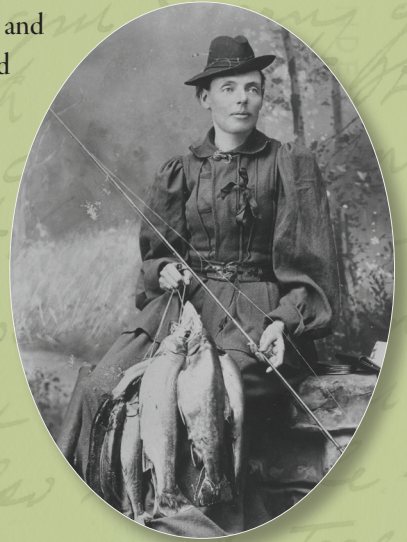
Elmwood Hotel

Fly Rod Crosby's Downtown Phillips Historical Walk

This self-guided historical walk around downtown Phillips, which is a project of the Phillips Area Community Center (PACC) and the High Peaks Alliance, encapsulates two overlapping tours; both begin at the kiosk in front of PACC on Depot Street.

The first, a section of the 45-mile Fly Rod Crosby (FRC) Trail, follows Depot Street to Pleasant and Bridge Streets, crosses the Sandy River, turns left onto Amble Street and follows the river toward the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad (SR&RL) Museum.

The second tour follows Depot Street to Pleasant Street, then departs from the FRC Trail and turns left onto Main Street. This tour raises one's awareness of Phillips when the community was a thriving industrial and business center during the life of one of the town's best known residents: Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby.



Homes of "Fly Rod" Crosby