4. Better Than The Inn?

Other than providing a breathtaking view of Lake Champlain and the bordering Adirondacks, this hilltop has served many other uses since the Webb Family purchased the farms in 1885. After they built their homestead on Saxton Point, the Webbs made plans to construct an even larger and more luxurious house atop this hill. They probably wanted to take advantage of this unique view. The Webbs hired several artists to create portrait plans of possible mansion designs as shown at right.

**Shelburne Inn**

So, Where Is The Lone Tree?

Many are curious of the origin of Lone Tree Hill’s name. If you look around, you will observe hundreds of trees of all sizes surrounding the hilltop. In fact, there truly was once a solo tree located near the peak. The Webb’s were aware of this giving the name Lone Tree Hill. Shown at left is a diary entry written by Mrs. Webb announcing that the lone tree had toppled over in a thunderstorm. The entry is dated late August 1908.

Look Familiar?

As with much of the land in Vermont, Lone Tree Hill was at one time the high point of a large open field. Over the years, shrub vegetation has grown in and eventually developed into mature forests as is the nature of succession in this environment. This historic background picture depicts the landscape as seen from where you now stand. The view faces westward down towards the Inn. Notice how the woods have grown in and cut off the visibility of several buildings.