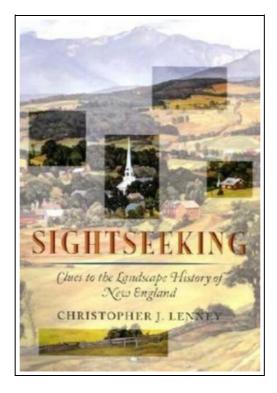
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Reviews

This book is so gripping and fascinating. Of course, it is actually perform, still an interesting and amazing literature. You will not feel monotony at anytime of your respective time (that's what catalogs are for about in the event you request me). (Prof. Ophelia Wiegand I)

SIGHTSEEKING: CLUES TO THE LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND.



University of New Hampshire Press / University Press of New England, Hanover, 1995. Hardcover. Condition: New. 376 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. NEW ENGLAND. A startlingly original synthesis of keen observation and interpretive skill that will transform one's understanding of New England's man-made landscape. How does one "read" a landscape? Inspired by the classic work of Hans Kurath documenting the dialect geography sub-regions of New England, Christopher J. Lenney set out to determine whether such patterns of linguistic migration were repeated in the everyday features of our man-made landscape. Through inspired conjecture and methodical fieldwork, Lenney discovered that at least six cultural and material artifacts could be mapped into similar flows and clusters: placenames, boundaries, townplans, roads, houses, and gravestones. With infectious enthusiasm and wit, Lenney guides the reader through a historical and cultural examination of how this artificial landscape came to be. Of the many possible sources of placenames, for example, there are evident patterns of Algonquian and transplanted English; there is the obvious irony of patriot and Tory honored side by side. But what do we make of the apparent hodgepodge of placename suffixes that dot our mapsÑthe -fields, -tons, -hams, and -burys that append themselves to our life and land? And how do we explain the "Great-Big" line, a dramatic yet invisible scar across the map of Maine? The other five cultural markers similarly reveal themselves in a surprising patterning of the New England countrysideÑin the areas where the connected farmstead dominates, where recessed balconies or twin rearwall chimneys distinguish the scene; in the migration of gravestone cutters and their motifs, which left odd undulating waves of artistic expression throughout the region. Lenney forces the reader to reconsider the shape of the village greens, to wonder why old roads go where they go, and to question...



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