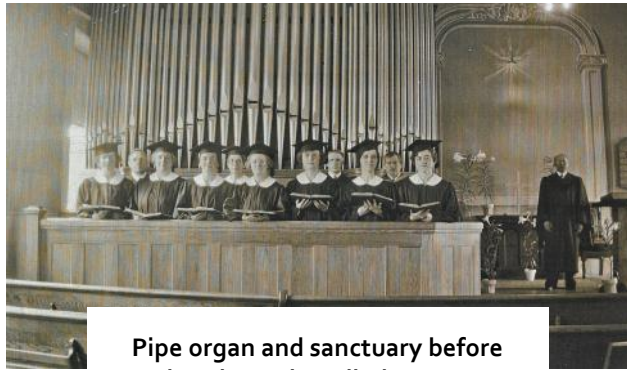


Church before vestry was connected



*Town of Campton, New Hampshire*  
**HISTORIC SITE SERIES**  
Site #5



Pipe organ and sanctuary before baptistery installed at rear



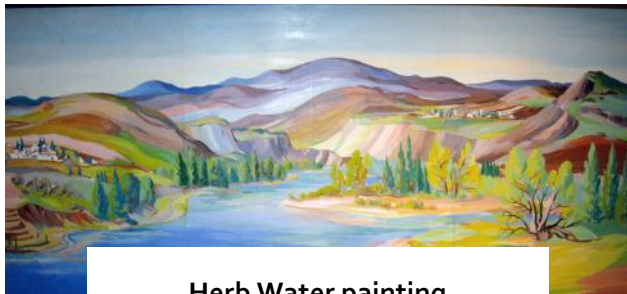
This informational brochure was produced by the Campton Historical Society, founded in 1991 to preserve the community's heritage, and to recognize and protect significant historic structures and sites.

The Society's headquarters is the 1855 town House, located one mile north of Blair Road and Route 175.

For further information, write to us at PO. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223, or log on to our web site page at [www.CamptonHistorical.org](http://www.CamptonHistorical.org)



Campton Baptist Church is in upper village - 1349 Rt. 175



Herb Water painting



Parsonage

This brochure is underwritten by:

# CAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Baptist Society of Campton began in 1811 with believers meeting in various homes. In 1824 it was accepted as a branch of the Peeling (now Woodstock) Church and in 1827 became independent. The current facility, “the meeting house “ was erected in 1826 at a cost of \$600 with bricks made in Campton and local lumber. The original interior had two aisles. There was an open upper gallery where the choir sang, it was tradition to “face the music” during the singing. Eventually the upper gallery was removed with the singers placed next to the pulpit. The two aisles gave way to the present center aisle when the church was rededicated in 1908. The exterior looks substantially the same. Traces of the 3 small windows in the high gallery may still be seen in the bricks next to the street.

The baptistery is now located at the rear of the sanctuary. Set behind the front is a mural completed by church member and artist Herb Waters in 1954. Mr. Waters is most known for his engravings. This mural is how he imagined the river Jordan looked where John baptized Jesus.

The Ladies Aid Society formed in 1855 “ for our social and moral improvement and to do good to others.” They published a paper called The Casket. The Ladies raised money through quilting bees, brass bands, oyster suppers and the August Fair. Their fund raising provided for much of the improvements in the church. During the civil war the Ladies sent supplies to the Union Army. It is interesting to note that men were welcome as “honorary members”. The ladies remained active until 1998 when it was discontinued.

Sunday school was held year round starting in 1856, as many as 112 enrolled and students came from Ellsworth and Waterville Valley. There were stables behind the church and parsonage for sleighs, buggys and horses from those coming a long way.

The parsonage is set back from the church as was asked by Rev Breed in 1868 so that “people could not hear his wife scold.” It is still in use as a parsonage.

The vestry was built in 1873 and was independent of the meeting house until 1948 when it was remodeled making a large stage and kitchen for church and community functions. Until the completion of the consolidated Campton school in 1962, town events such as plays, teas, an annual Halloween party and community suppers were held in this auditorium.

The church has a Wick pipe organ installed in 1933 and restored in 1998, it is the only such organ surviving today. There are organ concerts on special occasions most recently Campton Old Home Day. The altar, still in use today, was built by Leonard Hewitt and combines old design with modern cabinetwork. The bell tower is in need of reinforcement. In 1999 the church celebrated in 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**Hewitt altar and Waters painting**