

Campton Historical Society



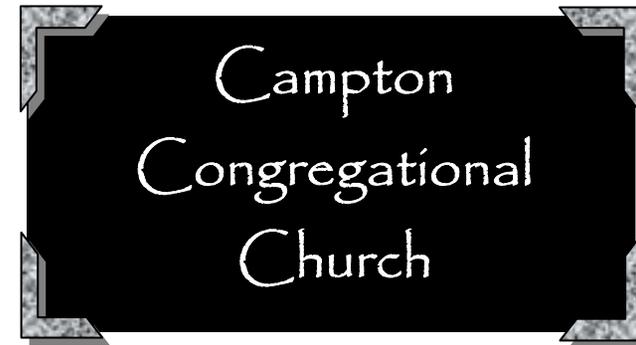
This informational brochure was produced by the Campton Historical Society, founded in 1991 to preserve the community's heritage, and to recognize and protect significant historic structures and sites.

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 visit our web site at www.CamptonHistorical.org

Town of Campton, New Hampshire HISTORIC SITE SERIES

Site #4



Located on Route 175 south just north of Blair Road, and adjacent to the Town House.

This brochure is underwritten by:

Campton Congregational Church

Campton Congregational Church traces its origins to June 1, 1774. Church services were held in various private homes. In 1802 the first meeting house was built at the top of Wishman's Hill on Rt. 175 and services were held there until 1858. The building you see here was built on the West side of the Pemigewasset River in 1825 and was called the West Meeting House. The church's pulpit was carved in Bangor, Maine, in 1824 by John Dole an ancestor of John Dole who used to be Postmaster in Campton for many years.

In 1829 the first covered bridge was built at Blair greatly simplifying crossing the river. The West Meeting House was disassembled and moved here in 1858 for \$1725.00. A new steeper roof was constructed over the original roof framing at that time. Also, new pews were purchased (prices ranging from \$15.00 to \$50.00) by individuals. The ladies sewing circled donated the pulpit sofa and table. Sylvester Marsh (the man who built the Cog Railroad up Mt. Washington) gave the Church the Meneely's Bell in the steeple. The chandelier and lights were donated by G. W. Wyatt. Mrs. Sarah Little gave \$100.00 towards the \$375.00 needed for a pipe organ, which was installed up in the balcony. The façade of that organ hides the amplifier box of the 1940 Hammond Organ that is in the choir loft today. Two wood stoves were installed on the right side of the Church and firewood was stored under the balcony stairwells. The vestry was built in 1879 and attached to the main Church. In 1880 the Grange rented the vestry for \$10.00 per year.

There used to be horse sheds extending left and right from the back of the Church. They were originally built by individual parishioners but by 1887 were in disrepair. The sheds were repaired once more in 1901 and were finally removed in 1946.

For a number of years Church services were not held in the winter months because of the difficulty of heating the building. Some winters services were held in the vestry as it was easier to heat. Then in 1966 an oil furnace was installed under the Church and the old woodstoves and all of their pipes were removed. A kitchen was constructed in 1955 but there was no running water. Water was brought down in milk cans from the Stickney farm. In 1975 a well was dug and a pump installed and water brought into the kitchen. Finally in 1986 bathrooms were installed in a new addition to the vestry. In 1974 the Church celebrated its 200th anniversary. In 1993 classrooms were built along the back of the vestry. In 1999 the Church celebrated 225 years as an organization of Faith in God.

