



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 log on to our web site page www.CamptonHistorical.org

Town of Campton, New Hampshire HISTORIC SITE SERIES

Site #3



Located on Rt. 175 just north of
Blair Road

This brochure is underwritten by:

1855 Town House

Campton, New Hampshire

Prior to 1855, town business had been conducted in private homes, with the Congregational Church serving as a meeting place. In planning for construction of a Town Hall, there was a desire to keep the town business separate from the Church. As oral tradition says, it was originally built with a recessed “Moderator’s Pit” at the front entrance, intended to counter the church’s requirement for a raised pulpit. Completed in 1855, it is located in the geographic, and at that time the social and political center of Campton. Known as Campton Hollow, this area included the Congregational Church (moved from across the river in 1858), the Poor Farm, the Post Office and General Store. This new structure included the selectmen’s office, the library, meeting hall, and a municipal court.

Finished with a rough plaster, and heated by wood stoves, it was lit by a large chandelier of kerosene lamps, hung overhead, and raised and lowered by a pulley system. The original deacons benches used for town meetings are still in use today, although softened by the addition of cushions, thanks to an anonymous donor. In 1903, a Carriage House was added to the complex, housing the town road agent and hearse. An 1889 version of this horse-drawn hearse is now preserved here. In 1910, the stage was added, the moderator’s pit removed, and the walls covered with decorative tin panels, a common style in this era. Town Meetings were held in this building into the 1970’s, and after that for a period it housed the Police Department. In 1912, the Town granted permission to Campton Grange #93, to add a separate, attached building for their meetings, including a rough kitchen.

The three buildings constructed here are owned by the Town of Campton, and leased to the Campton Historical Society. The Society, with the help of several grants, has stabilized and upgraded the buildings, while maintaining their structure and character. This includes modern plumbing, heating, insulation, and a comprehensive security system. The Town House has now come full cycle, again being used to hold special meetings of town boards. The Historical Society presents a monthly schedule of lectures and presentations of interest. And the three buildings serve as a secure, environmentally proper repository for an ever-growing collection and display of area historical documents and artifacts.

If you do not know the location of the town house in Campton Hollow, this description from the locating committee might help you to find it.

Beginning at a stake and stone on the North side of the highway near William Colbys thence North 24 degrees West seven rods and 13/25 rods to a stake and stone, thence North 66 degrees East nine rods and three links to a hemlock tree marked, thence South 24 degrees East seven rods and 13/25 and thirteen links to the highway, thence South 66 degrees West by the highway to the bounds begun at.

Given under our hand this 19th day of August 1854

NOTE: This historic resource has been protected with assistance from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.