



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 Sites S2 - S14



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BACKGROUND

When New Hampshire became a separate province, one of the first laws passed (1693) was to establish a school in every town. An early school concept was “moving schools”, where lessons were taught part of the year in different locations. This led to the “district school” system. The first school in Campton was in 1780, at the home of Colonel Baker, and was taught by Mr. Rawson. As the population grew, district schools began to be established.

The concept was to build in the center of the district to be within easy travel distance. This also deepened the interest and involvement of people within the district. The younger children tended to be in session in the summer, with the older children and mothers helping in the home and fields. The winter sessions were for the older group. In some instances, “short schools” were taught, only from September through December. The basic subjects were taught in these schools, including reading, writing, grammar, geography, and arithmetic. Imagine, a small, one-room building with a wood stove, no electricity, the water pail and dipper, and of course, the outhouse.

Next came graded schools, and some consolidation. At their peak, there were 14 District Schools in the Town of Campton. In 1957, there were 8 still operating, some still without water. In 1958, the Campton PTA spearheaded a drive for updating the school facilities. Four alternatives were examined, and the Town voted to establish one consolidated school. Campton Elementary School was built in 1960, thus ending the district school era.

CAMPTON'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS

From a high of 14 District Schools in Campton at their peak, 8 are still standing in 2006 . Most of them are now private homes. The Campton Elementary School PTA has sponsored Historic Site Markers for these buildings. This brochure identifies their locations. We request that you respect the privacy of the present owners as you visit them . Enjoy your tour, and let yourself be transported back to an important time in the history of Campton.

- S2 Center School** – so named when this area around the Town House was the center of town. This is located on N.H. Route 175 south, at its intersection with Perch Pond Road. This is at the “S” curve where you will see the Chalet gift and antique shop. It is 2.8 miles from the traffic lights at Route 49.
- S4 West Campton School** - also known at one time as the Branch School, near Branch Brook. It is located on U.S. Route 3 just south of its intersection with N.H. Route 49. This building is now the New Hampshire Home Craft shop.
- S5 Bog School** - named because of its location along Bog Brook. From Exit 27 of Route I-93, go west on Bog Road for 3.8 miles to # 786. It is on your right.
- S8 Hildreth School** - named for the primary family who attended it. Also known as Cooks Hill School. From N.H. Route 3, near the intersection of Route 49, take Ellsworth Hill Road for 1.5 miles. Just past the Armont Inn on your left, take Mason Road. The school is one mile up this road, on your right.
- S9 Blair School** - so named because of being in the Blair section of Campton. To find this building, go south on U.S. Route 3 from its intersection with Route 49 for 3.5 miles. It is next to the Evergreen Knoll antique shop.
- S10 West Road School** – at the highest point on Ellsworth Hill Road (see # S8), 3 miles from Route 3, on your right.
- S12 Lower Village School** - the name of this section of Town. It is located on Route 175 south from Campton, just past the Lower Village Market, but across the street.
- S14 Livermore School** – in the Livermore Falls section. Travel south on Route 175 from the traffic lights in Campton for 5.6 miles. It is on the left, just before the Steeldust Horse Farm. This building dates from the early 1900's. The prior school, just south of here, was started in 1860.