



Beech Hill Farm



107 Beech Hill Road
Hopkinton, NH



www.beechhillfarm.com



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

This award-winning farm has been in the Kimball family for 9 generations and has evolved into a family friendly

destination with numerous activities and learning opportunities.

Barn History and Use

Beech Hill Farm was founded in 1893 when Herbert M. Kimball purchased the land and the buildings that occupied it, although the Kimball family had been on Beech Hill since the 1700s.

The farm was primarily used

for dairying, with a herd of Ayrshire cattle bought and transported from Scotland in 1896 by Herbert, who sold and delivered raw milk. The farm has been in operation ever since, although it has changed significantly.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

Architectural Features

The barn actually consists of two barns that were connected at a right angle. The main barn dates to 1800 and is New England-style. Rafters run across the barn width, supporting boards for the roof that run the length of the barn. It features common rafters and major purlins, mortise and tenon

construction, and wooden pegs. The timbers are mainly sawn timbers, and the lumber is from trees on the farm property. There are also some hand-hewn pieces. The front of the barn features a transom above the large barn doors. The barn is sided in wooded shingles, with a shingled roof and a stone foundation.

The left side of the barn has a whitewashed cow tie-up area, and the roof sports a cupola. Gunstock posts and a flying hay scaffold are additional components of the barn. The linked area of the two barns contains cow stanchions that may be newer as evidenced by the poured concrete foundation. There

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is a basement with a ceiling supported by posts, and cow steps where the animals would walk down in order to go out into the field and graze. The roof boards on this barn are vertical, and it features common purlins and major rafters, and there is a flying hay loft as well as a hay loft on the left side of the barn. There are gunstock posts and both sawn and hand-hewn timbers. This part of the barn has a double transom.

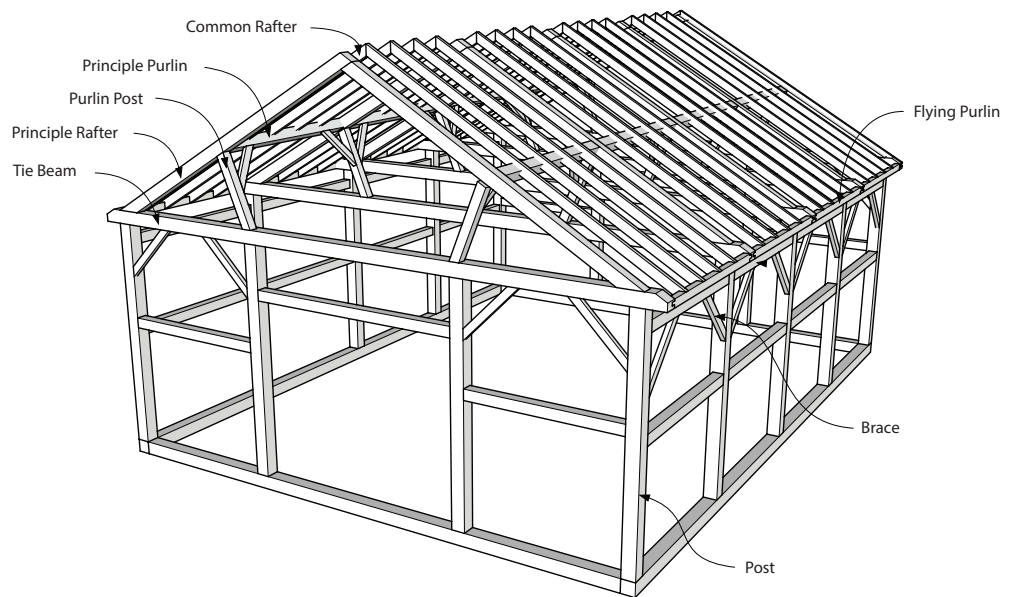


Illustration of New England style barn frame courtesy of Jessica MilNeil

Preservation Efforts

In 1996 the farmstead was renovated to accommodate a dairy bar operation. The current buildings include the ice cream barn, country store, gardener's barn, farm museum, picnic area, and activity

barn. The farm's property was placed in a conservation easement in the 1980s and has been managed under the terms of the easement ever since.

What You Can Do Here Now

The renowned Beech Hill Farm offers many things for visitors to enjoy, and is especially known for its ice cream barn. The farm has a country store which offers kitchen goods, home accessories, their own maple syrup, beef and pork, fruit preserves and other locally made products. At the gardener's barn, visitors can find plants and flowers of different kinds, along with gardening accessories.

The farm hosts a variety of events, field trips and birthday parties. The site also features a large sand pile, picnic areas, the Rhododendron Nature Trail, and a barnyard with a wide variety of animals. During the fall, the farm holds an annual corn maze which they design. After the season, the corn is harvested and the silage is used to feed the farm's cattle over the winter.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting