



# Pioneer Farm



**27 Wallace Road  
Columbia, NH**



[www.columbianh.org/the-pioneer-farm](http://www.columbianh.org/the-pioneer-farm)



**Story Map**

## What's Special About This Site

The Pioneer Farm, also called the Wallace Farm, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. The property contains two historic barns, a horse barn constructed

circa 1835 and a dairy barn circa 1900. Since the late eighteenth century, the Wallace family has lived on the farm and served as dedicated stewards of its historic buildings.



*Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting*

## Barn History and Use

Among the earliest settlers of Columbia, NH were the three Wallace brothers, who arrived in 1785. The youngest, William, was the only brother to remain on the farm and his agricultural business became incredibly successful. He and his descendants used the 1830s barn to house the farm's work horses, and kept pigs in the barn's basement.

With the growth of the dairy

industry during the early twentieth century, the Wallace family moved an 1897 barn onto the property to house cows for the production of milk, butter, and cheese. The farm's dairy operations expanded in the 1920s and 1940s as their milk won several awards for the quality during this period. Dairy production continued until the herd was sold in 1986.



*Photo courtesy of Pioneer Farm*

Continued on the next page

## Architectural Features

The horse barn rests on a granite block foundation with a hand-hewn timber frame, clapboard siding, and a metal roof. The entries are on the eave side, and above the main door is a loft door for loading hay.

The dairy barn has a split granite foundation and was expanded from four bays to six in 1928. The milk house is extant, as well as the 1940 stable addition which consists of a poured concrete foundation and sawn timbers. The Wallace family is to be commended for its incredible stewardship of this North Country property for over 200 years.



*Photo courtesy of Lowell Fewster*

## What You Can Do Here Now

The farm is privately owned and operated and is not open to the public. Visitors may admire the property from Route 3 while remaining in the public right-of-way. In the spring, the family welcomes the public for maple sugaring.



*Photo courtesy of the town of Columbia*

## For Further Reading

*Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, by Thomas C. Hubka (University Press of New England, 1984).

*Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the loss of a valuable resource*, by John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2019)

*Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, by Thomas Durant Visser (University Press of New England, 1997).

*Barns: Their History, Preservation, and Restoration*, by Charles Klamkin (Bonanza Books, 1979).

*An Age of Barns*, by Eric Sloane (Funk and Wagnalls, 1967).

*Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the loss of a valuable resource*, by John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2019).