



Douglas A. Philbrook Red Barn Museum

 **1 Mount Washington Auto Road
Gorham, NH**

 www.mt-washington.com/amenities/



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Douglas A. Philbrook Red Barn Museum sits across Route 16 from the base of the Mt. Washington Auto Road and features a wonderful collection of carriages, coaches, antique vehicles, and associated artifacts relating to the history of the auto road.

Barn History and Use

The Red Barn was built sometime after the carriage road was opened in 1861 and housed the horses used to pull the coaches and carriages up the eight-mile road to the summit. It is the last of several barns remaining that were built for this purpose. In

2012, the building was dedicated to the late Douglas A. Philbrook, who was the general manager and president of the auto road, and responsible for much of the museum's collection. The barn was rehabilitated in 2016 for its new use as a museum.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

The Douglas A. Philbrook Red Barn is the second building to the right in this historic photo courtesy of the Mount Washington Auto Road's archives.

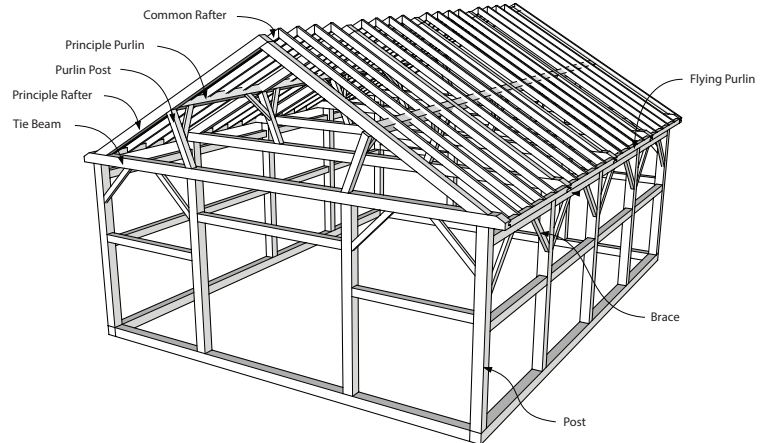


Photo of the Red Barn's common rafters courtesy of Ryan Cutting

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Architectural Features

The exact date of the barn's construction is unknown, but it is estimated to have been completed in the nineteenth century. The present structure is a Yankee barn on a stone foundation with mortise and tenon construction using sawn timbers and a common rafter roof configuration. The barn has a large hayloft to store the great quantities of hay needed to feed the carriage horses. An interesting feature is the boxed wooden ventilation shafts on both sides of the barn leading from the stable area up to the three cupolas on the roof. These ventilation shafts were an addition to improve air quality for the animals housed in the barn.



*New England (Yankee) barn architectural detail
illustration courtesy of Jessica MilNeil*

What You Can Do Here Now

Museum visitors can learn about the automotive history of the Mount Washington Auto Road and how it has evolved over the past 150 years. The museum is free and open to the public. There are plenty of other activities in the area as well. A short distance away is Mount Washington, where visitors can

journey up the scenic auto road from the east, or the experience stunning views from the Cog Railway as they ascend the west side of the mountain to the historic Mount Washington Observatory. The area includes hiking trails, gift shops, and numerous special events throughout the year.



*Photo courtesy of
Ryan Cutting*

For Further Reading

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)