



Drake Barn

Hubbingtons Furniture



**148 Lafayette Rd
North Hampton, NH**



<https://hubbingtons.com/>



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Drake barn is a great example of the attached “big house, little house, back house, barn” farmsteads common in the 19th century. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016 because of the period of significance of its architectural style, and because

the farmstead was the location of an event of national historic significance. The barn has been lovingly restored, and visitors can examine nearly all the details of its original construction that were preserved throughout its conversion to retail.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

Barn History and Use

This property was home to many generations of the Drake family for over two centuries, starting in the 18th century. Abraham Drake served in both the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. Colonel Drake was responsible for orchestrating the massive transport of cannons from NH, ME and MA that was instrumental to the victory at the Battle of Saratoga.

Joshua Pickering Drake (1823-1901) and his eldest son Justin Drake (1855-1938) were both farmers who earned their living working with what was then an 80-acre farm. There is little

information on the specifics of the various farm activities. Joshua and his wife also had 3 other children, Elmer, a farm laborer, Annie, a housekeeper and Hettie, a student.

Justin continued to live here with his wife, children, a servant, and two boarders through the early 20th century. He then left the house to his son Joshua Fabaian Drake (1898-1989) who became a master carpenter and served as town selectman for 27 years between 1929 and 1955.

The existing farmhouse and barn were built in the late 19th century and operated as a sheep farm. For many years, the farm housed the

local landmark, Drake Farm Books.

The Drake era ended in 1990 when Mary Drake Hale sold the property. Peter Rhoades, owner of Hubbingtons Furniture, acquired the Drake farmhouse and adjoining barn in 2014. Rhoades undertook extensive efforts to preserve the barn's historic character, while bringing it up to the standards needed to house a furniture showroom. It opened to the public in 2015 and was the first building in New Hampshire to take advantage of federal historic preservation income tax credits.

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Architectural Features

This barn is a classic New England style “Yankee” barn typical of the second half of the 19th century. The timber frame features mortise and tenon construction. The first floor has a ceiling that was added by previous tenants in the late 20th century. In the attic there is a hay mow that still has a wagon

for carting loose hay. There are three over three windows, typical of a New England-style barn. The barn has a full basement which was used for manure storage. Today visitors can see the original framing, granite foundation, and interior granite posts. The barn also retains its grain room and two-hole privy.



Interior image during renovation courtesy of Hubbington Furniture

Preservation Efforts

When preservation work started, the roof of the large barn was in poor condition, so the wooden gutters and deteriorated asphalt shingles were removed and replaced with a new roof. This was integral in the survival of the barn. The chimney in the small barn was replaced to accommodate a new heating system, but

the exterior of the chimney re-used the historic brick. Any rotten wooden siding was replaced with new wood siding to match the rest of the barn. Existing windows were repaired and not altered in terms of size or appearance. Floorboards were worn but sound so they were repaired and retained.



Interior image of basement with granite posts courtesy of Hubbingtons Furniture

What You Can Do Here Now

Visitors can view the barn anytime during open business hours, as well as shop for furniture while enjoying the barn’s

historic atmosphere. Historic graffiti including signatures and farm notes can be found throughout the barn



Closeup of granite posts courtesy of Hubbingtons Furniture

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).
Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England, by Thomas C. Hubka (University Press of New England, 1984).
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)
Barns of North Hampton, New Hampshire (North Hampton Historical Society), <https://northhamptonhistoricalsociety.org/barns-of-north-hampton-nh-photographs-and-documents/u5sba53m55adofajmgy06wuvvax8b>.
Drake Farm, 148 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, NH Historic Preservation Certification Application, by Peter Rhode (N.D. North Hampton, New Hampshire).