



Parmenter Barn

Londonderry Historical Society



**140 Pillsbury Road
Londonderry, NH**



www.londonderryhistory.org/parmenter-barn/



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Parmenter barn was built in 1859. It was the last barn in Londonderry to be built at a community barn raising, according to the Londonderry Historical Society. Originally located on High Range Road, and in 1998 the barn was acquired by the Londonderry Historical Society and moved to its current location, where it was reconstructed over time.

*Night photo
courtesy of the
Londonderry
Historical Society*



Barn History and Use

Early records show that the land was granted to John Senter circa 1729. By the mid-19th Century Elbridge Greeley owned the property. In 1844 Greeley sold the farm to his brother-in-law, John L. Blood of Lowell, Massachusetts (Blood was married to Greeley's sister Emeline). In 1855 Emeline Blood held title to the farm, which had expanded to include three lots. John died in 1882, and Emeline died the following year. John and Emeline's grandson, Wilbur Blood, sold the property to Edward and Ralph Parmenter in 1910.

The property stayed with the Parmenter family until 1998, when the Londonderry Historical Society acquired the dilapidated barn to save it from being torn down. Historical Society volunteers dismantled the barn, piece by piece, and reconstructed it at its current location. The project took three years, with the work completed in the spring of 2001. A functional cupola was added soon after to improve cooling and ventilation. Today the Society uses the barn for exhibits and programs.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting



*Wilbur and Bernice Thompson
Blood and their children Harland,
Rosina and Lester in front of the
barn, summer 1898, courtesy of the
Londonderry Historical Society*

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Architectural Features

The barn is a New England style dairy barn made of post and beam construction held together with mortise and tenon joints. It has doors in the gable ends with transom windows and a nine-over-six double sash window towards the peak. The interior has a long floor that runs parallel to the roof line. Farm wagons could enter from either end and drive the full length of this floor. There was space for hay storage on one side, and stalls for cows and possibly horses, on the other side. The second floor provided additional space for hay storage. Like most barns of the style, this one was three bays wide and three bays deep.

These barns could easily be expanded by simply adding on another bay at a gable end.

The Parmenters made significant changes to the barn in the twentieth century. As dairy farming became less profitable, they transitioned to raising chickens and added additional windows on the sides of the barn, as well as a door in the side. At some point the cupola fell or was taken down, and the barn was covered with asphalt shingles. By the 1950s the chicken operation closed, and the barn was used just for storage. It stayed this way until the Historical Society acquired it in 1998.



*Interior photo courtesy of
Ryan Cutting*

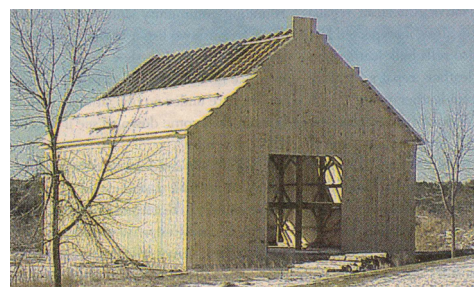


*Parmenter barn being dismantled
by volunteers. Photo courtesy of the
Londonderry Historical Society*

What You Can Do Here Now

Visitors can tour the Morrison House Museum, the Parmenter Barn, the Litchfield Carriage Shed, and the Clark

Blacksmith Shop. The Morrison House Museum and grounds are also available to rent for private events.



*Parmenter barn being reconstructed.
Photo courtesy of the Londonderry
Historical Society*

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).