



Hobbs Barn

Throwback Brewery



7 Hobbs Road
North Hampton, NH



www.throwbackbrewery.com/about/hobbsfarm/



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Hobbs Barn is an excellent example of how a large, historic agricultural structure can be repurposed and modernized for a new use, while retaining much of its original appearance and

materials. Inside and out, the barn provides visitors with a connection to the Seacoast Region's agrarian past, while retaining value and purpose in its new, modern public use.

Barn History and Use

The Hobbs barn was built in 1862 by John W. F. Hobbs when he inherited his family home. The farm encompassed over 300 acres and shipped apples and pears to the Boston market early in its history. The barn was expanded to the rear circa 1900 by Joseph Oliver Hobbs, the great-nephew of John W.F. Hobbs. Upon his death in 1927, Joseph Hobbs was eulogized as a very generous man, giving money to erect Centennial Hall, to remodel the inside of the Congregational Church, and to construct high school. Dairying continued until circa 1950, with Paul Wesley Hobbs inheriting

the farm and building a prize-winning herd of Brown Swiss cows. After exiting the dairy business, Paul Hobbs converted the barn to housing for sheep, reaching a peak of 100 head of award-winning Hampshire sheep during the second half of the 20th century. In 2015, Throwback Brewery purchased the property and converted the front half of the barn to beer production, and the rear portion was turned into a restaurant. They continue to keep some animals on site as well, including goats, pigs, donkeys, and heirloom chickens.



Photo courtesy of Throwback Brewery



Timber framing inside the barn. Photo courtesy of Throwback Brewery

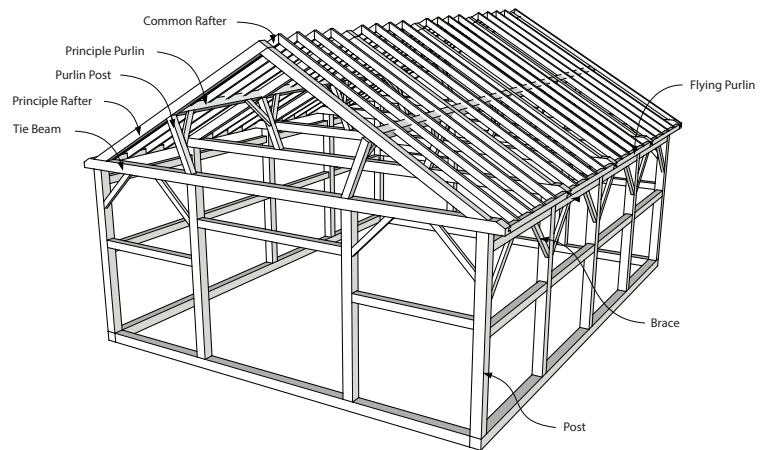
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Architectural Features

The barn is a classic mid-19th century New England-style “Yankee” barn, as noted by the large doors on the gable ends. One of the sliding barn doors is still intact and can be seen from inside the restaurant. There are major purlins, rafter ties, gunstock posts, mortise and tenon joints, side haylofts, twin cupolas on the slate roof, and a stone foundation. One of the doors to the barn has been replaced with a multi-windowed glass door and the windows have been replaced. The floor was replaced for the brewery conversion. The hay fork and track remain in the attic.

Throwback Brewery made every effort to retain the original structure of the barn, as can be seen in the photos and in person. While major interior alterations were required for the change of use from farming to commercial activities, the barn retains much of its original exterior appearance, and

the timber framing is still easily viewed inside the building.



*New England architectural detail illustration
courtesy of Jessica MilNeil*

What You Can Do Here Now

The public is welcome during open business hours. Guided Founder's tours can be booked by appointment. Customers can enjoy dining in the ambience of

an original 19th century New Hampshire barn, and can view the brew house from the restaurant side as well.



*Photo courtesy of
Throwback Brewery*

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>.

Hobbs Farm (Throwback Brewery <https://www.throwbackbrewery.com/about/hobbs-farm/>).