



Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center

 **928 White Oaks Road
Laconia, NH**

 www.prescottfarm.org



Story Map



What's Special About This Site

Prescott Farm and its handsome 1883 barn occupy a 160-acre hillside location affording beautiful views of the surrounding fields

and nearby mountains. Today, visitors can enjoy gardens, nature trails, and a variety of public educational programs on site.

Barn History and Use

The farm was originally part of a 700-acre land grant awarded to Colonel Dudley Prescott in 1796 for his service in the Revolutionary War. It is now owned by the Prescott Conservancy Foundation,

a non-profit environmental education center set up by descendants of the Prescott family in 1997. The barn is one of the Foundation's central program gathering spaces.



*Historic photo
courtesy of Prescott Farm*

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Architectural Features

The original 1883 barn is thought to be a kit barn whereby all materials were shipped to the site and erected by a skilled barn crew. Sawn timber posts support the roof structure that is made of major purlins and common rafters with vertical sheathing boards. The barn has a hay loft, as well as a cupola. The loose hay was originally stored on the right side of the barn in the

vertical hay mows that have been recently covered for additional floor space.

A second barn seems to have been moved and added to the original 1883 barn. This addition is where the cows were housed in stanchions. The presence of whitewash indicates the cows were milked in this space. An annual application of whitewash was

required by public health officials to help sanitize the barn. It consisted of a water and lime base with other additives such as salt, flour, and a disinfectant. This barn exhibits the same roof construction as in the 1883 barn, and there was once a ramp for the cows to walk up to the stanchions. The basement of the barn was used to house pigs and store farm equipment

Preservation Efforts

In 2017, the organization demonstrated their commitment to preservation by restoring the large 1883 Yankee barn. A skilled barn preservation company repaired the original timber frame and reset the stone foundation. The interior main floor of the barn was

expanded by opening up the hay mow, making the barn's floor area nearly twice as large. This creative adaptation of the structure now provides a functional and spacious home for the farm's camps, school field trips, and public programs.



Recent interior renovation work underway.

What You Can Do Here Now

Prescott Farm offers a variety of programming for all ages, such as nature hikes, moonlit tours, baking classes, maple tapping, spring and summer camps for youth, and more. The site also hosts a licensed preschool and hosts field trips from other area schools. Community involvement and participation are at the heart of their mission to serve people of all ages.

Visitors can stop by the nature store, stroll through the Heritage Gardens, and enjoy about three miles of hiking trails which are great for birdwatching and wildlife observation (please, no dogs, bikes, or motorized use). Families can pick up an Adventure Pack to learn more about the agricultural and natural history of the property while exploring the grounds together.



The farm currently serves as a living classroom for all ages.