



Muster Field Farm Museum



Harvey Road
North Sutton, NH



www.musterfieldfarm.com



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

This barn is a rare example of the transition from the English style of barn construction to the New England, or “Yankee” style. Architectural evidence shows that the entryways used to be on the long sides of the building and were later changed to be

on the gable ends. This explains the unusual configuration of the haylofts.

The Hardy-Pillsbury Barn (shown) is one of a handful of historic barns on the property. Pillsbury was re-located to Muster Field Farm Museum in 1988.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

Barn History and Use

Muster Field Farm is a working farm and is open to the public. The grounds include the homestead, barns & outbuildings, gardens, forests, and a seasonal farm stand. The land is called Muster Field because regional ‘musters’ were held on site to gather militia from surrounding towns for drill and inspection. The 250-acre property, originally stewarded by the Abenaki and Penacook, was settled by the Matthew Harvey family in the

1700's. Harvey descendants remained on site for eight generations. In 1941, it was sold to the Bristol family who stewarded the property to its current use as Working Farm and Museum including acquisition of many farm buildings to curate the collection on site today.

Photos of the relocation of the “Pillsbury barn” are on display just inside the large doorway.

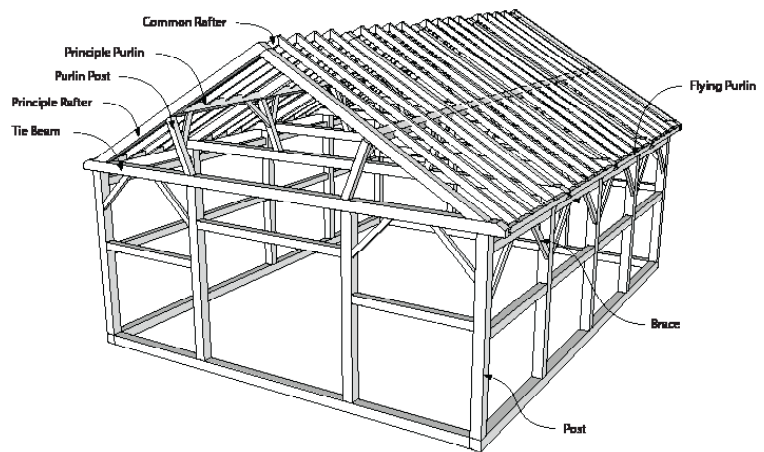


Photo courtesy of Muster Field Farm Museum

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Architectural Features

The barn is of the Yankee style with a front-facing gable. It was built into the side of an embankment to create a basement. It has a stone foundation, vertical roof boards, gun stock posts, tie-joists, and sliding doors. It contains a hay pitch and second-story hay lofts. There is a metal track with a mechanical hay fork along the roof ridge that was used to lift the hay from the wagons and drop it into the hay mows. The Farm takes great pride in their barn and exhibits strong stewardship. Barn improvements have included a remodel in 1872 as well as a new modern metal roof and a transom window above the gable-end doors.



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

What You Can Do Here Now

There are many ways to enjoy Muster Field Farm. Visitors can go on self-guided tours of the grounds including dozens of historic farm outbuildings, stroll past the scenic gardens, and purchase produce and other goods at the seasonal farm stand. Children & their families can play on the the swing set and visit the historic

schoolhouse. Entertaining and educational events occur throughout the seasons. Tours of the National Register listed Harvey Homestead are offered Sunday afternoons in July and August.

Visit musterfieldfarm.com to find the latest schedule of annual events.



Photo courtesy of Muster Field Farm

For Further Reading

Lot # 20: Eight Generations..., by Jack Noon (Moose Country Press, 2014)

Muster Days at the Muster Field Farm, by Jack Noon (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2000).

Out of Tin Boxes, by Carlton Bradford (self-published, 2001).

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).