



New Hampshire Farm Museum



1305 White Mountain Highway/Route 125
Milton, NH



www.nhfarmmuseum.org/



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The scenic New Hampshire Farm Museum is a working farm as well as a museum that depicts the evolution of local agriculture and industry. It includes the adjacent Jones and Plummer farms, their houses and barns, and numerous outbuildings such as a blacksmith shop, cobbler shoppe, and cider press. Both

properties are wonderful examples of the “big house, little house, back house, barn” farm building configuration. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and its buildings are significant to the history of farming and home life in New Hampshire from the colonial era to the 1940s.



Photo by Sean Skilling, courtesy of the New Hampshire Farm Museum

Barn History and Use

The Jones Farm is named after its first owner, Levi Jones, who purchased the property around the turn of the nineteenth century. He had the cow barn constructed circa 1810, and then expanded its footprint by two-thirds in 1840 due to the success of his farm. The barn was used primarily to house dairy cows and oxen, but also

contained pigs, chickens, horses, and sheep. The land was cultivated by five generations of the Jones family before the museum acquired it in 1979 to house their collection. Adjacent to the Jones Farm is the Plummer Farm, which was acquired by the museum in 1994.



Photo by Sean Skilling, courtesy of the New Hampshire Farm Museum

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Architectural Features

The Jones barn is a large Yankee barn with a stone foundation, mortise and tenon construction, major rafters, common purlins, and a mix of sawn and hand-hewn timbers. The doorways are topped with transom windows and a cow bridge is on the west gable end to allow access to the barn from the back pastures. The Plummer barn has the same construction style, except it is clad in cedar shingles rather than horizontal clapboards. Also on the Plummer property is a newer tractor barn containing historic carriages and farm vehicles.



*Photo by Sean Skilling, courtesy of the
New Hampshire Farm Museum*

What You Can Do Here Now

The museum offers tours of the property from May through October. Admission is free for Museum members, children under four, and active duty military and their families.

On display are exhibits about rural life and the history of agriculture, as well as antique farm implements. Additionally, the Museum offers opportunities for guests to participate in hands-on

farm activities.

Numerous programs, workshops, and special events are offered throughout the season, such as Old Tyme Tool Day, Truck and Tractor Day, Children's Day, Old Home Day, the Great NH Pie Festival, the 1862 Thanksgiving, the Victorian Christmas, and more.

Summertime offers Grandma Libby's Stories on the Farm on Friday mornings and several

Granite State Street Rodders events. Various local musicians entertain visitors at weekend events with country, blue grass, and folk music. Tractor rides are offered to visit the farm friendly animals. Visitors can embark on a walking trail hike around the farm, shop at the Country Store, take a tour of the historic Jones house and 1810 Tavern, or picnic overlooking the Olde Stage Road.

For Further Reading

Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England, by Thomas C. Hubka (University Press of New England, 1984).

Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the loss of a valuable resource, by John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2019)

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).