



Quimby Barn

Sandwich Historical Society

 **16 Maple Street**
Center Sandwich, NH
 www.sandwichhistorical.org



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Quimby Barn is a Yankee-style barn located in Center Sandwich. Currently, the barn is a museum and offers tours of the main level and carriage house. It is free to visit, and is home to

a collection of antique carriages and features photographic and interpretive displays of early modes of transportation.



Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

Barn History and Use

The Quimby Barn was constructed around the 1820s by Dr. Charles White to house his cows and horses. Dr. White was the town doctor until 1855 and was considered an important figure in the town. His property and house remained in his family until 1928 when a fire destroyed the original homestead. The barn was the only surviving structure. It was purchased, along with the rest of the property, by the Quimby School and functioned as a schoolhouse from 1928 to 1967 when the Quimby School closed. In those years, girls learned home-making skills and boys learned skills for occupations such as farming.

Boys tended to the chickens on the property, and beginning in the 1940s they were taught about automobile maintenance and repair.

At one point the barn's main floor was divided in two, with left side used as a workshop and the right side used as an auto repair shop. Musical instrument classes were taught upstairs. In 1964 the barn and fields around it were sold to the Sandwich Fair Association and used for parking and storage. In 1991 the property was leased to the Sandwich Historical Society so that their collection of vehicles could be kept there.



Historic photo courtesy of the Sandwich Historical Society

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Architectural Features

The barn is a typical Yankee or New England-style barn. The main floor of the barn has been completely refurbished, so it is hard to see what the original barn would have looked like. However, it features a board ceiling and a hardwood floor, indicating that the original building would have been box-like. Upstairs one can see the major purlins and common rafters with mortise and tenon construction. It also features sawn timbers and a cupola atop the barn, a hay pitch door, and side hay lofts. In the basement, one can see the original posts and floor joists. The site also features a carriage house that contains various vehicles such as the snow roller and the town's first firetruck,

a 1930 Ford. The barn is typical of the era, but its wide range of uses makes it stand out.

The barn was slated to be destroyed but the Sandwich Historical Society worked with other organizations to save it, and in 2011 it was moved from its original site to its current location across the road at 16 Maple Street. In 2012 it was fully restored and opened to the public. The exterior is painted white in keeping with its history, and while the foundation is cut stone, poured concrete was put underneath when the building was renovated. An addition to the barn was constructed in 2013 to house the Town of Sandwich's Concord Coach.



*Interior photo courtesy of
Ryan Cutting.*

What You Can Do Here Now

The Quimby Barn Transportation Museum is open to the public during summer months and entry is free of charge. Special events and exhibits occur on the grounds throughout the year.

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)