



Red Barn

Town of Sandown



34 Fremont Road
Sandown, NH



www.sandown.us



Story Map

What's Special About This Site

The Sandown Red barn is representative of an English-style post and beam barn, which is characterized by the placement of the barn door on the long side of the barn rather than the gabled end. Three-over-three windows on either end of the building let light in during the day. The barn's craftsmen used sawn and hewn lumber from hemlock and pine trees, fashioned together with mortise and tenon joinery, to frame the barn on top of

a stone foundation. Vertical posts and English tie beams hold up the roof and support the clapboard walls. The roof system is made of vertical boards held up by principal rafters and common purlins. Gunstock posts, which are wider at the top, hold up beams that support the roof truss's king posts and tie beams. A cupola sits atop the center of the building, and inside, a hayloft was used to store hay.



Photo courtesy of Sandown Historic and Conservation Commission

Barn History and Use

The Red Barn was built in 1830 by the Colby family of Sandown. It was most likely used as a cow and hay barn and is thought to have later housed a shoe repair shop due to the site being marked with an "SS" on a town map from 1857. At that time mapmakers commonly used "SS" to identify locations

of shoe shops. Around the turn of the last Century, horse stalls were erected in the building's interior, converting the use back into a barn. In 2006 the town of Sandown was deeded the barn, and until recently, it was used primarily for storage by the Conservation Commission.



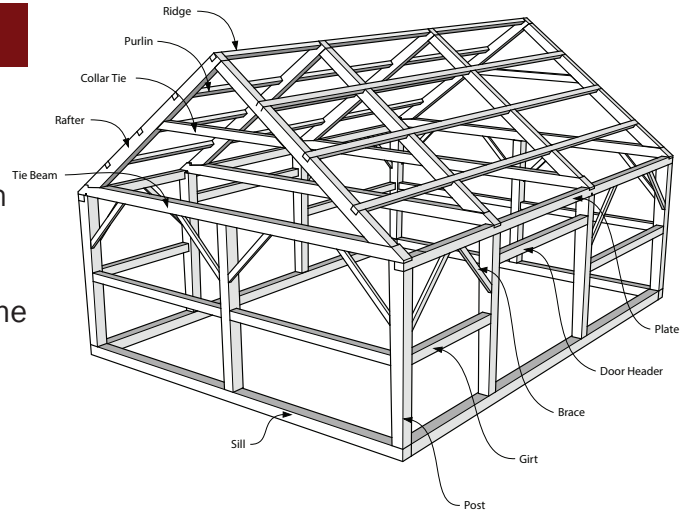
Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting

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Preservation Efforts

Both the Sandown Conservation Commission and the Sandown Heritage Commission are working together to preserve the barn's historic features for current and future generations to enjoy. The Heritage Commission was formed in 2018, and soon thereafter Bill Coleman authored an historic assessment of the Red Barn, thanks to grant funding

from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. In 2020 both the town's Heritage Commission and the Conservation Commission partnered to clean up the barn, add stairs to the hay loft, and install metal roofing. In 2023 a replica of the original cupola was constructed by Eagle Scout Justin Silva.



*English style barn timber frame components.
Drawing courtesy of Jessica MilNeil of
Preservation Timber Framing*

What You Can Do Here Now

The Red Barn still needs renovations; however, the barn has been used for public events on occasion. Follow the Sandown Conservation Commission and Heritage Commission Facebook pages to stay up

to date on what's happening at the Red Barn. Visitors can also poke around the grounds, as it is a beautiful place to stop, have a picnic, and grab a picture or two.



*Red Barn, 2023
Photo courtesy of Ryan Cutting*

References

- New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Historic Barn Assessment: Preservation Analysis Preformed by Bill Coleman of the Barn Whisperer, Pelham NH 10/17.
- Sandown Heritage Commission Annual Reports (2018-2022), <https://www.sandown.us/heritage-commission/pages/heritage-commission-annual-reports> accessed on 12/13/2023.