

WELCOME



The Old Meetinghouse of Canaan, NH

In 1792, the people living in Canaan started construction on a Meetinghouse just off of what is now Canaan Street Lake. It was complete in 1793 and still graces the common on Canaan Street and serves as a focal point for the Canaan Historic District. The Meetinghouse is managed by the Town of Canaan under the guidance of the Meetinghouse Preservation Committee.

What is a Colonial Meetinghouse?

“It’s a structure that meets the following 2 criteria: It was built at taxpayer expense, and it was used for both religious worship and town business.

The central focus of every New England town was the meetinghouse. These structures were typically financed through taxation, and were usually the largest building in the town. They were used both for religious worship, and for conducting town business. They were always very simple buildings, with no statues, decorations, or stained glass.”*

**Excerpted from Colonial Meetinghouses of New England website:*

https://www.colonialmeetinghouses.com/background_information.shtml

For more info about Canaan, NH

Canaan’s Town Museum:

Open July-Oct on Saturdays 1-4pm

Town of Canaan website:

<https://www.canaannh.org/>

Read online:

History of Canaan, NH, by William Wallace

<https://archive.org/details/historyofcanaan>



Restoration Timeline

- 1793 Meeting House framed
- 1796-1815 Baptists/Congregationalists
- 1819 Minister taxes abolished
- 1827 Town acquires building
- 1840 Pulpit & pews removed, slanted flooring & benches on first floor, ceiling planks, removed pew boxes from 2nd floor
- 1850 Bell installed
- 1855 West Porch added
- 1893 Electricity - Dance Hall
- 1895 Clock installed
- 1974 The voters of Canaan establish a committee to restore the Meeting House
- 1975 The exterior restoration work starts
- 1976 Roof restoration starts
- 1978 Exterior restoration completed
- 1980 Plans for interior restoration started
- 1983 Sill and floor leveling completed
- 1989 Summer literary readings started
- 1990 Started Breastworks repair

- 1993 East Gallery restored
- 1994 Plans for west porch to rebuild stairs to second floor, install bathroom and kitchen
- 2005 West Porch started
- 2006 Septic system installed
- 2011 Interior complete
- 2012 Tower restored
- 2013-2015 Exterior of Meeting House painted & Window Restoration started.





We are dedicated to preserving the Meeting House so that it will remain a living center of community expression and pride. And we need your help. Your contribution will be dedicated solely to the preservation of the Meeting House.

Please make checks payable to “Town of Canaan” with “Meeting House” in the memo line.

Please mail to:
P.O. Box 38, Canaan, NH 03741.

Thank You for your support.