

BEE HOUSE

Year built | 1837



The original purpose served by this small clapboarded building built in 1837 and measuring just 12 x 25 feet is subject to some debate, although it was definitely used as a drying house. The writings of Elder Henry Blinn indicate it was built as an apple-drying house while according to Irving Greenwood, the original purpose was to dry lumber. The present off-center gable-roofed cupola rising from the asphalt sheathed gable roof was originally a ventilator. In 1865 the building became the headquarters of the bee keepers. After bee keeping was discontinued in the early 20th century, the building was used for general storage. In 1940 it was moved about 400 feet west to its present location, turned 180 degrees and connected to the Cow Barn for use as a milk house. The building was damaged in the 1973 fire which destroyed the Cow Barn. In 1977 the building was repaired and alterations were made to open it to the public. These include installation of the front concrete ramp and the replacement of a window on the east side with a door to make a second means of egress. The building's original stone foundation is still visible to the east of its present location.

BRETHREN'S SHOP

Year built | 1824



Housing a variety of functions over the years, the Brethren's Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure, measuring 36 x 48 feet, capped by an asphalt, gable roof. Constructed in 1824, the building originally contained spaces utilized by the farmers, physicians, shoemakers, and spinning wheel makers. Later occupants included a printing office (1869-1877) and the carpenters' shop. The first floor of the building still contains an impressive vault, its doors painted with scenes of the village, built in this space in 1921. Shaker accounts substantiated by physical evidence suggest that originally there was a nine foot wide wagon door opening centered on the south elevation. The present center entrance containing a four panel door flanked by 4/4 sidelights and capped by a gable door hood supported by oversized brackets appears to date to the mid 19th century. Other alterations include the replacement of many of the second story windows, originally containing 8/8 sash, with early 20th century windows consisting of three upper sash lights over a single light lower sash. These windows would appear to correspond with interior renovations to the carpenters' area in 1920. Today, this building contains the administrative offices of Shaker Village, Inc.

CARPENTER SHOP

Year built | 1806



Built in 1806 as a dwelling house for visiting Shakers, what is today known as the Carpenter Shop or Wood Shop is a 1 1/2 story structure measuring 32 by 24 feet, sheathed in wide weatherboards, resting on a granite block foundation. Narrow corner boards with a round corner molding give rise to projecting eaves and a wood shingled gable roof. The building was built according to a common New England residential plan with a large central chimney, center front and rear entrances and two rooms up and down on either side of the center entrances. The facade measures three bays wide with 9/6 double hung windows flanking a central entrance consisting of a four panel door sheltered by a late 19th century gable door hood supported by large wooden brackets. Three shed roofed dormers punctuate the facade roof. This building was originally located where the Children's House now stands. Following its initial use as a guest house from 1806 to 1815, the structure was converted to a spin shop for the sisters, coinciding with the conversion of the previous spin shop to a laundry. The building was moved to its present location in 1832 to be used for the storage of herbs.

The village broom-making business was located here from 1877 until its demise in 1890. The building temporarily served as housing for hired men from 1901 to 1903. The east room was later converted for use by the carpenters and the rest of the building was used for storage. In 1951 the building was renovated for use as a residence by a non-Shaker caretaker. Today, it serves once again as a wood shop.

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CARRIAGE HOUSE

Year built | 1825



2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 40 x 70 feet. The east elevation is punctuated by three sets of double carriage doors made of vertical beaded board with strap hinges and fronted by granite ramps. An additional set of double doors is located on the north side. The gable roof is sheathed in slate shingles, first installed in 1906 over a shingled roof. Soon after its construction in 1825 the Carriage House became known as the Yellow Building, because of the color it was painted until about the turn of the century. Carriages occupied the north end of the first floor with painters using the south-east end and wood storage for the Infirmary occupying the south room. A three-holer privy is located in the southwest corner of the building. The second and third floors were used to store medicines, lumber, herbs and grains while potatoes and mason's supplies were stored in the cellar. Today, this building contains the Shaker Village gift shop, craft center and exhibition area.

CART SHED

Year built | 1840



Located just east of the schoolhouse is this 110 x 25 feet structure constructed of vertical planks with a granite foundation and granite posts supporting the gable roof. The north end of the shed was primarily used as an ice house and the center for the storage of farm wagons. The Cart Shed was extensively rebuilt after the roof collapsed in the winter of 1982-83.

CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Year built | 1810



Originally located on the site of the Trustees' Office, the Children's House is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 28 x 38 feet. It was built to replace the first Trustee's House which was moved to the North Family. In order to make room for the present Trustee's Office, the building was moved east of the road in 1831 or 1833 to its present location where it was first called the "East House" and later, the "Children's House". For a period in the mid 19th century the basement was used to spin wool while garden seeds were sorted, papered and packed in the loft. Later, the whole building was used as a dwelling for girls. On the first floor there is a large instruction room running the depth of the house and lined by a blackboard shelf at which the girls pulled their chairs and benches to work or write. Upstairs there were quarters designed to accommodate eight girls at a time as well as two Sisters who lived with them. Today, the Children's House serves as a staff residence.

CREAMERY

Year built | 1903-5



Constructed between 1903 and 1905 under the direction of a non-Shaker carpenter, S.H. Mead, the Creamery is a rare example of Shaker building construction affected by late 19th century styles. The 2 1/2 story structure is capped by a clipped gable roof of slate with hipped roof dormers. Simplified Victorian moldings outline the doors as well as windows containing 2/2 sash. Other restrained turn-of-the-century details include machine turned balusters, Roman Doric columns, cornice brackets and urn newel posts. A steam heating plant was installed in the building in 1905. A new boiler installed in the cellar in 1919 was sized to heat the creamery, power house and garage. The single story ells projecting from the north side of the building served as cold storage. Upstairs were the living quarters of those Sisters engaged in dairying. Today, the Creamery Building houses a restaurant, although it retains most of its original woodwork on the first and second floors.

DWELLING HOUSE

Year built | 1793



Dominated by a domed cupola containing a Paul Revere bell, the three story Church Family Dwelling House is the largest building in the village and historically served as a focal point for the community. The T-shaped structure containing 56 rooms is the result of numerous additions and alterations over the years; however, the basic original structure survives, making this the only Shaker Dwelling of the surviving Shaker villages that includes portions of its original 18th century structure. Construction of the original Dwelling House occurred just a year after completion of the Meeting House and closely followed its form. As first constructed, the exterior of the Dwelling House, 2 1/2 stories with a gambrel roof, was almost identical to the Meeting House and its dimensions only slightly smaller 32 x 42 feet. A series of minor additions were made to the building in 1798, 1805, 1806 and 1807, culminating in major changes and enlargements in 1814. Eighteen foot long wings were added to the east and west ends and in the process the earlier additions were demolished or possibly incorporated. Also at this time, the roof was rebuilt in its gable form and a twenty foot square wing was added on the north side. Even more dramatic alterations occurred in 1837 including the relocation of the north wing to the east side and the construction of a new 52 by 43 foot meeting room or chapel wing in its place. The belfry was added in 1832 to call the Family to meals and meetings. After the New Lebanon

Ministry expressed disapproval over the belfry's size, it was lowered 5.5 feet in 1842. The village library, begun in 1853 was moved here in 1917 and the school was here from 1921 until its closing in 1934. The first floor contained the village butcher shop, bakery, communal kitchen and dining room, still visible today. Four staircases order the interior of the building; that in the center is a double open staircase rising four stories. The other two staircases are separate and traverse three floors. For many years the second floor consisted of four bedrooms, two for elders and two for the sisters and the brethren. The third floor is also devoted to dwelling rooms. The attic served largely as storage for out-of-season clothing and is lined by two long under-eaves storage spaces, six closets, fourteen cupboards and 101 drawers built in symmetrical arrangement down the length of the wing. This handcrafted storage area is considered by some as the crowning achievement of Shaker architecture in Canterbury and epitomizes the Shaker love of order. The Dwelling House was the residence of Canterbury's last remaining Shaker sister who died in September 1992.

¹ June Sprigg and David Larkin, *Shaker Life Work and Art*. New York: Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1987, p. 256.

ENFIELD HOUSE

Year built | 1826



Originally constructed as the Second Family's Office in 1826 and located about 400 meters north of its present location, this 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 62 x 29 feet was moved to its present site in 1918. It is known as the Enfield House because it provided living quarters for the sisters who moved to Canterbury after the disbanding of the Shaker Society at Enfield, New Hampshire in 1923. Resting on a basement of yellow brick, various embellishments in a Colonial Revival style were made to the simple Shaker building following its move in 1918. These include the addition of two elevated entrance porches on the south side featuring bracketed pediments, recessed paneled trim, turned newel posts, square posts and matching pilasters. A similarly detailed at-grade entrance porch is located on the north side with a lower level covered patio projecting from the west. The total cost of relocating the building was \$7,405. The Shakers moved into the building in November 1921. The Enfield House is significant as the principal residence of Canterbury's twentieth century sisters, who largely favored it over the less-modern Dwelling House. The basement was the center of the village's poplar ware industry. Today, Enfield House is used as a collection/storage center.

FIRE HOUSE

Year built | 1908



As the first Canterbury Shaker Village building to make full use of modern building materials, the Fire House exemplifies the Shaker's fascination with new technology. The original building, measuring 28 x 28 feet, was built in 1908 at a cost of \$1,000 and was intended to serve dual use as a fire house and garage for the Shaker Village's first automobile, a 1908 Reo. In 1916 the single story garage was enlarged by cutting it apart in the center, moving the eastern half twelve feet further east and filling in between. The exterior of the wood framed structure is sheathed in pressed metal shingles primarily used for roofs, manufactured by the Cortright Metal Roofing Company of Philadelphia. The hip roof is covered in slate and a hip-roofed tower used for drying hoses, rises from the southwest corner. Inside, the building is finished with sheets of tin and asbestos.

HORSE BARN

Year built | 1819



Located on the west side of the road, north of the Trustees' Office is this large shingled horse barn. The original section, measuring 60 x 40 feet, was constructed in 1819. The north ell, measuring 27 x 49 feet, was added in 1824. The Church Family horses were primarily kept in the south section of the barn, with the Trustees' horses in the north section. The barn underwent various remodelings in 1880, 1901 and 1927. In 1927 the interior configuration of the barn was greatly altered, including the removal of stables, moving doors and the installation of 8 stalls, 2 box stalls and a harness room. In 1991 the horse barn was remodeled to its 1901 appearance.

INFIRMARY

Year built | 1811



Built on the east side of the Shaker Road, opposite the Trustees' Office, this 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure was built as a guest house and as living quarters for the Trustees on nights and Sundays. The building was intended to functionally replace the Carpenter's Shop which was built as a guest house just five years previously, but was soon considered too small. As originally constructed the building measured 40 x 32 feet with a south facing five-bay facade and side elevations two bays wide containing 12/8 windows. The building was constructed according to a typical Georgian, center hall residential floor plan with two interior chimneys punctuating the gable roof ridge. Shaker records indicate that in 1849 the building was converted to an infirmary and the next year the roof was tinned and the portico over the front door, called a "jet" by the Shakers, was added. In 1852 the first water closet in the village was installed in the north end of the upstairs hall. The 2 1/2 story ell measuring 3x2 bays was constructed at the northwest corner of the main building in 1892. The northeast room of the original structure was used as an office while the east front room housed the village library. Later, after 1892, the first floor housed the nurses' quarters,

pharmacy, nurses' sitting room and office and the dentist's office. Upstairs, the patients' rooms were fitted with lavatories and running water. The attic was used to store medical supplies and as a mortuary. A kitchen was added in the northeast corner of the basement in 1854 but moved to the ell following its construction. Since it began serving as a Shaker Hospital in 1849, the infirmary is considered to be one of the oldest and most intact medical facilities in the State. Use of the infirmary began to decline in the 1920s. Following the death of the last nurse in 1937, the building ceased to be used as an infirmary and was used as living quarters for sisters. The infirmary building sat empty beginning in the 1970s.

LAUNDRY

Year built | 1795 and later



A large 2 1/2 story L-shaped collection of buildings, some of which stand on a brick first floor, the Laundry is the product of numerous additions and technological improvements over the years to serve the expanding village. The oldest section of the existing building is the first floor of the south wing, originally a 1-1/2 story, 24 x 32 foot structure, built on the site of the Sisters' Shop in 1795 as a Spin Shop. In 1816, following the demolition of the original wash house, the Spin Shop building was moved to its present location. A second story was added to it at this time, as well as an extension connecting the building and clothes drying shelter. In 1844, the horse-powered machinery was replaced by a boiler and engine, necessitating an addition on the north end of the building to house the new equipment. A steam drying room with movable racks was added in 1852. The addition of a new flue boiler in 1860 required the addition of a tall brick smokestack. A new Dry House, used to dry food supplies was constructed east of the clothes drying section of the Laundry in 1879, only to burn and be rebuilt in 1880. The northern end of the Laundry became a commercial knitting shop in 1886 and by 1890 the Dry House was used by the sisters for finishing sweaters and storing yarn.

The buildings remained separate until the early 20th century. Later, the combined first floor of the Laundry and Dry House was used to repair automobiles and was known as the Engineer's Room. At about the same time (1912-13) the area beyond the Engineer's Room was outfitted as a mechanized, power-driven woodworking shop. Most of the original equipment remains today. The Laundry underwent a series of major repairs in 1902 including a new frame and floors while the drying room was completely rebuilt in 1908. The resulting drying room, which can still be seen today, features asbestos and sheet tin-clad walls, twenty-five 2" steam pipes, twelve feet long, on the floor and drying racks running on overhead track. The older, southern section of the building was used for sorting, mending and ironing. An improved washing machine inspired by Shaker communal needs was designed and manufactured for sale at Canterbury, one of the few inventions patented by the Shakers.

MEETING HOUSE

Year built | 1792



The 2 1/2 story gambrel-roofed Meeting House measuring 34 by 44 feet, was the first building erected by the growing Shaker community in Canterbury and is among the least changed of all the structures in the village. Built in reverent silence with no talking louder than a whisper, the frame of the building was raised on May 9, 1792 and the building was completed on September 20. Construction of the Meeting House was supervised by Moses Johnson (1752-1842) who served as master builder of seven Shaker meetinghouses beginning with the 1786 house in New Lebanon. The Canterbury Meeting House was closely modeled on the New Lebanon structure in terms of size, shape, color and finish. As originally constructed, the interior woodwork was painted dark blue and there were two stairways, one for men and one for women, located in the northwest and southwest corners of the building and leading from the first floor meeting room to the second story sleeping lofts for the Brothers and Sisters. The stairways were removed in 1815, replaced by a new stairwell on the east side of the building. (Photo #11) The Ministry of the village continued to sleep and dine here until they moved to Ministry Shop in 1878. The third floor of the meetinghouse retains its 1815 paint finish while the finish of the first floor meeting area dates to 1878. Today, the meetinghouse, like many of the buildings in the village, is open to the public.

MINISTRY BARN PRIVY

Year built | before 1850



Located within the stone foundation wall, which is all that remains of the 1794 Ministry Barn, is this small clapboarded privy measuring 6.5 x 13 feet. The clapboarded privy consists of two equal-sized compartments, accessed by single doors on the south side of the building.

MINISTRY SHOP

Year built | 1848



Located just east of the Meeting House, the Ministry Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded building measuring 36 by 24 feet, used initially as a workshop and after 1878 as sleeping quarters for the Ministry. The building rests on a granite foundation and is capped by a gable roof, the first in the village to have been covered in tin. Its architectural detailing is simple and functional. Embellishment on the exterior is limited to a door hood over the recessed entrance. Although the building was erected in 1848 to replace an earlier ministry shop that had become too small, the ministry continued to live in the upper floors of the Meeting House until 1878. The single story ell dates to 1858 and was used first by the physician and, beginning two years later, by the dentist. The building is currently used as public exhibition space.

NORTH SHOP

Year built | 1841



Constructed in 1841 on the site of an earlier wood shed, the North Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 40 x 80 feet. The building is unusual in that it was built under the direction of a non-Shaker, master workman Lynus Stevens of Claremont. Most of the first floor was used as a wood house, accessed by two sets of wide door openings on both the north and south elevations. The west end of the first floor served as a store room for the Deacons and Deaconesses while the second story contained workrooms for the Sisters and was equipped with hand looms for the weaving of cloth. The second floor workrooms feature some of the finest built-in drawers and cupboards in the village. Sills of windows with good light for sewing are extra wide with small wooden knobs on the apron underneath, intended to provide storage for sewing equipment. Lofts in the attic were used for the drying of herbs, especially those needed for sarsaparilla, which was distilled in the adjacent Syrup Shop. The North Shop is significant as one of the most pristine structures in the village, virtually unchanged since its construction. The building retains some of the Village's finest examples of red and yellow interior finishes, characteristic of those used in the early-mid 19th century.

POWER HOUSE

Year built | 1910



Constructed adjacent to the garage, the power house similarly features a wooden frame clad in pressed metal shingles with a slate-covered hip roof. The single story building measures 24 x 36 feet and was constructed to contain a state-of-the-art electric generating system consisting of a Nash 30 horsepower gasoline engine and a 125 volt 144 amp. Crocker Wheeler direct current generator with attendant cooling tanks, air compressor and storage battery. Weighing seven tons, the engine and generator were brought from the Belmont, NH railroad station by a combination of wheels, sled and four yoke of oxen. The cost of the complete plant, which predated the electrification of the state capitol in Concord, was approximately \$8,000. After the equipment was sold in the late 1930s, the building was renovated for use as an office for the farm manager. Today the building is open to the public as a summer kitchen.

SCHOOLHOUSE

Year built | 1823 and 1863



Part of the present two story clapboarded schoolhouse is actually the original single story schoolhouse, measuring 24 x 34 feet and built in 1823. In 1863 the schoolhouse was moved three rods south to its present location and then jacked up twelve feet to become the second story with a new school room built underneath. At the same time, a single bay enclosed stair porch was added to the second floor and a wood shed was added to the east. Double hung 9/9 sash compatible with the original 9/6 window sash The move was prompted at least in part by the policy of allowing outside children to attend the Shaker school. The relocation of the school is consistent with the clustering of facilities open to the World in proximity to the Shaker

SISTERS' SHOP

Year built | 1817



Built on the site of the 1795 spin shop which was moved north to become part of the laundry, the Sister's Shop is a 2 1/2 story structure measuring 50 x 32 feet. After spinning was discontinued in the 1830s the building was used by the sisters for a variety of functions including musical instruction, making dresses, and other tasks. The Shop was the center for tailoring activities in the village. Tailoring counters survive on the first and second floors and are two of the largest pieces in the village collection. The cellar was considered the best storage place in the village for winter apples and sauces. The Sisters' Shop also contained the Eldresses' Confession Room, where the Shaker Sisters made their weekly confession to the Eldresses.

Alterations to the building include the replacement of many of the 9/6 first floor windows and 6/6 upper story windows with 2/2 sash. The portico over the front door and tin roof were added in 1850, at which time similar additions were made to the Infirmary. Today, the Sisters' Shop is open to the public.

STEEL GARAGE

Year built | 1923



The last building built in the village also reflects the Shakers' love of new inventions. This 30 x 24 feet prefabricated steel garage was purchased in 1923 from the Pennsylvania Metal Company of Boston for \$618 with an additional charge of \$250 to erect it. The one room structure with three pairs of double doors was picked up by the Shakers at the factory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It arrived by truck in May 1923, although the concrete foundation was not laid until September. Construction was completed less than a month later. Details on the exterior of the steel building include the simulation of wooden vertical boards, clapboards, and corner boards as well as an imitation stucco and timbered effect in the gable ends.

SYRUP SHOP

Year built | c.1775 and later



Until recently it was believed that the oldest part of this two story clapboarded structure, the 22 x 24 foot section in the center, was constructed in 1797 as a grain store. Recent work on the Syrup Shop, which required exposing the sills and foundation, however, appears to suggest that this section may actually be the earliest extant building fragment in the village, dating back to the ownership of the farm by Benjamin Whitcher, who donated his property to the Shakers. Current investigations are attempting to prove whether this building could be Whitcher's residence or a granary, also known to have been on the site. There is considerable evidence to suggest that this is definitely a pre-Shaker building as it exhibits a completely different construction style consisting of huge white pine logs, 8-10 inches thick and 30 inches deep, placed on end. In addition to three sills, one original gable wall also survives. It is known that Benjamin Whitcher constructed his residence sometime between 1775 and 1782, with the arrival of the first Shakers occurring in 1783. By 1787 Shaker families were living on the farm; the 1790 Census counted 35 people on the Whitcher property. At least part of this structure appears to have originally stood northwest of the North Shop; the building was moved to its present location in 1841 and was used for distilling sarsaparilla

syrup for medicinal purposes. Subsequent to the move a 13 foot addition was made to the north end with an 18 foot addition, containing spaces for bottling and packing the syrup, constructed at the south end in 1848. The manufacture of sarsaparilla syrup drew to a close in 1920 when the kettles were removed. A brick wood burning stove was added at that time and canning continued here until 1958. The southernmost room on the second floor was used as a painting studio by the Shaker artist Sister Cora Helena Sarle (1867-1956). The building is presently the center for the Village herbalist and garden program.

TRUSTEES' OFFICE

Year built | 1831-2



The only brick building in the village, the Trustees' Office is a 2 1/2 story structure measuring 72 x 42 feet, with its broad eastern façade fronting Shaker Road. The building served as the office of the Lead Ministry and also housed a U.S. Post Office beginning in October 1848. The building was made of bricks manufactured by the Church Family and was the first building in the village to have a slate roof. The exterior of the building was updated several times: the original 12/12 and 12/8 window sash were replaced by modern 2/1 sash in 1904; the Colonial Revival style pedimented porches and porte-cochere supported by Doric columns were installed in 1914 to update earlier porches; a single story kitchen was added on the south end in 1880 while the annex, or express office, was added on the north end in 1906 for packing and storage (granite blocks used for the annex foundation came from Second and North Family buildings which had been torn down); the second story porches and a bridge connecting the Trustees' Office with an adjacent office woodshed were constructed in 1909 (and removed c. 1940). Inside, the Trustees' Office contains a number of fine finish details including vertically sliding paneled window shutters. The dining room in the basement displays a wide variety of manufactured pressed metal finishes including ceiling, cornice, walls, frieze, chair rail, dado and baseboard pieces. One of the building's most impressive features are the two interior staircases, set apart by load-bearing double brick walls and rising four full stories from the subbasement level.

The Trustees' Office was designed as the hub of the Canterbury Shaker's considerable commercial enterprises. It housed only those Shakers who had the authority to conduct Village business. Here, they executed contracts for their inventions and goods (such as washing machines, medicines, agricultural products, seed packets and dry goods), housed guests and clients who arrived from distant places, and met with townspeople and local officials to discuss civic matters.

The Trustees' Office is a significant structure, both nationally and locally:

- The building was continually used and occupied by the Shakers from 1831 through 1990 and was the home of the last members of the Shaker Lead Ministry in America.
- The 22-room building is the only masonry building at Canterbury Shaker Village and sits atop a split granite foundation, hammered to a smooth face on the sides visible from the road.
- The Trustees' Office is the finest Shaker building of its type and houses some of the most significant Shaker interiors (1831-1920s). It retains much of its original character and includes many features not found in other Shaker buildings or in domestic structures of its time.
- The original Shaker double staircases, with one flight for men and the other for women, remains intact.
- The entire building retains original doors, hardware, and built-in cupboards.
- The building also contains numerous technological or building features that were advanced for the 1830s.

WOODSHED

Year built | 1861



This woodshed was one of two which once stood south of the great Cow Barn, destroyed by fire in 1973. The companion woodshed to the west was also burned at that time. Of post and beam construction sheathed in vertical boards, the woodshed originally had three open bays, corresponding with the roof ventilators and alternating with four closed bays. The present configuration with the western half divided into four open bays with two doors to the east, appears to be an early twentieth century alteration.