

LIVE SIMPLY WORK WELL VILLAGE MAP



Welcome to Canterbury Shaker Village. Established in 1792, the Village comprises 32 buildings, many of which have been restored. Following is a brief description of some of the more important buildings. (Buildings are numbered chronologically.)

1 Meeting House | 1792
The Meeting House was the first building erected by the Shaker community in Canterbury and is among the least changed structures in the Village. Built in reverent silence, with no talking louder than a whisper, the frame was raised on May 9, 1792, and the building was completed on September 20. The Ministry of the Village continued to sleep and dine here until 1878.

2 Syrup Shop | c. 1775 and later
Until recently it was believed that the oldest part of this structure was constructed as a grain store. Recent work, however, suggests that it 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. From 1841 the building was used for distilling sarsaparilla syrup for medicinal purposes.

3 Dwelling House | 1793
Dominated by a domed cupola containing a Paul Revere bell, the Dwelling House is the largest building in the Village, with fifty-six rooms, and served as a community focal point. The first floor contained a butcher shop, bakery, communal kitchen, and dining room. The attic is lined by a handcrafted storage area considered by some to be the crowning achievement of Shaker architecture in Canterbury. The Dwelling House was the residence of Canterbury's last remaining Shaker sister, who died in 1992.

5 Carpenter Shop | 1806
Built in 1806 as a dwelling house for visiting Shakers, this structure was converted to a spin shop in 1815, then moved to its present location in 1832 for storing herbs. Since then it has been used for broom-making, housing for hired men, and carpentry. Today, it serves once again as a wood shop.

6 East House | 1810
For a period in the mid-nineteenth century, the building's basement was used for spinning wool, while garden seeds were sorted and packed in the loft. Later, the whole building was used as a dwelling for girls, with a large instruction room lined by a blackboard shelf on the first floor and quarters for eight girls and two Sisters upstairs.

7 Infirmary | 1811
This clapboarded structure was built as a guesthouse and living quarters for the Trustees. In 1849 it was converted to an infirmary, and in 1852, the first water closet in the Village was installed. The infirmary is considered to be one of the oldest and most intact medical facilities in the state.

8 Laundry | 1816
The Laundry is the product of numerous additions and technological improvements over the years. Originally built in 1795 as a Spin Shop, the building was extended in 1816, connecting it to the clothes drying shelter. In 1844, horse-powered machinery was replaced by a boiler and engine, necessitating an addition. A steam drying room with movable racks was added in 1852.

9 Sisters' Shop | 1816
The Sisters' Shop was built to replace the 1795 Spin Shop, which was moved to become part of the laundry. After spinning was discontinued in the 1830s, the building was used for a variety of functions, including musical instruction and dressmaking. The Shop also contained the Eldresses' Confession Room, where the Sisters made weekly confessions.

10 Horse Barn | 1819
This large shingled horse barn was constructed in 1819, with various additions over the years. The Church Family horses were primarily kept in the south section of the barn, with the Trustees' horses in the north section. In 1991 the horse barn was restored to its 1901 appearance.

11 Schoolhouse | 1823 and 1863
In 1863, the original single-story schoolhouse was moved and jacked up to become the second story, with a new schoolroom built underneath. The move was prompted, at least in part, by the policy of allowing outside children to attend the school, clustering facilities open to the World closer to Shaker Road. After the move, the second story was converted to a gymnasium and was later used as a meeting and recitation room.

12 Brethren's Shop | 1824
The Brethren's Shop was originally used by the farmers, physicians, shoemakers, and spinning wheel makers. Later occupants included a printing office and carpenters' shop. The first floor still contains an impressive vault, installed in 1921.

13 Carriage House | 1825
Soon after its construction, the Carriage House became known as the Yellow Building. Carriages occupied the north end of the first floor, with painters using the southeast end and wood storage in the south room. The second and third floors were used to store medicines, lumber, herbs, and grains.

14 Enfield House | 1826
Originally constructed as the Second Family's Office, this structure 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.

15 Trustees' Office | 1831-32
The Trustees' Office was designed as the hub of the Canterbury Shakers' commercial enterprises, housing only those Shakers who had the authority to conduct business for the community. The Trustees' Office is a significant structure, both nationally and locally, and is the finest Shaker building of its type. It retains much of its original character and includes many features not found in other Shaker or domestic buildings of its time.

16 Bee House | 1837
The original purpose of this small clapboarded building is subject to some debate—either to dry apples or to dry lumber. From 1865 until the early twentieth century, the building was the headquarters of the beekeepers.

18 North Shop | 1841
This structure was built under the direction of a non-Shaker, the master workman Lynus Stevens of Claremont. Most of the first floor was used for wood storage while the second story contained workrooms equipped with handlooms and features some of the finest built-in drawers and cupboards in the Village. The North Shop is one of the most pristine structures in the Village.

19 Ministry Shop | 1848
The Ministry Shop was initially used as a workshop and after 1878 as sleeping quarters for the Ministry. The building is capped by a gable roof, the first in the Village to be covered in tin. The single story ell, dating to 1858, was used first by the physician and later by the dentist.

20 Ministry Privy | before 1850
Located within the stone foundation wall—all that remains of the 1794 Ministry Barn—is this small clapboarded privy. It consists of two equal-sized compartments, accessed by single doors on the south side of the building.

23 Creamery | 1905
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 influenced by late nineteenth century styles. The single story ells served as cold storage, and upstairs were the living quarters of the Sisters engaged in dairying.

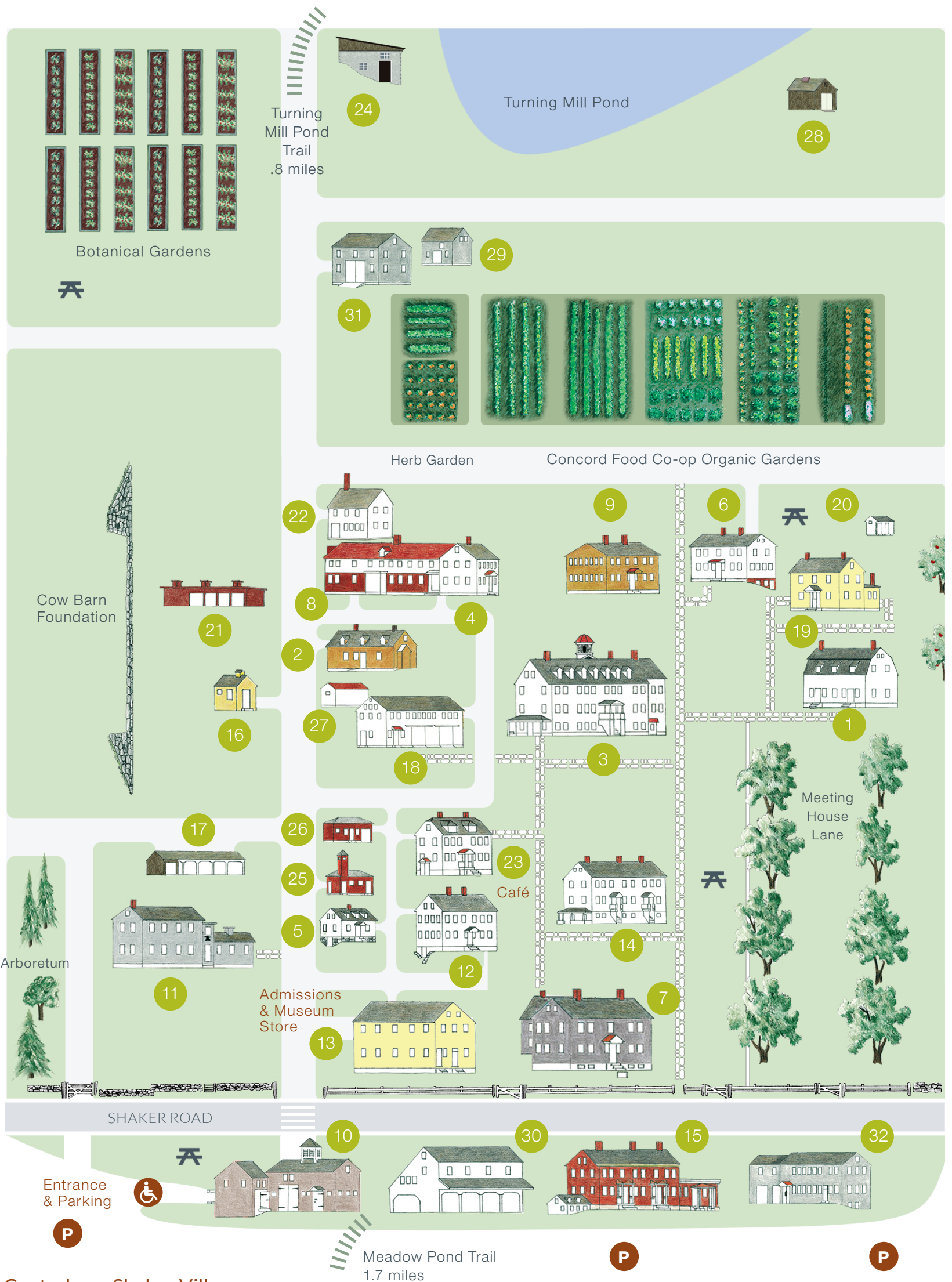
25 Fire House | 1908
As the first Canterbury Shaker Village building to make full use of modern building materials, the Fire House exemplifies the Shakers' fascination with new technology. Built in 1908 at a cost of \$1,000, the original building was intended to be used as a fire house and a garage for the Village's first automobile, a 1908 Reo.

26 Power House | 1910
The power house, featuring a wooden frame clad in pressed metal shingles, was constructed to house a state-of-the-art electric generating system (a Nash 30-horsepower gasoline engine and a 125-volt, 144-ampere Crooks-Wheeler direct-current generator). The cost of the plant was about \$8,000.

27 Steel Garage | 1923
The last building built in the Village reflects the Shakers' love of new inventions. This prefabricated steel garage, purchased from the Pennsylvania Metal Company of Boston, cost \$618 plus an additional \$250 to erect it.

For more in-depth information on the buildings in the Village, please visit www.shakers.org.





Canterbury Shaker Village

(Buildings are numbered chronologically.)

- 1 Meeting House | 1792
- 2 Syrup Shop | circa 1797 |
- 3 Dwelling House | 1793
- 4 Spin Shop | 1795
- 5 Carpenters' Shop | 1806
- 6 East House | 1810
- 7 Infirmary | 1811 |
- 8 Laundry | 1816
- 9 Sisters' Shop | 1816
- 10 Horse Barn | 1819 | *
- 11 Schoolhouse | 1823/1863 |

- 12 Brethren's Shop | 1824
- 13 Carriage House | 1825 |
- Admissions & Store
- 14 Enfield House | 1826
- 15 Trustees' Office | 1831
- 16 Bee House | 1837 |
- 17 Cart Shed | 1840
- 18 North Shop | 1841 | *
- 19 Ministry Shop | 1848
- 20 Ministry Privy | before 1850
- 21 East Woodshed | 1861

- 22 Dry House | 1879 |
- 23 Creamery | 1905 |
- Café
- 24 Pump Mill | 1905
- 25 Fire House | 1908
- 26 Power House | 1910
- 27 Steel Garage | 1923
- 28 New Pump House | 1987
- 29 Garden Shed | 2000
- 30 Hubbard Gallery | 2001 | *
- 31 Garden Barn | 2002 | *
- 32 The Dewey School | 2004

- Stone Path
- Hiking Trail
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Accessible
- * Event Rental



Not all buildings are open to the public. Please check for the red-and-white open flags.