

Little Red Schoolhouse



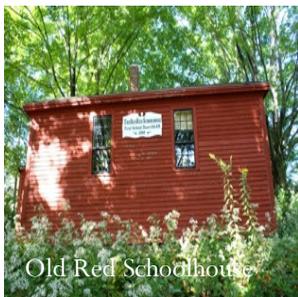
Webster Stagecoach Stop and Store



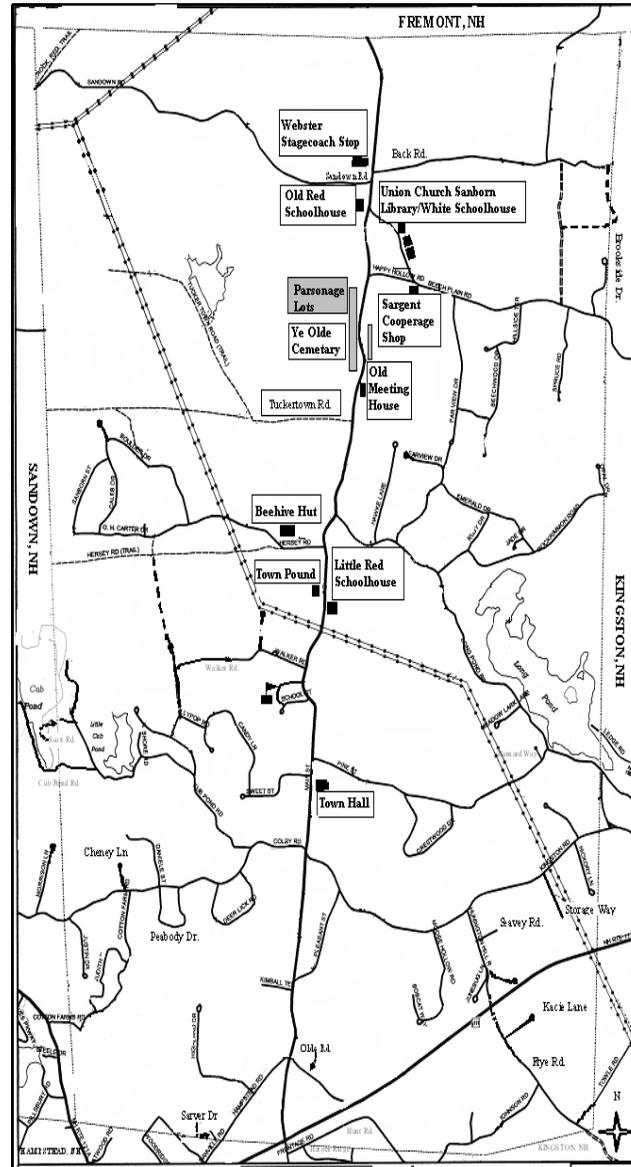
Town Hall



Town Pound



Old Red Schoolhouse



All locations on map are approximate.

HERITAGE COMMISSION

DANVILLE'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES



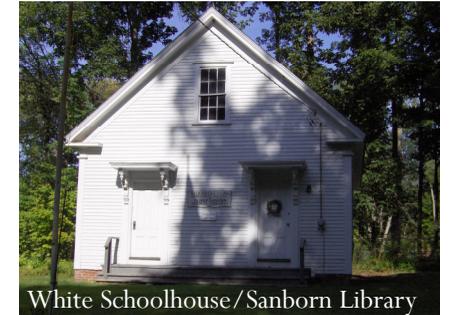
Old Meeting House

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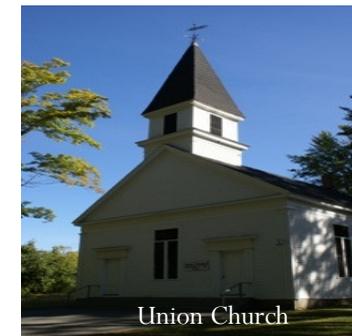
Heritage Commission
Danville Town Hall
(603) 382-8253
Danville, NH 03819



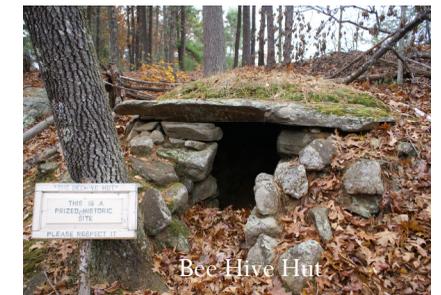
Sargent Cooperage Shop



White Schoolhouse/Sanborn Library



Union Church



Beehive Hut

Old Meeting House 470 Main Street

Danville's Old Meeting House is the oldest of such meeting houses in its original condition in NH, and is the town's crown jewel. It was built in 1755 by 27 men who donated material and labor as an inducement to the King of England to grant a new town. They were successful, and the parish of Hawke was established in 1760. Church services were held in the building until 1832 and town meetings until 1886 when the new town hall was built. It is located in the Historic District and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Meeting House Cemetery (behind the Meeting House)

The town's second oldest cemetery is located in the Historic District with burials dating back to 1825. The cast iron headstones here are unusual in an area noted for granite and slate. Photos of the deceased encased in glass were originally embedded in the headstones.

Ye Olde Cemetery 491 Main Street

Danville's oldest cemetery is located in the Historic District just north and across the highway from the Meeting House. Burials date back to 1740 when Danville was still part of Kingston. Reverend John Page, Hawke's first and only resident minister, is buried here along with many town fathers and Revolutionary War soldiers.

Little Red Schoolhouse 380 Main Street

The Middle District Schoolhouse was built in 1834 and furnished with double pine desks with bench type seats. Originally there was an outside fireplace, which was later replaced with an inside potbellied stove. There also was a woodshed and an outside privy. The school was last used in 1901 with Miss Mabelle Warner as teacher.

Owned by the town, the building has been restored twice, once around 1940 by a town vote, and again in 1967 by the Danville Grange.

Beehive Hut Off Hershey Road

This man-made stone enclosure is very early, although its age and purpose have never been determined. This cave-like structure is similar to others found throughout New England such as those at Stonehenge in Salem, NH. It is set into the side of a hill, has a depth of about 3 feet, and a roof consisting of one very large stone.

Town Pound 371 Main Street

Voted in and built by the town in 1802, this stone enclosure was used to temporarily hold farm animals and livestock until their owners could claim them and pay a fine. A gate bearing the year "1802" graces its entrance.

Old Red Schoolhouse 613 Main Street

The one room Old Red Schoolhouse in the north end of Danville was built in 1780 and burned in 1834. It was rebuilt in 1835. This building has double pine desks with bench seats, as does the Little Red Schoolhouse further south on 111A. This school was used until the 1894-1895 school year.

Samuel and Peter Sargent Cooperage Shop
44 Beach Plain Road

The Sargent Cooperage Shop was built in 1850 at Elm Farm (599 Main Street), by the Sargent brothers who made barrels and ladder-back chairs. In 1968 the shop, with its original furnishings and tools, was given to the Village Improvement Society by Mrs. Herbert Sargent, along with 2 acres of land on Beach Plain Road and was relocated to that site.

White Schoolhouse/Sanborn Library
45 Beach Plain Road

The White Schoolhouse was built prior to 1900 and was used for teaching students in grades 1 through 8 from the north end of town until 1938. The building was sold to Village Improvement Society and is now home to the Sanborn Memorial Library.

North Danville Union Church 42 Beach Plain Road

This church was built in 1850 by the Union Religious Society and provided a shared place of worship for several religious groups. The building was extensively renovated in 1892, and the kerosene chandelier was installed in 1894. The hand-pumped pipe organ was a gift in 1938 and is listed in the Register of Antique Organs.

The Parsonage Land

The Parsonage Lots are two community wood and farming lots required by the King of England for the support of the ministry. Early town settlers agreed to the purchase of the lots totaling 77 acres that are still owned by the town today. One lot is behind "Ye Olde Cemetery" and is part of the Historic District. The other runs south from Happy Hollow Road to the Meeting House. Wood from the site was used to build and repair the Meeting House and the adjacent parsonage, build and maintain fences, and to provide financial support for the ministry. Researchers believe it to be the oldest parsonage land remaining intact in America.

Webster Stagecoach Stop and Store

1 Sandown Road

Built circa 1800-1830, the stagecoach stop and store was originally located diagonally across 111A. It was an intermittent stopover for stagecoach traffic on the Concord to Portsmouth route. It was built and owned by Nathaniel Webster, distant cousin of Daniel Webster, and the first postmaster of Danville from 1825 to 1836. There originally was an adjacent stable where the horses would be watered and fed, while any passengers could buy goods from the tiny general store that was half of the small building. The other half was a workshop. The stage stop was discontinued when railroads gradually replaced stages in the mid 19th century. The general store continued operation, probably until Nathaniel's death in 1871. The building has been named to the NH Register of Historic Places. It was saved from the ravages of the highway and relocated to its current site (which was originally part of the Webster homestead) in 2008 by the Danville Heritage Commission.

Town Hall 211 Main Street

After a series of contentious public meetings, voters chose to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to build a new "town house" for the purpose of town gatherings. It was built in 1886, and dedicated in 1887. The building originally housed a meeting hall, a kitchen, a ballroom on the second floor, an office for the Selectmen, a library and a town lock-up or jail. The building was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 recognizing it as the political, social and cultural center of the town for more than half a century.

Tuckertown Road

Tuckertown Road has been a source of legend, lore, conjecture and mystery for generations. It lies directly across 111A from the Old Meeting House, and runs perpendicular from Main Street to the Sandown line. It was the first official road layout by the Hawke selectmen in 1766 and the site of the town's smallpox epidemic in 1781-1782, one of the town's greatest tragedies. It is said that members of several Tucker families who lived on the road became ill with smallpox and the Reverend John Page, who was courageously tending to the Tucker families, contracted smallpox himself and died in a cabin on this road in 1782. Early settlers were superstitious and shunned the area. Houses with stricken residents are believed to have been burned, while those with no sickness may have been moved to other parts of town. The Tuckertown area was never rebuilt. This unpaved closed road lies in the Historic District and has been designated a Class A trail. It provides a delightful hike and a step back in time.