



Lesson: Building for a Community

(To follow Amplify CKLA K, Knowledge 10: Colonial Towns and Townspeople, Lesson 7: The Housebuilders: Brick Layers, Masons, and Carpenters)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students will learn about the first English settlements in New Hampshire and some of the important buildings in these communities.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will use key details to describe how buildings were built in colonial times.
- Students will identify and explain the purpose of community buildings.
- Students will design and write about their own community building.

Formative Assessment

- Building activity

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1

Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.5c

Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.

Materials

- Maps: [New Hampshire's First Four Towns](#); [Town Boundaries](#)
- Focus Texts: [New England Meeting Houses](#); [Garrison Houses](#)
- Vocabulary Cards: Meeting House and Garrison House
- "Notice and Wonder" chart
- Blocks or other building materials
- "Our Meeting House" worksheet

Time Needed

Three 30-40 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Locate the first English towns.** Use the maps to locate the first four colonial New Hampshire towns and compare to where students live in New Hampshire today. (10 minutes)
2. **Read the Focus Texts.** Project the recommended infographics about meeting houses and garrison houses. Use Vocabulary Cards to summarize information. (20 minutes)



3. **Analyze images.** Guide students through a “Notice and Wonder” analysis for the images on the infographics. Record student ideas on the provided chart. *(30 minutes)*
4. **Build It.** Using blocks or other building materials, have students build a model of a meeting house and describe its features and purpose using labels and the provided worksheet. *(40 minutes)*



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

In this lesson, students extend the understanding of colonial buildings developed in Amplify CKLA K, Knowledge 10, Lesson 7: The Housebuilders by using images, non-fiction text, and classroom building materials to learn about important community buildings in New Hampshire's first English towns. Students will discuss the purpose of community buildings long ago and today. They will use their new knowledge to build their own versions of a meeting house.

Locate the first towns

Begin by showing the detail map of the locations of the first four towns. Remind students that when people from England began to settle in New Hampshire, these were the locations they chose to build their settlements. Talk about the geographical features of the land and why it would be important to live near rivers, the ocean, and natural inlets (harbors). Then, project the map of current town boundaries. Mark or point to the original four towns and compare their location to where the students live.

Focus Text

Before reading, explain to students that building structures the whole community could use was one of the first and most important steps for English settlers long ago. These infographics provide details and images of two types of colonial community buildings that were built in almost every colonial town: meeting houses and garrison houses. While reading, help students understand the different purposes of these buildings. Students may wonder why the English settlers needed protection from enemies. Remind students that Abenaki people had been living all over New Hampshire long before English settlers arrived. The settlers and the Abenaki did not always get along. The English settlers were also worried about French soldiers living in Canada. Vocabulary Cards are provided to help summarize the definitions of each type of building.

Analyze images

Taking a closer look at the images on the infographic will help students prepare for building their own community buildings. A chart is provided to organize student ideas during the discussion. Ensure that students notice details about the shape, size, features, and material of the houses. A section has been added to the typical "Notice and Wonder" format to offer a place for students to compare what they have learned from listening to the infographic text to what they know about the purpose of community buildings today. Students may share that community centers, schools, churches and temples, town and city halls, auditoriums and stadiums are examples of community buildings today.

Build It

In small groups, students will build their own meeting houses out of blocks or other material suitable for building small structures. Before building, go over some of the details they noticed while looking at the images. Groups should discuss what features a meeting house should have and then build it. Students should add labels to their buildings with tape or sticky notes to indicate its features. Afterward, students will draw and write about their building.

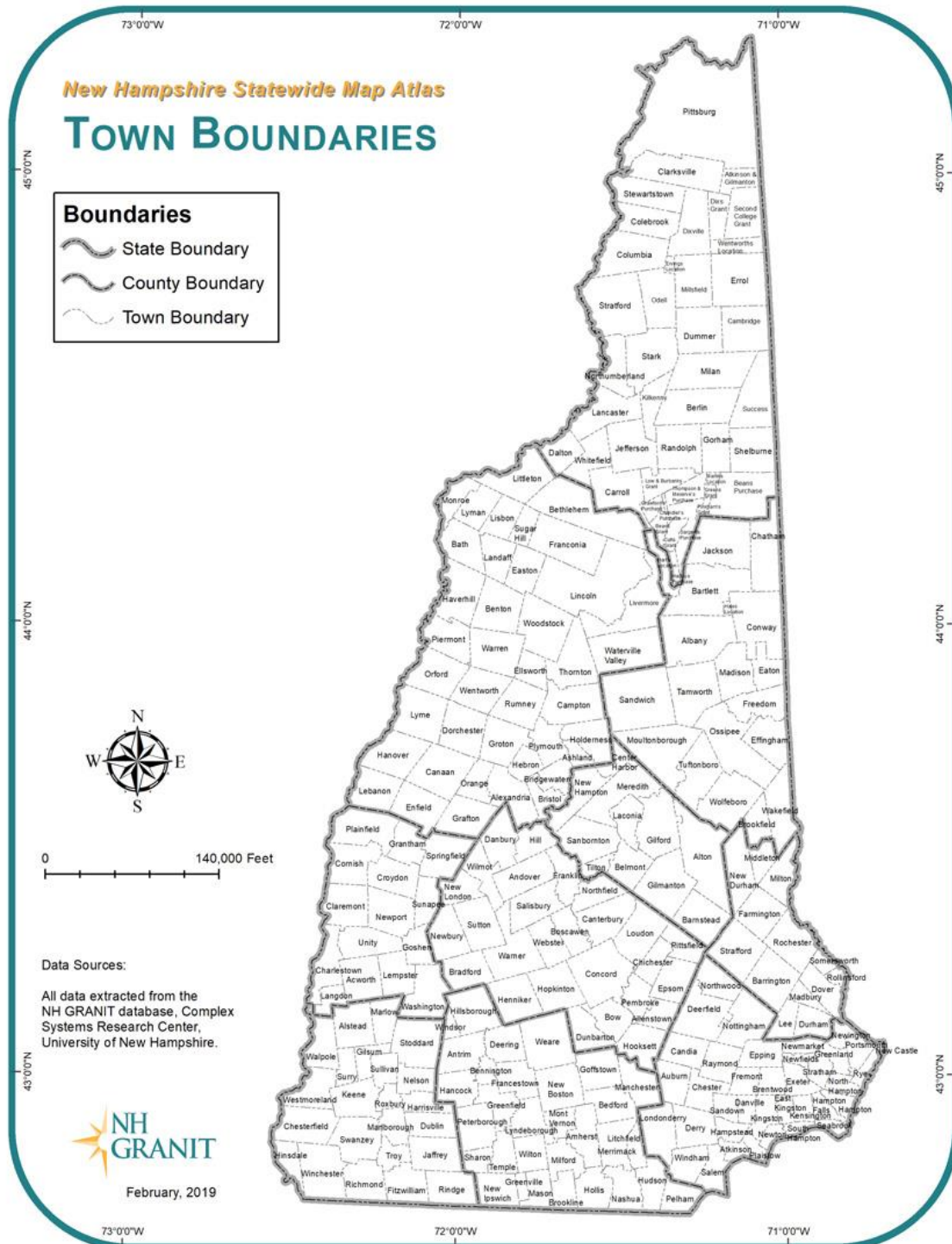


New Hampshire's First Four English Towns





New Hampshire Town Boundaries



NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSES

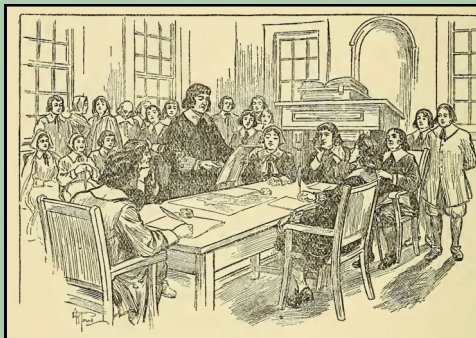
What was a New England meeting house?

Every town settled in New England in the 17th and 18th centuries had a meeting house. It was the center of the community and almost always the largest building in the town. The meeting house played three important roles in community life.



1. Town Meeting

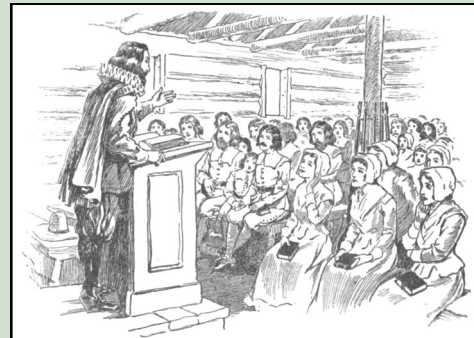
At least once a year, everyone in the town would come together at the meeting house to hold a town meeting. During this meeting, the men of the community would elect town officers and debated any big decisions the town government needed to make. They also voted on the town budget, which said how much money the town government could spend and how much money the town government needed to raise in taxes.



Meeting houses were not heated in New Hampshire's colonial period! People would bring hot bricks and rest their feet on them to keep warm.

2. Church

The town's meeting house also served as the church for the community. This is where townspeople came for religious services. Church services often lasted all day on Sunday!



Moose on the Loose™
Social Studies for Granite State Kids

3. School

The town's meeting house was also the town's school. Kids spent much less time in school then than they do now!





MEETING HOUSE

Definition: Large buildings where the town could gather for town meetings, worship, and school

How to use it: The people went to the **meeting house** for a church service.



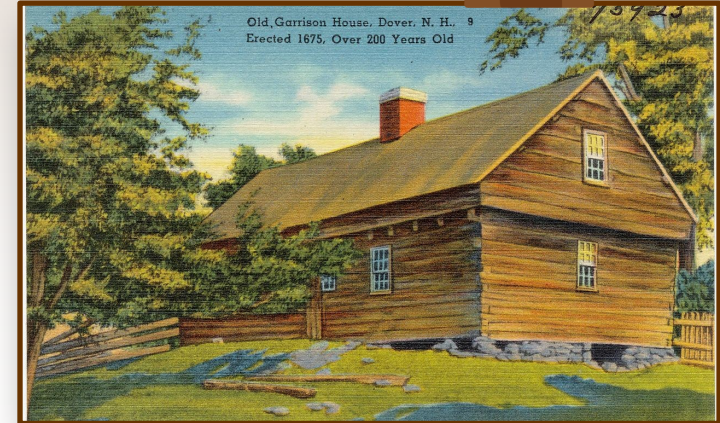
GARRISON HOUSES



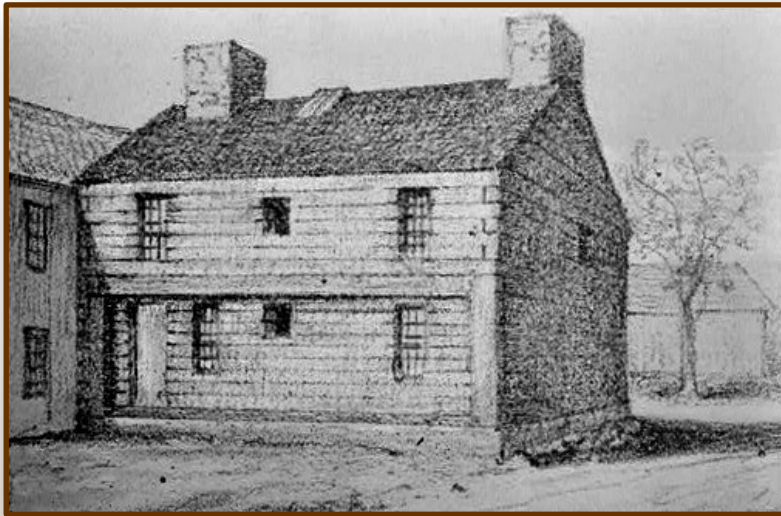
What were garrison houses?

Garrison houses were buildings constructed by English settlers to protect them from attacks by their enemies, like the French or Native Americans. Most settlements had at least one garrison house. At one time, Dover was so big that it had 12 garrison houses!

If the English thought they were going to be attacked, they would run to the garrison house that was closest to them for protection.



Most garrison houses have been torn down, but this one, located at the Woodman Museum in Dover, still exists. You can even visit it and go inside it!



This garrison house in Exeter on the corner of Water and Clifford streets was built in 1648. It was known as the Gilman House. This drawing was made many years later, when an addition had been put on the side of the building.

How were garrison houses different from other houses?

Garrison houses usually had thicker walls than other houses. The second story of a garrison house usually stuck out a little bit over the first story, which is called a jetty. The jetty made the second floor bigger than the first floor, and the second floor was thought to be safer. Garrison houses were usually stocked with food, water, weapons, and ammunition. They also often had tall fences built around them for added protection.



Moose on the Loose™
Social Studies for Granite State Kids



GARRISON HOUSE

Definition: A building where people in a community gathered for protection

How to use it: The people ran to the **garrison house** because they were afraid of being attacked.





What We Notice About...	What We Wonder About...	What We Know About...
The buildings' shape and size:	The people who built the buildings:	How community buildings were used long ago:
The buildings' features:	The people who used the buildings:	
The buildings' materials:	When the buildings were used:	How community buildings are used today:
The environment around the buildings:		



DRAW YOUR NH MEETING HOUSE

Our meeting house...

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are five sets of these lines for writing.