

CONNECTED FARMS

In the 1800s, children in New England would sometimes chant “Big house, little house, back house, barn” when they were playing games. This is a description of what many farms in New Hampshire looked like as they grew and expanded. Let’s look at each of these parts and see how they were used!

The **big house** was the newest building in the connected farm. It was where most of the main living areas were, like bedrooms. If the family had guests, this is the part they would visit.

The **barn** was used for all kinds of farming activities! Barns stored hay grown by the farmers to feed their animals. The animals took shelter in the barn during winter and in bad weather.

The **back house** was meant to connect the living area to the barn. This made it easier to do farm work, like fix equipment, all year round. Sometimes, it was made of a building like a shed or carriage house that was moved to be connected.

The **little house** was the oldest part of the farm. It was usually made of the first house built on the farm. When the farm was connected, this was used for as the kitchen and for food storage.