26 Rockingham Meeting House
11 Meeting House Road, Rockingham, Vermont

During the 18th and 19th centuries, local meeting houses protected and supported the religious and political lives of its New England residents. For a truly authentic and historic glimpse into the look and feel of a meeting house visitors can tour Vermont's oldest public building in its near original construction.

The Rockingham Meeting House was built between 1787 and 1801, as a 2 ½ story, rectangular wood frame structure with a stone foundation and gabled roof. Original construction elements in place today include the king-post timber framing, exterior woodworking details, glass panes in the "20 over 20" windows, interior plaster work and box pews.

In 1851, minor changes were made to the interior of the Meeting House, including a lowered pulpit and removal of the front benches to accommodate space for the town moderator. In 1907 one of the earliest noted historical preservation projects in Vermont occurred in the Meeting House when the Town of Rockingham appropriated $500, which was matched by $700 of private donations, to restore the then vacant structure. The Rockingham Meeting House was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark on May 16, 2000.

Located behind the Meeting House is Rockingham's first cemetery, with over 1,000 community members buried and grave markings dating back to 1776.

Sources:

National Register of Historic Places. Rockingham Meeting House. Town of Rockingham. Windham County. Vermont. http://www.crjc.org/heritage/V06-1.htm.

The Rockingham Meeting House. Web. Accessed 3 December 2013. http://bellowsfalls.govoffice.com/vertical/Sites/pdf