

# 100 Wallace Farm (Pioneer Farm)

27 Wallace Road, Columbia, New Hampshire

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While expansive farm fields, red dairy barns, and generational farming families have become a significant, yet sentimental, memory in New England history, there proudly stands one farmstead in Columbia, New Hampshire, still maintained by the family who established their roots over 225 years ago.

The Wallace family began their heritage in 1785 when three Wallace brothers cleared land and built a log cabin for the family to occupy, while youngest brother William worked the land. By 1798 William was one of the more successful men in town and was the third largest taxpayer. The farm was handed down through the generations, harvesting potatoes, barley, and buckwheat as their major crops, and generating dairy and wool from the livestock. For a few years, Rachel Wallace operated a tea room at the farm, while brothers Lew and Will worked the farm. An increase in dairy in the early 1900's led to the construction of the dairy barn and other outbuildings. Lew Anson Wallace, Jr. (1934-1996) was the last to farm full time on the property and the dairy herd was sold in 1986. The farm is still used for pasture and timber resources by Ruby Wallace and her family.



Located north of Columbia's center, and three miles south of the town line, Wallace Farm (or Pioneer Farm) sits off

of Route 3 on a quarter-mile stretch of the old Route 3, now called Wallace Road. In total, the Wallace Farm encompasses 125 acres, with 40 acres of mostly pasture and cleared farmland.

The Wallace farmstead consists of a series of connected buildings, which was typical in early farming to provide convenient movement throughout the buildings. The main house is the oldest building, built between 1820 and 1830. The house is L-shaped and has windows reflecting the Greek-Revival style and doors from the Federal style. Framed with timbers hewn by a broadax, the house sits on split granite and only has a true stone cellar beneath the western end. A remodeling between 1850 and 1860 remains untouched today.

At the south end of the main house is the carriage shed, with two open bays to the east and an enclosed bay used to store firewood. This shed is constructed in the same way as the house, with axe-hewn timbers, but the shed sits on a rubble foundation.

Continuing south, the next attached building is the horse barn, built circa 1835. The eastern side has a wide door with a hay door above the main door. The framing of this building is designed slightly differently, apparently indicating a different builder than the house and carriage shed, as well as a slightly different time period. Originally the main floor was housing for horses and ponies, the basement for pigs, and the attic for hay storage. Nowadays the building is used mostly as a shop.

The final building in the string of attached structures is the one story garage. There are sliding plank doors that open to the east, with one window to the south and two to the west. This building was built circa 1900 and has been used to store vehicles and farm equipment.

The freestanding Dairy Barn was built circa 1900, with additions dated at 1928 and 1940. The four northern bays originated from the Corr Farm in Lemington, Vermont, and was moved to the Wallace Farm in 1897. This section is about 52 by 40 feet and is built of hewn timber. Like the main house, the barn sits on a foundation of split granite, while only the southerly end has a cellar that originally was open to ground level. Attached to the southern end of the original Corr Barn are two more structural bays added in 1928 that lengthen the original structure by about 40 feet. There is a milk house attached to the northeastern corner of the barn, which was built in two parts. The original milk house is attached to the side wall of the main barn, but then an extension was built to accommodate the modern milk storage regulations. The south end of the dairy barn has a one story stable that was added around 1940. Sitting on a poured concrete foundation, its frame is made of hewn timbers that apparently came from a previous 19<sup>th</sup> century building.

Additional outbuildings are found surrounding the property, including a back shed, equipment shed, log cabin, and sugar house. The farmhouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001 and is now a site protected by the State of New Hampshire.

Sources:

<http://www.columbianh.org/historic-landmarks/the-pioneer-farm>

Wallace, Ruby J., Young, Robert K., Fonda, Christine E., & Garvin, James L. "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. 2001. Web. Accessed July 9, 2013. <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/01001353.pdf>