

SALEM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Preserving Salem's Past for the Future

The Salem Historical Museum consists of three buildings located in Salem's historic center.

The majority of the collection is housed in the town's **Old Meetinghouse**, located next to the old burying ground in Salem Center. The oak frame of the building was raised on November 15, 1738, on the common near the banks of the Spicket River. During the years that followed, the interior of the building underwent many changes to accommodate the activities of the growing community. Originally used for worship, it entered service as town hall when Salem was chartered in 1750. The oldest New Hampshire town hall in continuous use, the building housed the local court, served as classrooms for Salem children, and has been a meeting place for many different organizations. It has been home to the Salem Museum and the Salem Historical Society since 1981.

Next door to the Museum is the **Alice L. Hall Memorial Library**. Built in 1861 as a schoolhouse, it served as Salem's first public library building from 1895 to 1961. In 1988, the Town of Salem dedicated the building in memory of Alice Hall, the town's long-time librarian. Today, the library has been restored to its old appearance and houses a large collection of historical books.



Schoolhouse #5 is located around the corner on School Street. This one-room schoolhouse was built in 1873 on the south side of Bluff Street and used for classes there until 1944 when it was moved two miles to Salem Center and set up as an annex for Schoolhouse #1 (now the Haigh School). In 1961, when the building was no longer needed by the school district, local resident Bill Brown bought the schoolhouse to save it from being demolished. He later donated the building and property to the Town of Salem, hoping to see the school restored to its original condition. The Salem Contractors Association donated time to make major repairs and Salem school children raised money for interior finishing. Today, Schoolhouse #5 is a part of the Salem Historical Museum with furnishings and artifacts reflecting the almost 90 years in which the schoolhouse was in use.



The Salem Historical Museum is open to the public April 1 through November 1 on Mondays 2:00-5:00 pm or by appointment. Admission and parking are free.

Salem Historical Museum
310 Main Street
Salem, New Hampshire
(603)890-2280