



2026 WHS Annual Newsletter

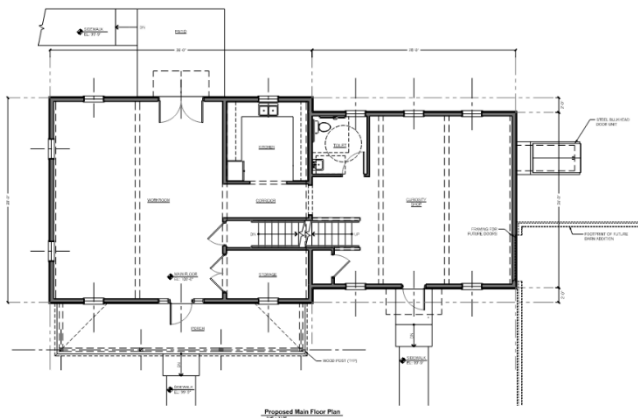
It's time to bring Wilmot's History Home

A Milestone Year for the Wilmot Historical Society

It's 2026. As our country celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Wilmot Historical Society is also marking a major milestone—50 years since its founding in 1976, following Wilmot's Bicentennial celebration. In March 2025, the town unanimously voted to sell us a piece of land on Pine Hill Road for \$1.00. Following a survey of the property, a deed was prepared, and as of August we officially have a site to establish our future home. An architect was hired to determine the best location for the building and to translate our design ideas and needs into a workable plan. We have begun clearing underbrush and small trees, and a sign now marks the "Proposed Site". Please drive by and watch our progress.

Along with planning for the future, the Society has continued its traditional activities. The History Room was open Saturday mornings from 9 to 12 during the summer Farmers Market. We hosted a table at the Potter Place Fair, thanks to an invitation from our friends at the Andover Historical Society. Additional networking included events at and visits to Danbury, Grafton, Orange, Bristol, Cheshire County and NH State Historical Societies. The Society remained active in community events, providing food for a band concert on the town green featuring The Ferns Family Band from Wilmot. We led old-fashioned games at Wilmotpalooza, including Checkers, Pumpkin Tic-Tac-Toe, Drop the Clothespin and delightful face-in-the-hole boards made by Brenda and Ken Gessner. It was great fun for all who participated.

Our May program featured "Stark Decency" by Allen Koop, and at our annual meeting in November we hosted John Hodgson, who shared new research and information about Richard Potter, the early nineteenth century Black magician and namesake of Potter Place. Both events were held in Wilmot's newly restored 118-year-old Town Hall.



The proposed building will be a multifunctional structure, based on a simple farm homestead. It will provide space to store, care for, and display the many artifacts, documents and photographs we have collected over the years. It will allow us to promote our state and local histories through presentations, programs, and social gatherings. Except for a small office over the kitchen area, all public space will be on one level, reducing construction costs, and simplifying long-term

maintenance. A full basement will provide dry, secure space for utilities, storage and exhibit preparation. The connector area could serve for additional display space or possibly revive the beloved "Curiosity Shop". The barn is envisioned as a future project, should an old historic barn become available.

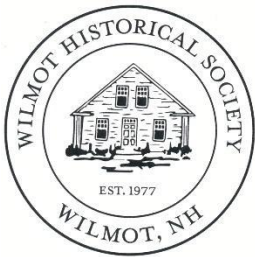
We are extremely fortunate that previous fund-raising efforts, a bequest from Pat (Gross) Baker, and the recent generosity of many supporters have resulted in funds totaling over \$400,000, nearly 50 percent of what we expect will be needed to complete the project.

Our mission now is to secure the remaining funds to bring this vision to life. This newsletter marks the launch of our fund-raising campaign and is the first of many efforts towards reaching our goal. We are new at this, and we know the road will be hard, but this project is important to Wilmot and to the preservation of its history, this wonderful little town we call home.

If you are interested in learning more or would like a personal presentation of the project, please reach out. We would be delighted to share our plans with you.

info@wilmothistoricalsociety.org

<https://www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org/>



Please join or renew your membership today!

2026 WHS Membership Renewal and Donation-Thank you

Name:

Mailing Address:

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual membership is \$5.00 per person

Trailblazer: \$25 Pioneer: \$50 Settler \$100 Explorer \$250 Founder \$500 Leader:
\$1000+

Enclosed is \$ _____

Please use our website Donation button or make checks payable to:
Wilmot Historical Society, PO Box 97, Wilmot, NH 03287
The Wilmot Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization