

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE showcases over 40 antique buildings moved here from around New England, each restored to show how they would have been furnished and used during the early 19th century. Some new buildings, constructed to resemble historic structures, help show a more complete picture of life in rural New England.

Allen Piggery | Piggeries allowed a more efficient means of raising swine, the early New Englander's chief source of protein.

Asa Knight Store | This country store brought in goods from all over the world through seaports like Boston and Providence.

Armed & Equipped Militia Exhibit | The citizen militia was an important part of civic life in the early 19th century.

Beekeeping Exhibit | Learn about nature's most prolific pollinators.

Bixby House and Garden | Laura Bixby and her daughters made butter and cheese, braided straw for hats, and sewed shoe uppers in this home. Emerson Bixby, Laura's husband, was a blacksmith and farmer. The kitchen garden reflects that many busy New England families kept productive but informal kitchen gardens.

Blacksmith Shop | The blacksmith who owned this shop made and repaired tools and hardware for his community. Watch the sparks fly as the Village's smiths work at the forge.

Bullard Tavern | Taverns welcomed both travelers and locals for refreshments and social gatherings.

Cabinetmaking Shop | Cabinetmakers were skilled woodworkers who made a range of objects, from fancy home furnishings to basic wooden tools used around the house and farm.

Carding Mill | Neighboring farm families brought wool here and paid to have it brushed out to prepare it for spinning into yarn for knitting or weaving.

Center Meetinghouse | This building hosted Congregational worship services, town meetings, and other civic gatherings and celebrations.

Cider Mill and Orchard | In the fall, neighboring farmers used the mill to crush and press apples. The juice was then taken home and fermented into cider for drinking throughout the year.

Cooper Shop | Coopers made round wooden containers for their neighbors, including pails, tubs, and barrels.

David Wight Community Gallery | This gallery showcases exhibits curated by students and the Village's community.

Dennison Building | This gallery features exhibits that highlight original textiles from our museum collection.

District School | Most New England neighborhoods had a tax-supported district school where children learned to read, write, and do arithmetic.

Fenno House | Spinning, weaving, and dyeing woolens could provide income for a farm family, even while textile factories expanded in some New England cities and towns.

Fitch House and Garden | People skilled in the needle trades, like dressmakers, tailors, and milliners, could work in domestic settings. A needleworker could board and rent workspace in this home. The family living here might invest in new technology, like a coffee roaster, to make daily tasks easier. The garden is based on Joseph Breck's 1833 instructional book for children, *The Young Florist*.

Fitch Barn | This barn stores and displays a large collection of 19th-century agricultural tools and equipment.

Freeman Farm and Garden | Seasonal rhythms and daily routines structured life on rural New England farms. The farmhouse, barn, outbuildings, and animal pens show the range of a farm family's activities. The kitchen garden shows the produce and medicinal plants a farm family would grow for its own use.

Friends Meetinghouse | The Society of Friends, or Quakers, are a small but influential Christian denomination. Their worship services, called "meetings," involved quiet reflection and individual testimony.

Gebhardt Barn | This space hosts singers, dancers, storytellers, and other performers.

Goods from the Woods | New Englanders relied on their forests for food, fuel, building materials, other products, as well as recreation.

Gristmill | Farmers brought corn, rye, and other grains they grew to mills where they were ground into animal feed or fine meal for baking.

Herb Garden | This garden features over 400 heirloom plant species that were significant to New England food culture, wellness, industry, and economy.

Law Office | Rural lawyers collected debts, settled estates, argued court cases, dispensed legal advice, and wrote contracts, deeds, and wills.

Miner Grant Store & Bake Shop

Enjoy freshly baked cookies, hot and cold beverages, Village-made gifts, and more.

Pottery Shop and Kiln | A farmer who had a source of clay on his property might work as a potter on a part-time basis and build a kiln to fire his pots.

Printing Office | Small printing offices often worked for publishers in Philadelphia, New York, or Boston, printing books that were sold throughout the country. They also printed smaller, custom jobs like advertising, forms, and pamphlets.

Richardson House and Garden

A Congregational minister and his family may have rented a house like this one, which was both a home and a hub for community and church activities. Less reliant than their neighbors on producing their own food, the family could cultivate a "progressive" garden that reflected new gardening techniques and different varieties of plants.

Salem Towne House, Barn, and Garden

This large, well-appointed home belonged to a prosperous farming family with a variety of economic, social, and community interests. The formal ornamental garden boasts a stunning array of heirloom herbs and flowers.

Sawmill | Over the winter, farmers sledged logs to sawmills and paid to have them milled into lumber.

Shoe Shop | Shoemakers "bottomed" men's and boy's work shoes for wholesale distribution to other parts of the country.

Small House and Garden | The Small House is the only reproduction home at Old Sturbridge Village. Small houses like these were occupied by a wide variety of people, including families of color, immigrants, and couples just starting out. The garden showcases a variety of Indigenous and African plants, which had become a part of the New England diet by 1830.

Thompson Bank | Country banks provided short-term business loans to merchants, prosperous farmers, and manufacturers. Their paper "banknotes" often served as cash.

Tin Shop | Tanners made useful and decorative household items from tinned sheet iron. Village tanners create reproductions of historic pieces.

Town Pound | Livestock that may have strayed from their pasture could wind up in the town's pound.

Vermont Covered Bridge | A roof and walls protected wooden bridges from the elements and helped them last longer.



Welcome

We are one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England in the 1830s. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings—including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms and gardens, three water-powered mills, restaurants, and retail shops.

While you are here converse with costumed historians, explore the historic buildings collected from all over New England, wander the farm and gardens, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades and crafts, take a deep dive into our collection through exhibits and artwork on display, and see a variety of heritage-breed farm animals.

**We are more than a museum.
We are Old Sturbridge Village!**

CONNECT WITH US



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1 Main Entrance

2 Ox & Yoke Mercantile and Café

- Ox & Yoke Mercantile
- Ox & Yoke Café

3 Bullard Tavern

- Exhibition Gallery

Center Village

- 4 Small House and Garden
- 5 Friends Meetinghouse
- 6 Center Meetinghouse
- 7 Cabinetmaking Shop
- 8 Town Pound
- 9 Shoe Shop
- 10 Asa Knight Store
- 11 Law Office
- 12 Richardson House and Garden
- 13 Gebhardt Barn
- 14 Tin Shop
- 15 Salem Towne House, Barn, and Garden
- 16 Cider Mill and Orchard▲
- 17 Printing Office
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- 20 Fitch House and Garden
- 22 Fenno House and Barn
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- 40 Vermont Covered Bridge

Nature Exploration

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- 42 Pasture Walk▲
- 43 River Walk▲

Amenities

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- 24 Playground
- First Aid and Security
- R Restrooms
- ⚖ Picnic Tables
- 💧 Drinking Fountains▲



Shopping and Dining AT OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE



Thank you for visiting, come back soon!

Let us know about your experience!



← To Museum Education Center

Stallion Hill Rd

Museum Parking Lot

- Accessible Facilities
- ▲ Seasonal
- Dirt Road/Path
- Paved Road
- Incline

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